



St Leonard's Church
cnr Strickland & Mitchell Sts
Denmark

Anglican Parish of Denmark-Walpole

PO Box 277 Denmark WA 6333
www.denmarkanglican.org.au
Email: denmarkanglican@gmail.com



St. George's Church
11 Vista St
Walpole

Parish Priest: Revd Sally Buckley tssf 9848 2173
Wardens: Alison Kershaw 9848 2606, Sally Prickett 0428 747 262. Judy Ross 0455 509 317
Treasurer: Chris Prickett 0413 103 743

We endeavour to be an expression of God's love in the community

Thursday, 16 April 2020.

Dear Parishioners,

I hope and pray that you were able to set aside some 'holy time' over the last week, to absorb and participate in the remembering of events which took place in Jerusalem all those years ago.



It certainly felt a very strange Easter, but it was a great joy to be able to share a dawn service with Alison and Graham Kershaw at St Leonard's, enabling us to light the new Pascal Candle. We did record the service, thank you Graham, but then had technical problems trying to post it to the website. We have some lovely photos, which Alison was able to post on the website, for those able to access them.

A reminder, for those who have internet access, that there are plenty of resources, photos etc. up on our website: www.denmarkanglican.org.au

Thank you for all the kind comments we have received over the last week. I am glad people are finding the resources we are posting helpful.

For those of you who enjoyed the *Simple Table Services*, my friend, Keith Slater, has created another series of services covering the Sundays from Easter 2 (this Sunday) until Trinity Sunday. We will put them on the website, so you can access it there. If you would like a printed copy, let Sally or me know and we will print it off. There will be a few copies in the church porch, but as it runs for 27 pages, so takes 14 pieces of paper to print, we won't be doing a big print run unless asked.

So, how are you finding these strange times we are living in? Is life very different for you?

I must admit to enjoying the gentler pace of life, of being able to 'stop and smell the roses', of creating a new vegetable garden, (or rather, Chris kindly did that for me!) and watching veggie seeds sprouting in *Jiffy* pots, nearly ready to be planted in the ground. Next job after that has been done is to attack some of the boxes in the office, which are still waiting to be unpacked and sorted! and for those who remember, NO! I still haven't found *THAT* box!!

I was recently sent a reflection by Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, philanthropist and very rich man. I enjoyed this and hope you don't mind me sharing it with you. He writes:

I'm a strong believer that there is a spiritual purpose behind everything that happens, whether that is what we perceive as being good or being bad. As I meditate upon this, I want to share with you what I feel the Corona/ Covid-19 virus is really doing to us:

1) It is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally, perhaps we should to. If you don't believe me, just ask Tom Hanks.

2) It is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another. It is reminding us that the false borders that we have put up have little value as this virus does not need a passport. It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose whole life is spent in oppression.

3) It is reminding us of how precious our health is and how we have moved to neglect it through eating nutrient poor manufactured food and drinking water that is contaminated with chemicals upon chemicals. If we don't look after our health, we will, of course, get sick.

4) It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other, especially those who are old or sick. Our purpose is not to buy toilet roll.

- 5) It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become and how, when in times of difficulty, we remember that it's the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give value to.
- 6) It is reminding us of how important our family and home life is and how much we have neglected this. It is forcing us back into our houses so we can rebuild them into our home and to strengthen our family unit.
- 7) It is reminding us that our true work is not our job, that is what we do, not what we were created to do. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another.
- 8) It is reminding us to keep our egos in check. It is reminding us that no matter how great we think we are or how great others think we are, a virus can bring our world to a standstill.
- 9) It is reminding us that the power of freewill is in our hands. We can choose to cooperate and help each other, to share, to give, to help and to support each other or we can choose to be selfish, to hoard, to look after only our self. Indeed, it is difficulties that bring out our true colours.
- 10) It is reminding us that we can be patient, or we can panic. We can either understand that this type of situation has happened many times before in history and will pass, or we can panic and see it as the end of the world and, consequently, cause ourselves more harm than good.
- 11) It is reminding us that this can either be an end or a new beginning. This can be a time of reflection and understanding, where we learn from our mistakes, or it can be the start of a cycle which will continue until we finally learn the lesson we are meant to.
- 12) It is reminding us that this Earth is sick. It is reminding us that we need to look at the rate of deforestation just as urgently as we look at the speed at which toilet rolls are disappearing off of shelves. We are sick because our home is sick.
- 13) It is reminding us that after every difficulty, there is always ease. Life is cyclical, and this is just a phase in this great cycle. We do not need to panic; this too shall pass.
- 14) Whereas many see the Corona/ Covid-19 virus as a great disaster, I prefer to see it as a "great corrector".

It is sent to remind us of the important lessons that we seem to have forgotten and it is up to us if we will learn them or not.

It is my prayer, that when this time is over, we will emerge having learnt lessons which will stay with us always, particularly, to appreciate the things that until now we took for granted. Human touch, the freedom to gather together for worship, to travel where we liked, to see our families.

I would like to close with a prayer, which is attributed to the 5th Century saint, Augustine of Hippo:

Keep watch, O Lord,
with those who wake,
or watch, or weep tonight,
and give your angels
charge over those who sleep.
Tend your sick ones,
O Lord Christ.
Rest your weary ones.
Bless your dying ones.
Soothe your suffering ones.
Pity your afflicted ones.
Shield your joyous ones,
and all for Your love's sake. Amen.

Stay safe and keep well. With my prayers and good wishes, your priest and friend.

Sally