

Prayer Points

Thanksgiving

- For the opportunity to continue to worship during these difficult times.
- For the encouragement we receive from God's word.

Petitions

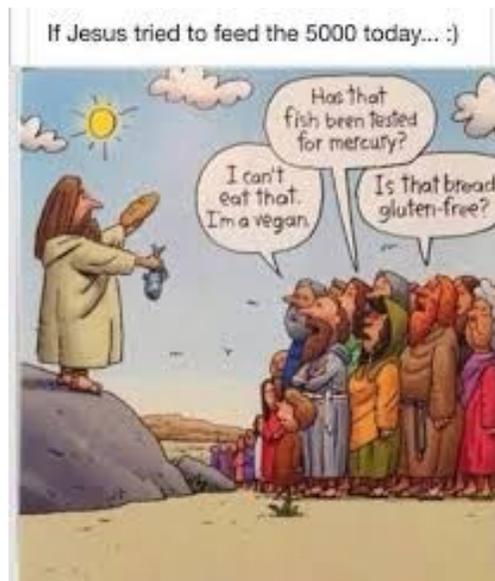
- Peter, Summer, Helen, Lorna, Debbie, Kaye, Chris, Rita, and their families.
- Those affected by COVID 19, those in lockdown in Melbourne and our government as it leads us through the Pandemic.



Up Coming Events

- Services—Small services are resuming at the usual times in all centres. Contact Jenny to book a spot.
- Bible Study— Wednesday 10.45 am, Apollo Bay
- AGM—August 30th Apollo Bay 11am.

The Lighter Side of Life



Anglican Parish of the Otways Newsletter

7th Sunday after Pentecost

19th July, 2020

Priest in Charge — Rev'd Jenny Brandon

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**Anglican Parish of the
Otways**

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

By now most of you would have seen the renovations that have been completed on the buildings in Apollo Bay. The hall window is magnificent!

It is AGM time, but this year, due to COVID19 restrictions, it will have to work a little differently. Parish Council set the date for August 30th, 11am at St Aidan's. We can only seat 20 people in our building so you will have to book a spot. However, if you cannot make it but have something you want raised, please put it in writing and give it to Jenny or one of the wardens prior to the meeting. Nomination forms are available for anyone whom you might like to nominate for Parish Council. These are available from Jenny. Reports and minutes will be circulated to all parishioners after the meeting and comments can always be forwarded to the next Parish Council.

Although we cannot sing in church, we have been blessed with having Nevil Anderson provide background music in St Aidan's. Thank you Nevil. Your music is really appreciated by all. I must also thank Janet who works to keep the church garden beautiful. It brings much joy to many people.

Finally, "be confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Phil 1:6)

Blessings Jenny.

Prayer of the Week

Saving God, in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Readings. **Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-43**

Reflection

Ever wonder who you really are? Well today's snippet from Paul is all about exactly who we are and what we are called to do.

Throughout the gospel story, Jesus is revealed as God's Son; at his baptism, through his speech and actions, and he cried out to Abba Father in his most desperate hour in Gethsemane, and on the cross, where the centurion cried out, "Surely this man was God's son!" Finally, God vindicated Jesus' obedience in raising him from the dead.

When reading Romans 8, we must keep all this fresh in our minds.

What we learn in this chapter is that the Spirit grafts us into the story of Jesus. As our lives bear the marks of Jesus' life, we too, are God's beloved daughters and sons -- those with whom God is well pleased, and upon whom God will bestow God's glorious, eternal inheritance. We too can call him Abba Father.

This is our identity. Identity, however, is not just who we are in the inside. Our identity is made known through our actions.

First, our lives as God's children are made known through our decision to put to death the sinful markers of this age in our lives, We can do this because we are led by the Spirit who unites us to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Second, our identity is actualized in literal suffering. Verse 16 says: we are children and heirs with Christ, "if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him" (NRSV).

Living in faithfulness to God is not always easy and can cause suffering in many ways. We are caught between the old age and the age to come, and participation in the advent of the new is not always easy. The life of faith is nothing less than entrusting ourselves to this story, Jesus story, and the promises of God.

In verses 18-25, Paul talks about the future of all creation, and that future is tied to the resurrection life that God is bringing to his beloved children. God's redemptive work, made known in the life of Jesus, runs through us, and does not stop until the entire created order is renewed. Our call is to become more truly agents of resurrection upon a flourishing eternal earth. And we do this as we lay down our lives so that others might live (2 Corinthians 4:12), and as we treat the earth like an eternal partner in the life that God has in store for those who love Him. In all of this, the resurrection that we think of as future is forcing its way back into our present. To be adopted daughters and sons of God (8:15) is to have our future hope of adoption through resurrection (8:23) intrude on our present. This can happen because the same Spirit through whom we are adopted raised Jesus and exalted him as God's firstborn Son (Romans 1:4)

The Lord be with you.