



November 15th 2020



THE KING WILL RETURN TO TAKE HIS PEOPLE HOME

A note from the Rector:

This week we conclude our Bible Overview Series, looking at what the Bible reveals about our future – about Jesus returning and about the New Creation that God is preparing for His people.

Now there are many reasons why I am looking forward to the New Creation. And yet this was further emphasised for me this week when the Appellate Tribunal handed down its rulings on two ordinances, relating to same sex blessings, that were passed by the 2019 synods of Wangaratta Diocese and our Diocese, Newcastle.

The bottom line was that the Appellate Tribunal ruled that they could see no 'legal' reason why these ordinances could not be enacted in the relevant Dioceses. However, they also stated that their role was not to rule on whether the doctrine of same sex blessings is consistent with our theology as a Church.

I have attached a copy of the media statement made by the Primate as well as the letter that Bishop Peter wrote to his clergy. Please pray for General Synod as it discusses the doctrine of same-sex blessings in 2021 and pray for the clergy of the Diocese as we gather to discuss this, and other matters, on November 25.

On a more pleasant note, next week our plan is to, God willing, baptise Eleanor Rendel. This will be the first baptism that I will have conducted during COVID and we look forwards to friends and family of Charles and Renee joining us on the day - in person and via Zoom. Also, we give thanks that Andrew Browning has now returned to Australia, despite a few hiccups.

Allan

This week's Zoom links:

Sunday Morning Church via Zoom 9.00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89163303726?pwd=MjRxbW5HNWU2OVIEYWlrVzZ5TW9DQT09>

(Meeting ID: 891 6330 3726, Passcode: 687242, or dial 8015 6011)

Tuesday's Prayer meeting 9.00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/787794144?pwd=YmdML1h5ZG81dXJkZ3NjbFNkTmNEdz09>

(Meeting ID: 787 794 144, Passcode: 813312, or dial 8015 6011)

If you listen to the recording of the service, which will be available at **noon on Sunday**, then begin by listening to this song, as we are reminded of how we join with creation as we wait for the day when Jesus returns to take us home:

Creation Awaits <https://youtu.be/hPOxKdxZt4U>

Then click on this link to hear this week's message: <https://kincumberanglican.com/sermons/>

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (NIV)

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Revelation 21:1-5a, 22:1-5 (NIV)

21 Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!"

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. ³ No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

Some questions to ponder:

1. Have you gained any new insights about your life as a disciple of Jesus from looking at God's plans for your future? If so, what are they?
2. From today's talk, what is the basis behind Christians being able to be certain that, when Jesus returns, He will take them home to live with Him forever?
3. What are you most looking forward to seeing or experiencing in the new creation?

Do you have any fears about what your eternal future may hold for you? If so, what?

If Jesus were to come, now, would you have any regrets? If you would, then is there anything you can do now to ensure that you will have no regrets when Jesus returns?

4. What do you think the new heavens and the new earth will be like?
5. At the end of the Bible Jesus' last words to us are, 'Yes, I am coming soon'. Are you able to join today with the Apostle John, who responded to Jesus by saying, 'Come Lord Jesus'?

To close this series let us hear, once more, one of the two theme songs for this series, *Hymn of the Saviour*, as we recall how God's plan of salvation has been unveiled to us in the Bible and as we look forwards to when our Saviour will return to take us home:

Hymn of the Saviour

<https://youtu.be/pnX6XEDglH4>



Spring is here and the rains have come and so the weeds are thriving at St. Paul's. Please join us on **Tuesday 24 November at 9 am**, as many hands make light work. Morning tea will be provided.

PARISH PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for those in need: Lisa Landale, Ian Fraser, Remi Carnaby, Lettie Brown, Renee Effield (Garrick), Pat Fox, Nathan (Skehan), Mavis Vyner and Clarice Grose.
- Pray for Judy Ogden, and her family, as she grieves her mother's death.
- Pray for the Australian Bishops, the Standing Committee of General Synod, and General Synod as they deliberate on the decision made by the Appellate Tribunal. Pray for Bishop Peter and the clergy as we gather on November 25.
- Pray for the administrators appointed to Central Coast Council, for wisdom and discernment as they carry out their tasks. Pray for those Councillors who have been stood down.
- Pray for Americans as they go through the process of inducting the new president.
- Continue to pray for our farmers for good weather for a good crop and that they may look to Jesus for their salvation and for the provision of all their needs.
- Pray for revival – that, in His grace, God may pour out His Spirit on the people of our nation and our world through this pandemic. Pray that the Holy Spirit may empower God's people throughout the world, including us, to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation so that, in living under God's rule, others may be drawn to join us in worshipping our God.

CHRISTMAS at SAMARITANS. Our Wyoming centre plans to include Christmas foods in parcels distributed closer to Christmas. These few Christmas foods are greatly appreciated by those in need during this special time. As local shops are now selling Christmas foods please consider donating a few items to assist with our Christmas appeal. Foods may be delivered to church or left with me at 6 Berry Ave, Green Point. Thank you everyone, Lil Bennetts (Ph. 0408 239 414)

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MISSIONARY PRAYER POINTS

Our link missionaries: Brownings, Buchanans, David & Jenny, and Kyngdons

Newman WA – Roger and Amanda Kyngdon, Ada (2012), Eliza (2014), Benjamin (2016), Emily (2020)

Give thanks for the church's 'Light Party 2020' that was held on Saturday 31st October to counter the celebration of Halloween, a celebration which includes scary costumes and talk of death, etc. This is not the first time they have held the Light Party but Amanda says it gets better each year. The kids had a great time and activities included various crafts and a disco.

Give thanks for the baptism last Sunday of a little boy called James. It was loud with lots of kids present.

Give thanks for Emily now 4 months old – a blessing and joy to the family. Amanda says 'God has been so good to us amongst a very hard year'

Pray for preparations for the Combined. Churches Carols and the opportunity to preach the good news of Christmas to the community.

Pray for the Bishop as he seeks to find new people for vacant positions around the Diocese.

Giving to BCA – No longer using BCA boxes

As a parish we greatly value the connection we have had with BCA over many years and look forward to supporting BCA for many years to come. Unfortunately, it is no longer viable to use the BCA boxes that many of us have used in the past, which both the parish and BCA have greatly appreciated. This money has been able to be used for many of the BCA projects carried out in rural and remote Australia.

From now on let us encourage you to continue to give to the work of BCA electronically via our Parish Bank Account (details below). Please ensure that you include a note that your donation is for the work of BCA. If you are not able to give electronically, please place an envelope with your donation in the collection bowl at the back of the church, ensuring that it is clearly labelled 'BCA'. A less preferred option is for you to donate directly to BCA (go to bushchurchoaid.com.au for more details).

For those of you who still have BCA boxes, but are unable to bank them, we can take them off you for a final count. Please bring your box with you to church by the end of November.

Giving to the work of the Parish

Thanks to everyone who has continued to contribute financially to the work of the Parish at this time. If you would like assistance in giving electronically then please contact your bank or Allan. To give online use the following account:

Kincumber Anglican Parish, BSB: 705077 (Indue), Acct No: 00040910