Tomatos today! After church on Sunday 18th Feb, a group of friends will be in the church kitchen to process tomatos for use in chutneys for the stall. Come and enjoy fellowship for a short while - bring a sharp knife.

TMA (The Melbourne Anglican) is our local church newspaper, with up-to-date information about the Anglican Church and world events. Now published in on-line form, you can <u>access it here</u>

Lent	Lent Bible Studies	- 7pm, every Thursday from 15 Feb to 21 Mar
		at church; <u>'Remembering the Poor'</u> , a study
	Passover Seder	- 7pm, Thurs 28 Mar
	Good Friday	- 9am, Fri 29 Mar - note early service time
	Stations of Cross	- 10am, Fri 29 Mar - Stiggant Reserve

Stations of the Cross Choir Warrandyte Community Church will organise a choir for this Good Friday event, to sing a bracket of songs. One rehearsal will take place: 12noon 24th Mar (Palm Sunday) at WCC.

ISCAST seminar Al x Christianity: Gospel Wisdom for an Al World. An introduction to Artificial Intelligence and its implications for Christians. Sat 16 Mar, 7 to 9.15p.m., The Scots' Church, Melbourne. **ISCAST** (the Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology) is a local Melbourne think tank helping Christians engage in constructive conversations about the roles of science and faith. More details: <u>iscast.org</u>

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 18th February 2024 Remembering the Poor

For our Lent Bible Study this year, we are exploring a short-course prepared by Anglican Overseas Aid, <u>which you can access here</u>. As preparation for those studies, we spent this first week looking at Jesus' personal attitude to poverty and wealth - here are the stories:

Camel through the eye of a needle - Mark 10:17-31 A rich young man asked Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life and Jesus told him to follow by abandoning formerly important things. Sadly, the rich young man seems to have been unable to trust in Jesus.

Drenched in Nard - Mark 14:1-9 A woman broke open an alabaster jar and spilled its contents over Jesus. Some present were indignant over this profligate use of luxury but Jesus endorsed the use of lavish resources in a right manner.

Mercy expressed by generosity - Luke 6:27-36 In Luke's version of Jesus' beatitudes, an entirely new orientation of life is proposed, away from caution or security and toward vulnerability in meekness, just like the merciful character of God, knowing that a reckoning for all our action is being tallied in the heavenly realms.

Human wisdom is folly toward God - Luke 12:13-21 A successful man seemingly wisely built larger storehouses, only to die that very night. Base greed is disguised in apparent shrewdness, calling our priorities into question.

Genesis 9:8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 'I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you – the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you – every living creature on earth. I establish my covenant with you: never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.'

And God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.'

God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.'

1 Peter 3:18-22

I in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.

After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits - to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also - not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God.

It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand - with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Mark 1:9-15

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 drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'