

Please pray for:

International Community and Church in: Germany, France

The Anglican Communion: Maseno - (Kenya)

Churches in Australia: Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Anglican Church of Australia: Diocese of Sydney

In the Diocese: St John's, Wagga Wagga; the Base Hospital; St Martin's College; Riverina Anglican College; Riverina Juvenile Justice Centre; Chaplaincy in hospitals, schools, the workplace, prisons, Defence Forces and emergency services.

St Margaret's: Rev'd Chris Lockley and his wife Madeleine and church Elders.

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

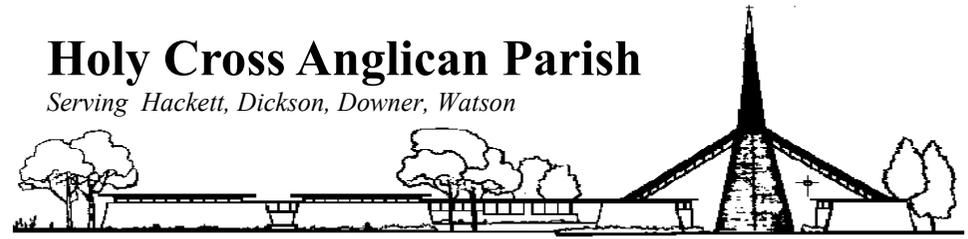
From the Parish Directory: John McCorrison, Chris McLenaghan, Karen Moloney and Toni O'Keefe, Myles and Aida, Grace Mya.

People for Prayer: Miriam Rijven, Jackie and Brush Gordon-Smith, Bryce and Kate Wilson, Harley Woodruff.

Give thanks for the life of: Ken Marriott (23.2.87)

Holy Cross Anglican Parish

Serving Hackett, Dickson, Downer, Watson



First Sunday in Lent

22nd February 2015

The Rector Writes

Dear Friends

Welcome to Holy Cross this morning as we gather for the Eucharist. I want especially to say how good it is to have the children share the leadership of the worship. On behalf of us all I thank them. May our worship on this first Sunday in Lent open our eyes to God's presence in and with us and all creation.

Being Lent, our liturgy changes to reflect the season of repentance and preparation. The church is not decorated with flowers; we use the colour purple; the confession and absolution move to be after the sermon to give it greater focus; and we omit the Gloria until we sing it new on Easter morning. My hope is that these changes will help us all enter more deeply into the grace and renewal that Lent offers.

Today's readings remind us that we are connected to one another and the whole of God's creation in relationships that can make for good and life, or evil and death. The first reading comes from the flood story in Genesis. The story shows dramatically how the created order is affected destructively by human sin and greed. Into the mess God speaks of restoration and grace, a second chance. Every year, the gospel reading for this Sunday is the wilderness temptation of Jesus. Mark's account is brief and highlights the Spirit's role in 'driving' Jesus into the wilderness after his baptism and also the way in which his temptations are a direct result of that experience: Jesus must struggle with his naming as 'Son' by God and his solidarity with sinful and broken humanity. What kind of life will he live?

From last Sunday's questions about parish life, 87% said worship helps most of the time, 13% sometimes; 31% had grown 'a lot' spiritually, 69% a little; 88% said Holy Cross community values people, 12% were not sure. Thank you to everyone who completed forms (42) and I greatly appreciated the comments.

I pray you will be blessed with God's peace this week.

Erica

FOR NEXT SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

Minister of the Word

Sue Jordan

Readings and Readers

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Tony Jordan
Psalm 22:24-32
Romans 4:13-25 Anke Burns
Mark 8:31-38

Intercessor

Dorothy Mackenzie

Chalice

Joan Smith

Organist

Natalie Collis

Door

Ellen Campbell
Margaret Swift

Welcomer

Volunteer

Morning Tea

Betty Marriott
Audrey Aedy

Counting

John Briggs
Adrian Wright

Cleaning

Sandra Blaik

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

Rector: Rev'd Dr Erica Mathieson.
PO Box 164, Dickson ACT 2602
Phone: 6248 5327
Email: holycrosshackett@bigpond.com

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

The Parish Council reports

Parish Council met on Friday evening.

- ◆ Council consists of David Campbell, Mark Sayer and *Adrian Wright as Church Wardens; *Kirsty Baker, *Michael Braund, Caity Cameron, Tony Jordan, Chris Ledger, and Frances Sutherland as members. * indicates a Rector's appointment.
- ◆ Tony Jordan was elected as Presiding Member, Chris Ledger as Parish Secretary, Caity Cameron as Assistant Secretary and Michael Braund as Treasurer.
- ◆ St Margaret's requests that the dish-washer be used for all washing-up in the hall to keep cups clean and maintain good hygiene.
- ◆ The Rector has met and begun working with the Rev'd Chris Lockley and Chris attended the most recent JEC. He has been welcomed into his new position.
- ◆ Minutes of the December meeting are on the noticeboard in the small hall.



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 **Sunday 22nd February 4pm Monday 23rd February 10am**
Questions in Christianity, with prayer and discussion. This is a series of DVDs, and the sessions will be in the Rectory on Sundays 4-5.30pm and repeated on Monday at 10am. Please put your name on the lists.

Holy Cross Walking Group **Tuesday 24th February 9.15 am**
The walk will be in the Jerrabomberra Wetlands area. Meet in the church carpark. Bring morning tea. Contact Ann Walsh: 6247 8228

Beyond this Week

In the Parish.

Quiet Day for Lent **Tuesday 3rd March 10.00 am – 3.15 pm.**
We will explore Ezekiel's 'Dry Bones' (and our experience of such times) and the possibility life through the breath of God's Spirit. MT provided; please BYO lunch. If you are able to attend or have questions, please contact Joan Smith on 6251 0374.

Parish Working Bee **Saturday 7th March 9am and 4.30pm**
We will give the church its annual thorough clean—floor, pews, walls windows, brass, flower room and vestry. If you can help, please come with dusters, rags etc. The split time allows for cleaning the annexe after Tuckerbox.

Beyond the Parish

Peace in our Time **Tuesday 3rd March 7.30pm**
Sarah Thompson, the Executive Director of Christian Peacemaker Teams, will speak at St Mark's Barton. CPT is an ecumenical group working in places of conflict through nonviolent direct action to confront violence. Donation asked.

World Day of Prayer service **Friday 6th March**
The service has been prepared by women in the Bahamas. At 11am, St Paul's, cnr Canberra Ave and Cpt Cook Cres, Manuka, with a light lunch after. The offering will support the Bible Society in the Bahamas.
At 7pm, Queanbeyan Uniting, cnr Rutledge and Crawford Streets. Speaker: Rev Elizabeth Dyke. Supper – please bring a plate. All are welcome at both services.

St John's Care

A study into Youth Homelessness in Australia has just been released. Some of the findings are frightening. Of homeless youth:

- 53% had been diagnosed with a mental health condition at some time in their life
- 63% had been placed in some form of out of home care by the time they turned 18
- there was a strong link between early experience of family violence and homelessness

There are so many reasons for young people finding themselves homeless. I have known Mary's family for 7 years. They are battlers. Every time they seem to get on top of things, something, out of the blue, strikes them down. The Mum and Dad are lovely and I believe that they are good parents. They have 5 children, aged from 24 to 14. This week they needed help accommodating one of their children. At the moment she lives at home but there are so many issues that this is no longer viable.

Mary has been diagnosed with: Conduct Disorder, Severe Anxiety and Substance Abuse Disorder. She is only 17 but the family have a couple of kids younger than her and they are concerned about the effect that she is having on them. She is verbally abusive and has assaulted her mother and siblings. Her parents are at their wits end. The older siblings have nothing to do with Mary, because they see the pain and grief she causes.

A Refuge is not an option. Mary would be disruptive. The only solution that the family can see is a flat by herself. Unfortunately, they are not in a position to rent something so they have applied to ACT Housing on her behalf. I was asked to write a support letter then later in the day Housing contacted me and we were able to talk through the family situation. On Friday night I was thanked by Mary's Mum for the help St John's Care had provided. I think that Mary will be allocated a flat soon. If not then I am afraid that Mary will be one of many young homeless people.

My wish list for this week: tinned fish, tinned meat dishes, shampoo and conditioner
Many thanks Sue