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July 8, 2020

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear friends

Since Victoria will return to stage 3 pandemic restrictions on July 8th at 11.59, gathering in the church for worship will not be possible for at least another 6 weeks. Instead, you are invited once more to join us on Sundays at 10am via the Zoom video-streaming service. If you log in just before 10 and plan to stay for a chat and a catch-up after the service, we will all benefit from the mutual encouragement and the fellowship of God. Instructions for how to join us via phone or via your internet-connected device are available upon request.

I also plan to run a Zoom-enabled bible study on Wednesday mornings at 10am. Again, be in touch if you'd like to join us via computer or phone.

I know that for many of you this return to greater restrictions will be a great disappointment. However, the current spike in community transmission means that the authorities have no option. We need to support them and support each other.

I am particularly concerned that, as our anxieties about the virus rise, so too does the likelihood that we shall lash out in frustration at those around us. At one level this is, of course, understandable. But it is far from just or fair. It is important, for the sake of our relationships and the health of our community, that we keep a close eye on our behaviour. If you find yourself being irritable towards others, I recommend that you take responsibility for adjusting your behaviour in two ways:

1. Make more room in your day for prayer. Pour out your frustrations and anxieties to Christ, who loves you and can take the burdens we all find difficult to carry. Prayer can also lift our eyes to the 'bigger picture' concerning what God is doing with our world and remind us to share in Christ's compassion for the many others who are doing it tough.
2. speak regularly and confidentially to a trusted counsellor, elder, friend or cleric. This can help you release that 'valve' of pent-up emotion and help you return to a better sense of equilibrium.

This week we said sad farewells to Mary Burch and to Margaret Hamann. Both of them contributed much to our church community over many years. We will miss them, but God will welcome them home as flights of angels wing them to their peace. We shall see both Mary and Margaret again one day at Christ's banqueting table.

I had hoped to be away from last Wednesday on study leave, but it was not to be. And the annual leave I had scheduled for late July/early August will again have to be deferred. I therefore feel for everyone who had planned breaks to coincide with a lifting of restrictions. Frustrating I know, especially if you are feeling quite tired of it all. Like many of you, I am also feeling tired. So please be patient with me as I seek to work through my responsibilities, remembering that I am part-time at St Agnes' and have another job as well, with its own responsibilities.

My experience with distributing a weekly pastoral letter up until a couple of weeks ago is that some to whom it was delivered did not really want it. From now on I will only deliver the letter to those who let me know they would like to keep receiving it. Please be in touch, also, if there is anything we can do for you at a practical level. My working hours are listed below. Outside of those hours you are most welcome to send an email or leave a voice message and I will follow it up when next I am at work with St Agnes'.

The blessing of God be with you all,

Garry Deverell
Vicar

I work Sunday 7am-1pm, and Monday to Thursday 9am-3pm

Collect for 6th Sunday after Pentecost (July 12)

Bountiful God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word: by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy, and to live according to it, that we may grow in faith and hope and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of the week (July 12-18)

O Lord we beseech you mercifully to receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may also have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for 7th Sunday after Pentecost (July 19)

Saving God, in Jesus Christ you opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer of the week (July 19-25)

O God, you alone can order our unruly wills and affections: teach us to love what you command, and to desire what you promise, that, among the changes and chances of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

	HC	MP	EP	G
12 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (15)				
<i>Main Readings</i>		<i>Supplementary Readings</i>		
Genesis 25:19-34	8 Ps 19	Genesis 26:1-6, 23-25		
Ps 119:105-112	8 Matthew 12:33-42	or Genesis 27:1-40		
Romans 8:1-11		Ps 65		
Matthew 13:1-9 (10-17) 38-23		Romans 9:15-26		
Isaiah 55:10-13; Ps 65:11-7:8-13				
<i>See Sunday (General Synod, 2000) see ABPA p. 205 #11</i>				

13 Monday G				
<i>See Sunday James Kirby, Bishop, primate of outbreak ministry and the Basil Church Aid Society (d. 1935)</i>				
<i>Collect of a Saint</i>				
Isaiah 1:10-17	Ps 35:1-17	Ps 119:17-40		
Ps 50:7-11	Amos 1:1-10	Ezekiel 20:18-38		
Matthew 10:34-41	John 5:1-18	Galatians 5:16-26		
14 Tuesday G				
Isaiah 7:1-9	Ps 34	Ps 119:17-40		
Ps 48:1-8	Amos 1:11-25	Ezekiel 20:18-38		
Matthew 11:20-24	John 5:19-30	Galatians 5:16-26		
15 Wednesday G				
Isaiah 10:5-7 (8-12) 13-16	Ps 37:1-17	Ps 37:18-41		
Ps 94:8-15	Amos 2:6-16	Ezekiel 20:39-21:7		
Matthew 11:25-27	John 5:30-47	Galatians 6:1-10		
16 Thursday G				
Isaiah 26:7-9 (10-11) 12	Ps 38	Ps 39		
(13-15) 16-19	Amos 3	Ezekiel 21:8-27 (28a-32)		
Ps 102:18-22	John 6:1-15	Galatians 6:11-18		
Matthew 11:28-30				
17 Friday G				
Isaiah 38:1-8, 21-22	Ps 40	Ps 42, 43		
Ps 37:1-6	Amos 4	Ezekiel 22:1-21 (23-31)		
Matthew 12:1-8	John 6:16-34	Romans 11-15		
18 Saturday G				
Micah 2:1-5	Ps 41:44:1-9	Ps 44:10-27		
Ps 10:13-16	Amos 5:1-17	Ezekiel 24:1-2, 15-27		
Matthew 12:14-21	John 6:35-51	Romans 1:16-25		

	HC	MP	EP	G
19 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (16)				
<i>Main Readings</i>		<i>Supplementary Readings</i>		
Genesis 28:10-19a	8 Ps 80	Genesis 29:1-14		
Ps 139:1-11, 23-24	8 Matthew 12:43-50	Ps 86:4-13		
Romans 8:12-25		Romans 9:30-10:4		
Matthew 13:24-50 (31-33) 36-43				
Isaiah 44:6-8; Ps 86:11-17				

20 Monday G				
Micah 6:1-4 (5) 6-8	Ps 48	Ps 49		
Ps 50:20-24	Amos 5:18-6:7	Ezekiel 33:1-20		
Matthew 12:38-42	John 6:52-71	Romans 1:26-32		
21 Tuesday G				
Micah 7:14-15 (16-17) 18-20	Amos 6:8-7:9	Ps 50		
Ps 85:1-7	John 7:1-13	Ezekiel 33:21-33		
Matthew 12:46-50		Romans 2:1-11		
22 Wednesday MARY MAGDALENE				
<i>Invitation, Preface, Post-Communion, Blessing [Saints]</i>				
Propser collect				
Song of Songs 3:1-4a	Ps 32	Ps 50		
Ps 63	1 Samuel 16:14-23	Hosea 14		
2 Corinthians 5:14-21	Luke (7:36-50) 8:1-3	Mark 15:40-16:8		
John 20:1-18				
<i>Of the day G</i>				
Jeremiah 1:1 (2-3) 4-10	Ps 51	Ps 52, 53		
Ps 71:1-6	Amos 7:10-8:3	Ezekiel 34:1-16		
Matthew 13:1-9	John 7:14-31	Romans 2:12-24		
23 Thursday G				
Jeremiah 21:3 (4-6)	Ps 54, 55:1-12	Ps 55:13-15 (16-17) 18-28		
7-8 (9-11) 12-13	Amos 8:4-14	Ezekiel 14:17-31		
Ps 36:7-12	John 7:32-53	Romans 2:25-3:8		
Matthew 13:10-17				
24 Friday G				
Jeremiah 3:14-17	Ps 56:57	Ps 60, 61		
Ps 72:8-14	Amos 9:1-6	Ezekiel 35		
Matthew 13:18-23	John 8:1-11	Romans 3:9-20		

25 Saturday JAMES, APOSTLE AND MARTYR				
<i>Propser collect</i>		<i>Invitation, Preface, Post-Communion, Blessing [Saints]</i>		
Jeremiah 45	Ps 29	Ps 7		
Ps 126	2 Kings 1:9-15	Jeremiah 26:1-16		
Acts 11:27-12:3	Luke 9:46-50	Mark 1:14-20		
or 2 Corinthians 4:7-15				
Matthew 20:20-28				

<i>Of the day G</i>				
Jeremiah 7:1-11	Ps 62, 63	Ps 64, 67		
Ps 84:1-9	Amos 9:7-15	Ezekiel 36:1-25		
Matthew 13:24-30	John 8:12-30	Romans 3:21-31		