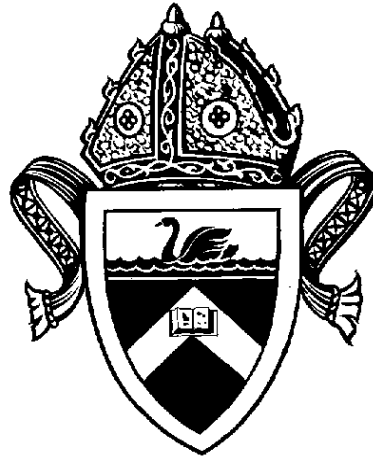


The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland



THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH
OF ST PAUL, SALE.

A LITURGY OF THANKSGIVING & COMMISSIONING

for the

Anam Cara Community

by

Bishop John McIntyre

Saturday 28th November 2009 at 11.00am

The Eve of the first Sunday of Advent

Dedicated to the memory of Associate & Soul Carer John White



Welcome to St Paul's Cathedral We are a Christ-centred, sacramental, inclusive, thinking, mission-oriented, faith community. The Cathedral stands on the lands of the Gunnai Kurnai people. We acknowledge the Gunnai Kurnai people as the original custodians of this region. The Cathedral is fitted with a Hearing Aid loop system. Visitors are invited to sign the Visitors' Book and to join us for a light lunch celebration in the Delbridge Hall after Service.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME.

The gathering of the Community. *Anne Turner.*

Welcome. *Bishop John McIntyre.*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

This is the place and this is the time; here and now God waits to break into our experience:

To change our minds, to change our lives, to change our ways;

To show us the world and the whole of life in a new light;

To fill us with hope, joy and certainty for the future.

This is the place, as are all places; this is the time, as are all times

O God of this place, and every place, God of this time, and all time, here and now, we come to meet you in worship.

Let the whole earth be joyful in you, O God,
greet you with gladness,
and celebrate your presence with a song.

For we know that you are creating us,
you are alive in us and we belong to you.

You are weaving us into a marvellous tapestry,
a people of diverse threads and colours.

We enter your gates, a motley procession,
with heartfelt thanksgiving and joy.

We dance with delight and bless one another,
in the Spirit of your love, intimate and just.

For you are gracious and courteous,
compassionate in embrace,
faithful through all generations.

Hymn. TIS 136 There's a wideness in God's mercy'

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea,
and forgiveness in his justice
sealed for us on Calvary.

2. There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

3. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

4. But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.

5. If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the goodness of our Lord.

Frederick William Faber 1814–63 alt.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION.

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness,
and disclosing the purposes of the heart. *Silence is kept*

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins
in penitence and faith.

**O God, we confess our need for forgiveness,
our need for the ability to forgive others,
our need to live graciously.**

**We confess our need for hope,
our need for the ability to let go
of hurts of the past, the fears for the future.**

**We confess our need for community,
our need for solitude,
our need for family,
our need for individuality.**

**Ever present God, Creator, Redeemer, Spirit, reminder of grace,
Hear our prayer.**

God forgives you. Forgive others. Forgive yourself. Be at peace. **Amen.**

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Prayer of the Day.

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly city
where we shall see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Community Prayer- *A summary*

God of the journey, creating, present, making us whole,
we bless you for your abiding presence throughout our pilgrimage
in this Anam Cara Community.

You have loaned us one to another, for this life season,
to share our joy, discovery and experience of your mystery,
that we may be both blessing and blessed.

You walk with us through our wilderness,
causing the dry deserts of our hearts to bloom;
you transform the darkness of our despair to brightest dawn;
you hold us up in the river of life, carrying us safe to shore.

As we seek to know you ever more deeply,
and to love you more fiercely, encounter, confront and refine us,
and fit us to be soul friends-to each other, to ourselves,
to seekers and searchers after you.

As Christ shared his life, love and knowledge with others,
so may we increasingly resemble him.

May our community grow and flourish as we travel this road in Christ's steps, and as you draw others to join us on this path. In the strong, the healing, the gentle name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading. *Reader Jane Macqueen.*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3.12-17

Silent reflection.

Hymn. TIS 739 Nothing can trouble

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten;
those who seek God shall never go wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten;
God alone fills us.

*St. Teresa of Avila 1515–82 tr. the Taizé
Community*

The Gospel.

Reader Allan Huggins

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Matthew 6.25-34

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection. *Colin Thornby*

Affirmation of Faith.

We are not alone.

We live in God's world.

**We believe in God, who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus to reconcile and to make all things new.**

We trust God,

who calls us to be the Church.

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and to resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified, dead and risen;

our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us:
we are not alone.
thanks be to God. Amen**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.

Let us prayer for the world and the Church. *Kate Campbell*
Intercessions follow.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**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.**

COMMISSIONING OF NEW ASSOCIATES AND RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT OF THE ANAM CARA COMMUNITY IN GIPPSLAND.

*Those committing as new Associates of the Community, stand at the
Chancel step facing the Bishop.*

Associates stand in their places in solidarity with the new Associates

All.

**O God, you have never waited for us to become perfect, before
showing us the measure of your love, or commissioning us to serve you
in our world.**

Pause

New Associates.

We dare to believe that you are calling us to commit to the ministry of contemplative prayer and the inward journey within the Anam Cara Community Gippsland. We claim the privileges of serving you as Associates of the Community.

Pause

Existing Associates.

We welcome you to this Community and commit ourselves anew to exercising our ministry of contemplative prayer and the inward journey.

Pause

All.

We will, with the help of God, bring freshness, serenity, exploration and a new sense of balance between doing and being into our own lives, this community's life, and into our parishes, the wider diocese and beyond.

Pause

Stir into flame the gifts you have given us, and the faith to use them without reserve, that your Spirit may be a force of cohesion in our community, of life giving energy in our work, and our strength when times are tough.

Pause

As your disciples, make us know the freedom to move into the unknown and the untried, to seize the opportunities you hold out to us, and, as a community, with love and compassion, to serve prayerfully and creatively those who seek to know you more intimately.

Pause

We covenant to be faithful participants in the ongoing life of this community, and to take our place as associates and leaders for this next year.

New Associates return to their places.

Commissioning of the Leaders of the Leadership Team, Gatherers of Meeting Places and Soul Care Team for the year ahead.

The leaders, Gatherers and Soul Carers move to the Chancel step.

Bishop John continues.

There are many different gifts,
but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are many different ways of serving God, but it is the same God who is served.

God works through different people in different ways,
but it is the same God whose purpose is at work in them all.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit to use it for the common good.
Together we have many different gifts,
together we have a ministry of soul care and spiritual journeying,
led by God's Spirit.

Associate members of the Community respond together.

Recognising the gifts you have to offer, we, the Associates of the Anam Cara Community, Gippsland, now set you apart, as persons in whom we can put our confidence and trust. Carolyn, Jane, Marion, Ruth, Heather, Colin, Kate & Jo, we call and commission you to be the Gatherers and Leaders of the Anam Cara Community, Gippsland, this coming year.

Allan, Anne, Brian, Jan and Marilyn, we call and commission you as the Soul Care Team of the Anam Cara Community, Gippsland, to journey alongside the Gatherers and Leaders, to care for the souls of all members of the Community who seek to travel the inner journey to God, in God and through God, and to exercise together a ministry of spiritual discernment.

Bishop John.

We do this remembering the words of Jesus:

'You know that in the world the recognised rulers lord it over their subjects, and the great make their authority felt. It shall not be so with you; among you, whoever wants to be great must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the servant of all. For Christ Jesus, the Child of Humankind, did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. ' (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 27, 2 Timothy 1:6 Mark 10:42-45)

Do you welcome the work for which you have been chosen, and will you, with God's help, serve this community with energy, intelligence, creativity and love: will you make its welfare your concern, and seek to be sensitive to the needs of its members, accept praise and not become proud, criticism and not lose heart, and be a friend to those with whom you serve, so that together you may assist our community in the continuing task of discovering the mind of Christ, and therefore the ministry we have to offer?

Response of Leaders, Gatherers and Soul Carers:

I do, and I will by the grace of God.

All present:

Then we welcome you joyfully into your role for the coming year.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Those present are encouraged to join hands and to sing a Greeting of Peace.

Hymn TIS 778 'Shalom to you now..'

Shalom to you now, shalom, my friends.

May God's full mercies bless you, my friends.

In all your living and through your loving,

Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom

Elise Shoemaker Eslinger 1942-

Hymn. TIS 182 Bring many names.

1. Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory,
living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna!
bring many names!

2. Strong mother God,
working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation,
genius at play:
Hail and hosanna,
strong mother God!

3. Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving
till we're reconciled:
Hail and hosanna,
warm father God!

4. Old, aching God, grey with endless care,
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,
glad of good surprises,
wiser than despair:
Hail and hosanna,
old, aching God!

5. Young, growing God,
eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice,
giving all you have:
Hail and hosanna,
young, growing God!

6. Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
everlasting home:
closer yet than breathing,
Hail and hosanna,
great, living God!

Brian Arthur Wren 1936–

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God

Let us adore and exalt our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Spirit of God, who breathes fire into our very existence, filling us with joy;
we worship you, we praise you, we recognise the symbol of your presence,
your promise to be with us on our journey.

We claim the sign of renewal given to those who form your community,
now, as in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago.

For you came to your own, filling them with confidence, sweeping through
their lives, bringing joy and wholeness, clarity and vision, hope and peace.

You enlightened their existence, enabled their mission, empowered them to be ministers of your word.

So with all those who followed you throughout your ministry, who watched you die and rise again, and with all those who inspired and supported the early Church, we praise you, saying:

Holy, holy, God of all power!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Praise to you God most high.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God.

Praise to you, God most high.

Blessed is Christ our brother,
who fills us with a sense of being one people, one community.

On the night he was betrayed,
he took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, saying:

'This is my body, which is given for you.

Do this to remember me.'

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup, blessed it and said:

'This cup is the new covenant made in my blood.

Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

As one community we rejoice in your gifts,
we accept responsibility for our particular ministry;

we trust in your Spirit of challenge;

we welcome your presence in this bread and wine.

Filled with longing for your deep and disturbing presence to be revealed to us, we praise you with all who have derived inspiration from you and followed you through the ages.

Come now, pour your Spirit on us so we are better able
to proclaim your message, see new visions, dream new dreams.

In the name of Christ through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be given to you, O God our Source and Inspiration, now and forever.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sin, have mercy on us.
Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come, let us take.....

Communion at St Paul's: Communicant members of other denominations are welcome to receive Communion with us. Those who do not wish to use the common cup, please hold your wafer and dip using the small chalice.

Music during Communion.

'As the deer'- CD 'Deep Still 2'

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

Prayer after Communion.

Gracious God, take us now and place our feet on the road
that leads to the horizons of your unfolding future,
the future to which the Spirit draws us,
and from which the crucified and risen one comes to meet us.

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

Hymn. TIS 209 And can it be. *omit verse 3*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain —
for me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me! | 4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night:
thine eye diffused a quickening ray —
I woke; the dungeon flamed with light!
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee. |
| 2. 'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies:
who can explore this strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more. | 5. No condemnation now I dread:
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own. |

Charles Wesley 1707-88 alt.

Blessing.

Go in peace,
and may the holy God surprise you on the way,
Christ Jesus be your companion,
and the Spirit guide each step of your journey. **Amen**

Recessional Music.

You are invited to share in a lunch in Delbridge Hall. Associates are asked to see Kate Campbell with your subscription and postal & email address.

We thank Dean Brian & the Cathedral Ministry Team,

Sacristan Helen Gardiner, PA Christine Morris and

Organist Anthony Hahn

*Special thanks to Marilyn Obersby for creating the Liturgy
and Community Prayer.*

The symbol of the Anam Cara Community Gippsland.

The circle depicts the soul journey into God, the inner circles and outgoing lines speak of making a journey within and without. The lines make up the sign of the cross, the central Christian symbol. The inner circles are an aboriginal symbol for meeting place and we have received permission to use this symbol from the local elders, as they understood what it means for us as a contemplative prayer community.



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