



# 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**



## **Sixth Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday – 29th March, 2026**

### **Holy Communion**



### **The Passion of Christ!**

What a journey, an amazing walk into danger.

From the moment Jesus set His mind on going to Jerusalem for the last time He was on a destructive journey, one that ensured His human death at the hands of the Roman authorities.

*Why would someone do such a thing?*

To us, such a decision seems fruitless, a waste of time, but to Jesus He knew it to be a victory, an amazing victory.

**Without Jesus' commitment to this path we'd have nothing, no hope and only an assurance of eternal suffering.**

But thanks to His unusual passion we do have hope and purpose in life.

Do you have hope and purpose due to Jesus' passion?

I pray so, for it is there for the taking!

**Rev. Graeme**

## **The Palm Gospel:**

## **Matthew 21.1–11**

<sup>1</sup> As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.’ <sup>4</sup> This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: <sup>5</sup> ‘Say to Daughter Zion, “See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”’ <sup>6</sup> The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. <sup>7</sup> They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. <sup>8</sup> A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. <sup>9</sup> The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, Stanza Break ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest heaven!’ <sup>10</sup> When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, ‘Who is this?’ <sup>11</sup> The crowds answered, ‘This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’

## **Sentence**

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Philippians 2.10–11*

## **Collect**

Everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross: in your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

### **Old Testament Reading**

#### **Isaiah 50.4-9a**

<sup>4</sup> The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. <sup>5</sup> The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. <sup>6</sup> I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. <sup>7</sup> Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. <sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me?

Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! <sup>9</sup> It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

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

### **Psalm 31.9-18**

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble: **my eye wastes away for grief, my throat also and my inward parts.**

<sup>10</sup> For my life wears out in sorrow, and my years with sighing: **my strength fails me in my affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup> I am become the scorn of all my enemies: **and my neighbours wag their heads in derision.**

<sup>12</sup> I am a thing of horror to my friends: **and those that see me in the street shrink from me.**

<sup>13</sup> I am forgotten like one dead and out of mind: **I have become like a broken vessel.**

<sup>14</sup> For I hear the whispering of many: **and fear is on every side;**

<sup>15</sup> While they plot together against me: **and scheme to take away my life.**

<sup>16</sup> But in you, Lord, have I put my trust: **I have said 'You are my God.'**

<sup>17</sup> All my days are in your hand: **O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.**

<sup>18</sup> Make your face to shine upon your servant: **and save me for your mercy's sake.**

### **New Testament Reading:**

#### **Philippians 2.5-11**

Jesus: <sup>6</sup> who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

## Gospel

### **Matthew 27.11–54**

<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' 'You have said so,' Jesus replied. <sup>12</sup> When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate asked him, 'Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?' <sup>14</sup> But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor. <sup>15</sup> Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, 'Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' <sup>18</sup> For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. <sup>19</sup> While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: 'Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.' <sup>20</sup> But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. <sup>21</sup> 'Which of the two do you want me to release to you?' asked the governor. 'Barabbas,' they answered. <sup>22</sup> 'What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' Pilate asked. They all answered, 'Crucify him!' <sup>23</sup> 'Why? What crime has he committed?' asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!' <sup>24</sup> When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. 'I am innocent of this man's blood,' he said. 'It is your responsibility!' <sup>25</sup> All the people answered, 'His blood is on us and on our children!' <sup>26</sup> Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. <sup>27</sup> Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers round him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. 'Hail, king of the Jews!' they said. <sup>30</sup> They spat on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. <sup>31</sup> After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. <sup>32</sup> As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. <sup>33</sup> They came to a place called Golgotha (which means 'the place of the skull'). <sup>34</sup> There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. <sup>35</sup> When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. <sup>36</sup> And sitting down, they kept watch over him

there. <sup>37</sup> Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews. <sup>38</sup> Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!' <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. <sup>42</sup> 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, "I am the Son of God.'" <sup>44</sup> In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him. <sup>45</sup> From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup> About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'). <sup>47</sup> When some of those standing there heard this, they said, 'He's calling Elijah.' <sup>48</sup> Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup> The rest said, 'Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him.' <sup>50</sup> And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. <sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split <sup>52</sup> and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. <sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'

*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 May 7th**

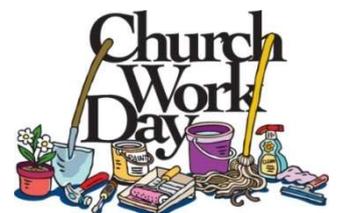
St George's – **10-12 noon, Saturday May 5th**

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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## **ON THIS DAY: John Lightfoot Theologian and Hebrew Scholar**



Imagine becoming the best Hebrew scholar in your nation without once speaking to a Jew. That is what John Lightfoot did. He may never even have seen a Jew, for they were barred from England until late in his life.

**John Lightfoot was born on this day, March 29, 1602** in an England which was only just regaining the knowledge of Hebrew. Four hundred years before, King Edward I had kicked the Jews out of his nation. Many left manuscripts behind, which allowed scholars such as Roger Bacon to understand the ancient tongue. However, Hebrew studies were frowned upon by the church. Bacon himself was accused of using Hebrew to communicate with the devil.

Even as a youngster, John proved to be a natural-born scholar, especially good with Greek and Latin. However, he had only the minimum acquaintance with Hebrew. That changed after the twenty-year-old became a Church of England curate (a minister in charge of a parish) in Shropshire, England.

One man who came every week to hear him preach was Sir Rowland Cotton. It happened that Sir Rowland had a good knowledge of Hebrew. He challenged John to learn it, saying that he could not really understand the Old Testament without understanding the language that it was written in. John felt embarrassed that a layman had more Bible knowledge than himself, a minister. Helped by Sir Rowland, he quickly mastered the basics of Hebrew. Through incessant, diligent study, he surpassed his teacher and eventually became the greatest Hebrew scholar in all of England.

Studying Jewish writings, he showed from rabbinic teachings that Jesus was clearly identifiable as the Messiah. "Even the Lord's prayer is derived from expressions that had long been familiar in the schools and synagogues of Judea." His book *Horae Hebraicae* explained the New testament in light of knowledge he had gleaned from the writings of rabbis. John was also prominent in the formulation of the Westminster Confession of Faith.

John never forgot the debt he owed Sir Rowland. "He laid such doubled and redoubled obligations upon me by the tender affection, respect and favor, that he showed towards me, as have left so indelible an impression on my heart, of honor to his name and observance to his house of Bellaport, that length of time may not wear it out nor distance of place ever cause me to forget it."

He died in 1675, leaving behind a body of work which filled nineteen volumes.

*Dan Graves*

## INFORMATION

<b><u>Readings April 5th</u></b>	Acts 10.34-43	Psalm 118.1-2.14-24
<b>Easter Sunday</b>	Colossians 3.1-4	Matthew 28.1-10
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	10:00 am – Ascension – H. C. Rev. Liam Matthews 11:30am – Prayer Meeting – Inverloch	
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	10:00 am – St George’s- H.C. Rev. Graeme 11:00 -11:30am – Food Rescue @ St Georges	
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	10:00am – Staff Meeting @ St Georges	
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	6.30 pm - Sedar Meal @ St George’s	
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	9:00am - Good Friday Service - Ascension 10:30am - Good Friday Service – St George’s	

### Rosters 5th April, Easter Sunday , Holy Communion

<u>Activity</u>	<u>St George’s</u>	<u>Church of the Ascension</u>
<b>Bible Reader</b>	Elaine Sammut	Elise Watkins
<b>Sides Person</b>	Alan Price	Ray Smith
<b>Prayers</b>	Alan Price	Rev Susan
<b>Service Leader</b>	Rev John	Liz Watkins
<b>Eucharistic Asst</b>	Robert/John	Liz/Susan
<b>Musician</b>	Jan Kershaw	Ian/Elise
<b>Children’s Ministry</b>	Rev Susan	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

**Defence Force Chaplaincy:** Bishop Grant Dibden

**Special Focus:** Widows, widowers and orphans, Single Parents,  
Community Service Groups, Community Health Centres,  
Pensioners and Pensioner Organisations

**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 all wars. 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 & 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.*

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## **EASTER SERVICE TIMES:**

### **Good Friday Liturgy 03 April**

**Church of the Ascension, Inverloch – 9:00 am**

**St George’s, Wonthaggi -10:30 am**

### **Easter Sunday 05 April – Holy Communion**

**Church of the Ascension, Inverloch – 9:00 am**

**St George’s, Wonthaggi -10:30 am**

## 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.



# 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.



## **MISSION BOXES**

If you have a Mission Box could you please bring it in as soon as possible to be counted and sent to the relevant organisations.

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## **SEDER MEAL**

This year's Seder Meal will be held at the St George's, Wonthaggi on Maundy



Thursday, 2nd April 2024, 6.30pm.

Please book online or advise the office by email or phone:

[admin@basscoastanglican.org.au](mailto:admin@basscoastanglican.org.au) or

5672 4590 so that we are able to cater.



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## **OPEN MIC GOSPEL MUSIC**



We will be hosting an Open Mic on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 5 pm at the Goods Shed in Wonthaggi. The Theme will be Gospel Music and if anyone would like to sing please let Merridee Pilkington know.



## BCA 2026 VICTORIA DINNER

Saturday 2 May 2026

5.30 pm Drinks for 6 pm Dinner

Glen Waverley Anglican Church

800 Waverley Road, Glen Waverley

Guest Speaker: Rod Chiswell, Bishop of Armidale.

Spit Roast dinner \$50 per person. Childminding available (please advise)

Register by 27 April 2026 at [bushchurcaid.com.au/events](http://bushchurcaid.com.au/events).

Enquiries 03 9457 7556.



## HEALING SERVICE

The **next** Healing Service will be at St George's on  
Wednesday April 1st at 6.00 pm.



## Easter Sunrise Service 2026

5<sup>th</sup> April, 6:00am

Eagles Nest, Cape Paterson - Inverloch Rd,

**(Note: Daylight Saving Time concludes on Easter Sunday)**

## **FOR YOUR NOTES**