St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

Pew Sheet 6 April 2025

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sun 6th	8:00a.m. & 10.00am	Lent V
Sun 6th	9.15am 11.15am 11.30am	Lent gathering Choir Lent gathering
Sun 6th	12:00pm	Pub lunch
Mon 7th	1:00pm 2:00pm 7:30pm	Monday Circle PVAW Faith Issues
Tue 8th	4:00pm	Do Justice
Wed 9th	9:30am 10:30am 11:20am	Morning Prayer Wednesday Service Lent gathering
Sat 12th	8:00am	Meditation
Sun 13th	9:30am	Palm Sunday (one service only)
Sun 13th	9:15am 11.00am	Lent gathering Lent gathering
Sun 13th	4:30—6.00pm	Women of Spirit

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St Margaret's Anglican Parish Eltham acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we worship. We commit to working for reconciliation and justice for First Peoples. Diversity and inclusivity are important to us at St Margaret's. Everyone is welcome here, regardless of race, gender, sexuality, or ability.

ABM PEW REFLECTIONS

Today we hear the story of a dinner party at the home of Lazarus, Martha and Mary. During the dinner, something odd happens: not only does Mary anoint the feet of Jesus – something a servant would normally do as people arrived for dinner, but she used a whole pound of the very costly unction, wiping his feet with her hair. The expense was about the annual wage for a labourer. Jesus commends her and reproaches Judas, who carped about the cost. Only the best is good enough for God.

- Give thanks for all those who give of their best to God, and pray that we might be numbered among them.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of Bangladesh

ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

Address: 79-81 Pitt Street Eltham Vic 3095
Email: parishoffice@stmargaretseltham.org.au, Tel: 9439 9238
Vicar: Revd. Yvette Daniel revdyvette@stmargaretseltham.org.au, Tel. 0439 035 741 (day off Thur)

Worship 6 April —Lent V

Sentence
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. *Psalm 126.6*

The Collect
O God,
the Redeemer of all who trust in you:
heed the cry of your people,
and deliver us from the bondage of sin,
that we may serve you in perfect freedom
and rejoice in your unfailing love;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

First Reading
Isaiah 43.16-21

Today's Psalm
Psalm 126

Second Reading
Philippians 3.3-14

Gospel
John 12.1-8

Image : Charlie Mackesy

Today's Music
Welcome Hymn: Crown him with many crowns—TiS 228 (8.00am)

Offertory: Let us talents and tongues employ—TiS 537

Communion Hymn: Kyrie eleison – TiS 736

Mission Hymn: O Jesus, I have promised—TiS 595

YouTube Link - Sunday 10:00 am Service

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCU8zWevMdRsIRq70IA6MUIg/live

Prayer of the Week

We thank you, heavenly Father,
that you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
we pray that
as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his presence abiding in us he may raise us
to joys eternal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

Preventing Violence Against Women

Love does no harm.

No one should live in fear of violence

St Margarets Church is signed up to Preventing violence against women program(PVAW)

If you have any concerns related to any form of abuse or controlling behaviour exhibited towards yourself or , someone you know – in an emergency call **000**

24 hr information hotline 1800 Respect- **1800 737 732**

Orange door – our local family violence service – **1800 319 355**

You can also speak with Mandy Stevens who is our church family safety champion or Revd. Yvette Daniel

Remember – You are not alone

Parish Office

The Parish office will be open next week Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10am to 2pm. Carolyn will be working from home on Tuesday and available on Parish email. (closed Thursday)

Hearing Loop

A Hearing Loop is installed in the Church, please use the T switch on your hearing aid.

NOTICES

What's Coming Up

Sun 13th	9:30am	Palm Sunday (one service only)
Sun 13th	9.15am 11.30am	Sunday gathering—Lent Sunday gathering—Lent
Sun 13th	4:30—6.00pm	Women of Spirit
Mon 14th	10.30am 1:00pm	Communications & Marketing Monday Circle
Tue 15th	10.30am 1.30pm	Spiritual Direction Memory Care Café
Wed 16th	9:30am 10:30am 11:20am	Morning Prayer Wednesday Service Wednesday gathering—Lent
Thur 17th	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday service
Fri 18th	10.00am	Good Friday Service
Sat 19th	8:00am	Meditation
Sun 20th	6:30am 10.00am	The Great Vigil Easter Day Service
Mon 21st	1:00pm 7:30pm	Monday Circle Faith Issues Discussion
Wed 23rd	9:30am 10:30am	Morning Prayer Wednesday Service
Sat 26th	8:00am	Meditation
Sun 27th	8:00am & 10:00am	Easter II
Sun 27th	5:30pm 6:30pm	Taize meal Taize prayers

Hall Hire

For all hall hire enquiries please email
communications@stmargaretseltham.org.au
Or information can be found on the St Margaret's website.
www.stmargaretseltham.org.au

Memory Café dates

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month from 1.30pm to 3.00pm

APRIL 15

MAY 6, 20

An additional Finance Committee member needed could this be you??

To find out more please speak with Kathleen Toal

DV Safe Phone

"Your old phone could save a life. Donate it to DV Safe Phone and empower domestic violence victims with connectivity. Since 2020, we've transformed outdated tech into lifelines for over 400 agencies nationwide. Declutter and create change—contribute funds or spare devices today to ensure every call for help is answered."

Visit *www.dvsafephone.org for more information*.

St. Margaret's Eltham has installed a collection box in the foyer of the church. Apple and Android phones are needed: any age, any condition. Charging cables are not required. *If you have an Apple iPhone to donate please ensure that it is disconnected from the Cloud*. You can access instructions for preparing your phone for donation on the above website. For more information please contact: Liz Pryor 0412 664 162.

	6th April 2025 Lent V 8:00am	6th April 2025 Lent V 10:00am	9 April Wednesday 10:30am
Celebrant	Rev Yvette Daniel	Rev Yvette Daniel	Rev Yvette Daniel
Preacher **Gospel**	Rev Yvette Daniel *John 12.1-8*	Rev Yvette Daniel *John 12.1-8*	Rev Yvette Daniel *John 8.31-42*
Sacristan **Assistant**	Barbara Speed	Geoff & Elizabeth Milgate	N/A
Liturgical **Assistant**	Christine Winkett	Mitzi Tuke	N/A
Communion **Assistants**	Dave Greenfield	Adrienne Watson Mabs Jones	N/A
Greeters & **Sides People**	Catherine Pearson	Geoff & Elizabeth Milgate	Jennifer Constantine
First **Reading**	John Winkett *Isaiah 43.16-21*	Mabs Jones *Isaiah 43.16-21*	Michael Tucker Daniel 3.14-28
Second **Reading**	Clive Noble *Philippians 3.3-14*	David Tuke *Philippians 3.3-14*	
Psalm	*Psalm 126*	*Psalm 126*	*Song of 3YM*
Intercessor	Clive Noble	Geoff Sandy	
Morning Tea	Coralie Carew	Jan Kerr Sheila Cheary	Jenny Disney
Banking	John Humann		
Music	Helen Coutts	Jason Zeng	
Zoom/Ppt **Cameras**	Sally Warner	Rob Mackenzie Sandra Brown-Holt	
Flowers	Lent		

ROSTER	13th April 2025 Palm Sunday 9:30am	16 April Wednesday 10:30am
Celebrant	Rev Yvette Daniel	Rev Yvette Daniel
Preacher Gospel	Rev Yvette Daniel *Luke 22.14-23.56*	Rev Yvette Daniel *John 13.21-32*
Sacristan Assistant	Coralie Carew OR Mabs Jones	N/A
Liturgical Assistant	Coralie Carew OR David Pryor	N/A
Communion Assistants	Kathleen Toal Sylvia Gilbert Sandra Brown-Holt	N/A
Greeters & Sides People	Catherine Pearson Roger Alcock Harry Watson	Jill Rogers
First Reading	Adrienne Watson *Isaiah 50.4-9a*	Lorna Howard Hebrews 12.1-3
Second Reading	Barbara Speed OR Jan Kerr *Philippians 2.5-11*	
Psalm	*Psalm 31.9-18*	*Psalm 70*
Intercessor	Catherine Pearson OR Sandra Brown-Holt (Set)	
Morning Tea	Linda Mackenzie Jan Gack	Jill Rogers
Banking	David Pryor	
Music	Amelia Trinh	
Zoom/Ppt Cameras	John Humann Mandy Stevens	
Flowers	Lent	

ROSTER	Maundy Thursday 17th April 7.00pm	Good Friday 18th April 10.00am
Celebrant	Rev Yvette Daniel	Rev Yvette Daniel
Preacher Gospel	Rev Yvette Daniel *John 13.1-17, 31b-35*	Rev Yvette Daniel *John 18.1-19.42*
Sacristan Assistant	Barbara Speed	N/A
Liturgical Assistant		Sally Petty
Communion Assistants		N/A
Greeters & Sides People		N/A
First Reading	Reader 1—Exodus 12.1-14 Reader 3—Matthew	*Isaiah 52.13-53.12*
Second Reading	*1 Corinthians 11.23-26*	*1 Corinthians 1.18-31*
Psalm	*Psalm 116.1-2, 11-18*	*Psalm 70*
Intercessor	Barbara Speed Set Prayers	Solemn Prayers—2 people)
Morning Tea	N/A	N/A
Banking	N/A	
Music		
Zoom/Ppt Cameras	N/A	John Humann Sandra Brown-Holt
Flowers	Lent	Lent

ROSTER	Easter Vigil— Sun 20th April 6.30am	Easter Day Sun 20th April 10:00am
Celebrant	Rev Yvette Daniel	Rev Yvette Daniel
Preacher Gospel	Rev Yvette Daniel *Matthew 28.1-10*	Rev Yvette Daniel *John 20.1-18*
Sacristan Assistant	Barbara Speed	Robert Brazenor OR Jan Gack
Liturgical Assistant	N/A	Robert Brazenor OR Geoff Sandy
Communion Assistants	David Pryor &	Neil Andrewartha Tony Michaelson Jan Kerr
Greeters & Sides People	N/A	John Winkett Roger Alcock
Reader 1	David Tuke Lesson 1: Genesis 1.1-2.4a Psalm 136.1-9, 23-26	Dave Greenfield The Story of Easter
Reader 2	David Pryor Lesson 2: Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18, 9.8-13 Psalm 46	Sally Warner OR Sandra Brooks 1 Corinthians 15.1-11
Reader 3	*Lesson 3: Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21* *The Song of Miriam*	*N/A*
Reader 4	*Lesson 4: Isaiah 55.1-11* *The Song of Isaiah*	*N/A*
Reading	*Romans 6.3-11*	*N/A*
Psalm	*N/A*	*Psalm 118.1-2, 14-24*
Intercessor	N/A	N/A
Morning Tea	N/A	Sally Warner, Anna Mott, Sandra Brooks
Banking		Rob Mackenzie
Music	N/A	
Zoom/Ppt Cameras	N/A	Rob Mackenzie Val Tucker
Flowers	Lent	Angela Langan

Lenten Offering

Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession)

During his earthly ministry, it was not only Jesus' miraculous power that astounded and transformed people, but also his willingness to forgive sins.

Our Sunday services and midweek service of Holy Communion always include a corporate prayer of confession, after which the presiding priest pronounces God's forgiveness of our sins. Yet it is also true that sometimes we benefit from the opportunity to confess privately and specifically those things that trouble our consciences.

Reconciliation of a Penitent, or Confession, is a rite in which anyone who repents of sins may confess them to God in the presence of a priest and receive the assurance of pardon and the grace of absolution.[1]

If you would like to find out more, please feel free to contact me in the strictest of confidence.

Peace and all good

Revd Yvette

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[1] https://www.incarnationsantarosa.org/reconciliation-of-a-penitent-confession/#:~:text=Reconciliation%20of%20a%20Penitent%2C%20or,and%20the%20grace%20of%20absolution. Accessed 01/05/24

READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER THIS LENT

GOSPEL OF LUKE READING PLAN

WEEK 4: 17-20COMPLETE BY SUNDAY 6TH APRIL

WEEK 5: 21-24COMPLETE BY SUNDAY 13TH APRIL

WEEK 6: TAKE TIME TO REFLECT

WEDNESDAY GATHERING

In the church @ 11.20 (after morning tea)

hosted by Michael Tucker

9th April ,16th April.

SUNDAY GATHERING

In the church@09.15 (after morning tea)

hosted by David Greenfield

6th April

SUNDAY GATHERING

In the church @11.30 (after morning tea)

hosted by Revd. Yvette

6th April, 13th April

13TH APRIL. 4.30—6.00pm

WOMEN SAINTS

We shall explore the lives of St. Clare and Julian of Norwich (and their writings) and see how they might have relevance for us. We shall also reflect on those unnamed "saints" in our lives who have helped us on our way.

Led by: Christine Winkett

St Margaret's Anglican Church

Holy Week Easter Services 2025

Holy Tuesday (Tenebrae) 15th April – 7.30pm

Maundy Thursday 17th April, 7.00pm

Good Friday 18th April, 10.00am

Easter Sunday

Great Easter vigil, 20th April 6.30am

Easter Eucharist service 20th April 10.00am

Abridged Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting: 24 03 2025

The meeting was opened with prayer and the lighting of a candle

1. Apologies from Barbara Speed; all other members present
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved
3. Matters arising:
   Music at the services: Thanks to past music students, Robert, Helen, and Richard
   The Music committee is working towards finding new students.
   There has been no volunteer form the congregation to join the finance committee
   The First Aid box and Defibrillator are up to date. Thanks to Coralie. There are enough volunteers to arrange First Aid training. It was agreed to budget $750 for this.
   Safe food handling in the kitchen approved by Local Council for 1 year.
4. **Finance Committee**
   The Report for February 2025 was accepted
   The payment of copyrights will be discussed with Carolyn
   A discussion on the Parish assessments will be undertaken at the next meeting
5. **Safe Ministry**
   Child Safety standards (dated 07 / 2023) has been circulated
6. **Compliance (from diocese)**
   a. OH & S Wardens' annual audit done
   b. Property
      - Wardens' building and grounds inspection done
      - Wardens' asset inventory done
7. **Correspondence**
   a. DV Ad Clerum 07 / 03 / 2025 Communion sets and other items to be sought from closing churches
   b. Sunday Style logo from Diocese
   c. Diocese: Governance briefing (appointees to Boards and Councils). Training dates: 16 and / or 23 / 08 / 2025. Vicar also wishes to attend.
   d. Research Early Learning Centre They are compliant. Further follow up later.
   e. ABM Lent Appeal Hope 25 Basket has been placed in the foyer for collecting donations
8. **Vicar's Report**
   a. Attended EPIC on Mission and Ministry. St Margaret's is a "Growing Family'
   b. Attended retreat at Rhyll
   c. Meet and greet local shire councillors
   d. On International Women's Day panel for multi-cultural and faith–based issues
   e. She reviewed examples of other parishes on dealing with complaints and grievances
   It was noted that she is well supported by Bishop Brad
9. **General Business**
   Hope 25: Prevention of violence against women and children. This will involve: Speakers (Eve Gallagher, Local police, Kerryn Lewis and Vicki Ward MP), Art installation in the Church, Couch in the foyer arranged in house style with DV information present
   The impact of the initiative to collect phones and recycle them for those fleeing violence or survivors was noted. Big 'thank you' to Liz Pryor for this.
10. **Subcommittee reports**
    a. Pastoral Care team, Marketing and Communications – reports noted: PVAW – as Hope 25 (above)
    b. Property: Rent for John Street to be increased by $10 / week / occupant
       Leak in the vestry roof attended to
    c. Do Justice: Reconciliation Day: Excursion to Gawa – details to follow
       How can we reach out to the local community to bring in more people? This will be a whole church responsibility.
    d. Music Scholarship New planning under way – possible new candidate.
11. **Vision 2025**
    Memory Care Café: There are new policies / Guidelines
    Taizé Service: Sunday 3 April starting at 3pm
12. **Other Matters**
    Screen in Foyer IT group to attend to it
    Wardens to report decisions and actions to Parish Council
13. **Next meeting** 28 April 2025

The meeting concluded with prayer

Easter Rosters

Included in this week's pew sheet are the Rosters for Holy Week. Where this is only one service (Palm Sunday) we have included normal roster servers from both 8am and 10am. Not all maybe required, so please confirm availability with Harry Watson.

- Palm Sunday 9.30am service— one Sacristan, one LA, 2 Cas, 2 greeters, 2 readers, 1 intercessor
- Maundy Thursday 7pm—LA, Communion Assistants, Greeters, 3 readers. Please note the third reader will be someone who is staying behind after the stripping of sanctuary to be part of Vigil of prayer (watch)
- Good Friday 10am—2 x readers, 2 people to read solemn prayers
- Easter Vigil—6.30am—1 x Communion Assistant, 3 x Readers
- Easter Day Service—10am—1 Sacristan, 1 LA, 2 Communion assistants, 2 readers

Missing labyrinth!

We are trying to locate the whereabouts of our cloth labyrinth.

It is very large and fits nicely in our church hall.

Last seen on World Labyrinth 2024

If you can help with our enquiries, please contact the Church Office in the strictest of confidence!!

CHOIR PRACTICE

Dear Choir – as Holy Week and Easter is fast approaching it would be good for us to meet and practice.

I would be grateful if we could meet for **ten minutes this Sunday 6th** directly after the service – prior to going in for morning tea as I am aware that the Lenten gathering and pub lunch will be on.

With thanks Robert

Taizé Retreat Triumph

A huge thank you to the Taizé Ministry Team:
Helen Robertson, David Tuke, Heidi & Mitzi for planning and delivering for us a wonderful spiritually rich and fun afternoon and evening.

The feedback received from our guests was a continuous stream of thanks which is encouraging for this ministry amongst us.

Also I would like to extend my gratitude to Diana, Anna, Coralie & Jan for their great hospitality and service .

The flyer claimed it would be a simple meal! – it was in fact a delicious banquet. Once again thank you to all who contributed to this especially The Tukes, Coralie, Jeff and Margie. I apologies if I have missed any one out!

Let us hold Br Merric in prayer and the Taizé Community and give thanks for their global ministry.

Here's some Lent trivia to test your knowledge.

The answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. How many days are there in Lent?

2. What was the original meaning of the word "Lent"?

3. What is the first day of Lent called?

4. What do we call the day b

efore Lent begins?

5. What color vestments does the priest wear during Lent?

6. What prayer of the Mass is omitted during Lent?

7. What word is never said or sung during Lent?

8. What do some Anglicans abstain from eating on Fridays during Lent?

9. On what days are Catholics required to fast during Lent?

10. What snack originated during Lent because it contains only flour, water and salt?

Answers

1. 40

2. "Spring"

3. Ash Wednesday

4. Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras

5. Purple

6. The Gloria

7. Alleluia

8. Meat

9. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

St Margarets Church - Sunday 30th March 2015, 8am and 10am

Theme: Plot twists can lose the message, Prodigal Son (Luke 15)

As a child I was a bit of a book worm – I just devoured them- sometimes I would read up to three a week.

For a short while---- I feel in love with a series of books called ***Choose Your Own Adventure ….*** where each story was written from a second person point of view, with the reader assuming the role of the protagonist and making choices that determined the main character's actions and the plot's outcome.

So, for example you would get to the bottom of the page and it would pose a question or a statement – such as

…if you decide to turn left and follow the tracks of the yeti turn to page 42 **or**

…..if you decide to go back to basecamp and radio for help – turn to the next page

What I loved about these books was that I could make various decisions that would bring me to a different outcome every time – I felt that I was somehow not just engaging with the story but the author too.

And on the plus side if I didn't like the choice I made – I could go back to the question – make a different choice – which would reveal a different outcome – but sometimes it would turn out **not** for the better –

As we know Jesus loved a parable and sharing wisdom through stories

e.g – the parable of the persistent widow the parable of the rich fool, the parable of the sheep and goats , the parable of the workers in the vineyards, the parable of the shrewd Manger to name a few

However- there are parables like the good Samaritan and our parable this morning **the prodigal Son** that are known by the majority of us – not just Christians!

…made even more well known by Painters, sculptures and poets fascination by these gospel stories memorializing their creations for ever !

But sometimes when things are too familiar- we no longer read it or hear it as nourishment – we tune out, we pre-empt, we can congratulate our-

selves in believing we know all there is to know .

So what if this morning we dare to do a plot twist – like that of my…… **choose your own adventure books?**

Just say the Good Samaritan did not stop and help that man? What would have happened if the Good Samaritan was not moved to pity? What if the innkeeper wanted payment up front **before** he would look after the man on behalf of the Samaritan ….

The learning from the parable would no longer be one about showing mercy would it

Likewise with our gospel reading this morning

What if – the Father was not filled with compassion when he saw his son approaching their home from distance?

What if he didn't run out to him and put his arms around him and kiss him?

What if he did not celebrate his return and was aggrieved at his failings ?

What if the son was not apologetic?

If -these -possibilities- were- the- case and we had the choices of skipping pages or deciding on numerous outcomes

As followers of Jesus what would we learn from this parable this morning ?

So in light of **this** question …let us not mess with the text

Our parable is partially about reconciliation between father and son – the restoration of their relationship

What would have happened if there wasn't reconciliation – the restoration of relationship

Would the son have gone back to feed the pigs , never to be seen again by his family ?

Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian. Henri j Nouwen writes: *What is our task in this world as children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus?*

Nouwen answers for us – he says

Our task is reconciliation.

He quantifies this further by saying

Wherever we go we see divisions among people – in families, communities, cities, countries, and continents.

All these divisions are tragic reflections of our separation from God. The truth that all people belong together as members of one family under God is seldom visible.

Our sacred task is to reveal that truth in the reality of everyday life.

So why is that our task? I hear you ask

The answer is found in

Pauls 2 letter to the Corinthians where Paul is explaining to the church in Corinth why he no longer sees people as he once did.

Paul shared that he finally understood that **Christ,….** the Son of God….died to atone for human sin… through Jesus representing a new way by which God would reconcile people to Himself

…..through faith in Christ, any person can be reconciled to God – and

with sins forgiven

a person can become fully welcomed into a relationship with God.

so let me read to you 2 Corinthians 5:18 – 19 from the NRSV translation it says ….

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and **has given us** the ministry of reconciliation*

that is, in Christ …God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

Isn't it amazing the wisdom we get through scripture

So, whatever we do the main question is, "Does it lead to reconciliation among people?" [1]

So back to the prodigal Son

The Fathers reaction to his Son that day enables us to see the type of relationship God wants with us and how we as Christians are supposed to continue that Ministry on Jesus' behalf – so that the church (the body of Christ) is a lived example of a reconciled people out in the world.

Now this is a story that no one should mess with.

Amen

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1. Quote by Henri J.M. Nouwen: "What is our task in this world as children of G..." accessed 29/03/25

Parish Directory

The Parish Directory has now been printed, and will be available in the Church Foyer at our Worship services on Wednesday and Sunday. Should you require a copy to be sent, please contact the Parish Office. We cannot email the directory for privacy reasons.

Please check your details in the Parish Directory and if there are any amendments please get back to the Parish office with any changes. After a few weeks we will print a slip of paper with any changes to amend your copy at home.

Please be mindful that the Parish Directory contains confidential information of Parishioner's contact details.

Thankyou.

Liberation Theology Reflection

Sure, and Certain hope in Jesus Christ

As I hope you are aware, the National Anglican Church is gearing up for Hope25 from Easter to Pentecost. The Melbourne committee, in discussion with TMA *The Melbourne Anglican* wants to have a weekly reflection on Christian hope. Some clergy have been asked to write a short reflective piece to help our diocese to reflect more deeply on the 'sure and certain hope' we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.
Here is mine!

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free' (Luke 4:18 NRSV)

Theological college taught me so much.
Prior to embarking on two years of residential study as an ordinand- I always thought (quite naively) that there was just 'one' theology! However, within my first academic year terminologies such as - Feminist Theology, Queer Theology, Theology of Disability and Womanist Theology was becoming second nature, as I began to read the bible through the imagined lens of that of my sisters and brothers in Christ.
Scripture suddenly spoke into the now- revealing God afresh- whilst forming new understandings and challenging old ones.
As enlightening as this was and still is – it was the studying of Black Liberation Theology and Latin American Liberation Theology that enabled me to reflect more deeply on the 'sure and certain hope' we have in our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.
Liberation theologies (crude definition to follow for which I

apologise!) attempts to interpret the gospel of Jesus Christ through the lived experiences of those who are deemed on the edge of society, those who are poor and those who are oppressed in any way.
Through the 'doing' of liberation theologies there is a willingness to call out and name those failing structures and processes that leads to a vast number of expressions of injustices, inequalities and poverties on communities and nations - locally, nationally and globally.
These theologies conceive of the God revealed in Jesus Christ, as a God of liberation, who identifies with those who are oppressed and marginalized.
Jesus is described as the liberator to so many people especially the unseen, the undervalued and the exploited - people identifying with Jesus through the injustices and pains he endured; with his own death and resurrection offering hope.
The gospels are full of examples where Jesus is being alongside such peoples and communities – those living with leprosy, those whose lifestyles and professions were shunned – even in his dying on the cross Jesus still offers hope to one of the criminals hanging alongside him-

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:42-43 NRSV)

Theologian Michael Prior reflects that "The Christian gospel, clearly, is about liberation, so, too should the Church be, if it persists in presenting itself as a sign of the Kingdom which Jesus ushered in".
As disciples of Jesus Christ we are a liberated people – let us therefore awaken that realisation and hope in others. [1]

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[1] Prior, Michael, Jesus the liberator- (Sheffield: Academic Press Ltd, 1995) pg196

St Margarets needs you!

First Aid Volunteers

Would you be willing to train to be a first aider for our church?

What is first aid?

First aid covers the steps taken to help a person in the first minutes of an illness or injury.

Accidents or illness can happen to anyone at any time.

First aid may:

- ease someone's pain or discomfort
- help them recover more quickly
- save a life

Being a first aider may seem daunting to you; however, if you wish to find out more please speak with Coralie or Revd. Yvette

175 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
1850 - 2025

ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

ANGLICANS IN DEVELOPMENT
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

LENT APPEAL 2025

Helping women break free from violence, injustice and oppression

To **Donate Online**, please scan the QR code or visit:

www.abmission.org/Lent2025

HOPE 25

Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (PVAW) & HOPE25

Hope25 is an opportunity for us to share the hope that we have in Jesus. It is an intentional season of sharing hope in Jesus for every parish and community in the Anglican Church of Australia. The dates will be Easter Day (April 20) to Pentecost Sunday (June 8) 2025.
Each parish is invited to prayerfully commit to doing (at least) one new activity to share the hope that we have in Jesus during this season.

At St Margarets our contribution will focus on domestic Violence and abuse. More info to follow shortly on how we all can be involved

The Mission and Ministry Commission have written the following Collect for Hope25, to be used in parish intercessions and meetings

God of Hope
you call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world;
by your Spirit awaken in us
a true vision of your kingdom,
a greater certainty of our salvation, and
a deeper dedication to your service;
that through our words and actions the same Spirit may
bring many who are lost to be found,
and for them to celebrate the hope
that we can only have in Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray.
Amen

Prayer at the time of choosing a Bishop

Eternal God, Shepherd, and Guide,

In your mercy give your Church in this Diocese a shepherd after your own heart

Who will walk in your ways,

And in loving care watch over your people,

Give us a leader of vision and a teacher of truth.

So may your Church be built up and your name glorified;

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

As we prepare to elect a new Archbishop, please continue to be praying for the Nomination Board in bringing names of candidates to the Electoral Synod.

Grace

Go before us, O Lord, in all our doings
with your most gracious favour,
and assist us with your continual help;
that in all works, begun, continued and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally by your mercy
obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayer Chain

For any prayer Requests

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