



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



Fifth Sunday in Lent – April 6th, 2025.

Holy Communion



**Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness, bow down before Him,
His glory proclaim.**

These are the opening words of a famous hymn written by the Rev'd John Samuel Bewley Monsell, an Irish Anglican & Poet in the mid-19th century. Such was his love for the Lord that he put pen to paper to express this love through poems turned into hymns.

The above hymn is one of my favourites.

But what makes worship so edifying? What is at the depth of it? What are the attributes that come to the fore, or should come to the fore?

This Sunday we take a look at some of these attributes.

Remember, 'Worship' of our triune God is to come from the heart, therefore if it doesn't come from there then it isn't worship at all.

Rev. Graeme

Sentence:

Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. *Psalm 126.6*

Prayer of the Day:

O God, the Redeemer of all who trust in you: heed the cry of your people, and deliver us from the bondage of sin, that we may serve you in perfect freedom and rejoice in your unfailing love; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hope25 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 43.16-21

¹⁶ This is what the Lord says – he who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses, the army and reinforcements together, and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick: ¹⁸ ‘Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. ²⁰ The wild animals honour me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, ²¹ the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

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

Psalm 126

¹ When the Lord turned again the fortunes of Zion: then were we like those restored to life.	² Then was our mouth filled with laughter: and our tongue with singing.
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³ Then said they among the heathen:
‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

⁴ Truly the Lord has done great things for us: **and therefore we rejoiced.**

⁵ Turn again our fortunes, O Lord:
as the streams return to the dry south.

⁶ Those who sow in tears:
shall reap with songs of joy.

⁷ They that go out weeping, bearing the seed: **shall come again in gladness, bringing their sheaves with them.**

New Testament Reading

Philippians 3.3-14

³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh – ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.

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

Gospel

John 12.1-8

¹ Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus’ honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.

³ Then Mary took about half a litre of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ 'Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.' ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ 'Leave her alone,' Jesus replied. 'It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.'

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

DIOCESAN HOPE 25 PRAYER MEETING

Diocesan Zoom Prayer Meeting:

Each Friday at 7.30 pm throughout Lent

Link can be found on our website or below or through using the QR Code.



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82128269156?pwd=YXauO1CTxSkYCTixgDQveAaiMXUJq6.1>

Or talk to Rev Susan if you would like to attend but have no Zoom facility.

ST GEORGE'S & THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION LIBRARIES

As Christians it is wise to look to the wiser for guidance on the journey towards a deeper understanding and walk with the Lord.

Our 2 libraries cover most aspects of the Christian life.

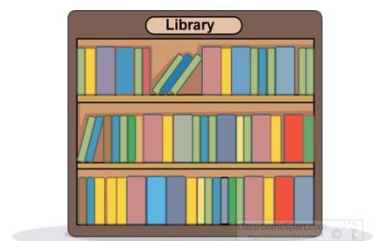
Conditions of use

Borrowers please enter details in exercise book on the bookshelf.

Book Borrow Limit: No limit **Borrow Time Limit:** No limit

Please return books as soon as you've finished reading them.

For further information contact Vivienne McInerney (St George's), & Marcia Smith (Church of the Ascension).



Sharing your faith story is an important part of evangelism. We are seeking faith stories from members of our church family to put into our newsletter Hope25 insert. Graeme has provided a how-to-write your story video to help you do this. You can find this on our church website:

<https://www.basscoastanglican.org.au/projects-6>



To sign up to the Hope25 email list go to:

<https://www.hope25.com.au/> or scan the QR code.

The next HOPE25 Meeting will be at 2.00 pm, Wednesday, 26th March at St George's, Wonthaggi.

EASTER SERVICE TIMES 2025

Good Friday Liturgy 18 April

Church of the Ascension, Inverloch – 9:00 am

St George's, Wonthaggi -10:30 am

Easter Sunday 20 April – Holy Communion

Dawn Service at 'The Eagles Nest', Inverloch – 6:30 am

Church of the Ascension, Inverloch – 9:00 am

St George's, Wonthaggi -10:30 am

BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUPS

Davies Group: Thursday, 1:30pm at St George's Hall. Contact John Davies for more details. In recess until 24 April 2025.



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

Tonya's group: Friday, 1.30 pm at Liz Watkins', Inverloch.

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.

CONTINUING WAR IN UKRAINE

Please continue to pray for Alison Giblets (CMS UK) and her safety as she is now home in Kyiv, Ukraine, after some leave in the UK.

Her Prayer Requests:

- Victory 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.
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PRAY FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CONFLICT **IN GAZA, LEBANON, SYRIA AND ISRAEL**

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.**

SEDER MEAL

This year's Seder Meal will be held at The Church of the Ascension, Inverloch on Maundy Thursday, 17th of April 2025. If you would like to attend please book online or advise the office by phone: 5672 4590 or email:

admin@basscoastanglican.org.au or so that we are able to cater correctly.



ON THIS DAY: Reform-Abbot William of Eskhill



On two or three occasions, William of Eskhill was reproved by men around him who thought he went too far. Time always vindicated him. Eventually, he became recognized as one of the greatest saints of Denmark.

The first rebuke came when he was driven out of his position at the Church of Sainte-Genevieve-du-Mont at Paris where he was a canon [a clergyman assigned to a cathedral or church]. The other canons lived careless lives and did not like William's holy ways. They mocked him, slandered him to the Bishop of Paris in order to keep him from promotion, and finally forced him to resign.

He was vindicated when Pope Eugene III came to Paris. Shocked at the bad lives of the clergymen at that church, he booted them out and replaced them with worthier men. William was allowed back and soon became sub-prior [an assistant supervisor].

While in this position, a second reproof came his way. He blocked a new prior from taking office, because the man had gotten his position by illegal means. An abbot punished William for doing this. Again William was vindicated, when Pope Alexander III said that William was in the right.

William believed in living a very strict life. This meant he ate little, owned almost nothing, wore uncomfortable clothes and slept on hard, prickly straw. At that time, it was thought holy to do these things.

A report of William's stern life came to Bishop Axel of Roskilde, Denmark. He invited William to come and reform his monasteries. William began the work at an abbey in Eskhill (which is why he is usually called William of Eskhill, although he is sometimes called William of Ebelholt because he founded a monastery there). The first thing he did was to expel two bad monks. He tightened up on the others. They appealed to powerful noblemen to get William off their backs. Again William survived the opposition. Backed up by Axel, he dealt with them gently and sincerely for thirty years. Axel trusted him with important tasks, such as intervening to keep Philip Augustus of France from divorcing his wife, who was the sister of King Cnut of Denmark.

William of Eskhill successfully brought reform to Denmark's monasteries. He finally died in peace, **on this day, April 6, 1203**. Just twenty-one years later, the Catholic church named him a saint.

Dan Graves

www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1201-1500/reform-abbot-william

Intercessory Prayers:

Please pray with us for:

Our Bishop: Richard Treloar & Leanne

Our Rector: Graeme & Susan

Episcopal District of Bunyip: Ken Parker
Christine Angus – Associate Priest

Episcopal District of Nar Nar Goon: Vacant – Pray for a new Priest

Diocese: Bishop in Council
Gippsland Administration Ltd (Diocesan Corporation)

Missions CMS

Diocese of Bathurst Bishop: Mark Calder

Special Focus Missionary Outreach
Parish Missions Secretaries
Federal & State Governments
Local Councils

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, Marie Wilson, Don & Cecily, Robin, Tania, Russell, Hayley, Richard B, Lee, Bev, Elijah, Rodney W, Luke M, Terry, Micah, John G, Phil, Elizabeth, Jenny Rivers, Marnie Fletcher, Matt Fletcher, Barbara Manns, Valerie & Graeme Reid, Susan F, Glenda, Merridee, Florence H, Robert M, Pauline, Jenny, Rita, Betty, Peter, Elizabeth M, Jill, Robert D, Dianne B, Dianne, Ian & Wendy.

We give thanks for the faithful departed. We thank you Lord for the lives of Josiah Yeoh, Ian McLennan, Noreen Westley, Kate Sweatman & Thelma Kee 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 Josiah Yeoh, Ian McLennan, Noreen Westley, Kate Sweatman & Thelma Kee

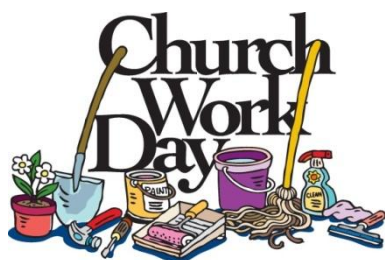
INFORMATION

Readings Sun 13th April Lent 5	Isaiah 50.4-9a Philippians 2.5-11	Psalms 31.9-18 Luke 22.14-23.56
Tuesday April 8th	10:00 am – Ascension – H.C. – Rev. Graeme 11:30 am - Prayer group – Inverloch	
Wednesday April 9th	10:00 am – St George's - H.C. – Rev. John 11-1.30 pm – Interchange Lunch - Inverloch	
Thursday April 10th	10.00 am – Staff Meeting, St George's. 12 Midday – Funeral – Thelma Kee - Inverloch 7:30 pm – Parish Council - Wonthaggi	
Friday April 11th	7.30 pm – Diocesan Prayer Meeting via Zoom	

Rosters: April 13th – Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm Sunday) – Morning Prayer

<u>Activity</u>	<u>St George's</u>	<u>Church of the Ascension</u>
Bible Reader	Alan Price	Elise Watkins
Sides Person	Ellen Hubble	Ray
Prayers	Rev. John	Mal Fletcher
Service Leader	Robert Mesley	Rev Susan
Eucharistic Assist	X	X
Musician	Laren Hooke	Tonya/Elise
Children's Ministry		Liz Watkins Rev Susan

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



Inverloch & Wonthaggi Church Working Bees

Church of the Ascension - The 1st Monday of the Month @ 10.00 am. The next, tomorrow, the 7th of April.

St George's – The 1st Saturday of the Month @ 10.00 am. The next will be Saturday 3rd of May

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 Alycia & Liz for more details at Inverloch

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



HOPE 25 OPEN MIC EVENT

Sunday April 13 at the Wonthaggi 'Good's Shed'

From **2 – 5pm**

Free Entry. Come along - Play Music, Sing or be entertained.

We're looking for a group to sing.

Speak with Rev. Susan or Ellen Hubble for more info'.



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,
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!



Six Types of Friends

Evangelism training with Julie-Anne Baird

But 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. 1 Peter 3:15-16

Julie-Anne has identified six types of people in relation to hearing the good news of Jesus Christ and she gives us helpful strategies to enable us to respond as Peter says with gentleness and respect. Friends matter so we must remember to undergird all our interactions with prayer and allow the Holy Spirit's fruit to flow through us.

Here is a summary of the six types of friends and how to respond:

1. **Apathetic** – these friends have not given much thought to anything let alone things of a spiritual nature. The main way to work with apathetic people is through connection. Connect them with others, God and the hope of Jesus to challenge them to think about things. Especially introduce them to other Christians so that they can see that other people believe other than yourself.
2. **Thoughtful** – These types of friends are constantly thinking based on a strong worldview. Be curious with them and go deep, asking questions like 'What do you mean by that?', 'Why do you think that?' 'Do you always think that way?' Ask general questions that lead to conversations about values, desires, longings and then aim to connect their answers to God.
3. **Interested** – these friends show interest in your faith. Share Jesus with them at every opportunity. Have a few bible stories up your sleeve to share e.g. stories about money, stories about Jesus, what He did, what He said.
4. **Hostile** – these kinds of friends react badly or aggressively to your expressions of faith. Pray for wisdom in knowing how to approach them. Love them, listen, ask questions. Ask God to reveal the source of their

hostility, there is usually a good reason for their big emotional responses. Allow them to have big emotions and ask God to help you learn to sit with it and not get caught up in fear. Sometimes it is wise to do nothing. Take a gentle approach but also hold your ground i.e. agree to disagree. Take the front foot by predicting where things might go in a conversation and prepare in advance, maybe offer a reality check. Know your history, why you have faith and how you came to it to share if the opportunity arises.

5. **Religious** – those who come from a different faith perspective. Be passionate as a person of faith. These people enjoy discussions about spirituality. Be sure about what you believe if you are going to engage with them.
6. **De-churched** – those who used to go to church but no longer do. Stay close with these friends and follow them up. Usually, they have left the church because they have felt hurt by other Christians and still have faith in God. Others have chosen a lifestyle that they realise doesn't sit with Christianity. Remember it is not our role to judge, leave this role to God and believe in faith that He is continuing to work in their lives. Remember pray, love and point to Jesus. If you are good with humour, use it and use the gifts God has given you.

Reverend Susan Liersch

Pray with Us for Hope25



- 1. Lord be with the Anglican church across Australia during this year of Hope25, bring unity and empower our churches to connect communities to your good news of hope*
- 2. Lord enable all training to be helpful and effective*
- 3. Lord help us to boldly pray for people who are yet to know Jesus in our community*
- 4. Lead us Lord to those people you want us to share your hope with and guide us as we do so*
- 5. Holy Spirit help us as we plan and roll out the Gospel Music Open Mic in Wonthaggi at the Good Shed on April 13th*
- 6. Holy Spirit reveal to us other ways we can proclaim your good news as a church family*