



**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**



## **Easter 4 26th April, 2026**



If you were asked about your identity what would you say?

What would you tie your identity to? What is the identity that most determines your thoughts, actions and behaviour?

We tend to see our identity in very different terms to the early church. Their thoughts, actions and behaviours were an outworking of being 'in Christ's body'. Their impact in their community was great.

I wonder how people in our community see our church. Would the first thing they see be Christ? And are we a shining light radically impacting our community or are we just another service club?

**Reverend Susan Liersch**

## Sentence

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord. 'The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'

*John 10.11*

## Collect

God of all power, you called from death our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep: send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured, and to feed one another with understanding; through your Son, 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

### First Reading

#### **Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

*Hear the word of the Lord,*

**Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd:  
therefore can I lack nothing.

<sup>2</sup> **He will make me lie down in green pastures: and lead me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> He will refresh my soul: and guide me in right pathways for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no**

**evil: for you are with me, your rod and your staff comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me in the face of those who trouble me: you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely your goodness and loving-kindness will follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

### Second Reading:

#### **1 Peter 2.1-10**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. <sup>2</sup> Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by

it you may grow up in your salvation,<sup>3</sup> now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone – rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him –<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.<sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’

<sup>8</sup> and, ‘A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.’ They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.<sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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

### **Gospel**

#### **John 10.1-10**

<sup>1</sup> ‘Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.<sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.<sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.<sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice.<sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger’s voice.’<sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.<sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, ‘Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.<sup>8</sup> All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them.<sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

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

## INFORMATION

<b>Readings May 3<sup>rd</sup> Easter 5</b>	Acts 7.55-60 1 Peter 2.11-25	Psalm 31.1-5, 17-18 John 14.1-14
<b>Tuesday 28th April</b>	10:00 am – Ascension – H. C. Rev. Graeme 11:30am – Prayer Meeting – Inverloch	
<b>Wednesday 29th April</b>	10:00 am – St George’s- H.C. Rev. Graeme 11:00 -11:30am – Food Rescue @ St George’s	
<b>Thursday 30th April</b>	10:00am – Staff Meeting @ St George’s	
<b>Friday 24th April</b>	11:00 -11:30am – Food Rescue @ St George’s	

### Rosters 3<sup>rd</sup> May, Fifth Sunday of Easter- 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>	Robert Mesley	Liz Watkins
<b>Service Leader</b>	Rev John	Liz Watkins
<b>Eucharistic Asst</b>	John/Robert	Liz Watkins
<b>Musician</b>	Jan Kershaw	Ian/Elise
<b>Children’s Ministry</b>	X	X

*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 – 10-12 noon, Monday May 5th

St George’s – 10-12 noon, Saturday May 2nd

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*



## **ON THIS DAY: St. Stephen of Perm, Holy "Arsonist"**



There was a time when the Zyrians, a tribe west of the Ural mountains, would gladly have killed St. Stephen. However, when he died on this day, April 26, 1396, they wept. "...Had we lost but gold and silver, these we could regain. But we shall never find another like you..." wrote a monk in a prose epic that eulogized St. Stephen's life. Stephen had been born near the Zyrians and often met this pagan people in the marketplace of his home town. Reared in the Orthodox faith, he decided to become a monk and entered a monastery at Rostov. A dutiful young man, he not only carried out his required work but went beyond it to study the Scriptures and Greek. His heart was stirred to share the gospel with the Zyrians. Learning their language, he translated portions of the Bible and other religious texts into their tongue, devising a special alphabet for it since the language had never been written down. To make the alphabet as easy as possible for the people to learn, Stephen borrowed symbols from Zyrian money and handicrafts.

Obtaining the blessing of his bishop and a letter of protection from the tsar, the zealous young man set off to evangelize the heathen. Wherever Zyrians gathered, Stephen showed up to preach the gospel. At first the heathen would gladly have killed him, but they feared reprisal from the tsar and contented themselves with verbal opposition.

However, a few hearts softened. Here and there a person turned to Christ and was baptized. This infuriated an old pagan priest named Pamoi. He used every tactic in his power to keep people from conversion and to drag back those who had made the break to Christianity. Finally he challenged Stephen to a test of fire and water. He thought Stephen would refuse. He was really on the spot when Stephen accepted! Stephen ordered a hut set on fire. Acknowledging that he had no power in himself to pass through the blazing hut, he said he trusted God. Taking Pamoi's hand, he urged the evil old man to walk through the flames with him. Pamoi refused. He also refused a test which required them to swim from hole to hole under ice. The Zyrians, who had been under his spell, would have killed him on the spot, but Stephen saved his enemy's life, saying he should only be exiled.

Stephen's faithfulness led to the conversion of the Zyrians. Becoming a holy arsonist, he led them in burning down their idol temple and taught them the ways of God. He was elevated to bishop of Perm, the chief city of that region and poured himself out to protect and assist his converts. Deeply moved by the liturgy himself, he opposed reformers who wanted to simplify and clarify church teachings along lines similar to those embraced by John Wycliffe in England.

His death came while he was on business to Russia. He was buried in the Kremlin, which caused resentment among the Zyrians. Russia had saints enough of their own, they lamented, but the Zyrian's had only one--and his body had been taken from them.

*Dan Graves*

[www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1201-1500/st-stephen](http://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1201-1500/st-stephen)

## **Intercessory Prayers:**

- Our Bishop:** Richard Treloar & Leanne
- Our Rector:** Graeme & Susan
- Parish of Traralgon:** Rev. Gradwell Fredericks & Tania  
Marilyn Obersby & Adrian
- Our Cathedral Church:** The Dean - Keren Terpstra  
Clergy, the Canons & the Cathedral Chapter
- Diocese of Willochra:** Bishop Jeremy James
- Special Focus:** Clergy Appointments Board,  
The Ecumenical Affairs Committee of the Province  
Other Denominations in our towns and their clergy  
Local Ecumenical Ministers' Networks
- 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, 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, Ted C.

**We give thanks for the faithful departed.** *We thank you Lord for the life of Betty Rayson, Ron Lawson, Gwen Boer, Rev Jim Reeves & those who have gone before us. Please comfort Betty Rayson's, Ron Lawson's, Geoff and Jennifer Boer's and Rev Jim Reeves' families and all families & friends who are grieving at this time the loss of loved ones.*

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## 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!*



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## **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 Liz Watkin's 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.*

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Financial Report for March 2026 (6 months)

<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$13,508	\$17,798	\$4,290
Costs	-\$16,941	-\$15,233	\$1,708
Month	-\$3,433	\$2,565	\$5,998

<u>Year to date</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Income	\$81,050	\$80,072	-\$978
Costs	-\$101,645	-\$97,935	\$3,710
Year	-\$20,595	-\$17,863	\$2,732

\* Interest income updated quarterly



## 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.



### Next Men's Breakfast

Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 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](https://www.basscoastanglican.org.au/event-details/mens-breakfast-2025-12-06-08-00)

Or use the QR Code.



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