

Secondly, when we have to take shelter and isolate ourselves from our usual path, joy is waiting for us in the bushes. Just as we found warmth and shelter under those bushes and those little wrens brought us such delight in our storm, so to God will bring blessing to us as we go into Stage three restrictions again. So take heart dear ones, the Lord is with us, and this storm will pass.

The Lord be with you.



Prayer Points

Petitions

- Peter, Summer, Helen, Lorna, Debbie, Kaye, Chris, Rita, Julia & John and their families.
- Those affected by COVID 19,
- for the Prime Minister and Premier as they manage the pandemic.



The Lighter Side of Life



Anglican Parish of the Otways Newsletter

10th Sunday after Pentecost

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**Anglican Parish of the
Otways**

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

Well here we are again under stage three restrictions. I do hope that we can negotiate it with the patience and peace that we have done before. Needless to say face to face worship and bible study is on hold until further notice as is our AGM. More news about that later.

The joy for us is that even if worship in our church buildings is on hold, our worship as a body of believers is not. Once again I encourage you to stop at your usual worship time so we can worship together even though we are apart.

Through out the pandemic your faithfulness to prayer, worship and stewardship has been amazing and I encourage you to continue in this. Our expenses remain through this time of restriction so I would ask that you either direct debit your offering or deposit it at the Bendigo bank. Bank details are Anglican Parish of the Otways, BSB 633 000 ACC 1685 80009. Thank you.

Please remember I am available on the parish mobile at any time and I will try to be in contact with each of you personally during this time.

May the Lord bless you with peace and joy.
Jenny

Prayer of the Week

Mighty God and ruler of all creation,
give new strength to our faith,
that we may recognise your presence
even when all hope seems lost.

Help us to face all trials with serenity
as we walk with Christ through the stormy seas of life
and come at the last to your eternal peace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Reading. Matthew 14:22-36

Reflection

Let me tell you a story.

When I was back teaching, I had to supervise a bronze level Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The plan was to canoe the Glenelg River to document platypus activity in the river.

We set off on a glorious spring day, sunshine and no wind. Although great care was taken in the planning, especially in regard to weather, our glorious weather turned foul suddenly over night with torrential rain and gale force winds. A hastily held conference was held in one of the tents as the students brainstormed just what we were going to do. Common sense dictated that we could not continue on the water, and as we were in a remote camp with no vehicular access, it was decided to hike out the next day and come back for the equipment later.

As we set out the next day the weather was still bad but not as bad as the previous evening, however every half hour or so a squall would come over us and we were getting very cold and wet. The students began to notice that just before a squall hit, the bush went very quiet and the wrens in particular seemed to simply disappear. We discovered that just before each squall hit, the wrens took shelter under particular bushes. We decided to do the same. The result was a much dryer and warmer hike out.

The lovely thing about this was the wrens didn't seem to mind sharing their refuge with us and particularly enjoyed the crumbs we drop for them from our snacks. What could have been a particularly miserable experienced turned into an adventure that we still look back on with delight.

Why am I telling you this story? Well there are a couple of lessons in it for us. This week's reading reflects on the calming of the storm. The students learnt some very valuable life lessons on that expedition due to that storm. Sometimes we need to negotiate a storm in our lives so we come out stronger on the other side, but we never do it alone. Just as Jesus came to the disciples in their time of need, so too he walks with us through our storms. As we negotiate the storm that is COVID19 Jesus tells us, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'