

Bribie Island Beacon

Sunday 29 March 2020

Interim publication for St Peter's
Anglican Church Bribie Island

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5.16

WORSHIP AT HOME

During this time when we are unable to gather in person at St Peter's an online service will be available for our community each Sunday, the service will be available from our webpage, our FaceBook page and Vimeo. The direct link for the service for this Sunday is vimeo.com/user110905450

There is also a range of other online services from other Parishes available from the Diocesan Website anglicanchurchsq.org.au

Also on a Wednesday and Sunday morning we will be gathering for prayer and a chat using Zoom, which is a video conferencing facility that allows us to see and talk to each other in real time. Morning Prayer will be held at 10am, but you are invited to join me for a chat from 9.30am onwards. You can download an app to your computer, tablet or smart phone by going to zoom.us - if you don't have a suitable device you can also ring in from your home phone by dialling **02 8015 6011**. The meeting id is **340 831 9100**.

For those without access to the internet the following shows are available on your television.

- Sunday at 6am - Mass for You at Home (Chanel 10)
- Sunday at 6.30am - Hillsong (Chanel 10)
- Sunday at 11am - Compass (ABC)
- Sunday at 11.30am - Songs of Praise (ABC)

The Lenten Study group will continue on a Monday afternoon at 2pm using Zoom. To join us please follow the instructions above and you can join us using a computer, tablet, smart or regularly phone.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

FACEBOOK

If you have a Facebook account please follow the Parish account for posts and new information. Go to Facebook and search [anglicanbribie](#) and like our page.

WEBSITE

www.stpetersbribie.org.au

PARISH PRIEST / RECTOR

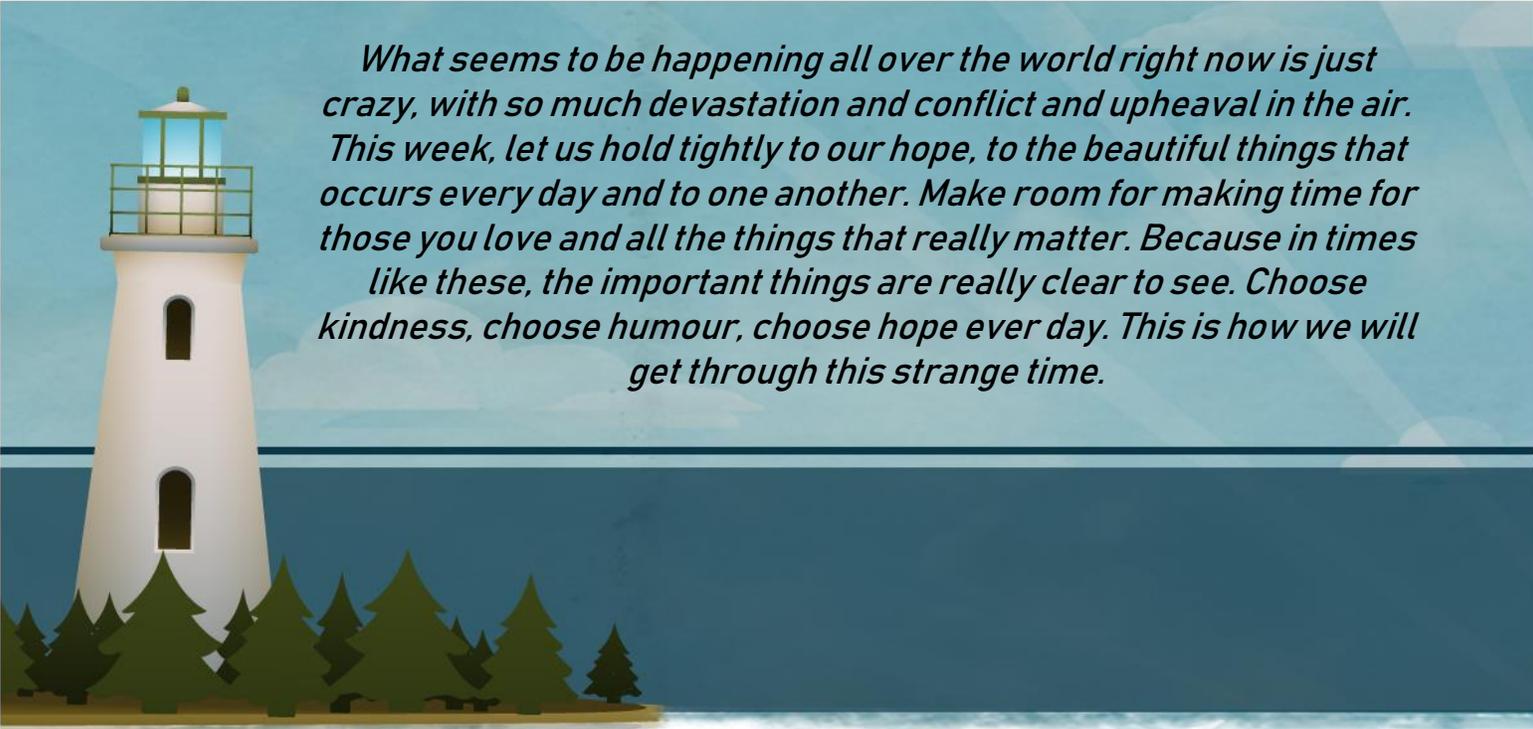
Rev Steven Schwarzrock
3408 3191
rector@stpetersbribie.org.au

CHURCHWARDENS

Kay Benson - 3408 1058
Margaret Peterson - 5497 6978
Greg Rollason - 3408 1998

BANK ACCOUNT FOR GIVING

Ac. Name - Bribie Island Parish
BSB - 704-901
Account Number - 00000040
Please use all the zeros



What seems to be happening all over the world right now is just crazy, with so much devastation and conflict and upheaval in the air. This week, let us hold tightly to our hope, to the beautiful things that occurs every day and to one another. Make room for making time for those you love and all the things that really matter. Because in times like these, the important things are really clear to see. Choose kindness, choose humour, choose hope ever day. This is how we will get through this strange time.

OVERWHELMED

To say that most people in our society are experiencing feelings of being overwhelmed at the moment is an understatement. We are living in a strange time which can lead to feelings of anxiety and fear. What will the coming months bring and when will life return to something resembling 'normal' are questions we cannot answer now. While we must keep focused on what is happening in the world, at the same time we need to step back and enjoy the blessings of each and every day. When we consider all the unknowns of the future, we can easily become overwhelmed, so we need to let go of those expectations of normality and embrace the opportunities this and every day offer us.

We can strive to start each day by asking what I am grateful for today. By taking some time to look outside and appreciate the beauty and wonder of God's creation. God has blessed us, so with that knowledge we should strive to be a blessing to others. Each morning we should ask ourselves who are we going to check in on or connect with today. As each of us follows the recommendations for social distancing we can still connect to those around us through phone calls, emails and writing letters.

Prayer needs to be an essential part of all our days and hopefully the current situation has freed up some more time for each of us to spend in prayer and meditation by offering praise to God for those things we are grateful for in our lives. We can pray for our family, friends, church and the world. As we hold up the world we need to pray for wisdom and calm for our leaders, strength and courage for those whose lives are severely impacted by the effects of the pandemic currently reshaping our world. While our church buildings maybe closed, we the church, are still called to hold our world up in prayer.

So let us use this strange time to look out and reach out as people of prayer and people of encouraging and supportive words.

Rev Steven Schwarzrock

29 MARCH 2020 - FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings - Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45

Sentence - 'I am the resurrection and the life,' says the Lord; 'whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.' (John 11.25-26)

Prayer of the Day - Christ, whose feet were caressed with perfume and a woman's hair, you humbly took a basin and towel and washed the feet of your friends: wash us also in your tenderness, that, embracing your service freely, we may accept no other bondage in your name. Amen.



5 APRIL 2020 - SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Readings - Isaiah 50.4–9a, Psalm 31.9–18, Philippians 2.5–11, Matthew 26.14-27.66

The Bible passages for this Sunday deal with dead bones and a dead brother and friend. In the first reading the prophet Ezekiel is given a vision of dead bones in a valley, but is it not a sad dream rather than dream of hope. In the vision is a message of hope that the people will one day be restored by God. With all that is happening our world at present it is important to remember that God offers hope to us and the whole world.

In the Gospel passage we hear of the grief experienced due to the illness and death of Lazarus. This is not a sad story because Jesus intervenes and Lazarus is restored to life. It is no accident that the raising of Lazarus is paired with the reading from Ezekiel. Jesus' relationship to death is mirrored in Ezekiel's story. Both narratives reveal God's power. When we are grieving, weary, and lacking hope, it may feel like we are gazing on a valley full of bones. A merciful God whose power is infinite, however, creates hope just when it is needed. Jesus sees beyond death, and with that same God-given vision, Ezekiel sees the bones coming to life again.

We sadly also know that place, but we often do not recognize it as inhabited by the spirit and the hand of God. Jesus knew the presence of God's power in that place of grief, and his word of command is the province of utter confidence that "nothing is impossible with God." Jesus stands outside Lazarus' tomb in the place of grieving. When Ezekiel pronounces the word of the Lord in obedience to God's command to prophesy, the bones rattle. When Jesus cries, "Lazarus, come out!" the dead man rises.

The word of the Lord is the force that brings life out of death, in the stories of the bones and of Lazarus. The Lord speaks and it comes to be. The universe and all that lives came into existence on the power of God's word. Both the dry bones and Lazarus, the man who has been dead for three days, hear and respond to the word of the Lord. Many bindings in our world seem impossible to untangle, but every day the word of the Lord frees someone.

Questions for Reflection

Whose death have you wept over, grieved deeply? (John 11:1-45)

When was a time you felt God breathing new life into you? (Ezek 37:1-14)

What's foremost on your mind when you pray these days? (Ps 130)

How do you perceive the presence, work, or impact of the Spirit in any given moment? (Rom 8:6-11)

PARISH NOTICES

Cleaning Rosters – Both the Church and Coinda cleaning rosters are suspended till further notice.

Neighbourhood Centre – Donations of groceries for the Neighbourhood Centre are still welcome, they can be dropped directly to the centre at 9 Verdoni Street Bellara. Donations are to be left outside the front door and the volunteers will collect them.

Drink Containers – Please continue to collect your drink containers, they can be dropped off in front of the shed next to Coinda.

PRAYER POINTS

Those in Need - Roslyn Young, Debbie Eustace, Marjorie Voss, Diane Loose, Barry Loose, Sue Telfer.

To add someone to the prayer list please email office@stpetersbribie.org.au

EPRAY – Be nourished and sustained through Daily Prayer. Quick and easy access to the Anglican Daily Office on your smart phone or tablet. Download the free 'epray daily' app from your app store. The Parish code is 6065.

Gracious God, we give thanks anew for your providence and presence. We prayerfully seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 here and overseas. We pray for those in need of healing. We pray for your peace with those who are anxious or grieving. We pray you will continue to strengthen and sustain all those who are serving in response. We pray for your Holy Spirit's discernment amidst the many choices and decisions facing our national, community and medical leaders. We pray we each might see quickly what more we can do to help those who are vulnerable. This prayer for our nation in the family of nations, with all that is on our hearts, we gather now and pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Prayer from the National Council of Church Australia

