

*Please pray for:*

**International Community and Church in:** Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

**The Anglican Communion:** Missouri - (VI, The Episcopal Church)

**Churches in Australia:** The Salvation Army

**Anglican Church of Australia:** Diocese of Melbourne.

**The Diocese:** St Alban the Martyr, Woden, Australian Federal Police Chaplains, Emergency Worker Chaplains, Canberra Hospital Chaplain and members of the chaplaincy team including CPE students; Director, Canberra & Region Centre for Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education, ministry to mentally ill and depressed people; the work of Lifeline Canberra.

**St Margaret's:** Rev Chris Lockley and wife Madelaine and church Elders.

**Our Parish:** Erica Mathieson and Ray Williamson; Wardens and Parish Council, the Tucker box, Choir and Children's Ministry.

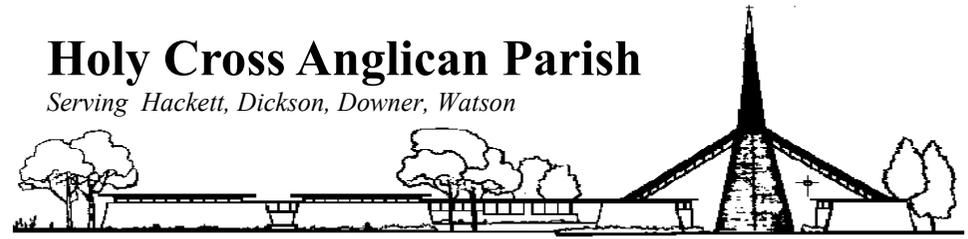
**From the Parish Directory:** Mark Sayer and Dee Baird, Bev and Peter Scott.

**People for Prayer:** June and Keith Burnett, Barb Edward, Miriam Rijven, Bryce and Kate Wilson

**Give thanks for the life of:** Ted Arblaster, Lachlan Brown, Raymond Del Valle Schwinghammer, John Stevens, John Mya, Dorothy Stevens.

# Holy Cross Anglican Parish

*Serving Hackett, Dickson, Downer, Watson*



## Fourth Sunday in Lent 15th March 2015

### *The Rector Writes*

Dear Friends

Welcome to Holy Cross as we gather for worship. The Eucharist is a celebration of God's love, the bread and wine we share tokens/symbols/a sacrament of God's forgiveness of us which we eat and drink. My prayer is that you will know God's love and forgiveness in a fresh way this morning.

The gospel reading today, from John's gospel, includes one of the best loved verses in Scripture: the declaration that 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life'. To enter into God's life, the reading from Numbers reminds us, we need to recognise what it is that keeps us from life, what plagues, poisons and kills us as individuals and as human community, so that we can then look to God for the remedy. The remedy, of course, is Christ and him crucified, as John makes clear – not Christ as an abstract idea, but as a life, a way of life and a relationship with God, where mercy, justice, compassion, reconciliation and goodness are at the centre. The readings today remind us that we are saved by grace, changed by repentance and called to a life of meaning and abundance in the good works that God has prepared for us.

Today, being the fourth Sunday in Lent, is the Sunday we celebrate as Refreshment Sunday with simnel cake, kindly made this year by Iris Forrest whom we thank. Refreshment Sunday marks a mid-point in our observation of Lent. As the cake refreshes our bodies, so we reflect on God's goodness in the whole of our lives, and we reflect on the refreshment of our spirits that we seek throughout Lent.

God's rich blessing be with you this week.

*Erica*

#### FOR NEXT SUNDAY 22ND MARCH

**Minister of the Word**

Rosemary Radford

**Readings and Readers**

Jeremiah 31:31-34     Scott Medling  
Psalm 119:9-16  
Hebrews 5:5-14     Frances Sutherland  
John 12:20-33

**Intercessor**

Howard Smith

**Chalice**

David Campbell

**Organist**

Natalie Collis

**Door**

Dorothy Mackenzie  
Iris Forrest

**Welcomer**

**Morning Tea**

Ann Abbott  
Bev Garrard

**Counting**

Patricia Stoddart  
Barbara Campbell

**Cleaning**

Howard Smith  
Joan Smith

**Children**

Patricia Stoddart  
Nichola Worrall

**Flowers**

Lent

**Holy Cross Office:** Lynda Dyer  
Thursday, 1.30pm - 3.00pm  
Phone: 6248 0282  
Email: [st\\_marg\\_uc\\_act@bigpond.com](mailto:st_marg_uc_act@bigpond.com)

**Rector:** Rev'd Dr Erica Mathieson. Ph: 6248 5327  
PO Box 164, Dickson ACT 2602  
Email: [holycrosshackett@bigpond.com](mailto:holycrosshackett@bigpond.com)  
[www.holycrosshackett.org.au](http://www.holycrosshackett.org.au)

All items for the pew sheet to **Lynda by Wednesday**, please.

## Quiet Day for Lent

**Tuesday 31st March 10 am until 3 pm**

Explore Ezekiel's 'Dry Bones', our own experiences of times of dryness and the possibility of life through the breath of God's Spirit.

MT provided. BYO lunch.

If you are able to attend or have any questions, please contact Joan Smith on 62510374.



Note, the day has been rescheduled.

### **St John's Care**

In late 2013, SJC took over the management of YouthCARE Canberra (YCC). YCC is an outreach Youth Service to our most vulnerable young people, those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This program is an ideal fit with St John's Care, and this week I was so pleased and proud that we now look after this program.

Zack is our Youth Worker, a young man who is keen about helping young people and making a difference. On Thursday afternoon he got a referral from the Child, Youth and Family Gateway Services to say that a young woman needed help. She was couch surfing and he agreed to meet with her on Friday. Mary 16 year old is in dire circumstances.

During the week her mother and siblings moved to Queensland. Mary refused to go—she was having problems with her mum. That night she had somewhere to stay. Mary called First Point and told them that she was homeless. First Point is the organisation established by the Government to resolve all of the ACT Homeless Problems. She was told that there were no vacancies. Friday, Zack met with Mary in the afternoon. Couch surfing was no longer an option and Mary had nowhere to go. The family had spoken to Mary's Mum and were worried about Mary's mental health. At 16 she was going to be sleeping rough – not good for a teenage girl, actually not good for anyone.

It was a hard story - all Mary wanted was for her Mum to say that she favoured her siblings and that she was on the outer. Mary's Mum said that she would come back to Canberra and pick up Mary but she believed that Mary was a compulsive liar and needed a mental health assessment. All this is fine but Mary is still homeless.

Zack contacted First Point but to no avail. Unfortunately they only operate Mon-Fri between 9:00am and 5:00pm so they were no help. Zack had lots of conversations that afternoon trying to get some accommodation for Mary, but to no avail. He informed Care and Protection (the Government Child Protection Agency for the ACT) of her situation and asked if they could help. "Not at this stage" was the response.

Eventually Zack tried an organisation over the border. Mary is now housed for the next 3 months. She will have to change schools but so be it. At least she will have a roof over her head. I am embarrassed about our lack of response in Canberra. 16 year olds sleeping on the streets is not acceptable. Thank heavens for YCC.

My wish list for this week: Pasta Sauce, Tinned Fish, Tinned Fruit and Longlife Milk.

Many thanks Sue

## This Week

### In the Parish

<i>Eucharist</i>	10.00 am	Wednesday
<i>Meditation</i>	5.30 pm	Wednesday
<i>Gardening Group</i>	9.00 am	Thursday
<i>Choir</i>	6.30 pm	Thursday
<i>Tuckerbox</i>	2.00 pm	Saturday

*Lent Groups continue.*

**Sundays 4 pm, Mondays 10am**

In the Rectory. We continue to explore *Questions in Christianity*.

**Lunch and Celebration for Seniors' Week Wednesday 18th March 10am**

Holy Cross host our annual Senior's Week lunch and worship. The day begins with a service of celebration at 10am followed by morning tea. Graham Downie will speak on *Life as a Journalist*, followed by a chicken and champagne lunch. No cost but bookings are essential 6248 5327. Please put your name on the list at the back of the church.

**Address update**

Ann Walsh 78/2 Jaeger Cct Bruce ACT 2617 Phone: 6251 5675

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## Beyond this Week

### In the Parish.

**Holy Cross Walking Group**

**Tuesday 24th March 9.15 am**

The walk will be in Crace. Meet in the church carpark. Morning tea @ cafe. Contact: Iris Forrest 6241 2200

**Quiet Day for Lent**

**Tuesday 31st March 10 am until 3 pm**

We will explore Ezekiel's 'Dry Bones' (and our experience of such times ) and the possibility of life through the breath of God's Spirit. MT provided; Please BYO lunch. If you are able to attend or have any questions, please contact Joan on 62510374.

**Car Boot Sale**

**Saturday 18th April 9am –12 noon**

Note the date in your diary and tell your friends. Cost of a site is \$20. Phone Chris Ledger 6262 5975 to book. We will have a Holy Cross site so collect your unwanted items and bring them along. Help is needed with marshalling, tea/coffee and a sausage sizzle. Please speak to David Campbell, Co-ordinator, if you can help.

### Beyond the Parish.

**Mother's Union**

**Tuesday 24th March 10.00 am**

We will be celebrating Lady Day at All Saints Ainslie followed by lunch , cost \$10. Speaker Christine Brain, MU Overseas and Northern Outreach Co-ordinator for MU Australia. RSVP by Friday 20 March - 62478116 Anne Downing.