

Anglican Parish of  
Gisborne



## MORNING PRAYER

### *Pentecost 10A*

August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

*The Parish of Gisborne would like to acknowledge that we meet on Kulin Nation country. We pay our respects to Kulin Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to any First Nations people who are present today.*

*We acknowledge that Aboriginal sovereignty has not been ceded.  
The Parish of Gisborne is committed to being a Child Safe organisation.*

## Today's worship:

I WISH I HAD  
FAITH TO  
STEP OUT IN  
CONFIDENCE LIKE  
PETER.



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

PETER STEPS OUT IN *DOUBT*.  
FIRST, HE DOUBTS IT'S JESUS.  
THEN HE DOUBTS JESUS HAS THE  
POWER TO CONTROL THE WIND.



HIS ONLY CRY  
OF FAITH IS  
"LORD SAVE ME!"

WELL,  
I CAN DO  
*THAT!*



EXACTLY.



MATTHEW 14:22-33

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Stepping out in faith is always a moment of stress or tension for many people. Once the step is made, there is no turning back.

“What if it all goes wrong?” “What if I look back and try to return to where I was?”  
“Will I be the same after this?”

All these are perfectly normal responses. Life is full of risks and decisions. The Greek word to describe the feeling at this point of time is *crisis*. It is the moment where we are called to make a judgement. “Do I take up the fight or do I take flight?”

For Peter, he was superbly confident that in faith he could achieve the impossible and defy physics. What could go wrong? Part way into his journey he takes stock and begins to panic. He gets more than cold feet, he has cold and wet feet.

Peter, the rock on which the Church is founded, does what most rocks do in water. In looking at the gospel, try to look past the need to explain the physical but to see that in the commands that Jesus gives, he also provides the opportunity to move forward. As Peter found out, there was also the assurance that the Lord will save when things get tough. “Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid”, said Jesus. Indeed, as we face any crisis, that, in faith, is a good mantra to remember. Take heart. Be not afraid.

This Sunday: Pentecost 10A

Romans 10.4-15

Psalm 105.1-6,16-22

Matthew 14.22-36

Next Sunday: Mary, Mother of our Lord

Galatians 4.4-7

Magnificat

Luke 2.1-7

Bible references: NRSV bible.oremus.org

VIRTUAL MORNING TEA Sunday 10.30 am

[www.bit.ly/GisAngVMT](http://www.bit.ly/GisAngVMT)

Morning Prayer Wednesday 10 am: [www.bit.ly/GisAngWedMorn](http://www.bit.ly/GisAngWedMorn)

Morning Prayer Friday 8.30 am <https://bit.ly/GisAngFridayMP>

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Morning Prayer  
(Second Order: APBA p19)

Gathering in God's Name

Through Christ let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God,  
the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Hebrews 13.15

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1.3

*These or similar responses are used.*

Open our lips, O Lord,  
**and we shall declare your praise.**  
This is the day that the Lord has made,  
**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

*The minister continues in these or similar words.*

Friends in Christ,  
we come together to meet with God,  
and to take our part in the building up of his Church.  
We will lift up our hearts in thanks and praise,  
hear from God's holy word,  
and pray for this world, and for ourselves.  
The Bible tells us to approach God confidently,  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
As we do so, we must confess our sins,  
seeking forgiveness through God's boundless goodness and mercy.

Let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together:

**God of all mercy,  
we humbly admit that we need your help.  
We have wandered from your way.  
We have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and have failed to do what is right.  
You alone can save us.  
Have mercy on us,  
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.  
Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit  
that we may live the new life to your glory.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.**

*The minister declares God's forgiveness.*

God desires that none should perish,  
but that all should turn to Christ, and live.  
In response to his call we acknowledge our sins.  
God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel.  
Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*and/or*

*The minister may read one of these sentences of Scripture.*

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2.1–2

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8.38–39

*The minister says*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.  
**His steadfast love endures for ever!**

*The minister greets the people, who may greet one another.*

Grace and peace be with you  
**and also with you.**

*A hymn or song of praise and thanksgiving follows, or one of the following forms may be used.*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord,  
shout to the rock of our salvation.  
Serve the Lord with gladness,  
come before his face with songs of joy.**

## The Ministry of the Word

*The minister offers this prayer, or a suitable alternative, in preparation for the reading and teaching of the Scriptures.*

Heavenly Father,  
give us wisdom and understanding.  
As we listen to your Word,  
may we know you better, love you more,  
and learn to please you in all we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The first Reading, as appointed.*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Romans 10.4-15

Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that ‘the person who does these things will live by them.’ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, ‘Do not say in your heart, “Who will ascend into heaven?”’ (that is, to bring Christ down) ‘or “Who will descend into the abyss?”’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

‘The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart’

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’

May your word live in us

**and bear much fruit to your glory.**

Psalm 105.1-6, 16-22

*Exult the Lord's most Holy Name*

Incline your ear to us, O Lord, and hear our words.  
O give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name :  
tell among the peoples what things he has done.  
Sing to him, O sing praises :  
and be telling of all his marvellous works.  
Exult in his holy name :  
and let those that seek the Lord be joyful in heart.

Seek the Lord and his strength :  
O seek his face continually.  
Call to mind what wonders he has done :  
his marvellous acts, and the judgements of his mouth,  
O seed of Abraham his servant :  
O children of Jacob his chosen one.

Then he called down a famine on the land :  
and destroyed the bread that was their stay.  
But he had sent a man ahead of them :  
Joseph who was sold into slavery,  
Whose feet they fastened with fetters :  
and thrust his neck into a hoop of iron.

Till the time that his words proved true :  
he was tested by the Lord's command.  
Then the king sent and loosed him :  
the ruler of nations set him free;  
He made him master of his household :  
and ruler over all his possessions,  
To rebuke his officers at will :  
and to teach his counsellors wisdom.

*Exult the Lord's most Holy Name*

Glory to God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit;  
**as in the beginning, so now and for ever. Amen.**

*Exult the Lord's most Holy Name*

[The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.]**

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 14.22-36

Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. After the people of that place recognized him, they sent word throughout the region and brought all who were sick to him, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

For the Gospel of the Lord:

**praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Breaking Open the Word

*Music may be played after the reflection.*

## The Ministry of Prayer

*The minister says*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us join together in the prayer which Jesus gave us.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

*The minister continues*

Be exalted, Lord, above the heavens,

**let your glory cover the earth.**

Keep our nation under your care,

**and guide us in justice and truth.**

Let your way be known on earth,

**your saving power among all nations.**

Send out your light and your truth,

**that we may tell of your saving works.**

Have mercy on the poor and oppressed.

**Hear the cry of those in need.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord,

**for we put our trust in you.**

The Collect of the Day

Gentle God,

whose quiet call is more disturbing

than earthquake, wind or fire;

you invite us to put our hand in yours

and trust in what we do not see.

Calm our fears,

catch us when we stumble



and give us the courage to persist  
in following your purposes for us.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Intercessions

Let us pray to God, who rules all things in heaven and on earth,  
saying,  
God of peace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fill the Church with the zeal of the Gospel, that your word may go out  
into the world. With eyes fixed upon our Saviour, may your people  
never fail in faith.

God of peace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that we shall live in peace with all around us. Give to our  
community the spirit of mutual love, respect and the patience to work  
together in the coming weeks. May we all be one in you. May Christ,  
always present among us, draw us to himself.

God of peace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bear up those who sink beneath the waves of pain and sorrow.  
We bring to mind those for whom our prayers are asked.

We pray for all who are anxious and unsettled during this time of  
pandemic.

We pray for all front-line workers and researchers; our government  
response, our leaders, especially praying for Dan our Premier and  
Brett our Chief Health Officer; and all in our local community doing  
their part in keeping us safe.

God of peace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In a moment of quiet, let us still our hearts and be open to the longing  
of the Spirit for us.

God of peace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive into your care the dead who have heard and trusted in your  
word. At this time, we recall with fondness and love Andrew and  
Lorraine Covington. Give to them rest, O Lord; **and let light perpet-  
ual continually shine on them.** Have mercy on those whose faith was  
weak but in their lives sought to reach you.

God of peace, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the power of Christ may uphold us in peril and in our weakness,  
we pray in his name:

**God of blessings,  
source of every perfect gift,  
keep us, we pray you, holy and blameless in your sight  
and bestow on us the abundance of your grace.  
Make us firm in your word of truth,  
instruct us in the gospel of salvation  
and fill our heart with love towards our neighbour.  
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

From the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

Lord, you have given us grace to agree in these our prayers,  
and you have promised that when two or three gather in your name  
you will grant their requests.  
Fulfill now, Lord, our desires and prayers as may be best for us.  
Grant us, in this life,  
knowledge of your truth  
and in the age to come,  
life eternal. **Amen.**

Eternal God and Father,  
by whose power we are created,  
and by whose love we are redeemed:  
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,  
that we may give ourselves to your service,  
and live this day in love to one another and to you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Postlude:

A reminder to keep our stewardship (collection) going!  
July/August has always been our leanest times of the year:  
this year, it is even more serious.

Please talk with Graham Dickinson if you have any questions.

### Stage 3 and 4 Lock Down

There are a few things that will impact our Parish life over the coming 6 weeks.

The following changes have been rolled out over the past week, and are to remain in place until September 13<sup>th</sup> (unless the Shire is moved into Stage 4).

The Archbishop has advised the following:

For parishes and churches in Murrindindi, Macedon Ranges, Greater Geelong, Moorabool, Golden Plains, Surf Coast and the Borough of Queenscliffe, stage 3 restrictions are effective from Wednesday night, August 5.

No church services or groups or face to face meetings can be held.

Video or live-stream of services can be done with a maximum of five people present.

Pastoral visits should be kept to a minimum for urgent and important matters only.

People living in the Great Metropolitan region of Melbourne are not to attend any worship outside the region with the exception of funerals. They are to be masked if in attendance.

Funerals are now limited to 10 people.

Weddings are limited to 5 people (Celebrant, couple, witnesses).

What does this mean for the Parish of Gisborne?

No face to face meetings at all (including the Eucharist\*, KYB4M, EfM, Guilds, Playgroups (Kinde)).

Services will remain on-line as they are at present for the short-term. This will be ZOOM Morning Prayer at Wednesday 10 am, and Friday 8.30 am (replacing the phone link up).

A live-stream of the Eucharist is envisaged in the near future. Only 5 people are allowed to be in attendance.\*

The Visiting program is now suspended unless there is an urgent and important matter to follow up. Home Communion will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Our Hon Deacon and Student Reader are permitted in the Parish under the State Permit System as administered by the Diocese. Please pray for them and their families. Your understanding in terms of Admin and Fr Dennis would be appreciated.

Re-establishment of the Parish Prayer/Phone tree. This has somewhat fallen over. Please see overleaf for more details.

## Parish Prayer/Phone Tree

Members of the Pastoral Care team and Parish Council will be allocated 4-5 people to be in a weekly pastoral conversation. The simplest way of beginning this is in line with the current RU OK? campaign.

Once a week, they will indicate that they have or have not been able to make contact. If there is need for follow-up, this will be taken up by Fr Dennis (and hopefully Br Alan).

What is said to your pastoral contact is confidential between you and them. If you indicate that you are happy for the clergy to receive a 'heads up', this will be raised with you.

I do thank those who have been active in the previous outreach; and I apologise if there are some who have missed out or feel neglected.

If you're happy or content with the 'on-line' gatherings of Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, your preferences will be respected.

## What does Stage 4 look like?

(please pray that it doesn't come to this!)

Nobody is allowed to be in churches, op shops or on church premises. Clergy and staff who normally work from the church building must relocate to their homes. This prohibition also applies to accessing church buildings for any reason, including printing, office supplies, financial reporting, personal prayer, cleaning and bell-ringing.

This will cause the pew bulletin delivery to cease.

The Food Centre will continue on minimal staffing; there is to be no Church gardening; security checks required at all churches; and no venturing beyond 5 kms from home. For us, this will effectively return us to three independent centres. Funerals will remain at 10 people: again the travel limit has to be noted. All Op Shops are to close.

## And what will the Vicar be doing?

Firstly, praying. The last Stage 3 was amongst the busiest times I've experienced in several years of ministry. Retraining in areas of child safety; compliance assistance to the Wardens in response to auditing; admin; and as the Parish Council directed that I was to be in the Diocesan Pathways scheme, regular study, attendance (virtual) of lectures and assignments. Each video for Sunday takes around 10 hours to produce and to coordinate the team. Keeping in touch with parishioners in a variety of ways; putting out spot fires of frustration (inside and outside the Vicarage!) and trying to be "all things to all people" (which St Paul later declared to be a recipe for driving yourself mad!) Flippant? Maybe...but even though the stress is there, I'm making sure that humour will be the last thing to leave me!