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Naturaliste Tce
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ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

Anglican Parish of Dunsborough



P O Box 417
Dunsborough
WA 6281

Priest in Charge:
The Rev'd Justine Richmond
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11th April 2024

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As you probably know, our readings each week come from a three year lectionary. One feature is which Gospel is read in Sunday services - Year A we read mainly from Matthew, Year B from Mark and Year C from Luke (the Gospel of John is used along the way in all three years). This year we are in Year B and because the Gospel of Mark is shorter than Matthew or Luke we read more from John's Gospel at times – one of those times being the Easter season. Something else about Easter is that we always read from the book of Acts for our first reading instead of from the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible. Additionally, in Year B during the Easter season our second reading is from the first letter of John. This gives us an opportunity to look at this letter in some depth.

Most scholars agree that the Epistles of John were written after the Gospel of John. They may be responses to events hinted at in the Gospel of John and what the author sees as misunderstandings or misreadings of key ideas in that Gospel. This text is not really a letter, more an early Christian homily. We find exhortations, verbs in the imperative (telling people how to behave and act) and directing of their priorities both ethically and morally. The author constantly refers back to the theology of John's Gospel. As such they are addressed to a Johannine community and deal with the deep controversies of early Christian identity. There is very strong language, as you read it, think of a preacher in full stride.

Whilst addressed to what is probably a group of Jewish Christians, there has been division – some have gone out into the world, which is a dubious and dark place. The language of John's epistle is very dualistic, reflecting its ancient context. As such, when we read this letter we need to pay attention to the underlying message of the text, rather than taking the dualism at face value. The question the letter gets us to ask is 'how do you form community identity in our world?'. When we transpose this question to 21st Century Australia, we must not simply replicate the dualism. Many problems in our own world come from a dualistic outlook. In our context, we don't form identity in a dualistic way – we cannot use terms like 'black or white', 'in or out', 'right or wrong'. In most cases using dualistic language in the 21st Century is really unhelpful.

How does this letter help us to think about the question of community identity? Well, I think in this epistle, as we will come to see in the weeks ahead, it is about framing our relationships in love. It is more about how we live in community with each other. It all fits rather nicely with our current diocesan strategy and our Lenten Studies, don't you think? Shalom, Rev'd Justine

SERVICE INFORMATION

14th April Sunday. 8am Morning Prayer and 9.30am Service of Holy Communion, led by Rev'd Justine.

This week in the Parish:

- Share and Care Monday 15th April 8.30 to 10am. Family Centre Verandah.
- Prayer Group in the church with Rev'd Carolyn Tuesday 16th April 11.45 to 12:15
- Manna and Mercy Community Meal Tuesday 16th April 5 to 6pm
- Cuppa on the Verandah Wednesday 17th April 10am
- Parish Council Thursday 18th April 10am
- Cape Care Dunsborough Service Thursday 18th April 2.30pm
- Share and Care Saturday 13th April 8.30-10am. Family Centre Verandah.

Readings		Reading 1	Psalm	Reading 2	Gospel
Easter 3	14 th Apr	Acts 3:12-20	4	1 John 2:15-17; 3:1-6.	Luke 24: 36b-48
Easter 4	21 st Apr	Acts 4:5-12	23	1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18
Easter 5	28 th Apr	Acts 8:26-40	22:26-32	1 John 4:7-21	John 15:1-8

PARISH OPENING HOURS

• The Office is open next week on Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am – 3pm.
Please leave a message on the parish office phone 08 9756 8105 if there is no-one available to take your call. **For urgent matters please email Rev'd Justine:**

parishpriest@dunsboroughanglican.com.au

- The Op Shop is open Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9am to 3pm and on Saturday, 9 am – 12pm.
- For Emergency Relief – please ring the ER number for an appointment - 0424 074 411.
- Share and Care – Fruit and Vegetables are available on the Family Centre Verandah on Mondays and Saturdays from 8.30 to 10am. They are also available at Manna and Mercy on a Tuesday evening.

Rev'd Justine's day of rest is Wednesday.

Advance Notice – Sunday 28th April we will be having a bring and share lunch at 11.30am for St George's Day. 11.30am in the Family Centre.

Prayers We pray for:

- our families & loved ones, friends, neighbours, parish & church
- our Op Shop teams, Manna & Mercy, Emergency Relief, food ministry teams, Mothers Union, pastoral support, prayer quilt team
- for peace in the world and for victims of natural disasters.
- for the people of Israel, Gaza and Palestine, for aid workers and peace makers
- God's creation, to be better stewards of this earth
- our Deanery of Blackwood, our Diocesan Office and Bishop Ian Coutts and his wife Anne
- reconciliation in this land, for strength and grace to forgive, accept and love one another
- the Parish of Donnybrook - for parishioners who are unwell and for their Foodbank ministry.

This week on our Parish prayer list: Peta; Trevor; Lane; Nerida and Peter; Rev'd John, Terry; Gloria; Hannah; Riley; Lesley and Drew; Di and Bruce; Pia; Penny and family; Alex, Gilly; Narelle; Ken; Rev'd Carolyn; Bobbie and Barry; David and Julia; Amanda and family; Laura and Stephen; Linden; Leonie and Graham; Corinne; Rod and Phyl; Stuart.

COVID in the Parish

We continue to care for each other with regards to passing on COVID and other viruses.

Please do not attend the precinct if you are symptomatic or testing positive to COVID.

If you are in need of RAT tests, please ask as we have had some donated to the church.

FINANCES: Our ability to respond to our community and plan for the parish's future depends on you. Direct giving is encouraged as the most consistent way of supporting your Church community and our ministries. Please consider a regular direct payment each month with your regular Sunday donations and thank you for all you are already giving to support the parish and its work. There are two ways of doing this:

- Donate via this link to the [Anglican Community Fund](#); or
- Make transfers to the Parish Account:
 - Anglican Parish of Dunsborough **BSB: 706 001 Acc No: 3000 3099**

St George's Anglican Parish has joined **CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE** recycling Scheme. **Scheme ID No. C10455623. If you would like to support the parish in this way, please quote this scheme ID number and refund will be credited to the Parish bank Account. Thank you for your support!**

Blessings, Rev'd Justine Richmond, Priest in Charge.