

The Beacon on the Hill

CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
ANGELICAN PARISH COOLUM BEACH

TOGETHER AGAIN

On Sunday, 14 February we were able to worship together as one congregation albeit in a COVID safe way. For many it was a chance to catch up with friends and for others a chance to meet parishioners who have joined the parish in the last 12 months. For those of us who had been attending the 8am service it was great to have Betty playing the hymns for us.



EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday 1st April 7 pm
Commemoration of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 2nd April 8.30 am
Liturgy of the Passion

Easter Day Sunday 4th April
6am Easter Vigil
Easter fire, Paschal Candle, renewal of baptismal vows
first Eucharist of Easter
9 am Holy Eucharist
renewal of baptismal vows

The Prayer of Approach

Each year, I meet with the LAs in January to discuss how things are going and to make any changes that people feel might be helpful. This year, the discussion happened by email and focused on the prayers. I mentioned that the Prayer of Approach is optional and that we don't use it during Lent. One of the LAs replied, asking why. This was the gist of my response:

When I came to the parish, I asked the Archbishop's permission to use the oldest Great Thanksgiving we have. It goes back to the late 2nd / early 3rd century. It is not in the current prayer book but it has been approved by General Synod's Liturgical Commission. The Archbishop gave his permission for its use during Lent. I then made a Lenten service booklet (the purple one). I left out the Prayer of Approach which is a late addition (written by Thomas Cranmer in the 16th century).

I personally cannot say that prayer. The sentence beginning, 'We are not worthy ...' has several problems for me:

- 1. It misuses the story of the Syrophenician woman who asks Jesus to heal her daughter (Mark 7: 24-30). Jesus initially refuses her request, saying, 'it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' She takes on his very derogatory comment in order to change his mind: 'even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Jesus does change his view, not only in relation to the woman, but also towards Gentiles in general. It is after this encounter that Jesus goes into Gentile territory to minister. By repeating the woman's words, we seem to be denying the change that Jesus made, including his acceptance of Gentiles.*
- 2. We **are** worthy, as a result of the act of Christ, through his cross and resurrection. Saying 'we are not worthy' seems to me to deny the efficacy of Christ's act.*
- 3. I have been told that people who have been subjected to abuse find this sentence extremely painful, utterly unsayable. Abuse is based on the view that someone is not worthy so the sentence makes some abused people feel that God has the same view of them as their abuser has.*

For these reasons I never pray that prayer. However, I am aware that it is significant and important for many. I have therefore not asked that it be omitted, but I don't say it.

I hope that explains things. I know that this prayer is part of many people's personal piety and I do not want to invade that private space between a person and God. But you asked, so I felt I should do you the courtesy of answering in detail.

It is entirely up to you whether you use the prayer when you are LA. Using it helps many; not using it helps others. We are a diverse community! Do what you are comfortable with.

Then, the LAs started to have conversations. They agreed amongst themselves that they should all do the same thing, and that they would no longer read the Prayer of Approach aloud. Instead, there would be a time of silence when people could pray that prayer silently if they wish.

When I answered the email asking for clarification, I had no intention of imposing my views; I was just trying to be honest and open. I am quite surprised at where the conversation has ended. I am also immensely grateful to the LAs for their openness, their willingness to address complex issues and their desire to work together as a team. I am humbled by their Christian attitude.

Our Order of Service during Lent does not include the Prayer of Approach. In Eastertide, when we return to our usual Order, we will continue to have a time of silence when people can use the Prayer of Approach if they wish. This makes space for different views and spiritualities, something that has always been a hallmark of this parish. Let us move into this new way of doing things gently and see how it goes. Feel free to have a chat with one of the LAs or with me.

**- (The Revd Dr) Cathy Laufer
Parish Priest**



A very different Christmas

Much like the rest of 2020 Christmas had to be observed in a COVID-19 safe way. This year our services were held in the Coolum Community Centre. It was a very different experience for everyone. The Christmas Eve service with the nativity play was its usual success and both services were well attended. Unfortunately, the sound system crashed. However, everyone stepped up and sang the familiar carols without music but with great joy and gusto.



Love Your Neighbour – Get Vaccinated!

- The Revd Dr Cathy Laufer

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

We hear the two great commandments every Sunday during Lent. We respond to them with the words, 'Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.' We ask for God's mercy because we are all too aware that we have not loved God, and our neighbour, as we should. We repent: we say we're sorry, we ask for God's forgiveness, and we commit ourselves to living according to the commandments in the future.

This year, right now, we have a God-given opportunity to put our intentions into practice in a simple act of love: getting vaccinated. A vaccine protects you, and it also protects others in your community. A vaccine prevents you from getting sick, or at least from getting the severe form of the virus. A vaccine also sets up a barrier so that you cannot transmit the virus to others.

Therefore, getting vaccinated is an act of love for your community. To get vaccinated is to obey the second great commandment. (By contrast, to refuse the vaccine except on medical grounds is to disobey the commandment, to sin.)

Some people have been worried about the AstraZeneca vaccine because it was developed from a cell line that originated with a foetus aborted in 1973. However, the Christian response to this is to see it in the context of Christ's death and resurrection. Christ's death was the result of evil, but God the Father turned death into resurrection. God continues to bring good out of evil, to turn death into life, to transform the tragedy of abortion into a life-giving vaccine.

Let us give thanks to God for the ingenuity and persistence of researchers, for the gift of the vaccine. Let us love one another by getting vaccinated.

(For a more detailed discussion of the AstraZeneca vaccine, see Cathy's article in *focus*:
<https://anglicanfocus.org.au/2020/08/31/the-potential-oxford-vaccine-and-the-transforming-love-of-god/>)

Make a Habit of It

A sermon by the Revd Dr Sam Wells, Vicar, St Martin-in-the Fields, London, preached on Ash Wednesday, 2013. Reprinted with permission. www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org



It's often said that life is about choices. People who get into trouble are often said to have made "bad choices." But a life based on perpetual choice would be a nightmare. To avoid the tyranny of having to make perpetual choices, we develop habits. Habits deliver us from the tyranny of perpetual decision. The point is, to develop good habits. That's what Lent is about. It's about developing the six habits of firmly rooted disciples. So here goes.

Habit number one: look inside your heart. Examine yourself. Find inside yourself some things that shouldn't be there. If they're hard to extract, get some help. Name them by sitting or kneeling down with a trusted friend or pastor, and just say "These things shouldn't be there. Please help me let God take them away." In other words, repent. But repent by following or at least looking at Jesus. Because when we're in the presence of Christ, there's no need to pretend or hide. He already knows and he's longing to welcome us back. Self-examination isn't just about finding things that shouldn't be there. It's also about finding things that are there but have been neglected. That's sometimes where vocation begins. Look inside your heart. Do it. Make a habit of it.

Habit number two: pray. Don't get in a pickle about whether to pray with a book or just freestyle: do both. Once a day each. Simple as that. Think about the way you shop. Sometimes I shop with a list; sometimes not. Sometimes it's a pleasure; sometimes it's a necessity; sometimes it's a pain. Sometimes I go with someone else, or even help someone else to go; sometimes I go on my own. Sometimes it's about big things; sometimes it's about little things. Sometimes I really think carefully about it, and check through a kind of recipe list; sometimes I just do it, and realize later what I've forgotten. Sometimes I'm overwhelmed by the wonder of the variety of goods and products; sometimes I'm cross about globalisation, climate change, treatment of factory workers and materialism. Prayer's just as varied. Just do it: put yourself in the presence of God. Maybe just sitting still for five minutes is the most countercultural thing you can do. Do it. Make a habit of it.

Habit number three: fast. There are three dimensions to fasting. The first is about power. It's about toughening yourself up so you don't go all pathetic at the first smell or sight of something sweet or tasty. It's about making yourself someone to be reckoned with and not a pushover. Learn how to eat and when to resist eating. Learn when to switch on the TV and when to stop to think first. Make a pattern of life so you don't just drift to the mobile phone or email or internet as a transitional object. Get your senses and your self-control in some kind of balance. The kind of thing Jesus did in the wilderness. The second dimension of fasting is to stand in solidarity with those who don't get to choose. If you can't give up a single meal, do you really care about global hunger? And the third dimension is learning how to be really hungry. Hungry for righteousness. Hungry for justice and peace. Hungry, fundamentally, for Easter – hungry for the resurrection only God can bring in Christ. So give something worthwhile up – one meal a week, dessert, meat, TV – something that you're really going to feel the lack of. Do it. Make a habit of it.

Habit number four: give money away. Ah – you may say "I'm in a tight spot right now: I don't have any money." Let me tell you now: there will never be a time in your life when you think it's a good time for giving money away. Take it from me. It's not going to happen. Giving money is like long queues at the supermarket checkout and inside lanes on the motorway – they're for other people. Try to tie your money to your prayers. Give money to something you believe in, and pray for the organisation you give money to. Start with your church. After all, if it wasn't for the church, none of us would know there was any good news about Jesus, and unless there's a church in a thousand or a billion years' time, no one will know then. Don't make a fuss about it. Just do it. Make a habit of it.

Habit number five: read the Bible. Imagine you were going into a crowded airport to meet someone you were longing to see but weren't sure you'd recognize. And imagine you had a photo album of pictures that showed them in a thousand different activities. Wouldn't you study that photo album so you'd almost committed it to memory? That's what the Bible is – a series of portrayals of God, and we study it to get to know God better so we'll have no recognition problems in a crowd. Genesis has 50 chapters: you can almost do it in Lent. You can get through a couple of Paul's letters a week. There's a dozen minor prophets: read a couple a week. Find a nether region in the Bible, and go digging. Buy an accessible commentary and follow a few verses each day. Just do it. Make a habit of it.

Habit number six: repair broken relationships. This is the last one, and for many people, the toughest. We've probably, many of us, got one big relationship that's all wrong – and maybe there's not a whole lot we can do about it. Maybe it's just a matter of keeping out of someone's way, if we've done them wrong, or trying to be

civil, if they've hurt us. Now may not be the time to make things better. Now may not yet be God's time. But that doesn't mean we let all our other relationships get to that kind of place. Is there someone out there, a sibling, a rival, a long-time friend, a person who always felt inferior to you? Could you write that person a letter this Lent to say some things you've always appreciated about them but you've never told them? You can make it subtle. You can dress it up as something else. But could you see your way to that? And what about people whose names you don't know, people from whom you're estranged without ever having done the damage yourself? Could you make a new friend this Lent? Do it. Make a habit of it.

So that's six ways to keep the tradition of Lent. Examine yourself, the ill that's there and the good that's neglected. Pray, with a formal book and just any old how. Fast, to train yourself and to be in solidarity. Give money away. Read the bible. Repair broken relationships.

May you have a holy Lent, rooted and grounded in love.

MISSIONS

As you consider the points raised in *Make A Habit of It*, particularly Habit number four, think of the ways you may be able to assist one of the three mission groups that our parish supports: the Coolum High School Chaplaincy, the Bush Church Aid Society (BCA) and the Anglican Board of Missions (ABM). These three reflect our location in Coolum and Queensland, and our being Anglican. We also support these groups in other ways.

Chaplaincy at Coolum High School

Mark Horsfall is the Chaplain at Coolum State High School. As chaplain Mark supports the spiritual and emotional health of students and families. Mark works closely with the local community to support individuals and families during times of need and is closely involved with school programs and activities throughout the year.

To support this mission we have a retiring collection on the last Sunday of each month and also provide non-perishable food items for 'Chappy's Pantry' (assistance for needy families). As it is anticipated that the breakfasts will start again towards the end March Nutella, Milo, and long-life milk will be needed. Other items are needed for students requiring lunch or snacks such as museli bars or tuna and rice bowls.

If you would like more information please speak to Jan Willacy.

Bush Church Aid Society

The Bush Church Aid Society is an association of Christians within the Australian Anglican Church. BCA Field Staff serve in regional and remote parts of Australia. Locals in these places are removed from cities, live in sparsely populated towns (sometimes as small as a few hundred people), and often don't benefit from strong support networks of family and friends. Churches in these areas can struggle, ongoing fellowship can be hard to maintain, and encouragement can become a rarity.

To assist with the work of BCA you can obtain a small change box from Jenny Peel.

Anglican Board of Mission

ABM is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia working with overseas and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities. ABM works with partners both in Australia and overseas to provide support and assist with community driven development projects that cover issues such as basic health and education, food security and livelihood support. At Holy Spirit we support ABM by the use of small change boxes, the annual Lenten appeal and through the saving of used stamps.

If you would like to know more about ABM or obtain a small change box please speak to Suellen Petrie.

Prayer Chain



We have in this parish a group of dedicated people who pray regularly for others.

This group of people offer a special prayer ministry for anyone who is seeking confidential prayer support for all situations and issues.

You are assured that the strictest confidentiality will be maintained and that your concerns/needs will not be discussed outside the prayer chain members. It is acceptable to ask for prayer without giving any details.

God knows all our needs.

Please contact Prayer Chain Co-ordinator Jenny 5448 2885 or Cathy 5351 1215

A quote from Mother Teresa appropriate for parents and teachers.

"You will teach them to fly, but they will not fly your flight. You will teach them to dream, but they will not dream your dream. You will teach them to live, but they will not live your life.

Nevertheless, in every flight, in every life, in every dream, the print of the way you taught them will remain."

CHOCOLATE



Every year millions of dollars are spent on chocolate eggs and boxes of chocolate for Easter. Consider the chocolates you buy. Buying ethically sourced chocolate makes a huge difference to the lives of cocoa farmers and their families around the world.

Look for these labels on the Easter eggs and other chocolate products that you buy.



Our Parish Representatives for 2021

On Sunday, 28 February we held our Annual General Meeting. These parishioners were appointed.



Priest's Warden: Katherine Presley

Parish Councillors: Jan Christian, Jean Lawford, David Lupton, Ian Morris, Katherine Presley, Lynn Rostirolla, Wendy Walton, Katy Whiting

Synod Representatives: Rebecca Crockett and David Ward

Parish Nominators: Heather Chalmers and Rebecca Crocket

We thank them for being willing to be decision makers on behalf of all parishioners.

Parish Personality – Suellen Petrie

Several people have asked me about my history and how I came to Holy Spirit Cooloom. Although, as editor, I feel self-conscious about it, here goes:

I am what is often referred to as a cradle Anglican. I was born in Sydney into a practising Christian family. Both my parents and my brother and sister were involved in our local parish, St Thomas' Auburn. I attended Sunday School and sang in the Junior Choir. At one stage I was secretary of our Youth Group. We often attended weekend camps and youth rallies. When I was about 17 I decided that I preferred a different type of service to the ones offered at my parish church so I started attending St James' in King Street Sydney and joined the Young Anglicans group. It was there that my faith was further nourished.



I left school with my School Certificate after year 10 and did a secretarial course. My first job was with the Sydney Diocesan Registry in the old Church House beside St Andrew's Cathedral. Over two years I moved from the typing pool to being secretary to Bishop Dain. For three weeks one year I filled in as secretary to Archbishop Marcus Loane. Working at Church House was a great experience. Each year we were invited to dinner at Bishops Court hosted by the Archbishop and Mrs Loane. A group of us also went for weekends away at Gilbulla House, the Sydney Diocese conference centre. We would ride horses and generally enjoy country life but we also helped bottle honey, tidy the grounds and fix fences. During my time at Church House I made some very good friends amongst the staff and clergy, including the then Dean of the Cathedral, Archibald (Archie) Morton and Archdeacon Robert Fillingham, who eventually conducted our marriage service. For several reasons I decided to leave Church House and become a legal secretary.



In 1973 I travelled to the UK and spent 2¹/₂ years living and working in London, which I loved, and travelling around Europe. On one of my European adventures, I was introduced to Roger by a mutual friend. In 1975 we returned to Australia, Roger to Melbourne and me to Sydney.



As Roger was living and teaching in Melbourne after we were married, in May 1976, I moved to Melbourne. In my first few years there I decided to "finish" my education. I completed my Higher School Certificate at night school and then did a part-time Bachelor of Arts degree at Monash University graduating in 1986. As we both loved to travel, and had no children, we decided that my continuing to do temporary legal secretarial work was the best option for us as then we could take off every school holidays. Which we did – twice a year to Sydney to visit my family and the other holidays to other parts of Australia and Asia and on long service leave trips to Europe and America.

I became involved in parishes in Seaford (1977-1983) and Mentone (1983-2007). I was involved on Vestry (Parish Council) in both parishes as Parish Secretary and Church Warden. In 1994 the Vicar of St Augustine's, Mentone, Geoff Cheong, challenged a group of parishioners, including me, to set up a counselling and benevolent service. In 1995 we opened St Augustine's Outreach Services Inc, offering a benevolent service in the provision of food parcels, fuel vouchers, etc and a counselling service. Initially it was a free service run with volunteer qualified counsellors. We eventually decided that clients should pay on an "as able" basis and we employed a counsellor alongside our volunteers. The service is still operating from the parish centre providing group programs and direct benevolent assistance to people in need. My last paid secretarial position was as the Office Administrator at St Augustine's.

Roger and I have travelled extensively and in 2007 we both took early retirement and moved to Peregian Springs. I looked around for a parish church and on my first visit to Holy Spirit I felt welcomed and "at home". Jackie Lidgate quickly got me involved on Parish Council and two years later starting and editing this magazine. The first edition was Lent 2009 and we ran a competition to name the publication. I can't remember who suggested the name or if they were given a prize.

I really value the friendships, love and care I receive at Holy Spirit.



Regular Activities at Holy Spirit

All of these activities are run in accordance with COVID-19 protocols.

BIBLE STUDY – 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at 10.30am in the Undercroft.

Contact: Jocelyn Pitt Ph 5448 8059

BEER ON THE BALCONY - 2nd Wednesday of each month 4.30pm-5.30pm - All men invited.

Join with other men for a beer and chat (non-alcoholic drinks available). Pick up and drop off can be arranged.

Contact: John Roth 0411 690 056

CURSILLO GROUPS – Meet regularly

Contact: Jan Christian: 5448 2092

GUILD - 3rd Wednesday of each month following a short service at 9am.

The Guild is a group dedicated to organising various activities with the aim of promoting fellowship opportunities. Membership is open to men and women and new members would be made very welcome.

Contact: Roslyn Thurairatnam 5471 7755

CRAFT MORNING – 4th Friday of each month at 10.15am

This informal group meets to enjoy working on craft items, learning new crafts, and chatting over a cup or two of coffee or tea. Everyone welcome to either participate or just have a cuppa and a chat.

Contact: Roslyn Thurairatnam 5471 7755

HEALING SERVICE - Last Friday of each month at 5pm

This is a service of Evening Prayer with a focus on prayer for the sick.

As all of us need healing in some way, anointing is available for all present, for our own healing and for those for whom we pray. Everyone is welcome.

Contact: Cathy Laufer 5351 1215



REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

Sunday

9.00am Holy Eucharist

Healing Service/Evening Prayer

5.00pm LAST Friday of each month

Morning service: 9.00am

3rd Wednesday of each month.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Priest-in-charge: Revd Dr Cathy Laufer

Phone: 5351 1215

Parish Office (Thursdays & Fridays):

Phone: 0447 002 573

email ang.coolum@gmail.com

Website: www.anglicanchurchcoolum.com

Deacon: Revd Carol Roth

Phone: M 0411 690 058

Prayer Chain Jenny Peel 5448 2885

Guild: Roslyn Thurairatnam 5471 7755

Cursillo: Jan Christian 5448 2092

Casserole Bank:

Roslyn Thurairatnam 5471 7755

Pew Bulletin & Beacon on the Hill:

email: hsnews4573@gmail.com

Prayer Corner

Holy God, during this period of Lent, give us a new awareness of your presence in our church here in Coolum and teach us the humility to accept that all our gifts come from you to be used in the service of your people and in the spreading of the Gospel. Live in us through all of our small acts of sacrifice and help us be cheerful in our fasting and giving as our Lord Jesus Christ commanded.

Adapted from a Prayer for Lent from The Holy Spirit Anglican Chaplaincy on the Costa Blanca in south-east Spain

