Please be aware that during the season of LENT [as of Ash Wednesday] there are no flowers in the church

***Prayers for those in need:*** - especially, Shirley, Chris, Cathy, Laurie, Doreen, may we also pray for those whose lives have been damaged by the Church and those affected by the recent fires. Pray for those we name in the silence of our hearts . . . . . .. Pray for all those affected by the terrible events in Christchurch, pray for peace, calm and resolution.

**Readings for the coming weeks**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **24TH March** | **31st March** | **7TH April** |
| **3RD SUNDAY IN LENT** | **4th SUNDAY IN LENT** | **4th SUNDAY IN LENT** |
| **Isaiah 55.1-9** | **Joshua 5.2-12** | **Isaiah 43.16-21** |
| **[Psalm 63.1-9]** | **[Psalm 32]** | **[Psalm 126]** |
| **1 Corinthians 10.1-13** | **2 Corinthians 5.16-21** | **Philippians 3.3-14** |
| **Luke 13.31-35** | **Luke 15.11-32** | **John 12.1-8** |

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Give thanks, give hope; give generously. The contribution of the congregation to this need is fantastic and gratefully appreciated. If each of us contributes a packet, tin or product into the basket we can make a significant difference to a person’s life – non-perishable items (tinned or in packet) sanitary

items; toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, razors etc) these items are all acceptable. These groceries are donated to **Anglicare** and then distributed to the needy – may God be with you in this ministry, Judi

COLLECTIONS – PLEASE SAVE USED STAMPS - DOREEN COLLECTS THEM FOR BCA

**DIARY DATES –**

**MOTHERING SUNDAY – 24TH MARCH PALM SUNDAY – 14TH APRIL**

**TMA:** The February issue of TMA (The Melbourne Anglican) is now available in the narthex.

BCA

BCA boxes are due in now please give to Doreen

# Welcome to the

Anglican parish of St Paul’s Romsey & Christ church, Lancefield

Please stay awhile following our celebration of the Eucharist to share in fellowship. If you are a visitor, long time parishioner or searching for a place to be welcomed - this is it – we’ve found you! Help us get to know each other over a cuppa!

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**2nd SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 17th YC 2019**

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**9.00am Sunday Eucharist – St Paul’s Romsey 10.30am Sunday Eucharist – Christ Church Lancefield**

**ABM Pew reflection**

As we journey through Lent we might find ourselves with the keen awareness that our God is a God of journeys. In our readings from today we see two journeys – one of Abraham from Ur to Canaan, and the other of Jesus and a handful of his disciples going up Mount Tabor. In both cases God is bringing his servants away from what is familiar and taking them to unfamiliar places, and often it can be scary for them. We know that ultimately they were strengthened by the experience in their faith. When God calls us out of our familiar surroundings we should take heart knowing that he is with us and we will ultimately be strengthened by our journey.

* Pray for all those who God has called to difficult ministries, callings and occupations.
* Give thanks for the Church of the Province of South East Asia, remembering especially the Most Rev Ng Moon Hing, his staff, clergy and people.

Text: The Rev Will Johnston,
© Anglican Board of Mission, 2019

**Sentence:** Our Citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians 3:20*

**Collect:** God of our ancestors,

whose chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown: endow your Church with such faith that we may follow you with courage;

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**A reading from the Book of Genesis**

## 429God’s Covenant with Abram

## After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great. ‘But Abram said, ‘O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?’ And Abram said, ‘You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.’ But the word of the Lord came to him, ‘This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.’ He brought him outside and said, ‘Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.’ Then he said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be.’ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

##  Then he said to him, ‘I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.’ But he said, ‘O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?’ He said to him, ‘Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.’ He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

##  As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

## When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, ‘To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates. *Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18*

Hear the word of the Lord, ***thanks be to God***

**The Epistle is from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians**

##  Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. *Philippians 3.17 – 4.1*

*11*May your word live in us, ***and bear much fruit to your glory***

**THE GOSPEL**

The Lord be with you, ***and also with you***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 13.1-9

***Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

## Repent or Perish

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, ‘Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.’

## The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

 Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” ’

For the Gospel of the Lord, ***praise to you Lord Jesus Christ***

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