

## Vicar on Leave

- Mark will be away on annual leave for the next week, returning on Tue 30<sup>th</sup> Apr - all enquiries please contact Sue 0488 111 944
- Mark will take Long Service Leave for the majority of June, departing after Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June and returning Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

## Working Bee - Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April

Gather with friends from 9:30am to plant out our rear garden. A big concentration on pulling our grounds into shape

## Winter Festival - Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Jun

As fifth Sunday in the month, we shake things up a little bit on this day. A short prayer service in church at the usual time of 10am, but then gather in the afternoon for a bonfire, food and fellowship.

## Coming Events

- Thu 23 May 5pm Megan Curlis-Gibson collated as Archdeacon of Kew at St Paul's Cathedral
- Sat 27 Jul 8am-4pm 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

Rev'd. Mark Hanson (Vicar) 0430 141 006

ph (general admin): 0491 185 983

email: [ststephenswarrandyte@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenswarrandyte@gmail.com)

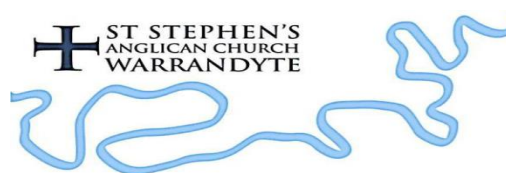
website: [www.ststephenswarrandyte.org.au](http://www.ststephenswarrandyte.org.au)

**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:

Police Child Protection Kooyooro Professional Standards	<b>What is Child Abuse?</b> Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to: <b>Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.</b>	<b>Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18?</b> Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.	<b>What sorts of things must be reported?</b> All child safety concerns must be reported: • 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 KOOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246



*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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

What should Christians make of the attack on a church last week? The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Romans, directly addressed the enmity held against the early church. Paul explained that this conflict has a spiritual root. In chapters 10-12 of Romans, Paul cautioned Christians to not become puffed up with indignation or aggression against those who challenge the church, explaining that God has a plan to exhibit grace and mercy.

From His earliest dealings with humanity via promises given to Abraham, God set aside a people for himself. At first, this choice appeared to reside on the ancient Hebrews, but that exemplary nation fell into the same error of all humanity: a rebellion called sin. In these later days, Paul explains, God has made remarkable choices to redeem apparently unworthy people solely on the basis of their faith. This is the scandal of the Cross; that enemies of God are grafted into His people by God, like wild olive shoots onto a cultivated tree, and this causes great resentment among humanity.

Paul reached the climax of his application in Ch12 of Romans; appealing to Christians not conform to the pattern of this world but to be transformed in the renewing of their mind. Most especially, this includes putting aside any spirit of revenge, instead trusting on God's bigger plan to let the events of this life play out, recognising that they are the way in which God sifts humanity to bring in the full company of the elect. With regard to retaliation and revenge, Paul specifically points to God's claim for priority, quoting Deut 32:35 - *'It is mine to avenge, I will repay, says the Lord'*.

Of course, this same attitude of trust upon God's plan should be called for in the conflict of the Middle-East, refraining from vengeance, but we feel sure that those leaders are very distant from the true God of grace and love.

## **Acts 4:5-12**

The priests and the captain of the temple guard and the Sadducees came up to Peter and John while they were speaking to the people. They were greatly disturbed because the apostles were teaching the people, proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They seized Peter and John and, because it was evening, they put them in jail until the next day. But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone." (Psalm 118:22) Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

## **Psalm 23 - A psalm of David.**

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## **1 John 3:16-24**

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

## **John 10:11-18**

*(After healing a man born blind, against the rule of religion, Jesus said)* "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."