

Parish Day Out at Beach hosted by Hodgson Family:
 · From 9am, Sat 13th Jan 2024
 · 75 Marine Drive, Safety Beach

Working Bee 9am-12noon, Sat 20th Jan 2024

Lent Activities Easter falls early this year and so Lent begins early also. Here are some activities to look forward to:

- Ash Wednesday - 7am, prayer service: 'Imposition of Ash'
- Lent Bible Study - 7pm, every Thursday: 15 Feb to 21 Mar at church, 'Remembering the Poor' a study series prepared by Anglican Overseas Aid

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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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 7th January 2024

This year, the Christmas season fell at the very end of the calendar year – Christmas Day fell on a Monday and Epiphany fell on the 31st. Our readings for this Sunday, 7th January, move on from the Christmas themes, with all their future promise embodied in the infant Jesus, to the robust and rapid story brought to us in the Gospel of Mark.

The Gospel of Mark launches straight into the saving work of the adult Jesus, completely missing the early days of Jesus' life as recorded by Matthew and Luke. Why is this so? Each Gospel story has a particular priority which they want to emphasise. From the first chapter, Mark's story is a robust recollection of the struggles Jesus encountered, as told to Mark by Peter. Peter had joined Jesus in adult life, so we mostly read in Mark's story, as if seen through Peter's eyes, the things that actually happened and the dangers faced. And scattered through Mark are phrases which evoke a sense of eyewitness encounter, which brings great credibility to the historicity of Mark's gospel story.

An irony in Mark's focus on Jesus' struggles arises from the way Mark had abandoned his mentor, Paul, at a point of danger (*Acts 13:13*). Mark had to recover his nerve at home Jerusalem before being rehabilitated to further useful ministry by Barnabas and Peter (*see Acts 15:36-39*). This week, we begin the story of Jesus, as told by the Gospel of Mark. Similarly, let's move on from the gentle stories of Christmas to the more adult themes of the Gospel of Salvation and the discipleship it calls for.

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:

<p>Police</p> <p>Child Protection</p> <p>Kooyoora Professional Standards</p>	<p>What is Child Abuse?</p> <p>Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to:</p> <p>Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.</p>	<p>Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18?</p> <p>Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.</p>	<p>What sorts of things must be reported?</p> <p>All child safety concerns must be reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of past and present abuse and harm • Allegations, suspicions or observations • Breaches of the Code of Conduct
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CONTACT NUMBERS: POLICE 000 CHILD PROTECTION SEE BELOW KOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246

Psalm 29 **A psalm of David.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings;
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name;
worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is majestic.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.

He makes Lebanon leap like a calf;
Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning;
The voice of the Lord shakes the desert, the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord twists the oaks cedars and strips the forests bare;
And in his temple all cry, 'Glory!'

The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord is enthroned as King for ever.

The Lord gives strength to his people;
the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.'

So, Paul asked, 'Then what baptism did you receive?' 'John's baptism,' they replied. Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.'

On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

Mark 1:1-13

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way' (*Malachi 3:1*)
'a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
"Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him."' (*Isaiah 40:3*)

And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan.

John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: 'After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.'

At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tested by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.