

Parish Priest

Fr Neil Fernando Mobile: 0478 085 894
E-mail: frneilfdo@gmail.com

Parish Hall Bookings

Lynn Fisher : Mobile: 0407 186 174

Pew Sheet

All notices/information for pew sheet to Parish Office **no later** than 9.00am Thursday mornings please

Parish Office

Telephone: (08) 8723 1353 Email: churchan@bigpond.net.au
Postal Address: PO Box 1357, Mt Gambier, SA, 5290

Church Addresses: Christ Church, 26 Bay Road, Mount Gambier
St Thomas, Church Street, Port MacDonnell
St Luke's, Post Office Road, Mount Schank

Web site : www.anglicanmountgambier.org.au

Details for giving by Direct Debit : The Anglican Parish of Mount Gambier
BSB : 105-002
A/c number : 041 398 740



We pray for the Diocese of The Murray and Parish Council Members

Bishop Keith Dalby (Alice) ; Very Rev. David Price (Dean) (Lesley);
Fr Des Ackland (Raelene)

and in the Limestone Coast

Fr Neil (Nalini); Fr Wayne Corker; Fr Lyndon Sulzberger, Bishop Michael Hough

Parish Counsellors, Christ Church

Richard Strickland, Helen Douglass, Richard Mills, Brian Smith, Lynn Fisher, Dick Hamson, Graham Savage, Robyn Sweetnam, Sandy Coulson



If you wish to make a bequest to the church, please follow the instructions on the Regulation for Bequests form which is available from the back of the church.

The Anglican Parish of Mount Gambier

**Christ Church
Mount Gambier**

**St Luke's
Mount Schank**

Lent 4 : 27th March 2022



Return to the Father



As a Christian community, we acknowledge and pay respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we gather and meet.

We pay our respects to the Elders—past, present and future.

Wearing of face masks is mandatory, so please remember to wear your face mask when attending any services, the Bell Tower Op Shop or meetings at the church.
You must also register using the QR code or by manually filling out an attendance sheet.

From Fr Neil

RETURN TO THE FATHER

Fourth Sunday of Lent

In today's Gospel, God's loving mercy is presented by the Lord Jesus in what is very well known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Three characters in the parable, the younger son, elder son, and their father weave a beautiful story of sin, envy, and mercy.



It unfolded with the younger son asking his father for his share of the inheritance. The son was guilty at least on two major counts; one, it was the older son who had first right on the inheritance; two, he asked his share even when his father was still alive. The second one is tantamount to wishing his father is dead!

"Living the dream" on his father's card, the prodigal son thought of his life as blessed, not cursed. His money and the luxuries and lifestyle he could afford made him feel good about himself. He mistook material prosperity for a "blessed life". His creature comforts kept him from seeing and acknowledging his faults, his greed, his mistakes, his sins and his need for God. It's probably fair to say that while this son was enjoying the "high life," he thought he had no sins. Only when his own economy tanked did he "come to his senses," did he realize the error of his ways, did he recognize how shallow had been his happiness, and how foolish his choices.

When he arrived, even when he was still far away, his father did not wait for him to reach their house but proceeded to welcome him by running to where he was. This was seen by some exegetes as the father's way of sparing his son from further humiliation by going through the gauntlet of neighbours who would unkindly talk about him on his way to their house. Also, the father's gestures of running to him, embracing him, hugging him, and instructing the servants to give back to him all his things; ring, sandals and finest robe were signs of forgiveness and welcoming back home the lost son. It was topped by slaughtering the fattened calf for the celebration. There were no explanations needed. The son is back and the father is just happy to have him again. Such compassion! Such love! Such mercy!

Note that he referred to his own brother not by name but "your son" which was a sign of disowning him. The answer of the father was classic, "My son, you are here with me always; and everything I have is yours." How could the son ask for more when he had everything? In fact, the more important possession he had was being with his father. He was supposed to be at peace.

| Sunday, 27th March 2022 : Lent 4 | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Josh 5. 2-12 | Ps 34. 1-10 | 2 Cor 5. 17-21 | Luke 15. 1-3, 11-32 |
| Server | Julienne Feast | | |
| Readers | Mothers' Union members | | |
| Intercessions | Julienne Feast | | |
| Sound desk | Trevor Christopher | | |
| Sunday, 3rd April 2022 : Lent 5 | | | |
| Isa 43. 16-21 | Ps 126 | Phil 3. 8-14 | John 8. 1-11 |
| Server | Darren Schunke | | |
| Readers | Denise McDonald / Helen Douglass | | |
| Intercessions | Anne Ashworth | | |
| Sound desk | Trevor Christopher | | |

| ROSTERS FOR | MARCH |
|---|---|
| GARDENING  | Fran Laslett |
|  MOWING ROSTER | Darryl Grant |
| FOOD and FREEZER MINISTRY | N.B. Due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to hand out home cooked goods to people presenting for Emergency Relief. However, pre-prepared goods such as frozen packaged foods are acceptable. |



- We now have a Facebook page. If you use FB just key in Christ Church Mount Gambier and you will reach the site.
- Please 'like' the page and if there is anything you would like to post related to our Church please do. We have 2 admin people Sandy and Faye who approve items before they are posted.
- Please contact Sandy Coulson on 0429 116 910 if you have any queries.

EASTER SERVICE TIMES : 2022

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|---------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Maundy Thursday Thursday, 14 April | 7.00pm | at Christ Church |
| Good Friday Friday, 15 April | 9.30am | at Christ Church <i>(This is the only service in parish this day)</i> |
| Easter Eve Saturday, 16 April | 7.00pm | at St Lukes, Mt Schank |
| Easter Day Sunday, 17 April | 9.00am | at Christ Church <i>(This is the only service in parish this)</i> |



PARISH BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

MARCH

| | | | |
|-----|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| 2nd | Sadewu | | |
| 2nd | Coral Chaffey | 10th | Matthew Allen |
| 6th | Ruth Clarkson | 19th | Dot Saffin |
| 7th | Tara McCracken | 24th | Denise McDonald |
| 8th | Amanda McKinnon | 28th | Helen Douglass |



We wish them all a very happy birthday!!

Please check to see if your name is on the list at the back of the church — and if not, and you would like to have it appear—please add your name to the listing.

Thank you



Some of us are like the younger son. We want a lot from God. We want to be out of His fold so we could be free only to realize later that our best place is with Him. And some of us behave like the elder son who failed to realize how gracious it is to be with the father and failed to appreciate it!

We have to come to our senses. From our self-imposed exile we see our persistent patterns of sin. We don't like some aspects of the person we are. We want to be the person we imagine. And the path under our feet requires above all the virtue of humility. So during Lent we repent, we do penance, we strengthen our prayer, we contribute to the needy, and we fast from all that focuses attention on our pleasures in order to consider more grandly the pleasures of others. Like the prodigal son, we say to ourselves, "I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you'.

Jesus makes us clearly feel that any person, even the worst sinner, is so very important to God that He does not want to lose him in any way; and that He, with ineffable joy, is always willing to grant us forgiveness. Let us return to the Father.

cf. Internet

Prayer during COVID 19

Our heavenly Father, we come before you with contrite hearts, yearning for your comfort and your grace. In the midst of COVID 19 spreading across the globe, we ask in your mercy that you would stop this plague and restore harmony and health to the nations.

And we pray for the families, especially those who have lost loved ones to this disease, or those suffering from its effects. May we know the peace that passes all understanding, as we place our trust in Jesus, in whose powerful name we pray.
Amen.

Parish Retreat Saturday, 2nd April 2022

9.00am—3.30pm
Led by Bishop Michael Huff

\$20 per head—which includes morning and afternoon tea and lunch.

(This will be followed by an Interfaith Service 3.30pm—4.30pm in the church grounds)

Pray for those who are unwell and for each other

Val Linder; Sue Ongley; Maree & Bob Lynch; June Willcourt; Joe Maier; Wendy Monger & Don Currie; Shirley Stacpoole; Terry Wilson; Anne Barry (Glen Solomons' godmother); Allan Hincks;

Pray for the repose of the souls of those near and dear to each one of us and for those whose yearly remembrance occurs this week.

If you wish for your name (or the name of someone you know) to be placed on the prayer list, please submit the request in writing—preferably via email (including your name and the name of the person for whom prayers are required).

Forms for this purpose can also be found at the back of the church.



The Bell Tower Op Shop opening hours are:

Monday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm
Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm

(unfortunately, the provision of tea/coffee etc. is not allowed during this time of COVID restrictions)

Please note : Strict observance of all social distancing and sanitizing regulations are in force for your protection and the protection of the attendees at services and the Op Shop workers.

N.B. Please remember to wear a face mask and register via the QR code or manually complete an attendance sheet when attending the Op Shop. Thank you.



Mothers' Union update

Sunday, 27th March 2022 marks a sad day for Mothers' Union Mt Gambier as after this day the group is disbanding.

They have enjoyed fellowship and fun over many years, and provided many hygiene packs to ac.care to help those less fortunate in the community—among many other things they have achieved.

We wish the group members all the best for the future—with our love and prayers.

Services and events in the Parish

Fr Neil conducts 3 services weekly at Christ Church as follows:

Friday 11.00am

Sunday 8.00am and 9.30am

Maximum of 100 attendees per service @ Christ Church

And 1 service at St Luke's, Mount Schank on the 2nd Sunday of each month

Maximum of 31 attendees per service @ St Luke's

Numbers attending services are limited within the body of the church due to COVID social distancing requirements and square meterage available

Strict observance of all social distancing and sanitizing regulations are in force for your protection and the protection of all attendees at services

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 2nd & 4th Thurs | 4.00-5.00pm | Fr Neil visits Mt Gambier Prison |
| Mondays | 5.15-6.30pm | Meditation Group in Ashworth Room |
| Tuesdays | 5.00pm | Evening Prayer via ZOOM |
| Wednesdays | 1.00-3.00pm | Craft Group meets in Ashworth Room |
| 3rd Tuesday | 2.00pm | Mothers' Union meet in Ashworth Room |
| 1st & 3rd 3rd Thursdays | 3.30-4.00pm 4.00-5.00pm | Tea and coffee Charismatic prayer group in St Margaret's Chapel |

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Sun, 27 March | | Mothering Sunday |
| Sat, 2 April | 9.30am— 3.30pm | Retreat in Parish Hall (for full details see separate notice in pew sheet) |
| | 3.30pm— 4.30pm | Interfaith Service in church grounds |
| Sat, 9 April | 11.30am | Opening of "Faithful Gifts" exhibition @ Riddoch Art Gallery |
| Sun, 10 April Palm Sunday | 9.30am | Blessing of the Palms and Passion enacted by the children in the church grounds BYO chair (this is the only service in parish this day) |