



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



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost – 14th September

Morning Prayer



St Paul was a passionate man, he was so passionate about Jesus and the work of God that he became a prolific writer to those he ministered to and those he hoped to minister to.

Within the book of Romans he lays out three Principles that are central to the doctrine of the church.

- 1. The Problem of Righteousness, 2. The Provision of Righteousness and 3. The Power of Righteousness.**

He also presents us with a Puzzle – The Program of Righteousness. This is the struggle between the Principles and actually carrying them out. It is the tussle of Righteousness, against the World, Sin and the Devil. **Why can't we get it right? And why does God choose some and not others?**

Rev. Graeme

Sentence

I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15.10

Collect

Undaunted you seek the lost, O God, exultant you bring home the found: touch our hearts with grateful wonder at the tenderness of your forbearing love; grant us delight in the mercy that has found us; and bring all to rejoice at the feast of forgiven sinners. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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

Jeremiah 4.11-12, 22-28

¹¹ At that time this people and Jerusalem will be told, 'A scorching wind from the barren heights in the desert blows towards my people, but not to winnow or cleanse; ¹² a wind too strong for that comes from me. Now I pronounce my judgments against them.' ²² 'My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good.' ²³ I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. ²⁴ I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. ²⁵ I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. ²⁶ I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger. ²⁷ This is what the Lord says: 'The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely. ²⁸ Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above grow dark, because I have spoken and will not relent, I have decided and will not turn back.'

"This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 14

¹ Fools have said in their hearts ‘There is no God’: **they have all become vile and abominable in their doings, there is not one that does good.**

² The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of Adam: **to see if there were any who would act wisely and seek after God.**

³ But they have all turned out of the way, they have all alike become corrupt: **there is none that does good, no not one.**

⁴ Are all the evildoers devoid of understanding: **who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not pray to the Lord?**

⁵ They shall be struck with terror: **for God is with the company of the righteous.**

⁶ Though they frustrate the poor in their hopes: **surely the Lord is their refuge.**

⁷ O that deliverance for Israel might come forth from Zion: **when the Lord turns again the fortunes of his people, then shall Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.**

New Testament Reading:

Romans 9.1-21

¹ I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, ⁴ the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

⁶ It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷ Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” ⁸ In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. ⁹ For this was how the promise was stated: “At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son.” ¹⁰ Not only that, but Rebekah’s children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: ¹² not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³ Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but

Esau I hated.” ¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶ It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. ¹⁷ For Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” ¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. ¹⁹ One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?” ²⁰ But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’” ²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

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

Gospel

Luke 15.1-10

¹ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering round to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.’ ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ ‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, “Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.” ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent. ⁸ ‘Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, “Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.” ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

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



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.

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.**

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 24th of September. **All Welcome!** Come along and work on your crafts and have a chat.



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 next Sunday 12th October, thank you.

Update from Alison Giblett, CMS (UK), in Ukraine.

At present our focus is on working with people who are in great need, particularly in the de-occupied regions, both in terms of basic material things and due to the emotional and spiritual impact of the war.

We see great challenges, but we are also privileged to see God at work, and we are encouraged knowing God protects and provides for us.

We are creating a refuge space in the building we rent for our church, where we will be able to offer food, warmth, somewhere to charge phones etc. and an internet connection. We will also have space to listen to people and pray with them through this deeply difficult time.

With the restoration team we travel to de-occupied areas further east and south, again bringing practical assistance and listening to people.

Please continue to pray for Alison Giblett 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.
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<https://www.cms.org.au/event/summer-under-the-son-2026/>



ON THIS DAY: Francis of Assisi Had a Vision



When Francis of Assisi was in his early forties, he gave up leadership of the Franciscans, the order he had founded. This was not done with a quiet acceptance that events had moved beyond him. His simple and stringent rule was too difficult for many who had swarmed into the order because of his fame and the powerful preaching of his followers. They wanted the rule relaxed, and relaxed it would be.

If Francis thought he could now be just one of the brothers, he was mistaken. He decided to spend some days before the Feast of the Assumption at Mt. Alvernia. In that wilderness a flock of birds settled around and upon him to the astonishment of his few companions. Francis decided he needed more solitude. The sense of his own sin was heavy upon him, and he longed for a taste of heaven in order to bear the pain of his past wrongdoing. He found a lonely spot in the forest across a chasm. Only one man was allowed to approach him in his solitude: his spiritual son Leo; who was told to call out and receive permission before crossing the limb which served as a bridge to Francis' isolation.

The brothers feared for Francis. He was gravely ill. One night Leo approached the chasm and called out. Francis did not answer. Leo called again. Perhaps the master had taken ill. Fearful of disobedience and that the holy leader might be dying unattended, Leo crossed the limb.

Francis' cell was empty. Yet the moon was bright. Leo went some way and heard a voice. It was Francis, praying, "Who are you, my dearest Lord? And who am I, a most vile worm and your most unprofitable servant?" Leo saw a light shine down upon Francis and knew that words were spoken to him, although he could not hear them. Francis raised his hands into the light. The light disappeared. Leo turned to creep away, but Francis heard. He challenged him. Leo confessed he had broken the command. Francis was gentle. The transgression was from love. Francis told Leo that he had been commanded to give three gifts: poverty, chastity and obedience. He had held them up to the Lord. The two men then read and prayed together. Then **on the morning of this date, September 14, 1224, the Feast of the Holy Cross**, as Francis was communing with the Lord, a Seraph appeared to him. The figure of Christ crucified appeared between his wings. Joy and agony suffused Francis. His prayers for forgiveness, to share Christ's sufferings, to be purified had been heard. When the angel left, regarded as one of the classic experiences of Christian history, Francis' hands feet and sides bore five wounds, the marks of the stigmata. Two years later he died.

Dan Graves.

Intercessory Prayers:

Please pray with us for:

Our Bishop: Richard Treloar & Leanne

Our Rector: Graeme & Susan

Parish of Maffra: Tim Gaden & Selina

Diocese of Melbourne: Archbishop Elect: Dr Richard (Ric) Thorpe
Bishops: Genieve Blackwell, Paul Barker,
Brad Billings, Kate Prowd

Special Focus:

Chaplains of the Defence Force

RAAF Chaplains – RAAF Base East Sale

Victims of War and Violence

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 life of Leila Batten 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 family of Leila Batten.



RESERVE A DATE!

BCA Spring Gatherings - With Topher Hallyburton

Glen Waverly Anglican Church Monday 20 October: 12pm – 2pm

Warragul Anglican Church Thursday 23 October: 6pm – 8pm

<https://www.bushchurcaid.com.au/content/bca-victorian-spring-gatherings-2025/glbops>



Memory Cafe Inverloch Uniting Church

Inverloch Uniting is holding a monthly Memory Cafe: Cuppa, Chat & Music

Wednesday 17th September 10.30-11.30 am (3rd Wednesday of the month)

The cafe is a Dementia friendly and safe space. All are welcome. Let your friends and family know about this new supportive environment. Enjoy a delicious morning tea - Gold coin donation. Enquiries: Janet 0455 028 949

BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUPS



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

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

Tonya's group: Speak to Rev Susan on 0427 099 391 for information on time and 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 FASHION SHOW

WIN will be holding their second Fashion Show of the year. This is a lot of fun, so ladies please do come along and bring your family, friends and neighbours.

The details are:

Venue: Church of the Ascension, The Crescent, Inverloch

Time: 1.30 p.m.

Date: Tuesday 16th September

Cost: \$10.



Please register online at <https://www.basscoastanglican.org.au/event-details/win-fashion-show-september-2025>

Or let Pam Davies, Barbara Baskerville or Wendy McBurnie know of your attendance.

Please bring a plate of food for afternoon tea to share with our visitors. The gentlemen will be gathering at Wendy and Ian's house, as previously. We look forward to seeing you all there for another great afternoon.

INFORMATION

<u>Readings</u> Sun 21st Sept Matthew (Pentecost 15)	Proverbs 3.1-6 Romans 12.1-8	Psalm 19.1-6 Matthew 9.9-13
Tuesday Sept 16th	10:00 am – Ascension – H.C. – Rev Graeme 11:30 am - Prayer group – Inverloch	
Wednesday Sept 17th	10:00 am – St George's - H.C. – Rev. John	
Thursday Sept 18th	5:30 pm – Carol's Meeting Wonthaggi – Rev. Graeme	

Rosters: September 21st – Matthew – Holy Communion

<u>Activity</u>	<u>St George's</u>	<u>Church of the Ascension</u>
Bible Reader	Merridee	Ray Smith
Sides Person	Rev John	Ray Smith
Prayers	Alan Price	Liz Watkins
Service Leader	Robert Mesley	Liz Watkins
Eucharistic Assist	John/Susan	Liz Watkins
Musician	Jan Kershaw	Tonya/Elise
Children's Ministry	Rev Susan	Rev Susan

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

The State of our Financials

Financial Report for August 2025 (11 months)

<u>August</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$13,823	\$10,352	-\$3,471
Costs	-\$16,844	-\$20,221	-\$3,377
Month	-\$3,021	-\$9,869	-\$6,848

<u>Year to date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$152,048	\$179,914	\$27,866
Costs	-\$185,281	-\$183,480	\$1,801
Year	-\$33,233	-\$3,566	\$29,667

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:** 1 612 6552

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



Next Men's Breakfast

Saturday the 4th October 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.





Psychological First Aid/Emotional Spiritual Care – Wonthaggi – 11 October 2025

The training course is a 2-stage process involving;
1. Self- paced learning and completion of the workbook.

This material must be completed at least 3 days prior to attending the training day.

2. Face to Face Practical Training

This training will be face to face from 9:00 – 4:00 with multi learning modes including practical scenarios



Note! Completion of the workbook and attendance at the training are essential prerequisites for application for registration with VCC Emergencies Ministry.

Successful registration will require the completion of safety checks including a National Criminal History Check, WWCC and referee reports and will occur after the training has been completed.

FOR YOUR NOTES



The Difference Between Optimism and Biblical Hope

Depending on your perspective, an optimist in your life might be spring sunshine in a dreary room or a stubborn fly, banging against the window.

The Bible speaks a lot about hope, not so much about optimism. That doesn't mean optimism is necessarily bad! However, both inside and outside of the church, there is confusion about hope and optimism.

What is Optimism?

Optimism is a “tendency to look on the more favourable side of events or conditions and to expect the most favourable outcome.”

Have you met an optimist? They see the silver linings of dark clouds and always hold onto the possibility of things turning out well. They rarely seem discouraged or gloomy. Even when life is hard, good things are right around the corner.

It's interesting to ponder *why*. On what basis does an optimist expect a sunny future?

The optimist would probably chalk their outlook up to natural disposition or upbringing. Some optimists likely base their positivity on experience—life seems more likely to go well in the future if it's generally gone well in the past.

What is Biblical Hope?

Without clear definitions, the lines between optimism and biblical hope might appear blurry. If Christians are called to be hopeful people, are we therefore called to be optimistic?

As I've tried to argue previously, **biblical hope** is distinctive. It doesn't depend on one's personality or experience. Hope relies only on God.

Biblical hope is the glad expectation that God will keep his promises. In the New Testament, this hope is almost always tethered to the second coming of Jesus and the new heavens and new earth.

How is this different from optimism?

God's promises include outcomes that are not intrinsically positive. In fact, God promises persecution and suffering for those who follow Jesus ([2 Tim 3:12](#), [John 15:20](#)).

A hopeful Christian is confident that God is good and has ultimate good in store for each of his children. But the outcomes along the way may not be good; in fact, there might be terrible pain, loss, and sorrow for Christians in this life.

And yet, because God *cannot* break a promise, the Christian is absolutely sure of a glorious ending. We will see God as he is; we will dwell with him face to face; we will inhabit a new creation with glorified bodies. The curse will be no more.

Called to Hope

Hope is not incidental for the Christian—it is at the very heart of how we are to live in the world. The resurrection of Jesus gives us “a living hope.”

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead ([1 Pet 1:3](#))

We are commanded to set our hope completely on forthcoming grace.

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ([1 Pet 1:13](#))

Hope is something that God has called us to ([Eph 1:18](#)), and it is fuel for our joy ([Rom 12:12](#)). God is the “God of hope” and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we “may abound in hope” as well ([Rom 15:13](#)).

It is far too easy to get caught in the riptide of motivational sayings and empty, “you can do this” platitudes. God has not commanded us to be optimists; rather, he has given us all we need to abound in hope.

As we get to know our God, we see how faithful and trustworthy he is. As we learn and rehearse his promises, we grasp the riches of the gospel—Christ in us, the hope of glory ([Col 1:27](#)).

Taken from: <https://asmallwork.wordpress.com/2023/08/17/the-difference-between-optimism-and-biblical-hope/>