



PARTNERSHIP IN PRINT



ISSUE NO. 98 MAY 2024

AUTUMN IN THE RANGES



Meg has enjoyed taking some photos for PIP this month, celebrating Autumn. For 'front page' writing see page 8 with thanks to Paul



Presentation and Thanks to Paul Banks at Gisborne at the conclusion of his time with the Ministry Team

LECTIONARY Readings Year B

Easter

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays. It begins with the Easter Vigil and concludes on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Day/Season	Col.	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
5 May	Easter 6	W	Acts 10:44-48	98	1 John 5:1-6	John 15:9-17
9 May	Ascension Day	W	Acts 1:1-11	47 or 93	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
12 May	Easter 7	W	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	1	1 John 5:9-13	John 17:6-19
19 May	Pentecost	R	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14	104:24-34, 35b	Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Pentecost

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

26 May	Trinity Sunday	W	Isaiah 6:1-8	29	Romans 8:12-17	John 3:1-17
2 June	Pentecost 2	G	1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)	139:1-6, 13-18	2 Corinthians 4:5-12	Mark 2:23 to 3:6

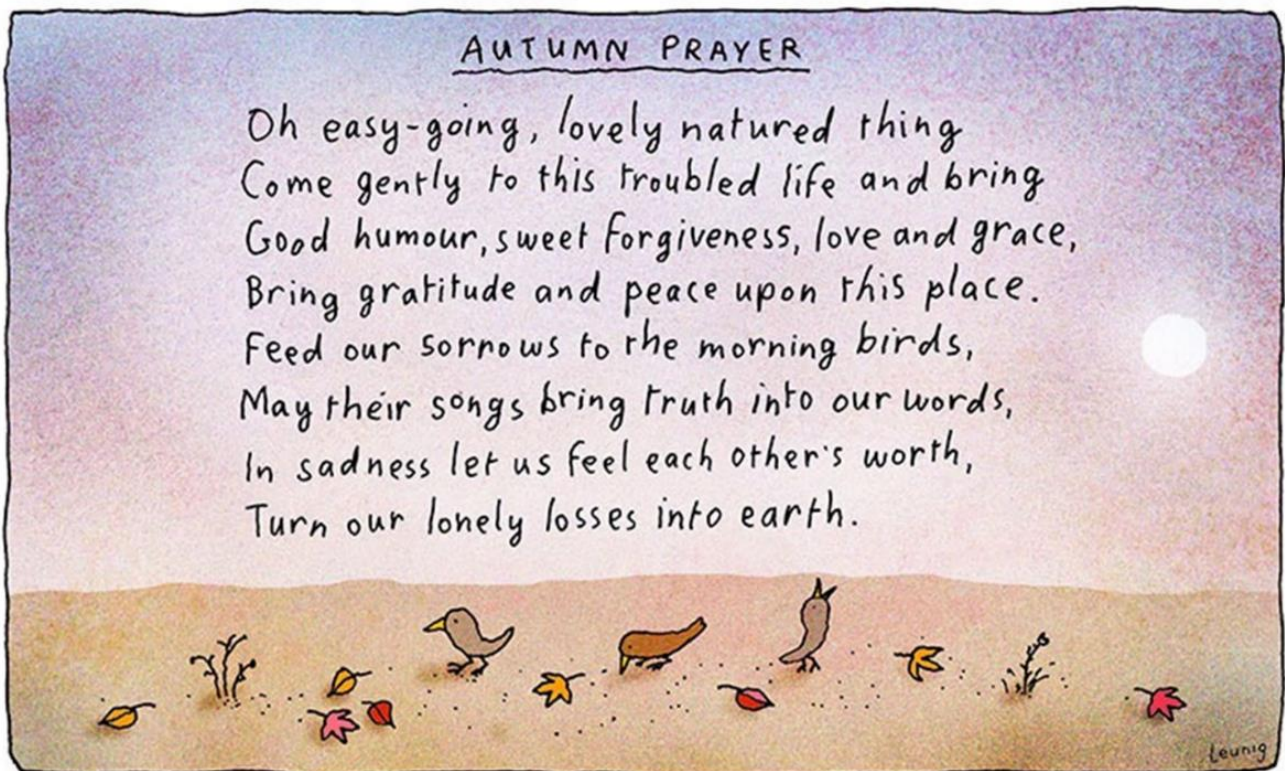
Colours: P – Purple

W – White

G – Green

R – Red

B – Black



Saturday, 07 April 2018: Image courtesy of Michael Leunig

Autumn Photos on front page from top left: tree in Kyneton; leaves Riddells Creek; tree in Gisborne; Council sponsored window in Riddells Creek; Autumn display in Dromkeen

COCO REPORT

The AGM for CoCo was held on 6th April at Romsey Church, followed by a General Meeting.

The Office Bearers for 2024 are :

Chairperson - Colin Chapman

Deputy Chairperson - Keith Hallett

Treasurer - Lyn Ward

Minute Secretary - Keith Hallett

Tylden Woodend Op Shop committee members from CoCo - Paul Gilbertson, Nola Anderson, Colin Chapman

At the General Meeting, we talked briefly about the Act 2 report and how Port Phillip West Presbytery is exploring new formats and grouping of congregations including Partnerships. A presentation and discussion about modelling possibilities is planned for our next meeting in June. Various examples of regeneration are being explored around the Partnership - it was good to share them with everyone.

We noted that the Woodend Manse is not yet rented, and this will be explored by the Property Group with the local real estate agent.

The White Goose in Riddells Creek will be open on the 4th Sunday monthly from 10.00am - 1pm, we'll see if that makes it more accessible to those who work during the week.

Our next meeting will be held on 1st June at the Woodend Church.

AUTUMN HAIKU POEMS

Gentle breezes blow
Coloured hues of red and gold
cloak the waiting earth.
- Mary Serenc

Raindrops on the roof.
Golden leaves crunching underfoot.
Snuggle with a book.
- Ann Southall

Fluttering of colors
grey skies, warm clothes, softer smiles
nostalgic musings.
- Srivalli Pavan Rekha

Mantis prays for hours,
Lime green on scarlet maple,
Camouflage destroyed.
- Paula Morton

Autumn colours flame
Sunset leaves drift slowly down
Winter's quilts in place
- Chris Marcic

Nature takes a sigh,
The air lets out a deep breath.
We reach for blankets.
- Judy Collis

Delightful Diners in May:

This month Delightful Diners are meeting on Thursday 16th May at the New Garden Chinese restaurant in Kyneton at 6pm. We look forward to seeing you there! Please inform Bronwyn Hewitt if you intend to join.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2024</h1>			1	2	3	4
			9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne SacredEdge	SacredEdge
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter 6 1.30pm The Gondoliers SacredEdge	No Souper lunch today 4pm Meditation Romsey		9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	Ascension Day	10am Prayers at Gisborne 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Easter 7	11am Faith Community 12.30 Souper Lunch 4pm Meditation	10am Muffin Morning Gisborne	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek	6pm Delightful Diners Kyneton	10am Prayers at Gisborne 7pm Simba Sessions	*PiP articles due tomorrow please
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Pentecost	11am Faith Community 12.30 Souper Lunch	10am Ministers Munch	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne Lunch at the Vic (Gisb) 6.30pm Fish & Chips Worship Kyneton	
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Trinity Sunday 10-1pm White Goose	11am Faith Community 12.30 Souper Lunch	10am Gisborne alternative worship	9.30-1pm White Goose Riddells Creek		10am Prayers at Gisborne	

The Gondoliers



The Romsey Uniting Church

Invites you to join us for an afternoon of music, fun and laughter from Gilbert & Sullivan's

The Gondoliers

performed by the Singularity Choir
Sunday 5th May, 2024 at 1:30 PM
in the Romsey Uniting Church Hall
25 Pohlman Street Romsey

Cost: \$20.00 Concession \$15.00

RSVP By 21st April 2024

Carol Toy – 0419350139 | cajotoy@hotmail.com

Name and Phone Number to be supplied.

Payment may be made on the day.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

We are a small community
coming together to
nurture the creative spirit
in all of us.
This is a place for inspiration
A place of music,
storytelling and poetry.
A place where the
little voices matter,
A place our weary heads may rest a time.

Come join us
for some candle-soaked sounds
on the 3rd Friday of the month.



The
SIMBA
SESSIONS

~~March 15th~~
~~April 19th~~
May 17th
June 21st

MUSIC POETRY STORY

St Andrews Uniting Church
56 Ebdon st, Kyneton, 7pm, \$20 entry

WOODEND REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

We are excited to inform the partnership that we have been matched with a Syrian refugee family of 5 who have been living in Lebanon since 2014. If all goes well for this family, they will arrive in Australia on 15th May. We have been fortunate to lease a house in Woodend – with thanks to Wendy from Gisborne UC, who had a conversation with her neighbour. We have nearly furnished the house in preparation and are looking forward to meeting this family, and helping them to settle and 'integrate' into our community. We ask for your prayers for Ahed, Alaa and their three children as they prepare to uproot their lives and move to a new home in our community and that their departure goes as smoothly as it can.

submitted by R Zumstein

WHITE GOOSE NEWS

Books

Books

Books

Books



Here at the **White Goose** we have books, BOOKS, many books!

The bookshelves are full!

The tables are covered!

There are bags full of books - plastic bags full and paper bags full to bursting.

There are boxes of books:

- small easy to carry boxes,
- medium boxes with handle-holds for easier carrying,
- bigger boxes that are not easy to carry,
- large boxes that are impossible to carry and
- very large boxes that have burst with the weight of words contained inside them!

Someone once loved and cherished these books. We love them too.

We would love to sit all day and read, read, read.

So why not come and visit us and sit and read (we'll even serve you tea and/or coffee and treats if you're lucky)

Or come and borrow, or take a few and pass them on to others to enjoy as well.

Our team of volunteers will be pleased to welcome you.

Meg & Lyn on behalf of the White Goose Team



'Diversity From the Heart' is more than just a theme. While it embodies our support for the Statement from the Heart, we view Sacrededge as a festival that seeks to be a safe space for all intersections of society: a place to hold hard conversations, a platform for minority voices, and a balm to a hurting world.

It's a festival that celebrates diversity by supporting LGBTQIA+ community, First Nations people's, refugees and advocates of earth and ocean. Alongside this we promote mental health and well-being practitioners. It's a festival of creativity and deep conversations that features musicians, artists, poets, keynote speakers and workshop facilitators on May 3-5th.

Sacrededge regularly hosts over 30 uplifting performers and speakers. The festival is a lived experience of how we can celebrate each other in all our diversity and find our hearts and minds expanded and enriched.

Sacrededge is a festival whose goal is to support those on the margins, foster conversation and relationship towards societal change.

Come for a day or the whole weekend... Support the things you love and come and buy tickets now! It's

gonna be a cracker of a weekend!

<https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1133464>

Every weekend, everyday more often, we churned up those murky waters in hope, out of desperation and pain, in the chance that it might heal us, if only for the night.

Years past, and I could see myself slipping away, lost in the fog of this other identity, this sordid community of misfits. You see, the rejection was eating me alive and it was all I could do to medicate myself to just survive it. I could feel a niggling feeling, somewhere, pulling me back to God, back to a faith community, but I didn't know how.

"Do you want to be made well?" He said.

And suddenly Jesus is there, and it was the Sabbath, and it was crowded — too many people, yet no one to stir the pool, to stir up the living water, because it was the sabbath — to stir up the healing waters that the Spirit of the Lord sometimes visits — and if you were lucky, and the first to enter, then you — you might be healed. And it was the sabbath and it was crowded, because there was a festival, because there was a party, and no one was watching, no one was paying attention, but he was — he was there — and so was Jesus.

And Jesus says to him — blind, paralysed and lame — he says to him "Do you want to be made well?" After 38 years, "Do you want to be made well?" he says: "do you?"

And I said "yes", I do want to be made be made well. I came back to church and had some amazing ecstatic moments. I returned to the mission and worked with them in Melbourne, Africa and Colorado, and yet though I did so much work, and growth; when the community and its theology let me down, it was shattering.

It took me 10yrs to recover. 10 years outside faith communities, outside those city walls.

I went to uni. I started a family with a Jewish girl. We had 2 kids. It was 10 years before I would find a church again and start to heal.

"Do you want to be made well?" he said.

But now I wasn't sure. What does that even mean?

I had been transfixed by a beautiful congregation in Fairfield, I couldn't look away, but I couldn't let go completely either. I was excited but also resistant and wary. I was desperate for change and fairly well adjusted, but a bit broken inside.

I had also been renovating my faith, deconstructing it, asking hard questions, and it was feeding me: challenging and transforming me, and yet also... so sort of devastating. By this time I had also become a Carpenter and I remember being asked to do some renovations on the church stage. At one point, I was literally ripping apart the church and putting it back together, and this huge sense of grief came over me... I could feel a pull to ministry, to reform and change, and it was beautiful and devastating... I was so lonely somehow being separated from it for so long and looking for a way back in but being too wounded for that opening to be easy. And so I just wept as I tore through the platform with a my circular saw; salty tears falling in sawdust.

"Do you want to be made well?" he says: "do you?"

And the man does - and he doesn't know anymore - and he's confused because he's here by the pool, and he always has been — always, it feels — and he can't remember what its' like to not-be-here, and he can't stand it, but it's all he's got — and now someones asking him a question — and he thought he knew the answer — but now the question seems so much bigger— so he's stumbling and making excuses — and he doesn't know, because no-one has ever asked him before, not in 38 years — but the man was speaking — and it sounds a lot like going home — and he doesn't know what home is —he doesn't know where home is anymore — but he knows it's not here. It's not here but he's too stuck where he's always been... at the edge of the pool... too afraid to go in...

Too afraid Because, they are still debating the right for "two people to marry," in the church, still alienating our troubled minorities; still locking up refugees, still afraid of queer communities, of trans people in our sports clubs, in our locker-rooms, at our tables — What are we afraid of?

What are you afraid of... ..?

So, how do we talk about healing in the Bible? How do we talk about it in a way that doesn't alienate and condemn and reject the very ones we are trying to help: The hurt, the wounded, the lost? Yeah, we talk about those people but also what about the chronically ill, those with disabilities, impairments or mental illness?

Why is this man by these healing waters for so long? Is he there begging? Has he given up on being healed? And when Jesus speaks to him what does he say?

“Do you want to be made well?”— it’s a very good question. And he starts listing reasons, making excuses...

And yet, what is not being mentioned? There is no mention of sin in relation to the man, and more explicitly in Ch9. Here Jesus, speaks no words of healing, just tells him to get up and take his mat. Further more, the man doesn’t reply: Doesn’t answer, yes. *Is it even a question?*

In a conversation with a friend with a chronic debilitating illness, she mentioned that the psychological effects of long-term illness can be worse than the illness itself. People can lose their identity and start identifying themselves as the illness, being trapped in a victim mentality regardless of restoration or cure.

In her book, *A Healing Homiletic*, Kathy Black argues for a gospel of inclusion and a theology of inter-dependance. For decades the healing stories in the gospels have been used to “bring hope” to those with illness or disability but with devastating coincidences. These stories, often framed around sin and healing, the blind given sight, the lame walking — have often emphasised healing instead of wholeness. The social taboos of Jewish law cast people out of the community for being “unclean”. Much of this had nothing to do with sin, and more to do with temple purity codes. Therefore the power of Jesus’ ministry, wasn’t necessarily in the healing of illness or impairment — there were other healers in his day — but it was in the restoration to the community: being reunited and being made “whole”. By emphasising wholeness instead of healing in these stories, we witness the transformation in the individual by being restored to the temple instead of separated from it, and being embraced by the community instead of shunned by it.

This, writes Black, celebrates not a gospel of independence and self-sufficiency, but a gospel of inter-dependance and interconnectivity. This celebrates the restorative power of Jesus’ ministry and the radical inclusivity of his upside-down kingdom, where the most vulnerable and those on the fringes are re-established in the centre of the community’s priorities.

So Jesus doesn’t judge him for being too afraid to go in... because who wouldn’t be?

Because something might happen...

Because sometimes home is a complicated place.

Sometimes healing is terrifying. Sometimes community is harder than isolation. Sometimes rejection is a safer place to live than acceptance. Sometimes being forgiven is harder than being forgotten... and it’s easy to hide — easier to hide in the crowd at the edge of the pool, without making ourselves vulnerable — we can make a living there.

Jesus’ question is an invitation to agency: asking who will you become?

So “Do you want to be made well?” Macedon Ranges?

**What does wholeness look like for us in this place... on this day... in this community? “Do you want to be made well?”
Made whole? What is stopping you, what are you holding onto? ...38 years...**

And in what part of your life, and your faith, do you need transformation?
When was the last time you felt alive... excited... transformed?

Who are you letting yourself become?
Better yet, who are you *helping* yourself become?

“Do you want to be made well?”

Maybe it’s time to stir up those waters, because someone’s asking you a question, and they’re not waiting for an answer.

They’re saying: Stand up, take your mat and walk.

Submitted by Paul Banks

Carers in Conversation: Have you been a carer? Are you a carer now? Do you expect to be a carer in the future? The caring role can be exhausting.

If you answer 'yes' to any of these then come and join in the conversation with other carers at the Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House, May 10 from 10-12. Leading the conversation will be carers from the much admired Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group and from the Treehouse 4 Two. Bring along your stories and your tips for how to care for self while caring for others.

For further information from Janet Wood (0407888725).

Church Services this month:

Please keep an eye out for Annette's email when she returns to work after leave soon. Details for Sunday services are not available at time of going to print. Usual church times are 9.30am on Sundays across the partnership. Please speak to your elders or Church Council members if you need further information until then.

Contacts Other Groups		
<u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> <u>MIA MIA</u> <u>BARFOLD</u> <u>METCALFE</u>	<u>Congregation Chair</u> - Dot Smith <u>Elders - North</u> Dot Smith Marge Townrow	<u>Elders- Kyneton</u> Pip Elston, Jenny Elston, Helen Aldridge Andrea Strack
<u>KYNETON</u>	<u>Church Council</u> Roy Gibbs, Helen Carey Chair – Pip Elston Sec – Helen Aldridge	<u>Congregation Secretary</u> Jenny Elston <u>Congregation Chairperson</u> Roy Gibbs
<u>ROMSEY</u>	<u>Church Council/Elders</u> Noel Shaw Jay Brooks Jeni Clampit Jenny Elliott Carol Toy	<u>UCAF</u> Pres/Sec - Jeni Clampit Treasurer - Carol Toy
<u>TYLDEN</u>	<u>Elders</u> Shirley Bowen, Joy Evans Max Hinneberg	<u>Worship Team Co-Ord</u> Janet Cole, Shirley Bowen <u>Op-Shop Contact:</u> Fiona Armour
<u>WOODEND</u>	<u>Editor Partnership in Print</u> – Robyn Zumstein	
<u>RIDDELLS CREEK</u>		<u>Craft Group</u> - Lynette Bucknall
<u>GISBORNE</u>	<u>Prayer Ministry</u> – D'Arcy Wood <u>Pastoral Care</u> - Bev Gilbertson <u>Social Justice</u> – Nola Anderson <u>Worship & Education</u> - Paul Gilbertson	<u>Faith & Community</u> – Kerrie Birch – Wendy Hallinan - Helen Hallett
<u>CoCo</u> - (Co-ordinating Council)	<u>Chair</u> - Colin Chapman <u>Deputy Chair</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Minute Secretary</u> - Keith Hallett <u>Treasurer</u> – Lyn Ward	<u>Tylden Woodend Op Shop CoCo members</u> Paul Gilbertson, Nola Anderson, Colin Chapman

Address label

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Macedon Ranges Partnership is part of the Port Phillip West Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia.

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PARTNERSHIP WEBSITE www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

CONGREGATION DETAILS	CHAIRPERSON	SECRETARY	TREASURER	PROPERTY	CoCo REPS
<p><u>SUTTON GRANGE</u> - Church Access Rd <u>MIA MIA</u> - Matheson Rd <u>BARFOLD</u> - Heathcote-Kyneton Rd <u>METCALFE</u> - 3 Metcalfe-Kyneton Rd <u>KYNETON</u> - 54 Ebdon St (PO Box 892)</p>	Pip Elston	Helen Aldridge miamiakynetonu c@outlook.com	<p><u>Finance Committee</u> Helen Carey (Treas) Roy Gibbs Jenny Elston</p>	Church Council Executive	<p>Marge Townrow Dot Smith Pip Elston, Lyn Ward, Helen Aldridge(alt)</p>
<p><u>ROMSEY</u> - 25 Pohlman St (PO Box 264, Romsey, 3434)</p>	Noel Shaw	Jeni Clampit	Roger Baker		Noel Shaw, Jeni Clampit, Jay Brooks (alt)
<p><u>TYLDEN</u> - Trentham Rd (c/o Tylden General Store, Tylden, 3444)</p>	Max Hinneberg	Janet Cole	Dawn Hinneberg	Max Hinneberg	Bronwyn Hewitt, Dawn Hinneberg
<p><u>WOODEND</u> - 37 Forest St</p>					
<p><u>GISBORNE</u> - 23 Brantome St</p>	Bev Gilbertson	Colin Chapman	Paul Gilbertson	Neil Moorhouse Rob Dunstan	Colin Chapman, Keith Hallett, Paul Gilbertson

Thanks Meg for your contributions this month! With cold weather here already, the leaves are indeed stunning at present. Perhaps you're thinking – "I could share my story" – please do! Send me your stories, pictures, local church events you'd like to share in PIP by **19th May 2024**. ready for the next edition.

Robyn (zumstein@mmnet.com.au)