



St Luke's Torquay
Transfiguration Anglesea
St Aidan's Aireys Inlet

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

Surfcoast Anglican Parish

3 September 2017

Today's readings: Jeremiah 15.15-21; Psalm 26.1-8; Romans 12.9-21; Matthew 16.21-28

Today's Gospel passage presents us with a challenge to get our heads around. Jesus says: *'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'* What might this mean?

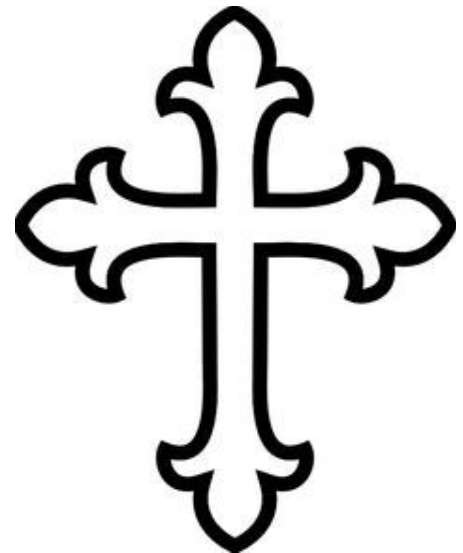
Did Jesus say these words exactly like this, i.e. is it a direct quote, or is this an interpretation made by his early followers, and subsequently recorded as a quote of Jesus by Gospel writers decades later? How have Christians engaged with the possible meanings over the centuries?

For myself, I find it helpful to approach this text from the perspective of what makes Christianity - or the 'way of Christ' - distinctive from other faiths. Which is that the way of Christ is one of sacrificial love - the giving of ourselves to enable the lives of others to be nurtured and to flourish.

This can be symbolised in the ancient cross design in which each of the ends of the wood have sprouting leaf buds, shown here.

And Paul explores this further in today's wonderful passage from Romans (12.9-21) in which he writes: *Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.*

These are examples of sacrificial, costly love.



Parish Mission *(our purpose)*

Surfcoast Anglican Parish exists to:

- nurture people's relationship with God;
- encourage people by example to live by the teachings of Jesus;
- engage and work with the broader community.

Parish Vision *(our aspiration)*

An enthusiastic and welcoming Church valued for its contribution to the wellbeing of the Surf Coast community; and for providing innovative ways for people from all backgrounds to explore their spirituality.

THIS COMING WEEK

Mon 4 Sep	Vicar's day off
Tue 5 Sep	St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 1pm (weekly) Mainly Music, at both St Luke's & Transfiguration 10am (weekly, Tuesdays during term time) St Aidan's Painters, 10am (Tuesdays, weekly) Parish Lunch, Beach Hotel Jan Juc, noon (mthly, every 1 st Tue)
Wed 6 Sep	St Luke's, Eucharist, 10am (weekly)
Thu 7 Sep	-
Fri 8 Sep	St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 4pm (weekly) Group Meditation, Transfiguration 11am (Fridays, weekly)
Sat 9 Sep	St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 1pm (weekly)
Sun 10 Sep	St Aidan's - Eucharist, 8am (weekly) Transfiguration - Eucharist, 9.15am (weekly) St Luke's - Eucharist, 10.30am (weekly) <u>Readings for 14th Sunday after Pentecost</u> Ezekiel 33.7-11; Psalm 119.33-40; Romans 13.1-10; Matthew 18.10-20

Regular Parish Meetings

- Maintenance committee, 11am St Luke's (mthly, every 2nd Wed) - next: 13 Sep
- Torquay Craft Group, 1.30pm (2nd & 4th Thursdays) - next: 14 Sep
- Torquay Home Group, 7.30pm at Roger's home (fortnightly) - next: 14 Sep
- St Aidan's Group, 10 for 10.30am (fortnightly) - next: 14 Sep
- Anglesea Aged Care, Eucharist at 10.30am (mthly, every 3rd Tue) - next: 19 Sep
- Elouera, Eucharist at 2.15pm (mthly, every 4th Tue) - next: 26 Sep
- Parish Council, 7pm at St Luke's (mthly, on 4th Tuesdays) - next: 26 Sep
- Coffee & Chat, St Aidan's 10am (mthly, every 1st Fri) - next: 6 Oct
- G-RAP run (to St Andrew's Corio) from St Luke's at 12.45pm (mthly, every 1st Fri) - next: 6 Oct
- Mission Committee, after the St Luke's service (quarterly) - TBC
- Take A Breath Playgroup, St Luke's 10am (weekly, Mondays during term time - on sabbatical for Term 3)

Prayer Chain - please contact Joan Bingham on 5261 2372, for prayer requests or to participate in the prayer chain.

General Notices

St Aidan's patronal festival - combined Anglican/Uniting Church service at 10.30am TODAY, followed by lunch at Truffles restaurant.

The September issue of TMA - is now available to collect. It includes:

- TMA wins the ARPA 2017 Publication of the Year award;
- Two theological reflections on whether or not Christians can support 'assisted dying'.
- Same-sex marriage: how should we vote? Dr Muriel Porter ('Yes') & the Revd Dr Mark Durie ('No') give their answers & outline their reasons;
- Bishop Philip Huggins meets Environment and Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg, and condemns the proposed Adani Mine;
- Liberal MP's 'faith stance' on refugees applauded; and religious refugee advocates protest at Health Minister's office;
- When grief is overwhelming, how do we cope?

Mabel Cashin - next week at St Luke's her daughters intend to remember Mabel's life with us, with a plaque to complement Bill's, and a copy of the Deep Peace prayer that inspired the stained glass design of that door.

Maintenance committee - now rescheduled to meet 11am on 2nd Wednesdays. Some maintenance updates:

- the slope of the Op Shop awning gutter has been corrected;
- the hall door lock has been fixed so that it can be locked 'open' (by raising the internal lock handle), and a conventional handle fitted;
- Brax Blinds are visiting on Tuesday in order to quote for the Op Shop awning blind, renovating the large north window blinds at Transfiguration, and replacing the blinds at St Aidan's.

Op Shop team - are in good heart, celebrating their community life with a progressive dinner at members' homes in Anglesea last Friday. Regular parishioners are invited to visit & perhaps get involved in the great ministry this vital part of our church community is doing. Thanks to Alan Young who is the latest parishioner to take up this invitation.

Hum at St Luke's - the hearing loop is generating a hum. Powercor need to complete their investigation of the transformer box on the street-pole outside the hall, from which the problem seems to come.

Mainly Music - with one of the parish team in an advanced stage of pregnancy, it would be very helpful if another parishioner could volunteer to join in this great program.

Parish to help sponsor Homework Club (*repeated from last week*)

Geoff Ryan, Anglicare's State Manager for Parish Partnerships, writes:

I would like to invite your parish to become a financial supporter of the homework club being run at St Andrews, Corio. The program provides a supportive learning environment to help refugee children in the Geelong

region with their studies. Students from two secondary schools provide peer support and parish volunteers assist with the program.

The parish provides the venue free of charge and Anglicare Victoria employs a coordinator to run the program and relies on donations to help cover the cost of the program. You would be welcome, as a parish, to visit the program at a time approved by the coordinator, to see the program in operation. To be viable, it is hoped we could raise an additional \$5,000 per year and I hope your parish and parishioners would consider assisting in this ongoing fund raising activity.

Our parish is already committed to donating 10% of our income to mission and aid agencies, with priority given to a few Anglican organisations covering international, national, and regional projects. In the past few years we have donated thousands of dollars to Anglicare Victoria - but they have always allocated this to their general funds, funding programs across Victoria.

By taking up their invitation, our existing donation to Anglicare will become more focused, on a project that is closer to us, with a parish with whom we already have a link through G-RAP. This commitment to donate \$5,000 per year to Anglicare will be our total annual giving to Anglicare - we will not be making additional donations to them, but allocate our other giving to other organisations.

The Parish Council has decided to make this commitment for 3 years, to be reviewed annually for each subsequent 3 years. Our income is currently budgeted as \$153,000, i.e. our 10% donations are \$15,300, so this commitment allocates about a third of our current planned giving.

It is intended that we will publish regular updates about the impact our sponsorship assistance will have.

Contact details for the Parish

Vicar: Rev'd John Webster Assistant Priest: Rev'd Sharon Valentino
Email: *use parish email* Days available: *Friday, Saturday, Sunday*
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*Notices for the pew sheet to the Office by Thursday.
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