

# Bribie Beacon

Sunday 25 October 2020

St Peter's Anglican Church  
Banya Street Bribie Island

Anglican  
Church  
St Peter's Bribie Island

## PARISH NOTICES

**Online Sunday Worship** - A new online service is available each Sunday via [Vimeo](#), [FaceBook](#) or our [Webpage](#).

**Rector's Leave** - Fr. Steven will be on leave from Wednesday 28 October to Tuesday 17 November. Any enquires or concerns during this time, please contact the Churchwardens.

**Roster Compilers** - The Sunday Morning Roster from November will be compiled by Margaret Peterson. The Cleaning Rosters will now be compiled by Kay Benson. If you are interested in joining either of these rosters please contact Margaret and Kay directly.

**MU Christmas Cards and Diaries** - These are now available in a box in the Narthex. Please place your money in the tin provided. Cards are 50 cents each, packs of 10 are \$5.00 and Diary \$8.00. Any inquiries please ring Brenda Allardyce on 3408 6648 or mobile 0418197488.

**Ring Pull Tops** - The collection of ring pull tops has now ceased until travel between countries is resumed. Thank you to everybody who contributed to the collection this year. We collected thousands and the Cambodian women who use them in their artwork will be delighted.

**Return of Morning Tea** - To have morning tea resume on Sunday mornings, those wishing to assist must have completed the COVID-19 General Safety & Food Safety course. Lynn Macbeth will be running a course on Monday 26 October at 3pm at St. Peters. Please contact Lynn for further details.

## WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday - 7.30am & 9.30am  
Wednesday - 10am

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

### PARISH PRIEST / RECTOR

Rev Steven Schwarzrock  
3408 3191  
[rector@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:rector@stpetersbribie.org.au)

### CHURCHWARDENS

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

### COVID WARDEN

Lynn Macbeth 5497 5268

### WEBSITE

[www.stpetersbribie.org.au](http://www.stpetersbribie.org.au)

### ONLINE GIVING BY CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1730050>

### ONLINE GIVING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT

Ac Name - Bribie Island Parish  
BSB - 704-901  
Account Number - 00000040

### POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 1087 Bongaree 4507

# SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER - ORDINARY SUNDAY 30

Readings - Deuteronomy 34.1-12; Psalm 90.1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2.1-13; Matthew 22.34-46.

Sentence - You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (*Matthew 22.37-40*)

Prayer of the day - O God, whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law: stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love, so that we may love you with our whole being, and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## QUESTIONS FOR SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

God knew Moses face to face, which implies God saw Moses. When and how do you think God sees you? (Deuteronomy 34:10)

In what ways do you perceive God to be your dwelling place, and in what ways would you like to? (Psalm 90: 1)

What might be something fresh in these familiar words for you or your congregation today? (Matthew 22:37-40)

## PRAYER POINTS

**Those in Need** - Jenny Sullivan, Robert Van Buerle, Aileen & Ralph Johnson, Valerie Bowser, Bretton Bartlett, Elizabeth Kubler, Krista-Liisa Pulkkinen.

*To add someone to the prayer list please email [office@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:office@stpetersbribie.org.au)*

**Birthdays this week** - Les Baker (27 October).



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Here ends, in this passage, the disputations and entrapments orchestrated by religious leaders during Jesus' final visit to Jerusalem. They had been at it for a while. In Matthew's telling of the story, in the days before his death, Jesus was involved in a long series of disputations with Sadducees, lawyers, chief priests, elders, scribes, Pharisees, and their disciples. In each confrontation, he proves himself more careful, clever, and inspired than his adversaries. When Jesus questions them about the messiah and his relationship to David, they are stumped and finally silenced. But before being silenced, a legal expert from among the Pharisees asks Jesus one last question in order to test him, "Which commandment in the law is greatest?" For him to answer wisely will be a confirmation of his teaching authority. It seems that after a long day of verbal battle, even the Pharisees begin to lose steam and wonder whether their efforts had been worthwhile. Jesus' answer is classic. Loving God is the first thing, the most important thing. But, with it comes a corollary: to love God means that you also love God's people. The ancient rabbis put it in similar terms: "What is hateful to you do not do to your neighbour. That is the whole Law." What more can be said after this? Silenced, the Pharisees finally withdraw from the fight. On the next day, they hatch the plan that will remove this trouble-making prophet and permanently silence him. The key problem in interpreting this double commandment for our time is that we lose sight of the biblical meaning of love. Our culture has equated love with intense emotion. To love is a stronger response than to like. And, both are measures of a passive response to something outside us. We like chocolate: we cannot help ourselves. We love a movie: it entertains or moves us. We love a boy or girlfriend: they make us happy. We love a spouse: they complete us. But, biblical love is not passive and it is not strictly emotional. In the Old Testament, there are references to many kinds of love, but the love referred to here by Jesus is the love of Deuteronomy 6:5, the love of Yahweh. This love is far from passive. It is the active response of the faithful person to the love of God. God's love is also active. God chooses (elects) to love Israel above all nations and to bring his love through this chosen people. To love God with all one's heart, and soul, and mind, is to choose to respond to God even as God chooses to love us. Feelings and emotions do not enter into the equation. In the New Testament, the principle word used for love is agape. Like philia, or brotherly love, it is a passionless love. Eros is the word for passion or desire. The latter two are used sparingly in the New Testament. Agape in the gospels has some connection to emotion, where God cares for God's creatures and creation. But, chiefly, it refers to what can be called loving-kindness. It is not passive emotion, but active mercy. It is marked by patience and generosity, again, both acts generated by the one who loves. In short, loving is a choice, not a feeling. To love God with all our heart, mind, and soul seems nearly impossible when we think of love as an emotion. How does one conjure up feelings for something as remote, mysterious, and disembodied as the concept of God? We cannot look into God's eyes, wrap our arms around the Spirit, or even see the face of Jesus. If we could, that might evoke in us a profound feeling of love. We might fall in love with Jesus' beauty and grace if we could know him as Mary and Martha did. But, we are commanded to love an intangible God. So how do we touch a God we cannot touch or see? Likewise, loving our neighbour has challenges too. If love is merely our passive response to the person next to us, we are likely to be more often repulsed than moved to love. How can one legitimately look into the face of an enemy and feel

unqualified love? It is nearly impossible. But, biblical love is not passive. It is not something that occurs to us without our control or will. Biblical love is something we do. It is loving-kindness, merciful action that is both generous and continuous. Herein is the good news for Christian people. To love neighbour as oneself is to act toward the other as one would act toward those close to you. We treat the stranger as well as we treat those that we love emotionally. When the action to each is equal, the love to each is equal. This is counter to what we expect, but it is in keeping with what the commandment requires. This means that, to those with whom we are intimate, to those we do not know, to those who may be dirty or repugnant, and even to those who harm us, we can act according to the law of love. We can be merciful and gracious. To love the neighbour as ourselves is to make a conscious choice and act upon it. And what about love of God? Again, as God chose Israel and elected to forgive her at every offense, so we can choose God and serve him in every way. We can love with our heart: through generosity to God's people. We can love with our soul: by worshiping God and praying for our neighbours and ourselves. And we can love with our minds: studying God's Word and letting it correct us, enlighten us, and send us out in loving action to the world. See how these commandments are connected, "the greatest commandment" and the "second, which is like it"? When we love God's people, we are always, and at the same time loving God. They are inseparable. Surprisingly, sometimes our emotions follow suit and we actually feel a love of other, or a love of God. But the emotion is not commanded. Only the action of love is commanded. In Christ, this we can do, even when we don't feel like it.

## **ATTENDING WORSHIP AT ST PETER'S IN PERSON**

**Safety Plan** - St Peter's is required to adhere to the Industry Plan for Places of Worship. For more information on this please speak to Lynn Macbeth (COVID Warden) or a Churchwarden. These government guidelines limit St Peter's to 50 people per service. If capacity limit was reached at a service, alternate seating will be made available outside. As we are not currently reaching our limit pre-registering for worship is not currently required.

**Physical Distancing** - People should practice physical distancing at a minimum of 1.5 metres at all times. No physical greetings or exchanges such as handshakes or hugs. Sit separately (unless from same household) and per approved seating plan.

**Hygiene** - Hands should be cleaned with hand sanitiser upon entering church, before receiving communion or after contact with any surfaces. People who feel unwell or have cold or flu like symptoms should not attend.

**Record of Attendance** - A record of each attendee's name, address and phone number will be kept by the Rector as per government requirements.

**Cleaning** - The church will be cleaned in line with Safe Work Australia standards.

**Protecting Vulnerable People** - Government advice for vulnerable people is that you should stay at home and avoid contact with others. Vulnerable people are defined as people 70 years and older, people 65 years and older with a chronic medical condition and people with a compromised immune system.

**Online Worship** - Every Sunday morning a new service is uploaded. To watch online worship from St Peter's please follow this link [vimeo.com/user110905450](https://vimeo.com/user110905450). The link is also available from our website and FaceBook page.