The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta

Christ Church Tallangatta
&
The Mission District of St John's Thurgoona

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Third Sunday after Pentecost
14th June 2026



Jesus calls us to see the people of our community who are like sheep without a shepherd - and to pray that the Lord will send labourers (including us) to bering in the harvest.

We are a community of Christian Faith and Worship.

We are welcoming of all: and are inclusive of all. We offer fellowship and support in our Parish and the wider community

By the grace of God, we seek to increase our spiritual awareness, love of others and foster Christian values by example.

INTRODUCTION

This week in the Lectionary the readings are all about what it means to be chosen. In a world where ideas like 'election,' 'manifest destiny,' and Christian or national 'exceptionalism' can lead to divisive and destructive arrogance among believers, we need to come to grips with a compassionate and inclusive view of chosenness. And at the heart of God choosing of us is God's call fro us to serve the world as Christ did—in humility, generosity, grace, inclusivity, and love. May our worship this week lead us to recognise God's call on our lives and God's loving choice for all humanity and all of creation.

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

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of peace

Sentence
The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ask therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. *Matthew 9.37–38*

Collect
Let us pray. Lord, we beseech you to keep your family, the Church, in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve you in good works, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

1st Reading **Exodus 19.2–8a**
Two months after leaving Egypt, the Israelites camp at Mount Sinai, and God tells Moses that if the people obey God and keep God's covenant, then they will belong to God as a treasured people. So Moses passes the message on the people.

After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God, and the Lord

called to him from the mountain and said, 'This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.' So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the Lord had commanded him to speak. The people all responded together, 'We will do everything the Lord has said.' So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord . *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 100

A song of praise calling all the earth to worship God, to come before God with singing, and rejoice in God's unfailing love and faithfulness.

O shout to the Lord in triumph, all the earth: serve the Lord with gladness, and come before his face with songs of joy.

Know that the Lord he is God: it is he who has made us and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Come into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: give thanks to him, and bless his holy name.

For the Lord is good, his loving mercy is for ever: his faithfulness throughout all generations.

2nd Reading **Romans 5.1–11**

God has made us right with God through Christ, given us undeserved privilege, and made it possible for us to grow in strength and endurance through times of trial. In addition, God has given God's Spirit to fill our hearts.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.* **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia **Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia**
The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew **9.35 – 10. 9-23**

Jesus notes that the harvest is great but the workers are few, and then he sends his disciples out to share the message of the Gospel with the people of Israel. He instructs them not to take anything with them, but to trust in the hospitality of the people to whom they go. Then he warns them about the rejection and persecution they will endure, but that these moments will be opportunities to speak about Jesus.

A Reading from The Gospel of Matthew; ***Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and illness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and illness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." Heal those who are ill, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy , drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. 'Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts – no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. 'I am sending you out like sheep among

wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 'Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. *For the Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Lord of hosts, **we put our trust in you.**

Lord of harvest, send labourers for your Church to proclaim your Kingdom. Stir up vocations to ordain and equip Lay Ministers. We give you thanks and praise for Clarence our Bishop, Michelle, Maryann John, all Clergy Laity and our parish. **Strengthen all the Baptised to live and announce your glory.**

Lord of all the world, inspire men and women to political service. Transform unjust structures that all may have cause for rejoicing. Especially this week we remember the unjust treatment minority people: For those who stand up against injustice for all humanity. Give them courage and strength to peacefully fight against evil.
We give thanks to lives dedicated to the good all.

Lord of hospitality, as Abraham welcomed strangers and received your blessing, so we give thanks for all who share their table. Help us to be hospitality focused and welcoming of all. **Bless the work of day centres and night shelters**.

Lord, in proclaiming the Kingdom to have come near the sick were healed and good news announced for all. Pour out your Spirit on all who are sick. We remember those who have asked for prayer; *Alan(P), Natalie, Alison, Wendy, Leonie, Christine, Mary, Margaret and Olga.* And for those whose lives are lost because of violence. We also ask prayers for those in our hearts…... **Restore us to wholeness with you.**

Lord of life, you prove your love for us in your death and resurrection. Open the gates of heaven to all who believe in you. We also remember those whose years mind occur this week. ……..**Grant to all your faithful servants eternal peace.**

Elusive Lord, our companion on the way, you walk behind, beside, beyond; you catch us unawares; break through the disillusionment and despair that can cloud our vision; hear us as we pray for ourselves .....; so that with wide-eyed wonder, we too may find our way and journey on as messengers of your good news. Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us. **Our Father in heaven……**



There are two elements to all of the readings this week. The first is that the readings all speak in some way about God's election of God's people. God chooses a people to partner with God, to be God's own treasured possession, and to experience God's promise, God's presence, and God's love. But, the second element in the readings this week is that this choosing is not for the sake of those who are chosen. God's choice of Abraham and Sarah, of the Israelites, of the disciples, and of all who follow the way of Jesus is for the sake of those who will come to know God's grace and love through them. The clear call of this week, then, is for us to be a people who respond to God's choosing by partnering with God in sharing the values, priorities, and purposes of God's Reign with our world. But, if we accept God's invitation, God's choosing of us, we have to know that this will mean that we have to endure suffering and persecution. This is inevitable because following Jesus way means being out of step with the society around us. But, it also means that whenever we find ourselves being misunderstood or questioned or challenged we have an opportunity to share the message of Jesus and to demonstrate God's love and grace through our actions.

CONNECTING WITH LIFE:

GLOBAL APPLICATION: There is a double challenge in this week's theme as we seek to live out the call of God. The first is that election, or choosing, has become a potentially destructive idea in our world. Some extreme religious groups use their sense of being chosen by God as a way to justify violence and terrorism against those who look, think, believe, and act differently from their beliefs. Some nations view themselves as more important or more significant to the world and to God because they are exceptional and somehow a better embodiment of God's values and purposes. The result of this thinking is that these "chosen" ones expect to be treated better than others. They feel justified in making their needs, their opinions, their beliefs, and their self-interest more important than anyone else's. And naturally this results in oppression of other "lesser" people, it causes the legitimate needs of the "less chosen" to be ignored, and it results in massive imbalances in power, wealth, and well-being across the world. The second challenge comes as a reaction to the first, which is to reject the idea of election or choosing altogether. Certainly it is difficult to speak about any kind

of choosing if we are committed to equality and justice for all. But, if we can overcome any sense that to be chosen is to be favoured or better, and see chosenness rather as a result of circumstance and opportunity, something magical can begin to happen. We can begin to recognise that those of us to whom much has been given have a great responsibility to share what we have with those who have less. We can begin to recognise that our greater opportunities, or education, or resources mean that we have a greater capacity to address some of the great challenges in our world. And it can also, paradoxically, offer us the chance to work much harder to recognise and celebration the "chosenness" of those who, in our society's terms, seem not to be chosen at all.

LOCAL APPLICATION: It is always tempting to seek to find ways in which we are special, or chosen. We may begin to think that our church or our community or our family is particularly chosen by God and has a special place in God's heart and purposes. We may also begin to fall into an arrogant pride that we are so valuable to God. We may begin to devalue any small works of God, and hidden moments of grace, and any unexceptional experiences of love. But, when we allow our faith to be governed by this attitude, we begin to feel persecuted whenever society doesn't conform to our standards. And we begin to feel that we should be treated differently by everyone, and by the powers-that-be in our society. We might even believe that we should be the powers-that-be. But, in the meantime we end up missing the work of God that happens in small, unexpected ways. And we begin to miss the way God chooses the least likely people in our midst. And we miss how God seeks for us to serve those around us, and not be served. We miss that our chosenness is a calling to sacrifice and compassion, not to privilege and status. But, if we can embrace the call of God as a chance to work with God in serving the most vulnerable and marginalised in our community, we can experience God's presence and power in very ordinary, but extraordinary, ways.https://sacredise.com/proper-6a/





Sunday July 19th- Bishop Clarence will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This will be the first Confirmation @ St John's since re-opening. We plan to not only Confirm our blessed candidates to the life of Anglican Christianity, but there will be a celebration of Biblical proportions in our grounds after the Service. Please see Rev'd Maryann if you know someone who would like to be Confirmed.



Bible Study: Fridays 11:30 @ The Cottage.

We are going through the Book of Revelation. Monsters, dragons, beasts, horses of life, Babylon, Mt Zion, serpents, a slain lamb, a lamb with horns, stars, moon, trumpets, lamp stands, brides, kingdoms, kings, Roman Empire, peace, hope, the second coming of Christ, the beauty, splendour, love, forgiveness, eternal life, not the end times, but the beginning of a new life. Mystery, intrigue, wonder, the sort of book that keeps you on the edge of your seat wanting to know more...now!



Lay Readers (also called Licensed Lay Ministers) have a leadership role serving alongside clergy to support people in faith and enable mission. They are lay people who are trained and licensed by their bishop.

We are blessed to have 3 Lay Readers authorised by bishop Clarence. We are also in the process of authorising 2 more people called to this ministry. We will have continuous training and mentoring. Want to know more? See Maryann



Would you like to be part of this group? Severing, Eucharistic Assistants, Crucifer (process with cross), washing and ironing linen, washing vessels, changing liturgical colours. You do not have to do all of them. You can chose one if you think God is calling you.

Craft every Wednesday 10:00am @ 'The Cottage'. Come along and learn a craft, bring your own projects. A time of friendly conversation, cuppas and fellowship.



We will see how the weather is on Friday evening to make a call on whether to cancel.

Can you help assist Lyn with Devonshire Tea? Making tea and coffee, topping scones with jam and cream? Clearing tables, washing up? Help in the Op Shop, guided tours of St John's, hand out our WW1 booklets.

Craft is also needed for our stall. Do you have winter vegetables, fresh eggs? Please see Rev'd Maryann if you can assist or can volunteer someone else.

Spread the word.



Craft is every Wednesday @ 10:am @ The Cottage. Bring your own project or we can provide one. You an come along for the company! Enjoy conversation, morning tea and fellowship.



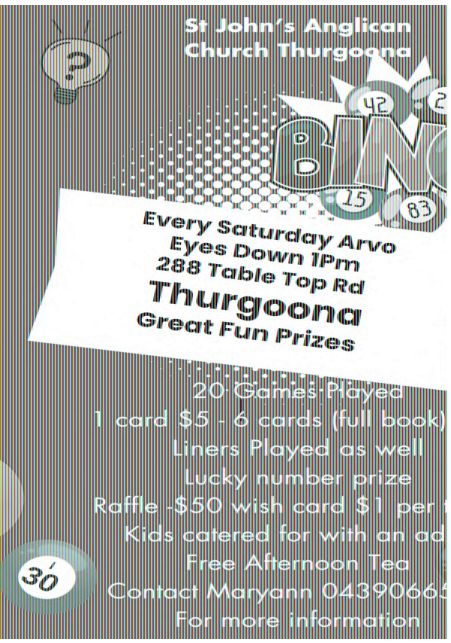
June 2026 is when we will begin Messy Church. **Rev'd Maryann would like to begin this once a month worship on Sunday 27th June.** Thank you to those who have offered to help out. This is much appreciated. For those who wish to help, we will meet at a mutual time this coming week. Rev'd Maryann will be in contact.



Playgroup @ St John's every Friday 9:00am 11:00am. This weeks theme is 'Fun on a Wet Day'. Lots of adorable babies, inquisitive toddlers and eager pre-schoolers discovering through play. This is not only about the beautiful children, it is about networking with

other parents & carers. Parents come as far away as Alexandra and Wodonga. This week just passed saw parents and young participants wanting to look in the church. They asked lots of questions. The bell ringing was very popular.....with the parents and grandparents! The sound of happiness echoing through the building. All children from babies to pre-school were given a 'Show Bag' which parents and carers were very thankful for. Inside these show bags are good quality age appropriate Christian books, crayons/pencils, colouring/scribble pads, a Christian gift and sometimes a chocolate treat. Parents/Carers are not forgotten. We provide morning tea.

If you are wanting to contribute to this ministry, 15 mins of helping clean up after Playgroup would be wonderful. Especially as Bible Study is at 11:30. We are starting a little garden, where the little Wildlings will be able to watch the miracle of creature growing. Seasonal seedlings will be requested in the next few weeks. Flowers and vegetables. Can you help? See Rev'd Maryann or John.



We have now enjoyed over 12months of Bingo on a Saturday afternoon @ The Cottage. So far, after expenses we have made approximately $10,000.

Our prizes are all wrapped in newspaper. We have prizes for a Full House, Novelty Games, Mystery Prizes and Children's Prizes. Our raffle for a $50.00 gift card is very popular.

It is a wonderful afternoon of fun, conversations afternoon tea, and socialising. Friendships have been forged. Outreach has taken place, with a Baptism enquiry, and requests for biblical resources and questions about the church. Come and observe. You don't have to play.



Tallangatta: Your turn!

Please support this ministry. Spread the word!

Need help with putting up banners.

See you all Tuesday.

ST FAITHFUL'S HAVNOT

HOW NOT TO TAKE COMMUNION

A Helpful Diagram Commissioned by Mrs Pauline Rivers, Head Server

Illustrated by Artie Fischal, Parish Media

For the good order, decorum and spiritual well-being of all. Thank you!

1. One Hand Behind Your Back



Not a Regency dance, dear.

2. Tongue First



This is communion, not a medical examination.

3. The Narrow Slot



The sacrament should not require precision engineering.

4. Wrist-Grip of Uncertainty



You are receiving grace, not reporting for inspection.

Not snack time.

Let all that you do be done in love.

5. Hands Full Already



Freeing at least one hand is strongly encouraged.

6. The Sudden Pounce



The Body of Christ is given, not seized.

7. The Fortress of Gloves



If possible, remove anything designed for gardening or the Arctic.

Handle with reverence please!

This is not the Olympics.

A FEW EXTRA POINTERS FROM ARTIE

- WALK, DON'T SPRINT.
- EYES UP, HEART IN THE RIGHT PLACE.
- WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.

WHEN IN DOUBT, FOLLOW THE PERSON IN FRONT (THE CALM ONE!).

Artie's law: Calm is contagious.

Not snack time.

What Mrs Rivers Actually Meant



THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR CHURCH BE A PLACE OF PEACE & ORDER (AND GOOD MANNERS!).

Open hands. Calm heart. No theatrics.

Please note: this chart is advisory, not canonical legislation. We reserve the right to politely raise an eyebrow. ;-)

THANKS BE TO GOD.

THIS WEEK

Monday 15th:	Rev'd Maryann & Vicar's Wife date day.
Tuesday 16th:	10:00am Prayer Group @ The Cottage
	10:00am Rev'd Maryann Uni zoom
	1pm Bingo Tallangatta @ Parish Hall
Wednesday 17th:	10:00am Craft @ The Cottage
	2:00pm Rev'd Maryann Uni zoom
Thursday 18th:	Rev'd Maryann meetings, Pastoral Care
Friday 19th:	9:30am Playgroup
	11:30am Bible Study
	4:pm Rev'd Maryann Wangaratta
Saturday 20:	9:00am Market
	11:00am Singing Practise if Market is cancelled.
	1:00pm Bingo

Date	Welcomer	Reader 1	Reader 2	Prayers	Morning Tea	Sacristy Eucharist Assistance	Flowers	Cleaners
14/6/2026	Elaine Karen	Wendy	Sue	Glenda	Greg	David	Jill	Narell
21/6/26	Narell	Karen	David	Glenda	Lyn	John	Jill	Leonards