



Anglican Parish of Bass-Phillip Island
St Augustine's, San Remo St Paul's, Bass
St Philip's, Cowes

www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Sunday 29th January 2023 YEAR A

Choose Hope, Love, Justice



MON 30 th	Rev'd Jo's Day Off 10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open
TUES 31 st	
WED 1 st Feb	10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open
THURS 2 nd	10.00am - Holy Communion, St Philip's, Cowes
FRI 3 rd	10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room
Sat 4 th	10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room
Sun 5 th	9.00am Holy Communion St Philip's, Cowes 11.00am Family Service St Augustine's, San Remo 12.30pm Holy Communion St Paul's, Bass

Bookings are no longer required

CURRENT COVID-19 Information:

Please use the hand sanitiser provided

We respect your decision to wear a mask indoors.

If you are unwell please look after yourself at home.

Please be assured that our facilities are thoroughly cleaned weekly.



We meet for worship on the lands of the Bunurong people; Gunaikurnai people; Woi-Wurrung people; the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

This week's roster Fourth after Epiphany

St Philip's – Welcomer: M. Wright; Reader: H. Millward; Intercession: J. Wright; Vestry: C. Hill; Power Point: L. Heflingers; Music: K. Kent; Morning tea: J. Bell.

St Augustine's

St Paul's - Reader: E. Humphry; Prayers: Rev. Jo; Chalice: B. Maghanoy

Next week's roster Fifth after Epiphany

St Philip's – Welcomer: A. Prideaux; Reader: L. Wenham; Intercessions: R. Prideaux; Vestry: J. Bell; Power Point: J. Millward; Morning tea: P. Casey

St Augustine's – Leader: S. Ridge; Input: L. Ridge; Children: S. Ridge

St Paul's - Reader: B. Maghanoy; Prayers: L. Maghanoy; Chalice: A. Gloria

– Please contact Wendy Gladman regarding St Philip's roster gladmanwendy@gmail.com

This week's readings - Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15, I Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

Next week's readings - Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-13 (14-16); Matthew 5:13-20

Let's stand up for what we believe in: Choose hope, love, and justice
https://youtu.be/DqEx_KL4n9k

SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN Glenys has subscribed to a weekly children's activity sheet. The activities follow the lectionary. If you have grandchildren coming to a service or know of children attending she would be happy to forward this on to you so you can print out as needed. You can email her on glenys.stacs@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook! Like, Share, Comment and Join our Events:
<https://www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes/>



The Sentence of the Day

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Lord has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³"O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord." ⁶"With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" ⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

[Silence]

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 15

Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle:

Or who may dwell upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads an uncorrupt life and does the thing which is right:

Who speaks the truth from the heart, and has not slandered with the tongue;

Who has done no evil to a friend:

Nor vented abuse against a neighbour;

In whose eyes the worthless have no honour:

But who makes much of those that fear the Lord;

Whoever has sworn to a neighbour:

And will not go back on that oath;

Who has not put money to usury:

Nor taken a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things:

Shall never be overthrown.

(Response)

Glory to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

As in the beginning so now, and forever. Amen

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. ²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

[Silence]

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to, Matthew chapter 5 beginning at verse 1;

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰ "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

[Silence]

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Context: The Beatitudes



At the beginning of each year many people choose to make promises to themselves: to do something new, to try a bit harder or to achieve a longed-for goal.

As we embark on another year together, we are introduced to St Matthew's account of the Sermon on the Mount and particularly today to the very first episode in this account; The Beatitudes. Alongside this we are also hear from St Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth. In both cases we hear about how citizens of heaven, children of the one Heavenly Father, brothers and sisters in Christ are to conduct themselves. In simple terms; we are to receive instruction on how to have loving, fulfilling relationships with our fellow human beings, with the earth and with God. Surely this is worth promising ourselves and God that we will work on his purposes and commit ourselves a fresh to be worthy of our calling as disciples.

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Jesus begins his sermon with five important and rather controversial aphorisms. Jesus' teaching is for the gathered crowds, the whole of Israel and through the Bible, preserved for us today, he is teaching us now, in this present moment, in our lives today.

Jesus' sermon concerns principals and attitudes that have come down through the Jewish scriptures to us. Now is the right time for us to look again at these principals. As we enter this new year there are probably things that we would rather leave back there in 2022 and there are probably things we would like to put right in ourselves and in our relationships with others. There is likely also a desire to enrich and strengthen our relationship with God.

The beatitudes express a future; those who are meek now will, sometime in the future, inherit the earth. It is a kind of future that is imbedded in our present. We will experience the happiness, fortune and bliss of God's blessing as a foretaste now and in the future in its fullest sense. Hence Jesus says blessed are you for this will be your reward. We are blessed now and we will be blessed in the future. What we have in the beatitudes is a kind of formula: if (a – the condition) then (b – the result) will follow.

Relationships are not that simple. We cannot expect that just because we love we will receive love. We cannot expect that because we are patient that others will be so. Human loving is complex. It does not operate in quite that same way as God's love. Jesus' sermon was and is controversial and provocative because it says we will be blessed for being the very opposite of what the world sees as blessed. The world equates happiness, success and fulfilment with receiving God's favour and yet we are blessed when people revile us and persecute and utter all kinds of evil against us says Jesus. (Matthew 5:11)

Let's focus on just one of The Beatitudes.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Verse 5)

The prophet Micah also speaks about meekness saying; animation

Question: What does the Lord require?

Answer: Walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

In the world being meek and humble is usually considered to be a weakness. If we are meek then surely people will take advantage of our weakness. It would seem that in the world our humility is a liability. Jesus clearly understands this because he concludes his beatitudes with

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.

(Matt 5:11-12)

To be meek does not mean to be weak. To be meek requires conviction and confidence in oneself; a conviction that comes from knowing that we are doing what the Lord requires and that we are blessed by God because of our attitude of humility. To be meek requires confidence; confidence that comes from knowing that God loves us; loves us for ourselves and for our meekness.

A meek person is not proud or self-willed they are courteous, kind and merciful. No one could call those qualities weak. A humble person does not fill up a conversation with their qualities or achievements. They don't dominate relationships and demand attention. No one could call that weakness. We do not have too high an opinion of ourselves because we reserve that honour for God our heavenly Father.

Jesus says that the meek will inherit the earth. That is an extraordinary reward. After all who should inherit the earth? Who ought to be in such a position? The earth is ruled by the powerful, the bold, and the beautiful. And yet, we do not want leaders who are arrogant or dominating, full of their own opinions and rude. That sounds a bit too much like potentates and (shall we say) some politicians. Good leadership requires humility and meekness. In these days we ought to be seeking leaders who are genuinely meek.

Let us return to the instruction of Jesus and St Paul about how to enjoy and develop loving, fulfilling relationships with our fellow human beings, with the earth and most importantly with God.

If we are meek and humble our relationship with God will be blessed; Jesus promises us that the meek are to be blessed. Blessing is the favour of God bestowed upon those whom God loves. Micah asserts the very word of God. It is God's requirement that we walk humbly with Him. Our relationship with God will be and can be a truly intimate one – walking with God through out our lives, walking with God as did Adam in the garden. St Paul reminds us that God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and that God's strength is stronger than human strength. (1 Corinthians: 25) Getting our relationship with God right is the foundation for getting our relationships with the earth and with our fellow human beings right. And maybe some of these relationships that need reconciliation are bound with the first nations people of Australia. Perhaps we need to feel the words of the prophet more strongly this year that what God requires of us is to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God and with the first nations people of Australia.

There is no magic pill to fix all the brokenness and pain that is often part of human relationships but the choice for hope, love and justice goes some way to giving us peace in the midst of brokenness and pain. Our humility will demand of us incredible patience and love. We will be called upon time and time again to listen and at times receive words that are not kind, not gentle, and not sweet like honey. Our meekness will require of us over and over again good manners and kindness in the face of selfishness and arrogance.

God's love will and does preserve us. God's love can, if we let it, heal our wounds. It can inspire us to greater loving of our fellow human beings than the world might expect of us. God's love draws from us a desire to give love.

The words of Charles Wesley's hymn return to me now:

Oh, for a heart to praise my God, resigned, submissive, meek, a humble, lowly, contrite heart,

believing, true, and clean, a heart in every thought renewed, and full of love divine, perfect, and right, and pure, and good, a heart and a love like that of God.

Let us pray for the world and for the church:

God of wisdom and strength we pray for the world and for this country of Australia. We seek your wisdom in addressing the many issues facing Australia at this time including our role in world affairs. Help our leaders to seek justice for all people and reconciliation with our first nations people; help them to make decisions that show our respect for each other; offer them your strength as they deal with difficult decisions, unpopular laws and policies. Lord of the weak and the powerful; help each of us to seek justice for the oppressed and show genuine love to those who suffer. God, we ask you to strength us to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wisdom and strength we pray for your church seeking your blessing for all in leadership in the church that they would be humble, that they would put your kingdom come at the top of their agendas. We give thanks for the church, for your Holy Spirit at work in each of us. We pray that the spirit might work in those who are yet to know you, that they might find the purity of your unconditional love and feel the warmth of your presence in their lives.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wisdom and strength we pray for the sick and sorrowing; bless those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who are hungry for righteousness, those who are persecuted and those who feel that others are against them. Heal the wounds of the past and let everyone feel uplifted by your gracious blessings. Lord, we pray for those who are recovering from operations and for those who are waiting to go to hospital. We pray too for those who have cancer, those who are deeply troubled and those for whom the days are long.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wisdom and strength we are so grateful for the gift of your Son Jesus and for his work of salvation. We thank you for his healing, his teaching and for his presence with us always. Now we bring to mind in this time of prayer those who are mourning the passing of a loved one; remembering that those who mourn will be comforted. We bring to mind our dear departed praying rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them. **Amen.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory

For ever and for ever. Amen.

Suggested Hymns:

Let us sing to the God of Salvation (TIS 52)
What does the Lord Require (TIS 618)
Blest are the Pure in Heart (TIS 448)
Have Faith in God my Heart (TIS 619)

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, feeding us with your word, and encouraging us in our meeting together. Take us and use us to love and serve you all people, in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A blessing is offered.

May the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing his will, working in you what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

DIARY DATES

Book Sales Saturday 28th January 10.00am – 4.00pm, Sunday 11.00am – 4.00pm
Parish Council 2.00pm Thursday 2nd February, Emmaus Room or via Teams

LENT

Shrove Tuesday 21st February – Pancakes Parish Hall 6pm (see below for details)

Ash Wednesday 22nd February Service of Imposition of Ashes St Philip's 4.00pm and St Paul's 7.00pm

First Sunday in Lent 26th February [26th Feb. 1st Prayer Praise Proclamation Service 9.00am St Philip's]

Offertory

Thank you for your weekly offering it is much needed. During this COVID-19 period and post COVID-19 your offering can be made by either:

- Placing in the offering bowl at any church service. Use plain envelope if preferred
- Please make cheques payable to Anglican Parish Bass-Phillip Island
- Regular or one-off contributions can be made by internet banking to the Parish bank account, using Pay ID 0407410011 (or BSB & Acct No. below)
- Visit any Bendigo Bank branch and deposit cash or cheque to Anglican Parish Bass/Phillip Island BSB: 633 000 / Account Number: 169 629 797. Please put on deposit slip: "Offertory" or "Donation" indicating your usual congregation
- If in Cowes, drop your offering in the donation box at St Philip's, Cowes (located outside the front door of the Church)

ST PHILIP'S – We recommend parking in the church grounds. Parking in Thompson Avenue is restricted to 1 hour only. 2 hours for those with a Disabled Parking Permit



Shrove Tuesday



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE EVENT

Tuesday 21st February 6.00pm Parish Hall

A dinner of savory and sweet pancakes and the burning of palm crosses in preparation for Ash Wednesday. \$5.00 per head.

MARY TALBOT ROOM – Our Op Shop in San Remo needs some hand knitted items for sale. If you love knitting, we would love to sell some of your creations. Baby and children's garments are popular.

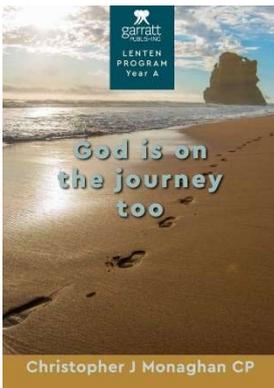
Helpful websites

Parish website www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

Dioceses of Gippsland website www.gippsanglican.org.au

Facebook www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes

CHAT 'N' CHEW is a shared ministry of the Combined Churches of Phillip Island. Would you like to help? Would you like to join the committee and represent the Anglican Church in this important ministry to lonely and vulnerable people in our community? Training is available. Speak to Rev'd Jo or Richard Prideaux.



PARISH HOME GROUPS –

LENTEN STUDIES – God is on the Journey, Too \$10.00

Meeting weekly during Lent.

Cowes, Emmaus Room Group –Wednesday 22nd Feb.1.00pm Leader: Richard and Ann Prideaux

Cowes, Palm Lakes Group – Friday 24th Feb 10.00am Contact Helen Millward

San Remo Group –Wednesday 22nd Feb 2.00pm in the Mary Talbot Room Leader: John Dawson

Bass Home Group – ... Leader: Sandy & Les Ridge

Learn a new skill - We are training new vestry helpers and Eucharistic assistants. Speak to Rev'd Jo if you would like to help.

Can you help? Volunteers needed on 2nd Saturday of the month to assist with serving Devonshire Teas and at the Sausage Sizzle.



Please pray for:
Sue Chambers, Mike Heflingers, Len Chatfield, Rev'd Gerald Wall,
Jenny and John Dawson
If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please tell Rev'd Jo



St Philip's

THE FLOWER FUND NEEDS FEEDING

Box for donations is located in porch on Sundays

You can help Refugees by putting items in the basket at St Philip's. Most needed items include: honey, tuna in oil, tinned tomatoes, tinned veggies, tinned legumes, sweet & savoury biscuits, black tea bags, dishwashing liquid, shampoo & conditioner, soap bars.

