



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859



The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

18th of October, 2020

Welcome

On behalf of everyone at St. John's, Toorak, a very warm welcome to this church and faith community. St. John's welcomes everyone to all services and events, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background.

This is a wonderful and historic church, founded in 1859, a faithful Christian presence for over 160 years. We are part of the Anglican Church of Australia and a member of the global Anglican Communion, comprised of 80 million people.

During this pandemic our services of worship are as follows:

Sundays at 10am, via Zoom

Wednesdays at 12noon, via Zoom

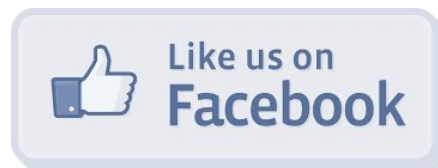
Links for these services are in the notices below

This church actively follows Jesus' command to love God, love one's neighbour and to care for all people. Normally, our clergy and parishioners regularly visit the sick, home-bound, and the dying; however, during the pandemic pastoral care will necessarily take place via phone. We care for the poor and needy through service and charitable giving, through our Opportunity Shop run in partnership with the local Catholic and Uniting churches, and by supporting the work of Anglicare, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence and The Anglican Board of Mission. Our clergy regularly baptise new members of the church, preside at weddings and care for the grieving through our funeral ministry. We look forward to resuming weddings and baptisms as soon as possible. If we can be of service to you or your family, please do not hesitate to get in touch. When the church reopens, if you would like to give of your time and talents in the service of others, please also contact the church.

When we resume services, if you're visiting for the first time please introduce yourself to a welcomer or member of the clergy, and fill out the blue 'Welcome' card found at the end of every pew so we can stay in touch with you.



@stjohnstoorak



Cover Image

Jan van Eyck *Portrait of Christ* 1440, oil, on oak panel, 33.4 x 26.8 cm
Groeninge Museum, Bruges.

The following service is live at 10am via Zoom. All are welcome to attend by clicking the Zoom link [here](#) (Meeting ID: 968 6970 4876, Passcode: 079462). A video recording of this service can be found on the St. John's [YouTube channel](#) on Sunday afternoon. An audio-only recording of the service can be found on the St. John's [website](#). A music recording by our Director of Music can be heard [here](#) and notes on this are on page 10.

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Sentence for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

'Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' (Matthew 22.21)

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading Exodus 33.12-23

¹²Moses said to the Lord, 'See, you have said to me, "Bring up this people"; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, "I know you by name, and you have also found favour in my sight." ¹³Now if I have found favour in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favour in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.' ¹⁴He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.' ¹⁵And he said to him, 'If your presence will not

go, do not carry us up from here. ¹⁶For how shall it be known that I have found favour in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.' ¹⁷The Lord said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favour in my sight, and I know you by name.' ¹⁸Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.' ¹⁹And he said, 'I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, "The Lord "; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰But', he said, 'you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.' ²¹And the Lord continued, 'See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; ²²and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; ²³then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.' Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter Psalm 99

¹ The Lord is king, let the nations tremble:

he is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake.

² The Lord is great in Zion:

he is high above all nations.

³ Let them praise your great and terrible name:

for holy is the Lord.

⁴ The Mighty One is king and loves justice:

you have established equity,

you have dealt righteousness and justice in Jacob.

⁵ O exalt the Lord our God:

and bow down before his footstool, for he is holy.

⁶ Moses and Aaron among his priests,

and Samuel among those who call upon his name:

they called to the Lord and he answered.

⁷ He spoke to them from the pillar of cloud:

they kept to his teachings and the law that he gave them.

⁸ You answered them, O Lord our God:

you were a forgiving God to them,

and pardoned their wrongdoing.

⁹ O exalt the Lord our God:

and bow down towards his holy hill,

for the Lord our God is holy.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1.1-10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of people we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place where your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming. Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Matthew 22.15-33

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?’ ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ ²¹They answered, ‘The emperor’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’

²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. ²³The same day some Sadducees came to him, saying there is no resurrection; and they asked him a question, saying, ²⁴Teacher, Moses said, "If a man dies childless, his brother shall marry the widow, and raise up children for his brother." ²⁵Now there were seven brothers among us; the first married, and died childless, leaving the widow to his brother. ²⁶The second did the same, so also the third, down to the seventh. ²⁷Last of all, the woman herself died. ²⁸In the resurrection, then, whose wife of the seven will she be? For all of them had married her.' ²⁹Jesus answered them, 'You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ³²"I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is God not of the dead, but of the living.' ³³And when the crowd heard it, they were astounded at his teaching.

For the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon The Assistant Curate, The Revd Keiron Jones

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one

baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People (from A Prayer Book for Australia)

Let us pray for all people, and for the Church throughout the world.

Almighty and everliving God, we are taught by your holy apostle to make prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all people: we ask you in your mercy to receive our prayers which we offer to your divine majesty.

We pray that you will lead the nations of the world in the ways of righteousness and peace, and guide their rulers in wisdom and justice for the tranquillity and good of all. Bless especially your servant Elizabeth our Queen, her representatives and ministers, her parliaments, and all who exercise authority in this land. Grant that they may impartially administer justice, restrain wickedness and vice, and uphold integrity and truth.

We beseech you to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all who confess your holy name may agree in the truth of your holy word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers that, by their life and doctrine, they may set forth your true, life-giving word, and rightly and duly administer your holy sacraments. And to all your people give your heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present, that they may receive your word with meek hearts and due reverence and serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We ask you of your goodness, Lord, to comfort and sustain all who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

We also bless your holy name for all your servants who have died in the faith of Christ. Give us grace to follow their good examples, that with

them we may be partakers of your heavenly kingdom.

Grant this, Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to God in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Order of Service partly from *A Prayer Book for Australia* 1995. Broughton Books by E.J. Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. With the Liturgical Psalter, Inclusive Language Version English text © 1995 by David L Frost, John A. Emerton, Andrew A. Macintosh. Hymns from *Together in Song Australian Hymn Book II*. © The Australian Hymn Book Pty Ltd 2006. Registered Office 14 Martin Place (Level 17) Sydney 2000. *The Book of Common Prayer*, The Episcopal Church of the USA. All readings from scripture are taken from The Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

PARISH NOTICES

It's Time to Pledge your Support to St. John's

As we set our budget for 2020/21, it is time for you to play your part in supporting our church, its life, mission and ministry. Please see the letter below "Money Matters" from Warden Helen Ballantyne and Parish Recorder (of pledges) Anne Bottomley.

Sunday Services on Zoom

Our main service of worship on Sunday morning takes place on Zoom, at 10am.

To Zoom in to the Sunday morning worship service click [here](#).

Meeting ID: 968 6970 4876 Passcode: 079462

After the Service, there will be the opportunity to make a cup of tea or coffee and return to Zoom for a chat and catch-up. There will be a 10 minute break between the Service and the coffee catch-up. Please turn off your mic and camera in this ten minute break; it will protect your privacy. When returning, turn your camera and mic back on. If numbers are quite large, smaller groups will be formed in breakout rooms so that everyone has a better chance to enjoy each other's company.

Recorded Services Continue

Our weekly service of worship will also continue to be offered online. Sunday morning services are recorded and uploaded to the St. John's [YouTube channel](#) on Sunday afternoon. An audio-only recording of the service is also uploaded on Sunday afternoon and can be found on the St. John's [website](#) (under 'Sermons').

Prayer Service, Wednesdays at Midday

Our Wednesday midday prayer service continues each Wednesday via Zoom. The service is 12.00pm-12.15pm, with time for fellowship following. There are two scripture readings (a psalm and a reading from the New Testament), set prayers, and time for participants to pray for themselves and others.

To Zoom in to the Wednesday prayer service click [here](#).

Meeting ID: 812 0748 1776 Passcode: 136058

If you would like to be a **reader** for one of the services, please email [here](#) with the day you are available. You are also welcome, as always, to email prayer requests to prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org

Pew Sheet by Postal Mail

A limited print run of the pew sheet continues for those who do not have access to email or our website.

Change in COVID-19 Restrictions

On 27 September, the Premier announced a number of eased restrictions for metropolitan Melbourne; however for places of worship there have been only very minor changes. Up to five people may now meet in an outdoor space at the church with a member of clergy (socially distanced and with a number of other constraints). I will be inviting those who may be experiencing significant isolation, and who live within 5km of the church, to meet on Thursday morning on the south lawn at 10.30am.

I know you will appreciate that it is impossible for an invitation to be extended to everyone as a limit of five people per gathering restricts what we can feasibly do. Hopefully in early December we will be able to meet in larger numbers for worship services and, where permitted, social gatherings. What a great day that will be! *Peter*

Staying in Touch with St. John's

Keep up to date with what is happening via email, our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#). If you are unable to access any of these, a printed pew sheet can be mailed to you. If you are aware of someone who is not receiving information from the church and wishes to do so, please advise the Parish Office on 9826 1765 or enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Puzzle and Activity sheets for children can now be accessed at <https://sermons4kids.com/>.

Music for Pentecost 20

Joseph Bonnet, 1884 – 1944 “12 Pièces,” Opus 7 No. 8 *Romance sans paroles*
In the category of songs unencumbered of text, many would be familiar with Mendelssohn's Songs without Words and, of course, the exquisite Vocalise of Sergei Rachmaninoff, but there are many others, including fifty-nine vocalises for high voice commissioned, ostensibly for teaching purposes, by Amédée from composers including Copland, Fauré, Messiaen, Milhaud, Poulenc, Ravel.

So Bonnet's music follows a venerable line of romantic art form. This enchanting work came to mind during the past week caused by a play on the words [aka linguistic confusion] of an internet comment about when finally we would be on parole: “the temporary or permanent release of a prisoner before the expiry of a sentence, on the promise of good behaviour”. For many this period feels rather like being in jail, and often with decreasing chances of an early, monopoly-like reprieve.

In its simplicity this otherwise nondescript piece reminds me of the familiar things we are better enjoying, and the simple ideas or ingredients which now take on much more value. Three sound-colours using only two stops at a time: so much with so little. Less is indeed often more.

Mr. Christopher Cook, Director of Music

Pastoral Support

Without doubt, this second lockdown has challenged us all deeply, most especially those who live on their own or have limited opportunity to speak with family or friends. This isolation has been very difficult indeed. The clergy, along with the pastoral care team, are making every effort to stay in touch with parishioners, usually by phone but also by email, cards or letters. If you would like to chat with one of us, please do contact us during office hours. If you are in a position to offer comfort or lend a hand to a parishioner or neighbour (within current restrictions), please reach out. We're called even more to care for each other and our community through prayer and also support where possible.

Further Support

Other support services are available for anyone who would like to speak with someone anonymously, including: Beyond Blue: <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/> or Lifeline: <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

All Souls' Day, Thursday 29 October 2020, 7pm (via Zoom)

A special service will be held on Thursday 29 October at 7pm to remember the faithful departed. This will also be a prayerful opportunity to remember those in Australia and around the world who have died from COVID-19 and the families who mourn their passing. If you have loved ones who have passed away and would like them remembered, please email prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org.

The Zoom link to the Service is [here](#).

Meeting ID: 853 5635 2705 Passcode: 912338

Bishop's Visit, All Saints' Day, Sunday 1 November, 2020

Please note that the Confirmation Service scheduled for Sunday 1 November has been postponed until Sunday 1 August, 2021. However, we are still fortunate to have our bishop, The Right Revd Genieve Blackwell, attending our 10am Zoom service. Bishop Genieve will be preaching on this day.

Annual Meeting, 11am, Sunday 29 November, 2020

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners will be held on Sunday 29 November, 2020 at 11am. Further details will be included in the pew sheet over the next few weeks as we determine how best to hold this meeting under the relevant restrictions.

Electoral Roll Review

The Electoral Roll is being revised in advance of the Annual Meeting, in line with Diocesan legislative requirements. The review of the roll will be an opportunity for all parishioners to ensure their names appear on the Electoral Roll. Forms for new enrolments are available by emailing enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org. A copy of the Electoral Roll will be made available in the coming weeks, for members to check.

Annual Meeting Reports

Those responsible for producing reports please submit them to the Parish Office by Monday 26 October.

The Melbourne Anglican (TMA)

The link to the latest edition of TMA is [here](#). The link to this week's Newstand is [here](#). The link to the October Prayer Diary and prayer resources is [here](#).

The Book of Memory

Even though the church is currently closed, the Book of Memory is faithfully tended.

Clergy Days Off

Our clergy have one regular day off per week. Our Vicar Peter has Friday and our Assistant Curate Keiron Monday. Please respect their time away from work and unless in an emergency, please refrain from telephoning, texting, visiting the Vicarage, or emailing them on these days. Thank you.

THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY READINGS

Commentary for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, October 18, 2020.

These comments present one interpretation of today's readings; other interpretations may be possible. Comments are best read with the readings.

Exodus 33:12-23 NRSV

From vv. 7-11, we learn that Moses has pitched the tent of meeting, a place where people could seek God, outside the camp. "the LORD used to speak to Moses ... as one speaks to a friend" (v. 11). The golden calf incident has driven a wedge between God and his people; they feel separated from God. Now Moses asks: God, you have told me to lead the people (they were brought out of Egypt), but whom will you "send with me" (v. 12), as a sign of your presence? Our relationship is mutual: I know you and I acknowledge you. Israel is "your people" (v. 13) as well as mine (even if they are disobedient). In another translation, v. 14 is a question: God asks, if my presence were to go with you, would it make you rest easy? Moses answers (v. 15): if you will not be present with us, why did you bring us out here into the desert? How will it be known that you are with us? (v. 16) By being with us, we will be your elect ("distinct", v. 16) people, chosen over other peoples. Moses receives assurance that God will guide Israel (v. 17), because of the special relationship between him and their leader. Moses now seeks to know God better, something closer than friendship, i.e. to see his very glory (v. 18). God does promise him "goodness" (v. 19) and grace ("gracious"), but God chooses to whom he reveals himself ("show mercy ...") Moses cannot possibly see God's face: to ancient peoples, to see a god's face was to invite death. Even so, God does grant Moses more knowledge of him than that he gives to others: he will see his "back" (v. 23) but not his face. In Chapter 34, God makes a new pact with the people.

Psalm 99 NRSV

This is a hymn of praise to God as king. The endings of Vv. 3, 5 and 9 are perhaps a refrain, said or sung by worshippers as they “extol” (v. 9) God. God, on his throne above the “cherubim” (v. 1, the half-human, half-animal creatures thought to hover above the altar) in the Temple, is to be praised by “all the peoples” (v. 2). V. 4 lists some qualities God has shown “Jacob”, the people of Israel. His “footstool”, v. 5, is the Ark. For Israel, God has also: (1) helped people in need (vv. 6, 8); (2) given them just laws (v. 7); and (3) punished and forgiven them where appropriate (v. 8). “Moses ... Aaron” (v. 6) and “Samuel” were known for communicating with God and were his representatives. “His holy mountain” (v. 9) is Mount Zion, the hill on which Jerusalem stands.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 NRSV

This letter opens as did private letters of the time. Paul states that it is from him and two associates (although he is actually the author). Silvanus is the Gentile name of Silas, the person who brought to Antioch the Jerusalem Council’s decision that Gentile Christians were not required to observe Jewish cultural/religious practices. The word translated “church” here can mean any assembly, so Paul makes it clear: the letter is to the community at Thessalonica which believes in God as Father and holds the Christ (messiah) to be his Son, Jesus. A letter began with a greeting, and Paul uses his usual one: “Grace to you and peace”. Paul launches into brotherly affection: he and those with him remember the members of the church in their prayers, thankful for their “work of faith” (v. 3), their wholehearted assent to God and his plan for salvation, for their “labour of love”, their hard work of active caring for others, and their “steadfastness of hope”, their patient endurance of all suffering in the hope of salvation. (English has no adequate translation for the words he uses.) This is happening, he says, because God has “chosen you” (v. 4): they have embraced the good news not only intellectually (“in word only”, v. 5) but also in divine action: working abundantly (“with full conviction”) aided by the Holy Spirit. Further, he and his companions found their conversion efforts among them highly effective. The Thessalonians have become “imitators” (v. 6) of Paul and of Christ, being joyful in spite of persecution; they have become examples for others to imitate throughout the province (“Macedonia”, v. 7) and elsewhere. People know how they were converted from worshipping false gods represented by “idols” (v. 9), gods who are lifeless and not what they seem to be – to worshipping “a living and true God”, to awaiting the second coming of Christ, whom God “raised from the dead” (v. 10), and who will rescue us from the “wrath”, the punishment at the end of time for those who oppose God’s ways.

Matthew 22:15-22 NRSV

Back in 21:23, as Jesus was teaching in the Temple, Jewish officials questioned his authority to do “these things”, all he has done in his earthly ministry. Jesus declined to answer the question, for the answer could only be understood by those with faith. Just before our reading, we find the parable of the Wedding Feast, which the Pharisees saw as an attack on them. Now followers of the “Pharisees” (v. 15) and

“Herodians” (v. 16, people who supported Herod, the Roman puppet king, and his successors) – united only in their desire to get rid of Jesus – speak to him. They appear to respect him, but speak with irony. And then the question, the subject of great debate in Jewish circles: should we pay the annual poll tax to Rome? (v. 17) Opinions varied: one group, the Zealots, claimed that God’s people should not be subject to pagan Gentiles. Jesus sees through their plot; he calls them “hypocrites” (v. 18) for pretending to respect him but intending to discredit him. If Jesus says yes, Zealots and other Jews hostile to Rome will turn against him; if he says no, he will risk arrest for inciting rebellion against Rome. We know his answer, as translated, but “Give” (v. 21) can be give back or repay. To Jews then and to us now, all we have is given to us by God; we owe everything to him. Jesus sidesteps another issue (vv. 20-22): the obverse side of the coin is inscribed *Tiberius Caesar, son of the divine Augustus, great high priest* – an affront to his fellow monotheistic Jews.

MONEY MATTERS *from a Warden and the Parish Recorder*

For most of this year we have received daily updates and statistics on the COVID-19 outbreaks: how many new cases, where the clusters are and Premier Andrew’s ‘road ahead.’ We could equally apply this same principle to our church and parish: what are our statistics, how do we shape up and what is our road ahead? Our outcome is dependent on all parishioners and friends of St John’s.

To put you in the picture we currently have 300 names on our parish contact list, all of whom receive our weekly pew bulletin and regular correspondence. Of this 300, 120 parishioners are on our electoral roll, which means that by regular attendance they have input into church matters and decisions and are entitled to vote at our Annual Meeting.

Of these 120 regular parishioners, 59 ‘pledge’ annually to give a certain amount of money to support our church’s ministry and life. Pledging is essential to our life at the church and essential to our budgeting process for the coming year. The more people who pledge the greater resources we have for ministry and mission. As it stands that 59 is just 50% of our total electoral roll and only 20% of those people on our contact list for whom St. John’s would be considered ‘their church.’

Based on data from last year, we are anticipating pledges for this year (1st September 2020 to 1st October 2021) to be \$153,000. Now, let us look at the break-up of those numbers:

- 4 parishioners give \$10,000+ p.a.
- 4 parishioners give \$ 5,000+ p.a.
- 36 parishioners give \$ 1,000+ p.a.
- 15 parishioners give less than \$500 p.a.

From these figures you can assume that approximately 50% of our pledged giving comes from just 8 parishioners. While currently financial circumstances for most - and not forgetting St. John's - are challenging, we can do better than this. This year let's aim to increase our pledges firstly by the number of parishioners who pledge and, secondly, by an increase in giving. After all, pledging is the basis for our budget and the huge expenses of running and maintaining our beautiful church and its ministry.

Please carefully consider your financial commitment to God and our church. Information on pledging and ADF forms will be forwarded to you in the coming week.

For 'our road ahead' let us pray the church is open for Christmas - and that next year sees all the doors of the church open to all once more.

Anne Bottomley, Parish Recorder, and Helen Ballantyne, Warden

OFFERTORY GIVING WHILST ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IS CLOSED

St. John's is a busy, active parish. Even - perhaps especially - in unusual times, we have a number of significant financial obligations, including additional costs to keep the church clean and safe. The church is enormously grateful for each and every person's contributions. As a member of this church family, each of us is encouraged to keep giving as normal, whether it is through:

- a. ADF (Anglican Development Fund)
- b. Electronic transfer of funds to:
 - St. John's Anglican Church General Account
 - Westpac, 509 Toorak Road, Toorak, Victoria, 3142, Australia
 - Account Name: St. John's Anglican Church
 - BSB: 033 086. Account No: 871931
 - (For international transfers please include SWIFT code WPACAU2S)
- c. Cash / envelope offertory: If you normally make an offertory contribution via the collection plate on Sundays, please do consider contributing through the ADF. Details can be found at <https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/agencies-anglican-development-fund/>.

Every person's offering contributes to the fabric and wellbeing of St. John's. When we recommence services, let us be in a strong position to get on with the mission of sharing God's love in Christ to each other and to the wider community.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

From the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Episcopal Church of the United States of America (Presiding Bp Michael Curry); Locums and all retired clergy; Lay Ministry; St Augustine's Moreland (Angela Cook, Christopher Swann).

For all those who lead us in the Anglican Church, especially: Our Primate The Most Revd Geoffrey Smith, Our Archbishop The Most Revd Philip Freier, and our Bishop, The Right Revd Genieve Blackwell.

For those who lead us in Government: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; Governor General David Hurley AC; Prime Minister Scott Morrison; Federal Member of Parliament for Division of Higgins, Dr. Katie Allen; Premier of Victoria Daniel Andrews; Member for Malvern and Leader of the Opposition, Michael O'Brien.

For Reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians: For Aboriginal Anglican clergy and lay-leaders around Australia, their spiritual health and physical well-being, and the people they care for. For Aboriginal and Government leaders and their work together.

The Toorak Ecumenical Movement: Our partner churches, St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Toorak Uniting Church, and The Swedish Church.

For The Anglican Board of Mission, The Brotherhood of St. Laurence, and Anglicare

For those celebrating birthdays: Keith Beecher on Tuesday; Jo Jo Patterson on Tuesday.

For schools in our parish: Geelong Grammar School Toorak Campus, Head of Campus Rachel George; St Catherine's School, Principal Michelle Carroll; and Toorak Primary School, Principal Julie Manallack.

For the sick and all in need: Rosemary Griffith; Maggie Perkins; Rosie Creswell; Gwen; Sohaib; Audrey Leeton; Jean James; Lachie Sullivan; James Griffith; Philip and Becky Newman; Mary.

For those in aged care and those who are housebound: Teri Lawrence; Janet Field; Beverley Joyce; Val Hurst; Marcia Larsson; Gordon Kennett; Anne Myers; Billee Edwards; Elizabeth Johnson.

Give thanks for those whose Anniversary of Death is this week: Robert Gronow; Elizabeth Bolton; John Hill; James Crow; Prudence Bullivant; Janet Gilfillan.

The prayer petitions above closely follow the daily prayer regimen of the Anglican Church of Australia, which you can follow everyday [here](#).

PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests can be sent to prayers@saintjohnstoorak.org. The clergy check emails for prayer requests daily, and pray in solidarity with anyone who would like prayers said for them.



ST. JOHN'S
ANGLICAN
CHURCH
TOORAK
EST. 1859

86 Clendon Rd, Toorak 3142

Vicar The Reverend Dr Peter French

vicar@saintjohnstoorak.org

Wardens Ms Helen Ballantyne, Mrs Amanda Bagot, Mr Anthony Mannering

Parish Council

Mr Dougal Colhoun, Ms Vivienne Crompton, Ms Diana Dunlop, Ms Jessica Hall,
Mrs Claire Morgan, Mr Harrison Young

Assistant Curate The Revd Keiron Jones

curate@saintjohnstoorak.org

Director of Music/Organist

Mr Christopher Cook

accook2001@yahoo.com.au

Parish Administrator/Child Safe Compliance Mrs Sally Robertson

enquiries@saintjohnstoorak.org

Child Safe Officer Ms Vivienne Crompton

Family Safety Officer Dr Esther Schroeder Goh, esther.schroedergoh@gmail.com

Covid-Safe Officer Mr Dougal Colhoun

Sunday School Teachers Mr Clive Wright, Ms Shierly & Miss Jo-Jo Patterson

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