

we are truly servants we are truly free, so long as we are servants to God. When we are servants to sin, selfishness, envy, greed, ambition—we are not free at all. Remember this, says Paul, in baptism you put selfishness envy, greed, and ambition to death.

So be who you are! You are a child of God. Be that!

The Lord be with you.



### Prayer Points

Thanksgiving

- God's provision during COVID19 restrictions.

Petitions

- Peter, Summer, Helen, Lorna, Debbie, Kaye, Chris, Rita, Gloria, Austin, Kendra and their families.
- For family of Jean Ash and Ethel Miller.
- Those affected by COVID 19, especially the sick and dying.

### Up Coming Events

- Services—Small services are resuming at the usual times in all centres.
- Bible Study— Wednesdays, 11am, Apollo Bay
- Parish Council— Monday 13th July, 1 pm.

### The Lighter Side of Life

Every day may not be good,



But there's something good in every day.



## *Anglican Parish of the Otways Newsletter*

### **3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

21st June, 2020

**Priest in Charge — Rev'd Jenny Brandon**

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**Anglican Parish of the  
Otways**

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

Tomorrow, COVID restrictions lift even further, but due to a caveat on the 50 people allowed we will still only be able to have 20 plus those necessary for the running of the service in church. So, keep letting me know what your movements are and all will have opportunity to come to church.

Jean Ash died in Geelong hospital on Tuesday night. I think it was a bit of a shock to us all but she always wanted to go quickly and she now has relief from the struggles she faced daily. At time of writing I am unsure of funeral arrangements but there will be opportunity for us to all say our goodbyes over the next week. Arrangements will probably be similar to Geoff's

Geoff Kirkbride's funeral was a lovely affair with many happy memories recalled and joy that he is now with his beloved Jean. The family were very grateful for the prayers and best wishes we passed on to them.

Chris White is very ill in hospital in Melbourne. He is responding to treatment, but slowly. Please hold Chris, Rita and their son Mark in your prayers at this time. I will keep you informed as I receive news.

You would have noticed that work continues on the hall. This will be finished in a few weeks as the boys will need to move on at the beginning of July. We have been very blessed to have them do this work for us.

Blessings Jenny.



## Prayer of the Week

Gracious God, we who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death:  
we pray that, as you raised him from death,  
so by the power of the Holy Spirit we may live the new life to your glory, knowing ourselves to be dead in sin  
but alive for you in Jesus Christ;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Readings. Romans 6:1-11 and Matthew 10.24-35

### Reflection

Remember ever disciplining a child and saying, "That isn't like you." Well this is what Paul in essence is telling us in Romans 6.

After teaching us that through God's grace in Jesus Christ we are saved by faith and forgiven our sins, he begins to wonder about what his audience might think. He begins by politely saying "So What!" "If sin is the occasion for grace, perhaps we should just keep on sinning so that God might go on showing us God's grace."

Imagine the Prodigal Son coming home from the far country and discovering not only forgiveness but feast. What if six months later he decides, "That worked so well, I'll just head for the far country again and come home to another party!"

Paul's answer to this query is, "You've got to be kidding." (Romans 6:2a), but of course it is much more profound answer than that. His reply can be summarized in a simple but not simple-minded formula: "Be who you are."

Paul says that we are changed because we have now gone from death to life.

And this new life for the Christians is evident in two ways:

- 1) Those who had been baptized into Christ will celebrate his conquest of death; they will live with him forever. (Romans 6:8)
- 2) Those who have been baptized into Christ will celebrate his conquest of sin; they will live true and holy lives right now. (Romans 6:6-7)

For Paul the idea of a sinful baptized person is an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms. "You are dead to sin," says Paul, "so stop acting as if you were capable of sin. Be who you are."

When Christians are told to "remember our baptism" It is a way of saying: Remember who you are; Be who you are; you have died to sin and now you live a new life in Jesus Christ. It also means, "Remember who you belong to." Before baptism we were slaves to sin. (Romans 6:6) After baptism we are "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 6:11)

It is a perennial and inescapable puzzle of the Christian faith that when