

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY

MOUNT WAVERLEY

WELCOME

Last Sunday after Epiphany - Transfiguration

February 27, 2022



March 2

Imposition of Ashes and Eucharist

10am and 7.30pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This parish is committed to Child Safety and complies with Diocesan and State requirements. This is a shared responsibility of staff and parish. Please see the back of pew leaflet for contact details.

Ascent and Descent

When it says, “He went up,” it must mean that he first went down to the deepest levels of the earth . . . to fill all things. —Ephesians 4:9-10

Philosophies and religions are either Ascenders, pointing us *upward* (toward the One, the Eternal, and the Absolute) or they are Descenders, pointing us *downward* (toward the sacred within the many, the momentary, the mystery, and the earth), **seldom both at the same time. Yet that’s what we need.**

Metaphors of darkness, descent, and unknowing are found throughout the Bible: caves, clouds, the Exodus, exile, the belly of the whale, wilderness, and desert. Within Scripture we also see a spirituality of light, ascent, and knowing which is represented by mountaintop images, especially Sinai, Horeb, Tabor, and the Mount of the Beatitudes. **“The pillar of flame by night and the pillar of cloud by day” (Exodus 13:21-22)** are both good guides, but not one without the other!

Jesus himself points us both upward and downward at the same time. He fully rests in a trustworthy Absolute, his anchored self, made in the image and likeness of God. This is his only real knowing or *ascent*. From there, he is free to dive into a fully incarnate and diverse world—as it is. He can love this ordinary and broken world, honor and protect its diversity and complexity, and critique all false absolutes and idolatries at the same time. **This is Jesus’ descent** into the world of earthiness.

We have both knowing and not-knowing, ascent and descent, beautifully integrated in two companion pieces in the Scriptures: Moses on Mount Sinai and Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. When Moses is on Sinai, God is somehow manifest in thick darkness (Exodus 20:9). **“You saw no shape on that day at Horeb” (Deuteronomy 4:15).** Moses “sees” and “hears” to some degree, yet YHWH does not allow Moses to see God’s “glory” or “face.” The most that Moses can see is, humorously, YHWH’s backside (see Exodus 33:18-23).

In the parallel story of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36; Mark 9:2-8; Matthew 17:1-9), there is first dazzling light yet a cloud soon over-shadows the whole scene. The epiphany is both light and darkness, knowability and unknowability, disclosure and non-disclosure. Jesus then deliberately walks with the disciples back down the mountain, onto the plain and desert of everyday life, and out of this enlightening, but also dangerously ego-inflating experience.

Honeymoon experiences cannot be sustained. We must always return to the ordinary. Jesus tells the **disciples who witnessed his transfiguration, “Don’t talk about it!” (Matthew 17:9).** Jesus knew that talking too soon would only weaken the experience. Silence seems necessary to preserve the sacred and the mysterious, just as in sexual intimacy.

Spirit always desires to incarnate itself. Matter always wants to be God. The Christ Mystery is uniquely saying that we *can* have it both ways—the enlightenment of Spirit balanced out by the density and opaqueness of matter. Maybe that is the essence of the human condition.

Richard Rohr

<https://cac.org/ascent-and-descent-2018-10-03/>

World Day of Prayer



This coming Friday, 4th March 2022

10 am - Morning Tea

10.30am - Service

at High Street Road and St John's Uniting Church Mount Waverley

GREG'S INDUCTION

Greg's induction is at *All Saints Mitcham* at 7.30pm on March 10. Please reply to allsaints.mitcham.office@gmail.com if you plan on attending

Change of Office hours

The office will be open on Thursday and Friday from 10.00am - 2.00pm next week. Please all notices for the pew sheet arrive by 10am on Thursday. Thank you.

Now that we are back in church we need more people for our rosters. We particularly need welcomers at both the 8am and 10am services. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the other rosters please let me know. We are happy to provide training and advice about the tasks involved.

Joan West

0407 322 901; joanw.johnr@bigpond.com



FIVE LEAF ECO AWARD

The Environment and caring for God's creation is among the criteria for our Social Justice and Mission Group. A great place to begin is to get involved in the Five Leaf Eco Award, This is a non-competitive, ecumenical program to raise awareness and to act on environmental issues in our personal lives, in the Parish and in the wider community.

As we know Climate Action is needed NOW. These Eco Awards focus on inter-relationships of Faith and Nature, in the light of our global climate crisis and call us to act NOW! So often we hear the bad news stories – we would like to turn them around.

The Five Leaf Eco-Awards encourage holistic action for the environment covering five areas:

- Buildings
- Worship
- Congregation
- Outreach
- Community Leadership

The way we live and the choices we make have a direct impact on the earth. If we each take small steps towards living in a more sustainable way, then as a Parish, our efforts can make a difference.

TIP FOR THIS WEEK

Use less hot water. Washing your clothes in cold or warm water instead of hot water can save as much as 250 Kgs of carbon dioxide per year.

Keep watching the pewsheets and Facebook for updates!



LENTEN QUIET DAY

Time out at the beginning of our Lenten Journey.
Discover your own Lenten path through meditations offered and
reflection as we wait in the silence.



Next Saturday 5th MARCH

10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Morning/Afternoon Tea provided

BYO Lunch

Led by Val Dyke Th.A, Dip.Past.Min., B.Theol
Hon. Lay Pastoral Minister, Spiritual Director
and Retreat Conductor

BOOKINGS REQUIRED see below.

Mothers' Union Meetings 2022

Monday March 28, 2pm *Creative Women*

Monday April 18, 2pm *Prayer Shawl Workshop*.

We invite members of the parish to join us at any MU meeting to share our fellowship.

Please contact any member of MU for more information.



Lenten Studies start this week!

This year we will be using a program from Garratt Publications called 'Restoring freshness in the time of Lent.' It has been prepared by Revd Michael Elligate from the Archdiocese of Melbourne (Catholic). This study, he says, is designed to refresh and renew us in the time of Lent by particularly using the Psalms and Gospel. This is a 6 week course and the book costs \$10. Please put your names onto a group and join us:

Tuesday evening - via zoom - led by Revd Andrea - commencing 1st March 7.30 pm (zoom)

Wednesday afternoon - led by Ven Dianne Sharrock - commencing 2nd March 2.00 pm (Ash Wednesday) in the Old Church

Friday morning - led by Revd Andrea - commencing 4th March 10 am in the Old Church.

SOCIAL JUSTICE STALL NEXT WEEK

Next week the Social Justice Committee will be holding "Shop With Care" stall.

Please ensure you have cash to make a purchase

Dates to put in your diary ...

Sunday - Last Sunday after Epiphany

- February 27, 2022

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Parish Eucharist

Monday 28

1.00pm Computer Course

4.00 - 8.45pm Karen Margaret Dance

Tuesday March 1

7.30pm Lenten Study (Zoom)

Wednesday 2

2.00pm Lenten Study (Old Church)

Thursday 3

10.00am Thursday Eucharist

Friday 4

10.00am Lenten Study (Old Church)

Saturday 5

Sunday 6 Joint Service. First Sunday
in Lent /Rev'd Greg's farewell

Ash Wednesday

- March 2, 2022

10.00am

Reader Lyn Ryan
Joel 2:1-2, 2-17

7.30pm

Readers Irene Donohue-Clyne
Joel 2:1-2, 2-17
Rev'd Andrea Nagy
2 Cor 5.20b – 6.10

Next Sunday - First Sunday in Lent

- March 6, 2022

9.30am Joint Service

Welcomers Maggie Dellora
Graham Dellora

Reader Frank Miller
Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Gospel Luke 4:1-15
(Clergy)

Intercessor Sue Retschko

The Thursday Evening Meditation Group
We continue to meet on Zoom on the second and fourth Thursday evenings of the month at 7.30pm. Our next session will be on Thursday, March 10, followed by Thursday, March 24. Zoom links are emailed to members prior to the sessions. Enquiries can be directed to Michael Mosley

Tamil Christian Church services
2nd and 4th Sunday from 3pm

February TMA
Copies available at the church
- on the table inside the orange doors.

The Anglican Parish of St Stephen & St Mary Mount Waverley

383-385 High Street Road, Mt Waverley, 3149. Phone: 9807 3168

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9.30am - 2.30pm

Email: parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au Website: www.stephenandmary.org.au

'Like' us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stephenandmary.mtwaverley

Priest

(Day off - Monday)

The Venerable Dianne Sharrock

Assistant Curates

(Tues, Thurs, Fri)

The Revd Greg Wong

(Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sun)

The Revd Andrea Nagy

Children's and Families' Minister

(Tues 10.00 am - 12.00 pm, Sun 9.30 am - 11.30 pm)

Lisa Eames

Child Safety Compliance Officer

Elaine Fasken
compliance@stephenandmary.org.au

Covid19 Compliance Officer

Sugan Blanchard

Music Director

Brian Copple

Treasurer

Helen Warren

Office Manager

Churchwardens:

Katherine Rushby
Sugan Blanchard
Graeme Dellora
Sue Retschko

Parish Council:

Sugan Blanchard, David Bruce, Graeme Dellora, Judith Gibson,
Sally Hibbert, John Leaver, Sue Retschko, Helen Warren, Joan West

Pastoral Care Ministry:

Hospital Visiting:

Clergy

Funeral Ministry:

The Vicar

Spiritual Directors:

Cath Connelly
Val Dyke

Prayer Chain contact

Margaret Syfret

SERVICES: Sunday 8.00 & 10.00 am Thursday 10.00 am