



Anglican Church of Australia

Diocese of Gippsland

(Committed in Christ, Connecting in Service & Creative in Spirit)

Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch

**St. George's,
McBride Ave., Wonthaggi**

**The Church of the Ascension
4-6 The Crescent, Inverloch**

Bunurong Country

ABN: 18 842 576 826



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – 17th August

Holy Communion



Revelation of the Righteousness of God

Today we embark on our journey through the book of Romans, and what better place to start than with the **Righteousness of God**.

God's Righteousness highlights our sinfulness, but what is sin?
This reminds me of Jennie Flack's song - 'Stomper out of Sin' and the words: "*Sin is a destroyer, sin is a spoiler, and sin is all the bad things we do.... sin is like a grub that gets inside an apple, it eats the fruit away inside chomp, chomp*".

Essentially sin is separation from God, it is the state we shouldn't be in and I often quote St Paul by saying: *For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing (Romans 7:19).*

But why then is God Righteous and we are not? Let's find out!

Rev. Graeme

Sentence

'Is not my word like fire,' says the Lord, 'and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?'

Jeremiah 23.29

Collect

Ever living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking sin and all that hinders us, we may run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hope Collect:

God of Hope, you call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world; by your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom, a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service; that through our words and actions the same Spirit may bring many who are lost to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 5.1-7

¹ I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: my loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. ² He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. ³ 'Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. ⁴ What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? ⁵ Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. ⁶ I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.' ⁷ The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80.1-2, 8-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock: you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;

² **Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh: stir up your power, and come to save us.**

⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt: you drove out the nations, and planted it in.

⁹ **You cleared the ground before it: and it struck root and filled the land.**

¹⁰ The hills were covered with its shadow: and its boughs were like the boughs of the great cedars.

¹¹ **It stretched out its branches to the sea: and its tender shoots to the Great River.**

¹² Why then have you broken down its walls: so that every passer-by can pluck its fruit?

¹³ **The wild boar out of the woods roots it up: and the locusts from the wild places devour it.**

¹⁴ Turn to us again, O Lord of hosts: look down from heaven, and see.

¹⁵ **Bestow your care upon this vine: the stock which your own right hand has planted.**

¹⁶ As for those that burn it with fire and cut it down: let them perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

¹⁷ **Let your power rest on the man at your right hand: on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so we shall not turn back from you: give us life, and we will call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us again, O Lord of hosts: show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved**

New Testament Reading:

Romans 1.18-31

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created

things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. ²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

*This is the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God*

Gospel

Luke 12.49-59

⁴⁹ 'I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!
⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.' ⁵⁴ He said to the crowd: 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, "It's going to rain," and it does. ⁵⁵ And when the south wind blows, you say, "It's going to be hot," and it is. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? ⁵⁷ 'Why don't you judge for yourselves what is right? ⁵⁸ As you are going with your adversary to the magistrate, try hard to be reconciled on the way, or your adversary may drag you off to the judge, and the judge turn you over to the officer, and the officer throw you into prison. ⁵⁹ I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.'

*For the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.*

BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUPS



Davies' Group: Thursday, 1:30pm at St George's Hall.
(Cancelled 21 August) Contact John Davies for more details.

Liersch's Group: Tuesday, 4:00pm at Jill & Alan Price's, Inverloch.

Tonya's group: Thursday at 1.00 pm Speak to Rev Susan on 0427 099 391 for information on venue.

Interested in being part of a Bible Study Group?

Then let Graeme, Susan or Leah in the office know.

We're hoping to start a new group soon.

WIN MEETING

The next WIN Meeting will be Tuesday 19th August at 1.30 pm at St George's, Wonthaggi. The Annual WIN Luncheon will be at The Cape Tavern, Cape Paterson on Thursday 21st August starting at 12.00 pm. There is no set menu – you order what you would like. If you would like to attend please put your name on the list provided at the back of the Church.



Inverloch & Wonthaggi Church Working Bees

Church of the Ascension - The 1st Monday of the Month @ 10.00 am. The next is September 1st

St George's –The 1st Saturday of the Month

@ 10.00 am the next will be Saturday September 6th.

If you would like to help give the church a freshening up and enjoy morning tea together this would be most welcome.

Please speak with Ray & Liz for more details at Inverloch

Please speak with Leah for more details at St George's

CRAFT GROUP

A ladies craft Group meets at St George's, Wonthaggi, 2.00 pm on the last Wednesday of each month. Next craft day is the 27th of August. All Welcome. Come along and work on your crafts and have a chat.

PRAY FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

Almighty and Everlasting God: thank you for your everlasting love toward us; we thank you for the present cease fire in Gaza and ask that it will continue. We lift up those in the Holy Land who are victims of the current conflict, and ask that you might empower your Church to bring healing to the wounded, relief to the suffering, and comfort to those who mourn; please bring an end to terrorism, and that all will be led to work for justice and lasting peace in the land where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, first came to bring hope and abundant life to all people; these things we ask in his Holy Name. **Amen.**



You can now pay for books and other items purchased through the church by using Pay ID

Parish Pay ID Identifier: angparish3995@gmail.com

Please insert your name as reference and email address if a receipt is required.

[The How to of Pay ID](#)

To send Money with PayID - Log into your Bank's App or Online Banking, Navigate to the payment section, and select the option to pay by PayID.

Enter the above PayID identifier and you'll see the parish's name for confirmation before completing the transfer.

Confirm and send - the payment will arrive within minutes.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Christmas Shoeboxes are still available.

Boxes are \$1.00 each and Cost to send is \$12:50

Put your name & number of boxes required on the list at the back of the church.

Note! - No Soap Please

Please read instructions carefully.

Boxes need to be returned by 13 October, thank you.



ON THIS DAY: The Campbell's Formed a Christian Association



Liberty! During the last half of the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth centuries, this was the watchword of millions in the western world. The American and French revolutions were fuelled by this watchword and fuelled later revolutions in their turn. Christianity felt the influence as well.

In the United States there was a movement to return to primitive Christianity. The Bible alone should be the rule of religion; all excess church baggage should be ditched--observances and practices that had grown up over the centuries.

A leader in this movement toward church renewal was Thomas Campbell. He taught that denominations should enjoy unity with each other, not division; that scripture should be the final arbiter of differences in belief rather than church confessions; that there should be an end to creeds as tests of fellowship; and that ministers should have freedom from various restrictions created by religious organizations to control those who held pulpits.

Thomas Campbell fell out with the Seceder Presbyterians, to which he belonged. He was soon asked to leave them. Meanwhile, **on this day, August 17, 1809**, he and some like-minded friends formed a society called the Christian Association of Washington.

They adopted as their motto, "*Where the Scriptures speak, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent.*" They expected to become what is now known as a parachurch: a society to work with and through many denominations.

The following year, Thomas and his son Alexander tried to unite their society with the Presbyterian church. They were afraid that their followers would form a new denomination, the exact opposite of what they hoped for. The Presbyterians rejected their overtures. A *Declaration and Address* issued by Campbell's society implied a denial of parts of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* which were fundamental to the Presbyterian Church. The Baptists also rejected the new group.

As they feared, the Campbell's efforts did lead to still more divisions in the body of Christ. They adopted baptism by immersion and called themselves Christians Churches or Disciples of Christ. The Church of Christ also resulted from this movement that the Campbell's (and others) led.

Dan Graves.

www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1801-1900/the-campbells

Intercessory Prayers:

Please pray with us for:

Our Bishop: Richard Treloar & Leanne
Our Rector: Graeme & Susan
Parish of Morwell Sue Jacka & Ross
Kathy Dalton – Aboriginal Ministry
Diocese: Finance Committee & Trusts Corporation
Missions: BCA

Diocese of North West Australia: Bishop: Darrell Parker

Special Focus Drug & Alcohol Counselling Services, Al-Anon, Alateen
AIDS sufferers, those who are HIV positive and those working with them
AIDS Research

Our Link Missionaries – BCA, Topher & Chica Hallyburton – ‘Alice Springs’
CMS, Lauren Raiter – ‘Spain’

Please comfort and heal all those suffering in Spirit, Soul or Body.

Please give people the courage to face their illness head on and to be assured of their salvation in Jesus Christ.

Please bring healing and strength to those we have been asked to pray for:

Bill Peters, Paula, Chris Peters, James, Murray, Doug, Ron & Pam Lawson, Jeffer & family, Simone, Mark, Don & Cecily, Murray & Vickie, Robin, Tania, Russell, Elijah, Rodney W, Luke M, Terry, Micah, John G, Phil, Elizabeth H, Jenny Rivers, Marnie Fletcher, Matt Fletcher, Barbara Manns, Valerie & Graeme Reid, Susan F, Florence H, Pauline, Jenny, Rita, Peter, Elizabeth M, Jill, Robert, Dianne B, Dianne, Alison, Ian & Wendy, Julie Hartnett, Brett, Kym, Stephen, Brad, Lia.

We give thanks for the faithful departed. We thank you Lord for the lives of Ruth Hall, Norma Paige & Mary Finlay and all those who have gone before us. Please comfort all families & friends who are grieving at this time the loss of loved ones, especially the families of Ruth Hall, Norma Paige & Mary Finlay.

NEXT COMBINED SERVICE– INVERLOCH

Time & Date: 10am, 31st of August

Followed by a Congregational Meeting and then lunch

Inverloch Parishioners, please bring a main course

Wonthaggi Parishioners, please bring a dessert.



For more details please speak with Wendy (Inv') & Leah (Won')

Please come, have your say and some fellowship.

INFORMATION

<u>Readings</u> Sun 24th August Pentecost 11	Jeremiah 1.4-10 Romans 3:21-31	Psalm 71.1-6 Luke 13.10-17
Tuesday August 19th	10:00 am – Ascension – H.C. – Rev Graeme 11:30 am - Prayer group – Inverloch 1:30 pm – WIN – St George’s	
Wednesday August 20th	10:00 am – St George’s - H.C. – Rev. John	
Thursday August 21st	12 noon – Lunch at Cape Paterson Tavern	

Rosters: August 24th – Pentecost 11 – Prayer, Praise & Proclamation

<u>Activity</u>	<u>St George’s</u>	<u>Church of the Ascension</u>
Bible Reader	Merridee	Bob Delahoy
Sides Person	Alan Price	Ray Smith
Prayers	Renee Chan	Rev Susan
Service Leader	Rev Graeme	Rev Graeme
Eucharistic Assist	X	X
Musician	Renee Chan	Tonya/Elise
Children’s Ministry	Rev Susan	Liz Watkins

If you are unable to fulfil your roster position, would you please organise for someone else to take your place.

CONTINUING WAR IN UKRAINE

Please continue to pray for Alison Giblets (CMS UK) and her safety.

Her Prayer Requests:

- An end to the War and deliverance for Ukraine.
- Protection for those who are defending the country.
- Protection for electrical power stations.
- For both physical and spiritual strength.
- That Schools will continue to function well.
- That many will hear and accept the Word of God for salvation.

Ministry Team

Bishop: Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Treloar, Sale 5144 2044

Rector: Rev. Capt. Graeme Liersch 0417 513 390 (*Monday-Day Off*)

graemel@basscoastanglican.org.au

Youth & Young Families

Minister: Rev. Susan Liersch 0427 099 391 susanl@basscoastanglican.org.au

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Leah Mesley

Parish Council +

Retired Clergy: Rev's John Davies 5672 4710, Liam Matthews 0411 339 344,
& Rev. Canon Amy Turner 0412 727 711

Rector's Warden: Alan Price 0407 343 876

People's Wardens: Robert Mesley 0416 246 349

Liz Watkins 0404 379 005 Ray Smith 0419 315 198

Parish Treasurer: Geoff Boer

Parish Office Worker: Leah Mesley 0407 337 236 (2 mornings/week–Wed & Thurs)

Parish Postal Address: PO Box 201, Wonthaggi 3995. Phone: 5672 4590

Welfare Support: Rev. Graeme

Food Rescue: Ron Osborne

Prayer requests for prayer chain: Jill Price 0409 745 554

Parish E-mail: admin@basscoastanglican.org.au

Parish Website: <http://www.basscoastanglican.org.au>

Direct Debit: Would you please, if you haven't already, consider giving to the ministry through setting up a direct debit from your account. Thank you!

Our Bank Details: Anglican Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch

BSB: 083-975 **Acc No:** 51 612 6552

Thank you to all who have already set up this means to support the Parish!



Next Men's Breakfast

Saturday the 6th September 8am at St George's
Please let Graeme know if you're coming or
register online at

**[https://www.basscoastanglican.org.au/event-
details/mens-breakfast-2025-05-03-08-00](https://www.basscoastanglican.org.au/event-details/mens-breakfast-2025-05-03-08-00)**

Or use the QR Code.



FINANCIALS JULY 2025

Financial Report for July 2025 (10 months)

<u>July</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$13,823	\$9,872	-\$3,951
Costs	-\$16,844	-\$13,841	\$3,003
Month	-\$3,021	-\$3,969	-\$948

July deficit of \$3969 reduced our year to date surplus to \$6303

<u>Year to date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$138,225	\$169,562	\$31,337
Costs	-\$168,438	-\$163,259	\$5,179
Year	-\$30,213	\$6,303	\$36,516

SPECIAL EVENT
MOVIE AFTERNOON

SUNDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1PM
@ WONTHAGGI BAPTIST CHURCH

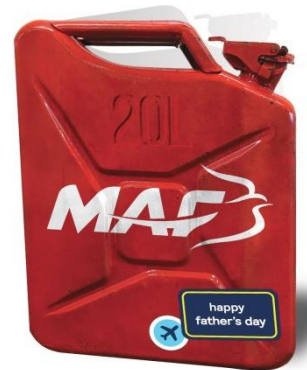
Join us for a BBQ after church followed by a screening of the King of Kings movie at 1pm.
Free popcorn for all!



MAF FUEL FOR FATHER'S DAY

We will again this year be participating in the MAF Fuel for Father's Day Program and all the information is on the table at the back of the church.

When the equivalent of one jerrycan (just \$50) gets poured into our aircraft, we are fuelled for a flight that replaces days of travel on foot. For isolated communities, these short flights have saved many lives.



SAVE THE DATE!

 **soma** *A combined initiative*
SHARING OF MINISTRIES ABROAD

 **ARNA**
Anglican Renewal Network Australia

 **Anglicans**
Ablaze
Australia

14-16th
November
2025

 *National Conference*

St Columb's Anglican, Hawthorn, VIC **Anglicansablaze.org.au**

HOPE25 MEETING

The next Parish Hope25 Meeting is on Wednesday 20 August 1.30 pm at

FOR YOUR NOTES



Pursued by Hope

By Chaplain John Downs

Without Hope

At age 24, I stood in a courtroom facing my eighth felony charge. I stared at the floor as the judge recommended that I receive a 20-year prison sentence for forging thousands of prescriptions to obtain drugs. I had grown up in a home with alcoholic parents that was darkened by severe violence and horrific abuse. I started using inhalants when I was 10 years old, turned to alcohol at 12, began experimenting with LSD and other hallucinogens at 14, and was shooting heroin by 16. I had come to believe the lie that the only way of escape from my pain was the use of mind-altering substances. I truly “had no hope and was without God in this world” (Ephesians 2:12).

I remember waking up in a hospital bed only to be told that I had been found with no pulse in the hospital parking lot where I had been dumped by “friends” after a heroin overdose. I recall a shotgun going off so close to my head that it burned the side of my face and blew out my eardrum. One time when being arrested and loaded into a police car, I still had a pistol hidden in my pants. I was so insane, confused, and angry that I could have easily taken the life of that police officer.

I stood before the judge as a desperate 24-year-old, overwhelmed by the consequences of my life choices. I felt completely defeated by addiction, and the word “hope” had no meaning in my life. All of society’s efforts to reform me had failed. The countless secular treatment models and religious activities had not changed me, and I was out of options. I should have been long dead by then, given the many overdoses and near-death situations my heroin addiction had placed me in. But I was still alive—my life had been spared for a divine purpose. God had a plan to open my eyes to the only true Source of hope (Romans 5:2; Psalms 42:5).

That day, I was court-ordered to a program with a Bible-based approach. If I did not complete two years, I would receive a twenty-year sentence. This program had been created by a jail-house preacher. He only took the worst cases, and I certainly qualified! He was filled by the love of God and believed that no one was beyond the grace of God. I was given my first copy of the Bible and taught the importance of reading and memorizing it. I came to realize I had a spiritual problem, not just a drug problem. Reading and understanding the Bible changed my life for time and eternity.

“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you.—Jeremiah 31:3

The Beginning of Hope

I soon learned that the Bible is ultimately a book about salvation. The Lord used the verse below to break me and bring me to repentance.

For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.—II Corinthians 7:10

Ultimately it was the goodness of God that captured me and drew me to Him (Romans 2:4). I was brought to a “godly sorrow” when I realized how much God loved me and had pursued me through the wasted years. God shined the light of truth into my darkened soul and showed me that I needed to place my faith in Jesus in order to be saved. God gave me a new heart and a new mind. That was the beginning of hope for me. It was not just my human decision. I was not changed by just saying a prayer, but by what God did in my heart. After many wasted years of searching, I finally found my hope in a Person, not a program. This was not turning over a new leaf but receiving new life.

God ultimately put me back in the same jail where I was locked up, but now as one of the lead chaplains! I never want to forget what it was like to have no hope and no God. I believe the primary reason that God allowed me to live through the many years of heroin addiction and crime was to one day bring me back to jail with the only message of hope.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. —Ephesians 2:8-9

Abiding in Hope

To abide means to remain, to dwell, or to continue. Abiding is the key to victory and peace.

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.—John 15:5

There is no pill, powder, or position that can give us peace. But there is a Person, and His name is Jesus! My “higher power” is the Highest Power—the Creator of the Universe.

This story was edited and taken from <https://todaysnative.org/pursued-by-hope/>

Please pray that the Hope of Jesus will become a reality for all those who are bound by addictions in our own community.