

## St Stephen's Women's Saturday Coffee

Next gathering will be

10am Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May (future dates: 15 Jun, 21 Sep, 19 Oct, 16 Nov). Venue: verandah of the Warrandyte Stonehouse Café. Family members welcome. RSVP Sue on 0488 111 944; transport available if requested.

## Coming Events

- Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April Working Bee - rear block and planting
- Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Jun Winter Festival - bonfire and music
- Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Jul Jumbunna Episcopate Day of Prayer

## 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 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

While Lent may be viewed as a season of preparation and purification leading up to Jesus' work on the Cross, Easter is our movement forward into continuing life. Lent looks inward, but Easter is the opening bud of a flower.

For the next few weeks, we will be looking at the Scripture writings of the Apostle John, and especially 1 John, his first apostolic letter. John wrote this material in old age and arising out of his amazing life experience as the cousin and best friend of Jesus our Lord. John ardently wanted to convey how to live life abundantly enfolded in the love of God: he wrote to help us move from self-regard to God's greater priorities.

1 John is about how to be authentic as a Christian, meaning; how to fully engage with the relationship offered by God, experienced right now in this moment. While our Lenten devotions somewhat look to our future salvation - in terms of being found righteous before the judgement seat of God - the more easter-like message of John is how to live now the sort of life which Jesus calls us to join.

I hope you will join me in looking forward to what 1John will tell us and also join me in a resolve to incorporate this wisdom into daily life.

**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:

All suspicions or reports of child abuse must be reported to:	What is Child Abuse?	Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18?	What sorts of things must be reported?
Police Child Protection Kooyoora Professional Standards	Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to: <b>Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.</b>	Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.	All child safety concerns must be reported: <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>

**CONTACT NUMBERS:**

- POLICE 000**
- CHILD PROTECTION SEE BELOW**
- KOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246**

**Acts 4:32-35** All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

**1 John 1:1-2:2** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched - this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father - Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world

**Psalms 133** A song of ascents. Of David.

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!  
It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard,  
running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.  
It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion.  
For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

**John 20:19-31** On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus [*means 'twin'*]), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.