

**Our VALUES: Christ centredness, Prayerfulness,  
Welcoming and caring, Bible focussed, Fellowship**

- To help you chose, rosters/lists have been put up in the narthex, e.g. for Sunday morning live-streaming, bible readers, intercessors and after service fellowship, gardening, flower arrangement.
  - For all other areas in church life, please inform the Wardens.
- St John's News (May 2024)**
- Please send your new articles to the parish office before 30 April.

	<b>Today Sunday 28 Apr.</b>	<b>Next Sunday 5 May</b>
	<b>8:30AM (HC)</b>	<b>8:30AM (HC)</b>
Sides Person	<b>Rosemary Martin</b>	<b>Gwen Wilson</b>
Reader	<b>Jean Phibbs</b>	<b>Jean Phibbs</b>
Communion	<b>Jean Phibbs</b>	<b>Rosemary Martin</b>
	<b>10AM (P,P&amp;P) Livestreamed</b>	<b>10AM (HC) Livestreamed</b>
Sides Person	<b>Susan McDermott</b>	<b>Susan McDermott</b>
Reader	<b>Lyn Beaumont</b>	<b>Julie Lotherington</b>
Prayer	<b>Terry Nisbet</b>	<b>Glynis Rose</b>
Communion	<b>N/A</b>	<b>A.Lyons??</b>
PowerPoint	<b>David Packianathan</b>	<b>David Packianathan</b>
Video Tech	<b>Anthony Lyons</b>	<b>Anthony Lyons</b>
Morning tea	<b>M.Paterson/M. Bullen</b>	<b>Jill Baker</b>
Counters	<b>Jill Baker Anthony Lyons</b>	<b>Roger McGrail Don Fitzgerald</b>

**BIRTHDAYS:**  
Lachlan BRIDE (30th Apr.)  
John WILSON (1 May)  
Cedric T. (2 May)

**On line services**

At the time of today's live-streamed service, or after, please use the link below:  
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCwvuRjxqIX4njbrwZJBqNXQ/live>

**Readings\* for Sunday 5 May, Easter 6, Sunday before Ascension  
(God's commandments)**

*Acts 10:26-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-5; John 15:9-17*

**Sentence:** For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. 1 John 5.3 (\*not all readings may be read on Sunday morning)

**Ministers: All Parishioners**

Vicar: The Revd. Santa Packianathan (email: [spackianathan@melbourneanglican.org.au](mailto:spackianathan@melbourneanglican.org.au))  
Phone: 9557 2226 or 0438 509 669  
Office: Sun - Sat, except for Thursday  
Children & Families Minister: Vacant (TBA) 9557 2226  
Hon. Lay Minister - Healing/Prayer Chain Terry Nisbet 9557 2226  
Parish Musician: Vacant (TBA) 9557 2226  
Administrative Assistant: Anthony Lyons 9557 2226



**Online Giving**

**St John's Anglican Church  
Bentleigh**

**BSB 083 337**

**Acc. No. 515 354 967**

Email: [bentleighanglican@bigpond.com](mailto:bentleighanglican@bigpond.com)  
Office: Tue, Thu & Fri 9.30am - 12:30pm, 1pm - 4pm  
Wardens: R Martin (& Secretary), D A'Beckett, S McDermott 9557 2226  
Treasurer: D Fitzgerald 9557 2226



**28 April 2024, Easter 5**

**'Abiding in Jesus'**

**Sentence:** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. *John 15.4*

**'Leading the parish into growth' prayer:**

**God of Mission**, who alone brings growth to your Church, send your Holy Spirit to give Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship & Power to our witness. Help our church of St. John's to grow in spiritual commitment to you, in numbers, and in service to our local community, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Calendar:**

- 29 Apr., 10AM-12PM, Craft, chat & cuppa.
- 30 Apr., 7:30PM, St. John's Garden Club meeting.
- 1 May, 10:30AM Holy Communion service (Pioneers' Chapel), *fellowship in the Narthex with Genesis study.*
- 02 May, 3:45-5PM, Narthex, *Maths/English tutoring.*
- 04 May, 10AM, Working bee/clean-up of parish garage
- 05 May, Easter 6 & Sunday before Ascension Day

**Future dates:**

- 11 May, 7PM-10PM, Narthex, Cards Night. 'Crazy Whist' - a parish fund-raiser
- 12 May, Mother's Day & Sunday after Ascension
- 14 May, Wardens' meeting (TBC).
- 26 May, Asylum Seekers fund-raiser lunch (see pg.2)
- 19 May, Pentecost Sunday.
- 19 May, 4-6PM, Messy Church.
- 20 May, 11AM, Blue Cross visit.

**Welcome to  
St. John's, Bentleigh**

**8:30AM**

**Holy Communion  
Service**

**(Pioneers' Chapel)**

Joyful, joyful, we adore you (TISI52, v1,3);  
Tell out my soul  
(TISI61, v1, 3, 5)

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**10AM**

**P, P & P**

**(Livestreamed-with  
Children's message)**

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**Bible Readings:**

Acts 9.26-31;  
Psalm 22.23-32;  
1 John 4.7-12;  
John 15.1-8

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**Hymns 10 AM only**

See TV screens  
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**Flowers arranged by  
Glynis Rose**

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**Please take this  
pew sheet with you  
as you leave!**

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**St John's Anglican Church**

**624 Centre Road,  
Bentleigh 3204**

**Phone: 9557 2226**

**Website:**

[www.stjohnsbentleigh.org.au](http://www.stjohnsbentleigh.org.au)

As we gather in the presence of God, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the country on which St. John's is situated, the Bunurong People of the Kulin nation. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

## OUR VISION: To be a centre of God's love and hope!

### 'Set apart & Sent' - Learning from the early Church

A disciple of Christ is one who has decided to be set apart from the world. They are to be distinct/different from other people wherever we are. If a disciple of Christ is no different from others around us, what is the point, I would ask?

On Wednesday the mid-week congregation continued our exploration of learning from the early church! This week, we considered the church in Antioch (Acts 13.1-5). As they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' (Acts 13.2).

Saul as you should know, is later renamed Paul. Together with Barnabas, God had set them apart for something special. To be 'set apart' is to be called. Notice also that this church prays & fasts to discern the will of the Spirit. Then they willingly send Barnabas & Saul! (Acts 13.3)

'Sent' is the other word that captured my attention, and it is repeated in Acts 13.4. They were sent by the church in Antioch. To be sent means, to let go; to be released, discharged. To be sent, implies the release (annulment) of an existing bond. Barnabas and Saul had to let go their previous involvement/participation/responsibilities in the Antiochian Church and move on. But ultimately, the one who 'sends' is the Holy Spirit.

Returning to Acts 13.1-5 and in any other similar situation, for those who are 'sent' and for those 'sending', there will always be sadness on both sides. It is in one way a parting but, in another way, it isn't, because we still remain in the body of Christ.

Even Jesus speaks about being sent! 'Whoever believes in me believes not in me but in him who sent me. And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.' (John 12.44-45)

Friends, being a community of disciples of Christ in Benteigh, we must always remember, that we have all been set apart from the world and we have all been sent into the world.

This fledgling church in Antioch was amazing! There are lots which we as a church should learn and emulate. They had remarkable leaders. Some well-known (even to this day), some mentioned only once & long forgotten until we read Acts 13.

The leadership was multicultural. Long before multiculturalism became the pattern nowadays, the early church was multicultural. They were even active, supportive in church planting! They were generous, willing to obey the Spirit in sending out their best people to the mission field for the gospel! They were united in prayer and fasting. They did not hinder the Spirit's profound move. They actively utilised the gifts of the Spirit (e.g., prophesy and teaching). But I am sure they were more.

An anonymous person wrote/said, "I've always thought the actions of a person were the best interpreters of their thoughts."

Friends, it is useful to regularly and carefully reflect, what do the things we do in St John's reveal about us (the individual, the community)?

*Santa, Soli Deo Gloria ☺*

#### Prayers: church & the world

- The Church of Bangladesh, The Diocese of Willochra, St. Thomas' Moonee Ponds, St. Augustine's Mentone, St. Mark's Camberwell, Holy Trinity

## Our Mission: To love God, love people, grow disciples of Christ!

Williamstown, SparkLit, & for all parishes awaiting new ministers.

- Praise God for the persons being sent by God to this parish as *parish musician and children/families minister*.
- Prayers: Derek & Rosemary Snibson (CMS missionaries to the NT)**
- Please pray for a quick transition into their daily routines.

#### Miscellaneous prayers:

- Praying for peace, Ukraine/Russia, Yemen, Syria, Libya, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Israeli/Gaza/Palestine, Sudan & other areas in conflict/unrest.
- Healing on Gladys, +Gerald & Lyn, Lena, Paul, Claire, Ben, Russell, Jo, Ken, Graham, Carol, Jim, Rebecca, Clarice, David, Alison, John, Marlene, Marvis, Audrey, C & J & family, Justin, Verna, Manal & family, Allan & Judy, Seelan, Annette, Micah, Sandra & all we remember.
- God's peace & comfort on all who mourn everywhere especially the family of Val d'Argaville.

#### Statutory Parish Meeting

- 12 May after the combined 10AM Holy Communion service
- Nominations for one parish nominator (female) and two reserve parish nominators (one female & one male) are to be given to the Vicar on or before 3PM on 4 May 2024. Forms are available in the narthex.

#### Parish Fund Raiser - Cards Night

- The first of these monthly events will be held on 11 May, 7PM-10PM in the narthex. Entry, \$10/person.
- Enquiries to Gwen/Shirley.

#### Pentecost (19 May @ 10AM only)

- We are seeking people with different language skills (other than English) for the Bible readings on Pentecost.
- Please indicate on the signup sheet on the narthex noticeboard ASAP.

#### Community fund raiser (ASRC – Feast for Freedom)

- **Aim:** To support refugees and asylum seekers in their harrowing journey for a safer new life.
- **Date/time:** Sunday 26 May from 11.30AM
- **Cost:** \$20/person
- **Venue:** Pickford Hall.
- If you can donate ingredients or cook a delicious dish, please inform Shirley and Jill (head chefs).
- Come one, come all & bring your friends or family!
- Enquiries and RSVP to Don.

#### Archbishop's visit (16 June)

- Those who wish to be confirmed &/or received into the Anglican Church, please contact Santa ASAP.

#### Donations for Dixon House & Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC):

- Please place your donations in the baskets in the Narthex.
- Dixon House, enquiries to Gwen Wilson.
- For Asylum Seekers, for May, powdered milk or tinned soup is being accepted. Enquires to Susan McDermott.

#### Active participation in St. John's

- Everyone is required to help in the mission of St John's: "To love God, love people, & grow disciples of Christ."