

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

Archdeacon 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

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)**

5th March 2023



I will bless you, so that you will be a blessing



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.

I WILL BLESS YOU, SO THAT YOU WILL BE A BLESSING

In Genesis 1-11, God struggled repeatedly rebellious, violent, and corrupt humanity as a whole (Eden, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood, the tower of Babel). As a result, God resolves to try a new strategy by focusing on one particular family among all the families of the earth. However, as God often does, God decides to work through a most unlikely pair: old Abram and Sarai (later “Abraham” and “Sarah”—Genesis 17:5, 15).

If we look at our Genesis text in this personal and devotional way, we find that God is calling us to faith and trust in Him. At this point in ancient history, Abram was just like all the other pagans around. There is nothing in the Bible that says he was any different from anyone else—neither more rebellious nor more righteous. What we know of him before this point is that he and his wife Sarai and brother’s son, Lot, had gone with his father Terah from Ur of the Chaldees to Haran. This in itself was quite radical in the ancient world to move so far from one’s ancestral home and people. We know from archaeology that Ur was a great city with perhaps the highest cultural standard in the world—Abram may have been a nomad but was no backwoodsman.

But there was nothing so special about Abram and Sarai and Lot in themselves. This text is not so much a story about these three people but a story about God. God is the actor in this account. It is Yahweh, the Lord, who calls to Abraham and tells him to go and leave country and kindred and father’s house and to trust in God to show the way. Can we read ourselves into this text? Can we discern God’s call for us as individual people and as a congregation? I am convinced that God has a purpose for each person. God is calling each one of you to faith and trust in God and to live out that faith by doing what God intends you to do. God is calling us as a congregation to discern God’s will and to go and follow where God leads us.

- 1) God’s election of the family of Abraham and Sarah as a chosen and special vehicle of God’s blessing affirms God’s continuing commitment to humans and the world in spite of their rebellion, violence and evil. God will not let go of God’s creation.
- 2) God’s selection of a barren husband and wife to be a blessing to others emphasizes that it is first and foremost God’s power and initiative that will accomplish God’s purposes. Of course, human obedience is from the very beginning involved—God says, “Go…” and “Abram went”. But Abraham’s trust in God’s commitment to fulfill the promises made provide the energy and will to follow God’s commands.
- 3) God’s focus on one particular family was from the beginning designed to be the funnel for God’s blessing to all the families of the earth. God’s people may be tempted to turn inward, to worry only about their own survival, to consider themselves as God’s only concern, or to ignore the wider community in which they live. Both in its words concerning all the families of the earth as well as its literary setting at the end of Genesis 1-11 which deals with all humanity, Genesis 12 reminds us that. The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it (Psalm 24:1).
- 4) The text in Genesis 12 draws Abraham and Sarah into a journey that leaves behind an old life and looks forward to a future not yet seen. The season of Lent is a season that helps us to let go of old commitments and burdens and sets us free to journey into new territories, new promises, new hopes, and new lives.

Finally it is important to see the point of God’s calling Abram and us. God calls and blesses us so that we might be a blessing. Abram is called to follow God so that all the families of the earth might be blessed. Our faith is not our private possession, nor does God want us to keep

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		
SUNDAY, 12th March 2023 : Third Sunday in Lent 8.00am—Eucharist / 9.30am—Pathways Service @ Christ Church, Mt Gambier			
Exodus 17. 1-7	Ps 95	Romans 5. 1-11	John 4. 5-42
Server	Julienne Feast		
Readers	David Glover / Julienne Feast		
Intercessions	Julienne Feast		
Sound desk	Rick Fisher		
Morning Tea	Raylene Milligan / Jenny Tilby / Beryl Heard		
Flowers	Elizabeth Hodges / O Green		

ROSTERS FOR	MARCH
GARDENING 	Fran Laslett
 MOWING ROSTER	Darryll Grant
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

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a very successful garage sale & shoe sale in the Op Shop last Saturday. Despite the unseasonable weather shoppers were out in force with the result that \$540 was taken in the shed & \$590 in the Op Shop. A wonderful result!

MINI MARKETS

Our first Mini Market for 2023 & next Garage Sale will be on Saturday, 25th March.

We are planning to hold markets during the year on the following Saturdays:
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.

Jeff Bowman

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.



Archdeacon Neil Fernando

The Limestone Coast Archdeacon will be Fr. Neil Fernando, and he will be responsible for the whole of the Limestone Coast of Mount Gambier, Lower Limestone Coast, Upper Limestone Coast, Kingston-Robe and Tatiara. In addition, in accordance with the Vision Weekend at Sevenhill, he will head the team to look at reaching out to young families and young people in the Diocese.

The Right Reverend Keith Dalby
Bishop of The Murray

What is the role of archdeacon in Anglican church?

An archdeaconry is a legal division of a diocese for administrative purposes within which the archdeacon exercises an ordinary jurisdiction. The essential nature of the role has been described as 'being a good steward so that others are freed to be the worshipping, witnessing and ministering Church'. He is also responsible for the area's church buildings and pastoral care for clergy.

our blessing to ourselves. As individual people and as a congregation we are only obedient to God's will when we reach out to other people .

Go and follow God's call. Be blessed. God promises to bless you when you follow in faith. Be a blessing to other people and fulfill God's will for you. Go and be blessed, be a blessing.

cf.internet

Annual Meeting ; Sunday, 19th March (following 9.30am service)

Could all reports to Vestry 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.

Please forward the reports electronically for ease of integration.

There are currently positions vacant on Parish Council, so please commit to prayer whether you have some skills that would be of use on Council. Nomination forms are available at the back of the church.

Thank you.

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



MARCH

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



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

Bishop Keith will be in the Parish next Wednesday, 8th March. People wishing to catch up with Bishop can do so @ 10.00am at the church. Please let Fr Neil know if you will be attending.

Preparing for Palm Sunday, April 2nd

We'd like to present a Passion Play again at the 9.30 am service on Palm Sunday this year. Matthew 27: 11-54 captures the story of Christ's Passion. Adults and children alike are invited to participate. Please volunteer your name as soon as possible to either Fr Neil or Kaylene. The children benefit enormously from adult mentors. We can include more dialogue if some of the participants are older. Younger children mime their parts. Discussions about this will begin next week. Please think about how you might contribute.

Kaylene Barreira, on behalf of Children's Ministry