

Prayer Points

Thanksgiving

- For the blessings of being God's children.
- For God's continued provision during these difficult times.

Petitions

- Upcoming Parish AGM
- Peter, Summer, Helen, Lorna, Debbie, Kaye, Chris, Rita, Vicki & John and their families.
- Those affected by COVID 19, and especially for the management of the cluster in our district.



Up Coming Events

- Services—will resume as soon as possible.
- Bible Study— Wednesday 10.45 am, Apollo Bay will also resume as soon as possible
- AGM—August 30th Apollo Bay 11am, restrictions permitting.

The Lighter Side of Life



Anglican Parish of the Otways Newsletter

9th Sunday after Pentecost

2nd August, 2020

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**Anglican Parish of the
Otways**

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

I trust you are well and that you continue to be blessed through your personal worship. Thank you to for the support of my decision to close our churches again. It was a difficult decision and your understanding is appreciated. We may not be able to worship together physically, but nothing can stop us worshipping together in spirit. It was a comfort for me an Richard to know that when we sat down 10am Sunday morning we were joining the prayers of all the faithful.

As most of you know I have been unwell, a result of my allergies, so Richard decided to bring me to Linton to rest. I am doing very well but we have decided to stay here for another week to rest before returning to the Bay. We expect to be back home next week.

Sorry too for the multiple mistakes in last weeks news letter, evidence I was not firing on all cylinders I suspect. I do hope you are enjoying the little Agnus Day cartoons I have been including. They are a particular favourite of mine.

As soon as we are back worshipping together we will also be resuming Wednesday's Bible Study group. We will begin a new study on Titus. This will be a great time to come along and engage in the encouraging discussions as we seek to apply God's word to our lives. Why study Titus? Well in Titus, Paul gives us a vision of a life that has eternal consequences, a life that touches people in small but decisive ways. If you wish to attend please let Jenny know so extra study books can be purchased. Books cost \$10.

Looking forward to getting home soon.
Blessings Jenny.

Prayer of the Week

O God, giver of life and health, whose Son Jesus Christ has called us to hunger and thirst for justice: refresh us with your grace, that we may not be weary in well-doing, for the sake of him who meets all our needs, Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading. Matthew 14:13-21

Reflection

Today's reading sees Jesus, no doubt moved with sadness with the news of his cousin, John the Baptist's tragic death, withdrawing by boat to a desert place by himself. He clearly wanted time to grieve and reflect on what was ahead of him. However, the crowds knew where he had gone and followed along the shore on foot. On seeing the vast throng, his heart was moved with compassion, his own troubles were set aside, as he saw the greater need of the people. We have here, of course, an image of our God, filled with compassion for all of us and anxious to bring us healing and wholeness.

There are two thoughts I have for you this week. Firstly, how willing are we to follow Jesus example of selflessness and compassion. Here we see Jesus putting his own needs aside to feed and heal the thousands of people who were so desperate for the hope only he could give them. And so he blesses the food and gets the disciples to distribute it. This, of course, is a sign of the future. It is our responsibility as Jesus' followers to give the people we are called to minister too, the nourishment they need for their lives. At times, our resources may seem very inadequate but time will show that wonders can be done with very little. Just look at what Mother Teresa achieved with nothing of her own.

Jesus' actions of taking the loaves and fish, looking up to heaven in the direction of his Father, blessing and breaking the food, distributing it among the people, clearly prefigures the Eucharist. And what was left over filled 12 baskets – a perfect number symbolising abundance. The second lesson for us is God takes care of his people. No matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, God is with us, providing all we need, not just for our personal needs but for ministry as well. We are reminded of this when ever we gather for the Eucharist. The breaking of the bread is very important because it indicates sharing and not just eating. The Eucharist is the celebration of a sharing community. If sharing of what we have in real life is not taking place, then the Eucharist becomes a ritualistic sham, and we need to re-examine our lives and seek God's help to live lives that reflect the compassion and love of Jesus.

The Lord be with you.