

Bribie Island Beacon

Sunday 10 & 17 May

This Beacon will cover the readings for the next two Sundays as I will be taking some days off this week from this Tuesday 12 May to Saturday 16 May. Please contact the Churchwardens during this time for assistance. Please be aware that there will not be a Zoom Chat and Prayer this Wednesday (13 May).

We are now entering into the eighth week of restrictions and the eighth Sunday without gathering in person at St Peter's. The impact of COVID19 on our society has been extreme, while fortunately not as devastating as it has been in some parts of the world. There are increasing conversations about how this event will change how we live and come together. At the moment we are still not in a position to know when we will be able to gather again in our buildings. So instead of longing for the unknown we must embrace the now, consider how we at this time continue to make the love of God known to others. It is so encouraging to hear how people are reaching out and supporting each other in this time of physical distancing. Each of us shares in the ministry of the church and each of us can use this time as an opportunity to reach out to others whether through phone calls, emails, letter writing or by supporting families in financial difficulty. So, let us show our love for God by living lives that bring the light of Jesus into the lives of others, particularly those who are struggling.

Fr Steven Schwarzrock

The logo for the Anglican Church, featuring a stylized cross icon to the left of the word "Anglican" in a large, bold, blue font, with the word "Church" in a smaller font below it.

St Peter's Bribie Island

CONTACT DETAILS

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

WEBSITE

www.stpetersbribie.org.au

On the website you can find links to our weekly online worship, Facebook page and newsletters.



Find us on:
facebook®

BANK ACCOUNT FOR GIVING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT

Ac Name - Bribie Island Parish
BSB - 704-901

Account Number - 00000040
Please use all the zeros

POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 1087 Bongaree 4507

SUNDAY 10 MAY - FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings - Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 17-18; 1 Peter 2:11-25; John 14:1-14

Sentence - 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life,' says the Lord. 'No one comes to the Father except through me.' (*John 14.6*)

Prayer of the day - Everliving God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reflection - There come times in the lives of all believers when things get very dark, and they have to believe what they cannot prove, and to accept even though they cannot understand or make sense of what's happening. It's at such times that we really need strong faith, but its precisely at such times that our faith fails us. It's easy to convince ourselves that we have a strong faith when things are going well. When a crisis arises we discover what kind of faith we have, or if we have any faith at all. By faith here I mean trust in God. Of course, there are people who think that if God was with them, and if he really loved them, then no storm would ever hit them. Life should be all plain sailing. So, when a storm does hit them, they experience a deep crisis of faith, thinking that God has abandoned them. During the Last Supper the apostles were thrown into crisis when Jesus started to talk about his death. On hearing this their hearts were troubled and filled with fear. Knowing that their faith would be severely tested, Jesus tried to prepare them for the ordeal. He said to them, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, and believe also in me.' Since the apostles already believed, in effect what he was saying to them was, 'You must go on believing in God and in me.' At a time of crisis people feel that God has abandoned them. But Jesus assured the apostles that, even though he was leaving them, he was not abandoning them. Rather, he was going to prepare a home for them, and would return to take them to that home. Hence, no matter what happened, no matter how difficult things might get (and they would get very difficult), they must go on believing, go on trusting in him and in the Father. That's all they would have to do. Go on believing, go on trusting, yet this is often easier said than done. But at a time of crisis that is the only thing we can do - go on stubbornly trusting in God. Trust is the greatest thing we can give to another person. Then the unbearable becomes bearable, and in the darkness a glimmer of light appears. What real faith does is assure us that God is with us in the midst of the crisis. It is that feeling, that conviction, that we are not alone, that we are not abandoned, which enables us to get through the crisis. Life is unintelligible and unendurable without God. That's why faith is so important. Those who have faith have a source of comfort and inspiration, especially when trouble strikes. They know that God will be good to them in the end, both in this world and in the next. It is not we who keep the faith it is the faith that keeps us. Gandhi said that "A person with a grain of faith in God never loses hope; because he believes in the ultimate triumph of truth." So when things are bad, may we hear the gentle words of Jesus: 'Believe in God, and believe also in me.'

Reflection Questions

Which words or actions of Jesus have had the greatest impact on your life and behaviour? (John 14:1-14)

SUNDAY 17 MAY - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Readings - Acts 17.22-31; Psalm 66.7-19; 1 Peter 3.8-22; John 14.15-21

Sentence - 'I 'Those who love me will keep my word,' Jesus promises, 'and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.'
(John 14.23)

Prayer of the day - O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond our understanding: pour into our hearts such love for you, that, loving you above all else, we may obtain your promises that exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reflection - Today's Gospel passage started with words "If you love me, you will keep my commandments", so what are the commandments we need to follow? If we examine the Gospels we can find many commandments which Jesus taught and here are 49 to reflect upon ... Repent; Follow Me; Let Your Light Shine; Honour God's Law; Be Reconciled; Do Not Lust; Keep Your Word; Go the Second Mile; Love Your Enemies; Be Perfect; Practice Secret Disciplines; Lay Up Treasures; Seek God's Kingdom; Judge Not; Do Not Cast Pearls; Ask; Seek; Knock; Do Unto Others; Choose the Narrow Way; Beware of False Prophets; Pray for Labourers; Be Wise as Serpents; Fear Not; Hear God's Voice; Take My Yoke; Honour Your Parents; Beware of Leaven; Deny Yourself; Despise Not Little Ones; Go to Offenders; Beware of Covetousness; Forgive Offenders; Honour Marriage; Be a Servant; Be a House of Prayer; Ask in Faith; Bring In the Poor; Render to Caesar; Love the Lord; Love Your Neighbour; Await My Return; Take, Eat, and Drink; Be Born Again; Keep My Commandments; Watch and Pray; Feed My Sheep; Baptize My Disciples; Receive God's Power; Make Disciples. That is quite a list, but if we love Jesus we are told to follow these commands. So many of the teachings of Jesus we need to pull apart and interpret what it means for us, but this passage is simple and straight forward. If you love Jesus you must obey Jesus. This passage should speak to us loud and clear in regard to how Jesus expects his followers to live a certain way of life which means we must follow his teachings. Jesus lived his life a certain way and he commands us to live that way too. He wants us to be formed and shaped into being like him so that our heavenly Father sees us living out our life as a Child of God. This is different than someone who may say to us if you love me, you will give me what I want. Jesus does tells us to do this because it is good for him, but rather because it is good and essential for our own well being. But if we truly live our life as a Child of God following the commands of Jesus can be hard. To follow those commands means adopting a life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Reflection Questions

What command of Jesus do you find most challenging to follow? Why?

What sacred symbols would you remove or re-imagine to better communicate in today's culture? (Acts 17:22-31)

What are your prayer habits and where did you learn them? (Psalm 66:7-19)

CELEBRATIONS

Upcoming birthdays – Neville Freeman (14 May); Neville Mietzel (19 May); Carolyn Payne (20 May); Barbara Black (22 May); Bruce Clark (22 May).

PRAYER POINTS

Those in Need – John Clark, Joy Clark, Roslyn Young, Ian Hillard, David Lower, Vivienne Bourne, Elizabeth, Kubler, Phyl Adams, Marjorie Voss, Sue Telfer.

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

Online Worship available every Sunday

To watch online worship from St Peter's please follow this link vimeo.com/user110905450 the link is also available from our website and FaceBook page.

Morning Prayer on Wednesday & Sunday with Chat Time

At **10am** each **Wednesday** and **Sunday** you are invited to join us for a Morning Prayer using Zoom. Chat time before Morning Prayer from 9:30am. Follow the Zoom instructions below. **NO ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 13 MAY.**

ZOOM - Video and Phone Conferencing Application

While we are unable to meet in person the Parish will be using Zoom to hold meetings, prayer times, studies and conversations. If you have a computer with a camera, a tablet or smart phone all you need to do is download a free app by following this link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3408319100>

Open the app and select "Join Meeting" and enter the meeting id **3408319100** and the password is **34083191**.

When prompted select join with computer / internet audio. You can also phone in from your home phone by dialling **02 8015 6011**. The meeting id is **3408319100**.

Please phone Fr Steven on 3408 3191 if you need assistance.



PARISH NOTICES

Neighbourhood Centre – Donations of groceries and clothing for the Neighbourhood Centre are still welcome, there will be a box at the front door of St Peter's each Monday, so if you can give something to support the needy in the community please bring it to St Peter's each Monday for collection.

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

Parish Giving – Even though we are not meeting for worship the Parish still needs to meet expenses, if you are able to give by Parish Direct or Online Deposit it would be appreciated, bank account details on front of newsletter. For those unable to give online a mail slot has been installed in the door of the Parish Office on Toorbul Lane.

Cleaning of Church Carpet and Chairs – A big thank you to the parishioners who arranged to have the carpet and chairs in St Peter's professional cleaned last week. Your generosity to arrange and cover the costs is greatly appreciated.