

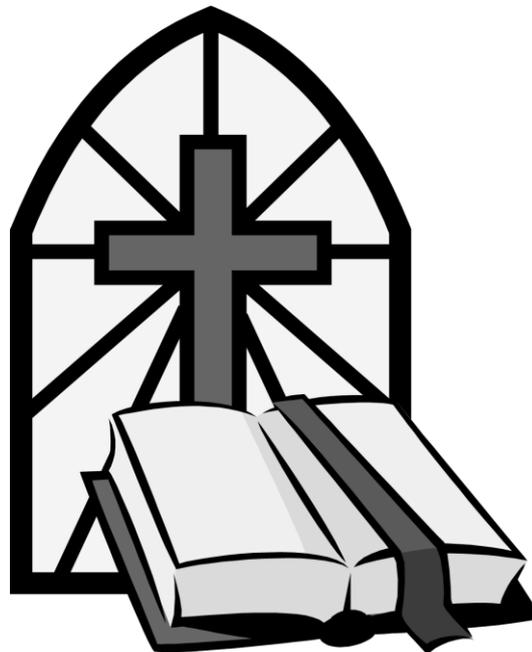
THE LINK

Issue No: 1777

29th March 2020: Fifth Sunday in Lent

ANGLICAN PARISH OF PORT LINCOLN

www.anglicanportlincoln.com.au



The Collect (Prayer of the Day)

Life-giving God,
your Son came into the world
to free us all from sin and death:
breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Scripture reflection:

Whoever goes to the LORD for safety, whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty, can say to him, “You are my defender and protector. You are my God; in you I trust.” (Psalm 91:1-2, Good News Bible)

I love the Psalms for many reasons, but one of them is the reality of the world they deal with. This is a book of poems, songs and prayers all in response to real world issues – like unseen diseases. Psalm 91 is one of the best Psalms to read at this time because it reminds us that God is greater than any virus, weapon or even comet that we may face. I have explored Psalm 91 in more detail in the upcoming Here & Now, but I hope that these two verses may be a comfort to you.

Parish Update:

Welcome to our first edition of the new “The Link” under COVID-19 conditions. The way we do Church has changed so fast and completely that we are catching up day-by-day – we think. Our aim is to offer resources, opportunities and stories to help us all cope mentally, emotionally and above all spiritually through this unknown season.

The final service in St Thomas’ on March 22 was emotional. We have stripped the altar and sanctuary because it was the final service before Good Friday. The worship space and the sanctuary will remain bare in this season of repentance and lament. When we re-open for worship, it will be an Easter Sunday service realising the resurrection life we will be experiencing!

I preached on Psalms 22, 23 and 24 under the current circumstances. **Psalm 22** is a song of death, a Good Friday psalm describing the experience of being crucified. Jesus cried out the first line of this Psalm while He was dying on the cross: “My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?” This is the emotion we may well experience in these coming months. But Psalm 22 is not hope-less. Verses 19-31 point to vindication and God hearing our cry, Jesus’ cry on the cross.

Psalm 23 is the intensely pastoral Psalm of comfort and hope. This is the song we need to remember and turn to when we are in Psalm 22 days. **Psalm 24** then turns our attention to God's sovereignty over all creation – including unseen viruses. Indeed, the King of Glory in this Psalm is Jesus, the same One whose suffering was forecast in Psalm 22. Jesus is the Risen One, and His Church has endured and grown through seasons of Psalm 22, nurtured by Psalm 23 and always anticipating the entrance of the King in Psalm 24.

As of Wednesday 25th March, the Church buildings, Parish Hall and Supper Room are now unable to be used for any group activity or personal prayer. Also banned are any gatherings on Church grounds for worship or prayer.

Parish Website: www.anglicanportlincoln.com.au

We are currently building a whole new website from the ground up which will be easier to update with new information, offer broader resources and contain a contact form which will send messages directly to the Parish Office and to me.

The website address will stay the same, and I hope to have the new page up and running before Easter.

For those on Facebook, 'Like' our Facebook page to stay up to date: "Anglican Church Port Lincoln".

Being an Anglican in worship (without the Eucharist!):

Of course we will miss celebrating and participating in the Eucharist together in this season. But one of the strengths of the Anglican heritage is the Daily Office, a beautiful habit to build. Attached is a document with a 'handy-dandy guide to the Daily Office'.

Another attachment has some other resources for different levels of digital life, from none to die-hard Instagrammers!

And finally, some hard reality.

One of the sad realities of not gathering together is the loss of the opportunity to place offerings (promise offerings, envelopes and open plate) in the plate to contribute to God's work here locally, and globally through mission.

So can I ask if you haven't already done so, to arrange to contribute your offering electronically through online banking, or arrange a periodical payment directly through your bank branch. For account details at St Thomas', contact Penel Jones. Both St Matthew's and St Matthias' have this well sorted out I believe.

If you still prefer to make your offering through cash by envelope, this may be dropped into the green secure letter box at the Parish Centre old front door (facing Wellington St/Nautilus Centre). This will be emptied several times a week for safety and counted weekly.

This will be a very hard time for businesses and charities to survive, including this Parish. We will do what we can to make sure the doors open again – and this will need everyone's ongoing help.

For those with an ongoing need:

Rev'ds Trevor Briggs and Ruth Buxton, Rosa, Bishop David McCall, Terry Krieg.

Also, front-line health workers including Doctors, Nurses and hospital staff and staff in clinic practices, teachers and teacher's aides, childcare workers, supermarket staff and the truck drivers who deliver groceries that enable them to stay open.

Thanksgiving for the life and work of:

Dr Catherine Hamlin

A Prayer for the Parish of Port Lincoln

Father,
help us to be a Church
that is a welcoming, caring, and meaningful community.
A community which enjoys the celebration of the sacraments
and has a passion to proclaim the Gospel of Christ.
A community which reaches out to others,
sharing the love of God with them.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

ABM *Anglican Board of Mission - Australia*
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

The Fifth Sunday in Lent – Sunday 29 March 2020

- Exodus 17.1-7; Psalm 95;
Romans 5.1-11; John 4.5-42

Jesus brings his friend Lazarus back to life. Jesus can make any situation, no matter how bad, immediately better. Invite him into your heart.

- Pray for all who find themselves in difficulties. Ask Jesus to knock on the door of their heart so that he may help.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*, the Philippine Independent Church

Text: © Anglican Board of Mission, 2020

Parish Office:

The Parish Office (Parish Centre) is open with restricted access on Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm.

Contact information:

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Parish Clergy:**Parish Priest: Rev. Steve Weickhardt**

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Day off: Monday

OLM Priest: Fr. Brian Bascombe

Phone: 0427 313 112