

**Funeral of the late John Hanson** beloved and long-serving member of Warrandyte interchurch Council, will be held at Warrandyte Uniting Church at 11am on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

**St Stephen's Women's Saturday Coffee** The first 2024 gathering is scheduled for 10am Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. Venue: verandah of the Warrandyte Stonehouse Café. Family members welcome. Bookings, please, to Sue on 0488 111 944. Transport can be organised if requested.

**Lent** Ash Wednesday - 7am, Wed 14 Feb: '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  
 Passover Seder - Thurs 28 Mar - watch this space for more

**Parish Council** meets 7:30pm, Wed 14 Feb

**Resources for ministry**

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

**Church Contact Details**

Rev'd. Mark Hanson (Vicar) 0430 141 006  
 ph (general admin): 0491 185 983  
 email: [ststephenswarrandyte@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenswarrandyte@gmail.com)  
 website: [www.ststephenswarrandyte.org.au](http://www.ststephenswarrandyte.org.au)



*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 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

My heart is hurting for the families of Gaza. In the depths of a northern hemisphere winter and with no food, I can barely imagine how parents must feel as they desperately search for some food for their children.

This morning, I strolled down to the Warrandyte Market as the Sun began to warm the day. A little hungry, I looked at all the options available to me. Eventually, I went to my regular stall and bought an egg and bacon roll. It was delicious, and I felt satisfied.

From time to time, I watch a movie about ancient days and see what it may have been like. Game of Thrones for me is a bit like how I imagine society would have been like in Jesus' day: in some places great refinement and plenty, in other places brutality and need.

Jesus emerged into public life in the province of Galilee, which was a remote rural district of a foreign dynasty. Judea to the south was separated from Galilee by the lands of the Samaritans, so Galilee received little support from the centre of Jewish culture. Jesus called his first disciples from among these Galilean people and their daily lives would have been precarious. If they didn't work, they didn't eat. In this week's reading, we hear about the compassion and capability of Jesus to bring relief to the sick and afflicted. So, my imagination takes me into the world of Simon Peter's mother-in-law, bedridden with fever. With no doctors or effective medicines, her prospects were chancy. Imagine the anxiety which illness, or crop failure, or any trouble, would have brought. Imagine then how amazing would have been Jesus' powerful presence among them!

**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><b>What is Child Abuse?</b></p> <p>Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to:</p> <p><b>Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.</b></p>	<p><b>Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18?</b></p> <p>Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.</p>	<p><b>What sorts of things must be reported?</b></p> <p>All child safety concerns must be reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure of past and present abuse and harm</li> <li>• Allegations, suspicions or observations</li> <li>• Breaches of the Code of Conduct</li> </ul>
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**CONTACT NUMBERS:**

**POLICE 000**

**CHILD PROTECTION SEE BELOW**

**KOOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246**

## **Psalm 147:1-11**

Praise the Lord. Hallelu Yah

How good it is to sing praises to our God,  
how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars  
and calls them each by name.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;  
his understanding has no limit.

The Lord sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with grateful praise;  
make music to our God on the harp.

He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain  
and makes grass grow on the hills.

He provides food for the cattle  
and for the young ravens when they call.

His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse,  
nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;  
the Lord delights in those who fear him,  
who put their hope in his unfailing love.

Praise the Lord. Hallelu Yah.

## **Isaiah 40:9-11**

You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,

lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid;

say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God!'

See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

He tends his flock like a shepherd:

he gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

## **Mark 1:29-39**

29 As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. 30 Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. 31 So Jesus went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all who were ill and demon-possessed. 33 The whole town gathered at the door, 34 and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. 36 Simon and his companions went to look for him, 37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: 'Everyone is looking for you!'

38 Jesus replied, 'Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come.' 39 So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.