

Vicar on Leave Mark will take Long Service Leave for the majority of June, departing after Sunday 2nd June and returning Tuesday 2nd July. Rev'd Tony Copley will be Acting Vicar in Mark's absence.

Reconciliation Week – 26 May to 2 June – a nationally recognized opportunity to build bridges in our community. Intended to lift First Nations People, recent events of violence and crime indicate that our society has some deep fissures of disadvantage: homeless people, immigrants and women in jeopardy are groups which our society needs to protect.

Winter Festival - Sun 30th Jun A fifth Sunday in the month: A short prayer service in church at the usual time of 10am, but then gather in the afternoon for a bonfire, food and fellowship.

Coming Events

- Thu 23 May 5pm Megan Curlis-Gibson to be collated as Archdeacon of Kew at St Paul's Cathedral
- Sat 27 Jul 8am-4pm Jumbunna Episcopate Day of Prayer

Resources for ministry

Giving can be made directly to our Bendigo Bank Warrandyte account
BSB: 633-000 Acct Number: 140334277.

Church Contact Details

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1 If a child is in **immediate danger** at any point **CALL 000**

2 All suspicions or reports of child abuse must be reported to:	What is Child Abuse? Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to: Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.	Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18? Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.	What sorts of things must be reported? All child safety concerns must be reported: • Disclosure of past and present abuse and harm • Allegations, suspicions or observations • Breaches of the Code of Conduct
CONTACT NUMBERS:	POLICE 000	CHILD PROTECTION SEE BELOW	KOOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246



A welcoming Christ-centred community seeking and working together through the power of the Holy Spirit to worship God, share His good news and grow as disciples of Jesus

Sunday 5th May 2024

1 John: God is Love - God calls us his children

The Apostle John was a prolific writer of books which the early church came to recognise as Scripture: he wrote the Gospel of John (which is distinctly different in tone to the other Gospels), three short pastoral letters and one book in apocalyptic style which we call Revelation. John was also distinctive in that he was a vigorous man – a fisherman nicknamed ‘Boanerges’ (Son of Thunder) perhaps because of his short temper. He was a close personal friend of Jesus, admitted into the most significant moments of Jesus’ life such as the baptism, transfiguration and execution, and he was entrusted with the care of Jesus family after the Crucifixion.

It seems likely that John mellowed in character and personality as he aged. There are stories from the early church that as a blind old man he spent his time urging its people into close and supportive relationships, urging them by saying ‘Little children, love one another.’ John ended his days exiled because of his devoted and affectionate pastoral ministry to the early church.

This Sunday in church we’ll look at John’s explanation of God’s great love for humanity: that those who trust upon Him become children and heirs in God’s family. John invites us into this great privilege by our submission to God’s commands. Sunday’s reading from 1 John explains that God’s will is most supremely achieved when we love one another. But: what does it mean to ‘love one another’. It’s not just a matter of liking or getting on with someone, but in seeking out the well-being of companions, neighbours and strangers, both materially/physically and spiritually. How shall our parish work for the spiritual well-being of the Warrandyte community?

Acts 10:34-43 Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.

Jesus was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen - by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

1 John 5:1-8 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands.

And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world; even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.

This is the One who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ. He did not come by water alone, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: Spirit, water and blood; and the three are in agreement.

John 15:9-17 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my

Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.

Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things;
his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

The Lord has made his salvation known;
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn - shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea resound, and everything in it;
the world, and all who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;
let them sing before the Lord.

For he comes to judge the earth;
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.