



# Anglican Church of Australia

## Diocese of Gippsland

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

### Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch

St. George's,

The Church of the Ascension

McBride Ave., Wonthaggi

4-6 The Crescent, Inverloch

Bunurong Country

ABN: 18 842 576 826



## Third Sunday in Lent – 8th March, 2026

### Morning Prayer



**What does Moses striking the Rock at Meribah and Jesus speaking with a Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well have in common?**

The answer is quite simple, both are stories of life giving streams of water. But that is where the similarity ends.

For the Israelites wandering in the desert it quenched their thirst but for the woman Jesus met at the well, and those she witnessed to, He gave them eternal life.

They got to drink of the stream of life mentioned in the Book of Revelation 22.

*Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city.*

**Would you like to drink from this River?**

**Then do as the woman did, put your trust in Jesus Christ.**

*Rev. Graeme*

## **Sentence**

When you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but your Father who is in secret. *Matthew 6.17–18*

## **Collect**

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and one another: call forth our penitence and acts of love, and strengthen us to face our mortality, so that we may look with confidence for your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading**

#### **Exodus 17.1-7**

<sup>1</sup> The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> So they quarrelled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses replied, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?' <sup>3</sup> But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?' <sup>4</sup> Then Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.' <sup>5</sup> The Lord answered Moses, 'Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup> I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.' So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the Lord saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

*Hear the word of the Lord,*

***Thanks be to God.***

#### **Psalm 95**

<sup>1</sup> O come, let us sing out to the Lord:  
let us shout in triumph to the rock of  
our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> **Let us come before his face with  
thanksgiving: and cry out to him  
joyfully in psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For the Lord is a great God:  
and a great king above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> **In his hand are the depths of the  
earth: and the peaks of the  
mountains are his also.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is his and he made it:  
his hands moulded dry land.

**<sup>6</sup> Come, let us worship and bow  
down: and kneel before the Lord our  
maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For he is the Lord our God:  
we are his people and the sheep of his  
pasture.

**<sup>8</sup> Today if only you would hear his  
voice—‘Do not harden your hearts as**

**at Meribah: as on that day at Massah  
in the wilderness;**

<sup>9</sup> ‘When your forebears tested me:  
put me to proof, though they had seen  
my works.

**<sup>10</sup> ‘Forty years long I loathed that  
generation and said: “It is a people  
who err in their hearts, for they do  
not know my ways”;**

<sup>11</sup> ‘Of whom I swore in my wrath:  
“They shall not enter my rest.”’

### New Testament Reading:

#### **Romans 5.1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*Hear the word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.***

## Gospel

### **John 4.5-42**

<sup>5</sup> So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.' <sup>11</sup> 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?' <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?' <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.' <sup>16</sup> He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.' <sup>17</sup> 'I have no husband,' she replied. Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. <sup>18</sup> The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.' <sup>19</sup> 'Sir,' the woman said, 'I can see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.' <sup>21</sup> 'Woman,' Jesus replied, 'believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.' <sup>25</sup> The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.' <sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you – I am he.' <sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you talking with her?' <sup>28</sup> Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, <sup>29</sup> 'Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?' <sup>30</sup> They came out of the town and made their way towards him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile his disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.' <sup>33</sup> Then his disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought him food?' <sup>34</sup> 'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work.' <sup>35</sup> Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest"? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. <sup>36</sup> Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. <sup>37</sup> Thus the saying "One sows and another reaps" is true. <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.' <sup>39</sup> Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I've ever done.' <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. <sup>41</sup> And because of his words many more became believers. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.'

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

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## **Inverloch & Wonthaggi Church Working Bees**

Church of the Ascension – **10-12 noon, Monday April 6th**

St George's – **10-12 noon, Saturday April 4th**

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 or Liz for more details at Inverloch.*

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



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## **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 25<sup>th</sup> of March. **All Welcome!** Come along and work on your crafts and have a chat.

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## **ON THIS DAY: Student Protest in Poland**



In 1945 the Soviets seized control of Poland, imposing an atheistic Communist regime upon the nation. Although ninety percent of the people considered themselves Roman Catholics, the new government stripped the church of its legal status. It banned religious symbols from public places. For a few years in the early 1950s public display of crosses was allowed, only to be outlawed again.

With the rise of the Solidarity movement in the 1980s crosses began to reappear in schools. The authorities saw the crosses as defiance of the government. Perhaps the church seemed threatening to them--any organization which preaches God cannot help but be the worst enemy of an atheistic state. As we now know, the authorities had reason to tremble.

**Polish Catholicism, as much as any force, brought down the Soviet system.**

In 1983, the year Pope John Paul II visited his homeland and brought out millions of Poles to church rallies, the government felt a need to crack down. All crosses must come down from public buildings it declared. One school alone obeyed. Others reasoned that the schools belonged to Poland and Poland is Catholic. Therefore the crosses should and would remain. *"There is no Poland without the cross,"* said one priest, remembering Poland's 1,000 year history of Christianity.

Authorities sent riot police to the Staszic Agricultural College when two thirds of the students staged a sit-in to protest the removal of their seven crosses. Within days thousands of students were involved in the demonstrations. **On this day, the 8th of March, 1984** three thousand young students protested, waving crucifixes in the air.

The government tried to force parents of the Agricultural College seniors to sign forms acknowledging that schools are secular in nature. Otherwise the students would not be allowed to graduate they were told. Parents refused and the church applauded their determination. For many Poles, the church is more authoritative than the government. The parent's stand was successful. Eventually the government retreated although holding to its premise that the schools are secular and shouldn't be allowed to display crosses.

Ultimately, even before the Communist regime was overthrown, the Communist regime permitted Bibles in the classroom. Evangelistic meetings were held openly. As has happened so many times since he walked on earth, Christ overcame the world.

*Dan Graves*

[www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1901-2000/student-protest-in-poland](http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1901-2000/student-protest-in-poland)

## INFORMATION

<b><u>Readings March 15th Lent 4</u></b>	1 Samuel 16.1-13 Ephesians 5.8-14	Psalm 23 John 9.1-41
<b>Tuesday 10th March</b>	10:00 am – Ascension – H.C – Rev Liam 11:30am – Prayer Meeting – Inverloch	
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>	10:00 am – St George’s- H.C. Rev. John 11:00 -11:30am – Food Rescue @ St Georges	
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	10:00am – Staff Meeting @ St Georges 7:30pm – Parish Council – Inverloch	
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	11:00 -11:30am – Food Rescue @ St Georges	

### Rosters 15<sup>th</sup> March, Lent 4, Holy Communion

<u>Activity</u>	<u>St George’s</u>	<u>Church of the Ascension</u>
<b>Bible Reader</b>	Leah Mesley	Bob Delahoy
<b>Sides Person</b>	Alan Price	Ted/Ray
<b>Prayers</b>	Alan Price	Ray Smith
<b>Service Leader</b>	Robert Mesley	Liz Watkins
<b>Eucharistic Asst</b>	John/Susan	Liz Watkins
<b>Musician</b>	Jan Kershaw	Graham Wilson
<b>Children’s Ministry</b>	X	Rev Susan

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

## **BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUPS**

**Davies’**: 1:30pm Thursdays at St George’s Hall.

Contact *John Davies* for more details.

**Price’s Group**: Tuesdays at 4:00pm at Jill & Alan Price’s, Inverloch..

**Women of Faith**: Meets at the Rectory 1 pm Thursdays. Speak to Rev Susan on 0427 099 391 for information.

**Graeme’s Group**: Tuesdays 3:30pm – 5:30pm, St George’s.



**Interested in being part of a Bible Study Group?**  
*Then let Graeme, Susan or Leah in the office know.*

## **Intercessory Prayers:**

**Our Bishop:** Richard Treloar & Leanne

**Our Rector:** Graeme & Susan

**Parish of Corner Inlet:** Fran Grimes

**Diocese of Brisbane:** Archbishop: Jeremy Greaves

Bishops: John Roundhill, Cameron Venables,  
Sarah Plowman

**Special Focus:** All Licensed Lay Persons, Lay Readers, Pastoral Assistants  
Liturgical Assistants, Eucharistic Assistants  
Other Lay ministers in the Diocese  
Study Group Leaders, Parish Musicians,  
& Lay Reader Chaplains

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

**War in the Middle East:** *Lord please bring an end to the war in the Middle East, help bring the warring parties to the table to negotiate a peace deal and please heal those of their memories that have suffered in this brief conflict.*

*We ask for peace among all nations and an end to war. Amen.*

### **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:**

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

**We give thanks for the faithful departed.** *We thank you Lord for the life of 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 Robert Johnson & Murray.*

## 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](mailto:graemel@basscoastanglican.org.au)

### **Youth & Young Families**

**Minister:** Rev. Susan Liersch 0427 099 391 [susanl@basscoastanglican.org.au](mailto: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 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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> April, 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-2025-12-06-08-00>

Or use the QR Code.



## **CHRISTIAN WOMEN COMMUNICATING INTERNATIONALLY**

The 49<sup>th</sup> CWCI Gippsland Convention, 'Courage – From Fear to Faith' with Heather Packett will be held on Friday March 20 – Sunday March 22, 2026 at Camp Coolamatong. Cost will be \$175.00 per person – all meals included. If you are interested email for an Online Registration form at [cwcigippslandconvention@gmail.com](mailto:cwcigippslandconvention@gmail.com).

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## **2026 Gippsland Great Southern Rail Trail Camino 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> of April**

*Last year, after Easter, the Diocese held a Camino walk from Traralgon to Stratford, this year it's the Souths turn.*

Day 1 – Nyora to Korumburra (23Kms)

Day 2 – Korumburra to Leongatha (14.8 Kms)

Day 3 – Leongatha to Meeniyan (16 Kms) Total Distance 52 kilometres.

Local Churches enroute will participate offering a unique experience to connect back into yourself.

**Volunteers needed to provide support - Would you like to be involved?**

For more information or to volunteer your help, please contact Sharron Lane on 0423 575 949.

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### **St Peter's Anglican Church**

#### **Leongatha**

Archdeacon Graham Knott speaks about

#### **What a Difference a Day Makes...**

You're invited for Evensong during Lent and Holy Week

#### **Sundays at 4pm**

Lent: 8, 15, 22, 29 March, and,

Holy Week: 30, 31 Mar, 1 Apr

#### **Refreshments to follow**

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### **COMBINED SERVICE**

There will be a combined service at St George's at 10 am on 22<sup>nd</sup> March instead of the 29<sup>th</sup> of March as the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is Palm Sunday. Wonthaggi Parishioners will provide the main course and Inverloch Parishioners the desert. There will be a form at each location for you to put your name and what you are bringing.

# **FOR YOUR NOTES**