

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 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; Fr Des Ackland (Raelene)
Please pray for Fr David Price and Lesley as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

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, 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 (Berrin)

**Christ Church
Mount Gambier (Berrin)**

**St Luke's
Mount Schank (Parreen)**

**26th February 2023
First Sunday in Lent**



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 emerging.

RETURN TO THE LORD

When we are ill, we go to the doctor and the doctor writes a prescription. If we take the medicine, we hope to get better. For centuries the Church has recommended medicine during Lent to help us get better, to bring us closer to Jesus and help us overcome sin. That medicine is the three things we heard in the Gospel on Ash Wednesday (Matt 6:1-6, 16-18); prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These are a remedy to help cure our soul. This remedy is the wisdom of centuries of experience; the experience of centuries of holy people who drew closer to God during Lent with the remedy of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Not only is this remedy the wisdom of centuries of experience of holy people, but it is also the teaching of Jesus. As we heard in the Gospel on Ash Wednesday it is Jesus who taught us about prayer, who taught us the value of fasting, who taught us the value of almsgiving. Why would someone question what Jesus taught us and say there is a better way during Lent? Jesus in the desert is our model during Lent. Our love for Jesus leads us to want to draw closer to Jesus during Lent and overcome anything in our lives from the devil that keeps us apart from Jesus. We can do this through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

We could say that the three Scripture quotations in today's Gospel (Matthew 4:1-11) that Jesus used to rebuke the devil when tempted in the desert are about prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

You shall worship the Lord, your God, and him alone shall you serve (Mt 4:10, see Deut 6:13). Jesus was teaching us to put God first in prayer and worship.

Man does not live by bread alone (Mt 4:4, see Deut 8:3) Jesus was reminding that fasting shows God is more important to us than any earthly thing we desire.

You shall not put the Lord, your God to the test (Mt 4:7, see Deut 6:16) Jesus was reminding us not to test God by expecting God to intervene to look after those in need but instead to help them ourselves.

By means of the very first lie in the Bible, the serpent led our first parents to focus on seeming attractiveness of external things. Typically, temptations always present themselves as attractive. Lent calls us to be honest with ourselves, to stop making excuses for our bad behaviour, to stop pretending that our sins and failings do not really matter or do not cause real damage to others, and to stop imagining that God does not really care about any of this. If we want to walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, comfort him in his suffering, and stand beside him at the foot of his cross - and if we want to join the group of disciples on Easter Sunday morning as they try to contain the explosion of joy that comes with the realisation that Jesus has overcome death and is alive again - then we will need first of all to be honest with ourselves and about ourselves. We are sinners in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. The season of Lent calls us to give our deepest "yes" to God's compassion and healing love, but we will not be able to do so until we acknowledge how much we are in need return to Him.

SUNDAY, 26th February 2023 : First Sunday in Lent 8.00am—Eucharist / 9.30am—Pathways Service @ Christ Church, Mt Gambier			
Genesis 2. 15-17; 3.1-7	Ps 32	Romans 5. 12-21	Matthew 4. 1-11
Server	Julienne Feast		
Readers	Jeff Bowman / Fran Laslett		
Intercessions	Julienne Feast		
Sound desk	Rick Fisher		
Morning Tea	The Men		
Flowers	Jan Hunt		
SUNDAY, 5th March 2023 : Second Sunday in Lent 8.00am—Eucharist / 9.30am—Eucharist @ Christ Church, Mt Gambier			
Genesis 12. 1-4a	Ps 121	Romans 4. 1-5, 13-17	John 3. 1-17
Server	Julienne Feast		
Readers	Raylene Milligan / Brian Smith		
Intercessions	—		
Sound desk	Richard Mills		
Morning Tea	Helen Douglass / Denise McDonald / Maree McIntyre		
Flowers	Elizabeth Hodges / O Green		

ROSTERS FOR	FEBRUARY
GARDENING 	Richard Strickland
 MOWING ROSTER	Rick Fisher
FOOD and FREEZER MINISTRY	When preparing meals for the freezer, please remember to list all ingredients in the meal, and the date on which it was prepared. Pre-prepared goods such as frozen packaged foods and meals are still acceptable.

Fundraising News!!

GARAGE SALE

Our first major Garage Sale for the year will be held on Saturday, 25th February from 8.30am – 12.30pm. Even though the Op Shop has been opening the shed on a Monday morning it is still full to the brim with donations.

MINI MARKETS

We are planning to hold markets during the year on the following Saturdays: 25th March, 27th May, 30th September, 4th November.

These dates may change depending on other events in the parish but we hope to be able to keep to them if at all possible.

PLANT STALL

If anyone has an excess of “princess lilies” in their gardens at any time Andrew H (0428 104 160) or Jeff B (0487 486 260) would be very glad to take them off your hands. They were very much in demand on our plant stall last year!!

Re: Children’s Activities—this weekend : helpers needed!!!

On this first Sunday of Lent, I shall be attending a retreat at Robe. Anyone able to help with children’s activities might wish to mention this to Fr Neil or Nalini, both of whom I know would be most grateful. Look forward to being back in action next Sunday, 5 March. See you then.

Kaylene Barreira for Children’s Ministry.

Pray for those people who are unwell and for each other

Sue Ongley; Maree & Bob Lynch; Joe Maier; Wendy Monger & Don Currie; Shirley Stacpoole; Terry Wilson; Anne Barry (Glen Solomons’ godmother); Sandy Coulson; Betty and Max Wright; Glenys Smith

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.

World Day of Prayer at Christ Church : Friday, March 3rd @ 6.00 pm

Celebrated across 170 countries, women of Taiwan have prepared the 2023 prayer service in the hope that God may ‘grant you peace – a peaceful relationship with God and with one another’. Please feel free to join us that evening.

If you would like to help prepare and present the service, a meeting will be held in the Ashworth Room next Thursday, 23 February at 10.30 a.m. Please join us if you are available.

Kaylene Barreira on behalf of Mothers’ Union.

Budget 2023

Parish Council is currently developing the budget for 2023 to be presented at the AGM on 19th March. Unfortunately, our weekly giving has dropped significantly with a total reduction of 20% over the last two years. This affects our ability to maintain full-time ministry in the parish.

Keeping our Church open and maintained, with a full-time priest requires approx. \$3,865 per week.

Currently, we receive on average per week:

Belltower op Shop	\$1,020
Fundraising	\$ 340
Hall Hire etc.	\$ 145
Current Giving	<u>\$1,790</u>
Total	\$3,295

That is a shortfall of around (\$570) per week. Currently we have approximately 33 parishioners who give regularly.

To meet the shortfall we would require a 32% increase in giving, or 11 new families willing to give \$50 per week.

A parishioner currently giving

\$20 per week	16% increase = \$3	32% increase = \$6
\$50 per week	16% increase = \$8	32% increase = \$16
\$100 per week	16% increase = \$16	32% increase = \$32

The Parish Council is looking for your feedback on how we can turn this situation around in order to maintain a full-time priest in the Parish.

The Bell Tower Op Shop opening hours are:

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



***Wearing of face masks is no longer mandatory.
You may—as a matter of personal choice—choose to wear one
when attending any services, the Bell Tower Op Shop
or meetings at the church.
However, hand sanitizing is still strongly recommended.***

PARISH BIRTHDAY CALENDAR



FEBRUARY

1st	Heather Allen	9th	Maree McIntyre
4th	Peter Coulson	10th	Fran Laslett
6th	Pam Miller	13th	Lisa Searcy
8th	Sandra Grant	27th	Glenyse Nott

We wish them all a very happy birthday!!



***If you would like your name on the birthday list, please
contact the Parish Office so that your details can be included.
Thank you***

A Tour to Sri Lanka and A Pilgrimage To The Holy Land

**** note change of dates ****

Pilgrims from Australia and Sri Lanka could join the Pilgrimage under the spiritual guidance of Fr Neil Fernando, Parish priest, Christ Church, Mount Gambier, South Australia.

26th June to 17th July 2023

If you are interested in joining this tour, please speak to Fr Neil as soon as possible. *(Bookings for the Holy Land tour by 15th March, and Sri Lanka by end of May)*

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

3 groups are being held as follows:

Wednesdays 11am—12 noon @ Christ Church
Led by Robyn Ashby

Fridays 10am—11am @ Christ Church
Saturdays 10am—11am @ Christ Church

Services in the Mt Gambier Parish

There are 4 services conducted weekly at Christ Church as follows:

Friday 11.00am
Sunday 8.00am and 9.30am
10.45am in hall (commencing in the New Year)

And 1 service at St Luke's, Mount Schank on the 2nd Sunday of each month @ 11.30am

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However, you may—as a matter of personal choice—choose to wear
one when attending any services, the Bell Tower Op Shop or
meetings at the church. Hand sanitizing is still strongly recommended.***

2nd & 4th Thurs	4.00-5.00pm	Fr Neil visits Mt Gambier Prison
3rd Thurs	7.00pm	Pro Life meetings
Wednesdays	8.00am 1.00-3.00pm	Ministers' prayer and Association meeting Craft Group meets in Ashworth Room
Mondays and Thursdays	5.15-6.30pm	Meditation Group in Ashworth Room
1st & 3rd Fridays		Boandik Service
1st Tuesday of month		St Mary's
1st Friday of month		Healing service
2nd Thursday of month		The Oaks
2nd Tuesday of month		Resthaven

Annual Reports to Vestry

Could all reports for the Annual Meeting please be submitted to the Parish Office no later than Friday, 17th March to enable the information to be collated and distributed.

It is preferable if the reports could be forwarded electronically for ease of integration.

Thank you.