

St Michael's News

September 20



Parish Prayers

Praise God that following her service with CMS new opportunities are opening up for **S** as she lives with her sister and participates in the children's online learning. Pray that these new horizons will reignite her passion for teaching, her skills and applications for work here.

Pray for all the **governments and community leaders** in Australia and around the world dealing with coronavirus.

Pray for the development of new **vision/action plans** for our parish.

Pray for **Scripture Union**, for teams and plans for the camps and summer missions; planning for Australia-wide integration of SU; for strengthening of regional groups, for all chaplains, churches, and volunteers. Pray that schools will reapply for Coolamatong when restrictions permit. Pray for site development at Coolamatong, and new intern recruitment.

Pray for **CMS** as they adjust to stage 4 restrictions. Continue to pray for **Jon Deborah, Ollie and Simeon** as St Peter's is slowly starting to have meetings again on site. For Ollie and Simeon as they continue with online school for the foreseeable future. Pray also for **Jim and Tanja** and their kids—pray for a good start to the school year, for continued healing for Tanja, and for wisdom & care as Spain battles with a second wave of COVID-19

Contacts

Vicar Steve Webster (Rev'd)
0411 471 838 | Day off: Wednesday
Assistant Minister Kim Messieh (ASLM)
0474 442 615 | Days off: Fri/Sat
Child Safety Officer - Catherine Ward
Pastoral Visiting - Greg Davies (Rev'd)
Missions partner sec. - Roslyn Loader (ALM)
Wardens - Anne West and John Sewell

Administration Assistant - Emma Sugars
12:00-3:00pm Mondays
9:00am-12:00pm Tuesdays
9.30am-4.30pm Thursdays
Email: office@stmichaelsnc.org.au

Online Giving

If you would like to give to St Michael's, please use the following details: Account: St Michael's Anglican Church
Account No: 10078845
BSB: 063114

The Anglican Church values a safe environment for all people. Complaints of any kind can be made to the independent Director of Professional Standards on 1800 135 246.

The Pivot

The late crime author, Agatha Christie, penned the Foreword of The Pale Horse in the voice of her main character, a writer himself. Regarding stories, Mark Easterbrook writes, "One cannot 'Beginning at the beginning, go on to the end, and then stop.' For where is the beginning? To a historian that is always the difficulty. At what point in history does one particular portion of history begin?" His question is a good one to bring to our study of the Old Testament Book of Esther.

Today's reading begins right in the middle of its "history". Chapter 6 the pivot point. All the fortunes of the three main characters turn here. We are invited to look back and investigate each character's dilemma or joy, and then look forward to wonder at what will come next. Will God come through for Esther and her people?

Today we'll see how the writer of Esther has cleverly structured the story to convey the main message of the Book and the results may surprise you!

- Steve Webster



Esther: Times Like These #4—When the Victory Belongs to God

10am Prayer and Praise Service

Leader: Dianne S
Speaker: Steve W
Esther 6:1-12 Peter H
Esther 7:3-10 Katja W
Prayers: Tony J
Music: Graham M, Peter H, Christine H & Rory H
Tech team: Catherine W & Dianne S

5:30pm Prayer and Praise Service

Leader: Kim M
Speaker: Steve W
Esther 6:1-12 Emilie F
Esther 7:3-10 Fred B
Prayers: Sarah A
Music: Graham M, Kyria W & Sam E
Tech team: Hany M & Sam E

Upcoming Initiatives

September 21 | Ridley Webinar—God & Country: Innovative mission and ministry in regional Australia

In this webinar we hear from rural and regional ministry experts on what ministry will look like in the future as they share many innovative and missional ideas to flame the Australian church in its backyard. 7:30pm on Zoom—[register here](#).

September 22 | New Ridley Certificate Subject

On September 22 we will begin a new Ridley Certificate subject, 1 Corinthians. There will be 6 Zoom sessions (Sept 22, 29, Oct 6, 20, 27, Nov 3) with video learning, discussion time and lots of learning! Email Emma to register: office@stmichaelsnc.org.au.

September 23 | Contemplative Prayer

We will continue to hold these prayer nights each Wednesday during COVID restrictions. Kim will be hosting a meditative and reflective prayer session on Zoom in the Christian tradition. We will take time to pause, breathe, and meditate on some music, Bible verses or poems for individual silent reflection. 7:50pm on Zoom. See the weekly email for more information.

September 27 | St Michael's Day

St Michael's Sunday (Sunday nearest September 29) will be set aside as our Vision Sunday.

October 4 | Guest speaker at church

The prevention of violence against women is a topic demanding urgent attention but often fails to be raised and addressed in church. Robyn Boosey will be our preacher. She manages the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne's Preventing Violence Against Women program and is co-founder and co-director of IC Change, a volunteer-led campaign urging the UK Government to ratify the Istanbul Convention on violence against women.

November 8 | NAIDOC week service

On 8 November our Reconciliation Action group will lead our Sunday services with a focus on our commitment to learn from, partner with, and to serve needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia.

TBC | COVID Community Concert

Join us online to watch live performances by the St Michael's community of popular songs that take us *Around the World in 80 Minutes*. We'll offer an opportunity to make donations to a good Christian cause. Stay tuned for more info!

General Information

Helping the ASRC

The ASRC Footscray Centre has temporarily closed. So, at present, financial donations are the best way to support the ASRC. [Click here to donate](#) to the ASRC.

Writing our way to gender equality in 2020—CBE Writing Competition

Calling all aspiring writers! Would you like to advance the cause of gender equality in the church? Christians for Biblical Equality Melbourne (CBE Melbourne) would like to work with you to advance the cause of gender equality for all women by inviting you to submit an entry for our writing competition. Entries close October 1. [Click here to read more about the categories and prizes on offer](#).

September TMA

The September edition of TMA is now available [online here](#). This month's issue includes

- How Anglicans are supporting people in need during the lockdown
- In our viewpoints section, Robyn Andréo-Boosey, Manager of the diocese's Preventing Violence Against Women Program, writes about breaking free from stereotypes around Father's Day.
- Revd Dr Gordon Preece, chair of the Social Responsibilities Committee, warns against "sleepwalking into the future" as Australia responds to coronavirus

CMS Year of Prayer

2020 is a year of prayer at CMS Victoria. [Learn more and get involved at here](#).

Current Restrictions

Under the current COVID19 restrictions no one is permitted to travel to the church site to undertake any voluntary tasks such as gardening, printing etc., unless they hold a permit signed by the vicar.