The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta

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

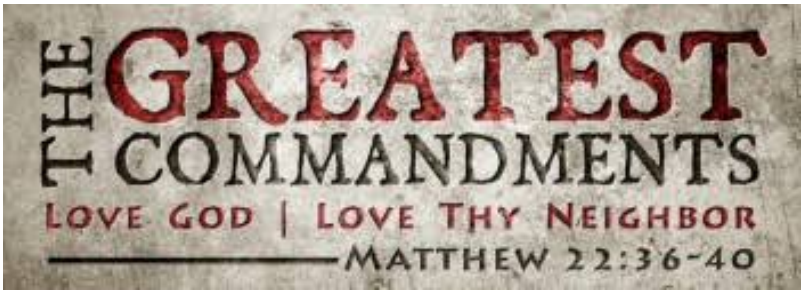
The Reverend Canon Maryann Leonard

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Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost
25th October 2026





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
Two significant passages form the basis for worship this week in the Lectionary: The Great Commandment and the death of Moses. Depending on whether you are following the Gospel or the continuous Old Testament readings, you may focus on only one of these, but the connections between the two are also a wonderful springboard for this week's worship. In so many ways Moses, who struggled with the people of Israel for so long, is a challenging example of what it means to love God and neighbour. However we may approach it, though, this week we will be unable to avoid the challenge to love better, to love more widely, and to love more passionately.

Sentence
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matthew 22.37–40

Collect
Let us pray. O God, whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law: stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love, so that we may love you with our whole being, and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading **Deuteronomy 34.1-12**

(Moses climbs Mount Nebo and views the whole of the promised land. Then he dies, but no one knows where his grave is. After the thirty day mourning period, Joshua takes over as leader of the Israelites.)

Then Moses climbed Mount Nebo from the plains of Moab to the top of Pisgah, opposite Jericho. There the Lord showed him the whole land – from Gilead to Dan, all of Naphtali, the territory of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Mediterranean Sea, the Negev and the whole region from the Valley of Jericho, the City of Palms, as far as Zoar. Then the Lord said to him, 'This is the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob when I said, "I will give it to your descendants." I have let you see it with your eyes, but you will not cross over into it.' And Moses the servant of the Lord died there in Moab, as the Lord had said. He buried him in Moab, in the valley opposite Beth Peor, but to this day no one knows where his grave is. Moses was a hundred and twenty years old when he died, yet his eyes were not weak nor his strength gone. The Israelites grieved for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days, until the time of weeping and mourning was over. Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the Lord had commanded Moses. Since then, no

prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face, who did all those signs and wonders the Lord sent him to do in Egypt – to Pharaoh and to all his officials and to his whole land. For no one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel. *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm **Psalm 90.1-6, 13-17**

(A prayer accredited to Moses, praising God for God's greatness, God's help for God's people and God's calling of the people to turn back to God. Also a plea for God's kindness to be with God's people and for God to sustain their work.)

Lord, you have been our refuge: from one generation to another. Before the mountains were born or the earth and the world were brought to be: from eternity to eternity you are God.

You turn us back into dust: saying 'Return to dust, O children of Adam.' For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday passing: or like one watch of the night.

You cut them short like a dream: like the fresh grass of the morning; In the morning it is green and flourishes: at evening it is withered and dried up.

Relent, O Lord; how long will you be angry?: take pity on your servants. O satisfy us early with your mercy: that all our days we may rejoice and sing.

Give us joy for all the days you have afflicted us: for the years we have suffered adversity. Show your servants your work: and let their children see your glory.

May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us: prosper the work of our hands, O prosper the work of our hands!

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 2.1-13**

(A description of the faithful ministry of the apostles among the Thessalonians, in spite of persecution – a ministry approved by God, free from impure motives or boasting, not seeking special treatment, but caring and gentle.)

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the

gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed – God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.* **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia**

Gospel **Matthew 22.34-46**

(Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is, and he replies that it is to love God with everything and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Then he asks whose son the Messiah is. When the religious leaders reply that he is David's son, Jesus asks why David refers to the Messiah as "Lord" – and no one is able to give an answer.)

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' Jesus replied: '"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbour as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.' While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 'What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?' 'The son of David,' they replied. He said to them, 'How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him "Lord"? For he says , "The Lord said to my Lord : 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'' If then David calls him "Lord", how can he be his son?' No one could say a word in reply, and from

that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions. *This is the Gospel of the Lord*. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**



Praise the Lord for He is good. Sing to God with thanksgiving.

Jesus, Messiah, before you we kneel in adoration and praise. As we love you with our whole hearts, so give us grace to show that love towards our neighbours and ourselves. Drive from your Church any vestige of hatred, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Messiah, before you rulers and governments are humbled. May they who rule not come to regard those without power as less than themselves. Maintain the equity of all people, for those who are inflicted with gender based violence, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Messiah, your love leaves no one untouched, especially ourselves. Strengthen all that restores us in your image. Cherish the children from whom you gave so much, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Messiah, we pray for our Clarence our Bishop, Michelle, Maryann, John and our parish Give us the strength to continue our faithful service in these times, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Messiah, your compassion overflows beyond any boundaries of our imagination. Anoint with your healing grace any in distress. Today we continue prayers for Helen Haines and her family and friends. We also remember; *Alan(P), Natalie, Alison, Wendy and Olga.* Give them the comfort of your Holy Spirit, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Messiah, your love extends to the cross and resurrection. Bring under this hope all who have died, remembering *Baby Kane.* We also remember those who's years minds occur this week; **……...**Fulfil the promise of your kingdom, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God 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…**



The Great Commandment resonates powerfully through this week in the Lectionary. It's significant that this is what ends the great debate between Jesus and the religious leaders in the Gospel reading – even in confrontation, the focus of Jesus is on love. The related Old Testament reading (Leviticus) gives the original reference for the second part of the commandment, about loving our neighbours. In the continuous Old Testament readings we come to the end of Moses' life on the brink of the promised land. Moses power in leading the Israelite people is praised in this account, which evokes the memory, not just of Moses' mighty works, but also of his great patience and care for God's people – a quality which, although not specifically mentioned here, certainly contributed to his greatness. The Psalm of Moses, however, definitely picks up Moses' compassion and love as he pleads (as he often did) for God to care for and be kind to God's people. Psalm 1 connects with the Gospel, celebrating those who obey God's laws which, in this case, relates specifically to those who live in love of God and of neighbour. Finally, the letter to the Thessalonians gives a description of a ministry that is performed in grace and love, which is focussed on bringing others into the joy of the love of God, and which expresses deep love for the people to whom the ministry is being offered. In many ways, this is a picture of what obedience to the Great Commandment looks like in practice. There can be no question this week – the Scriptures never let us off the hook of love.

GLOBAL APPLICATION: In the world of war, climate change, poverty, economic crisis and dread diseases, love may appear to be powerless and irrelevant. This may be because our view of love is so often informed not by Jesus, but by Hollywood. When love is nothing more than a feeling that one "falls" into and out of, it has nothing to say the big issues we face. But, when love is lived as Jesus did – practically, sacrificially, passionately and justly – it speaks directly to the root causes of our struggles. Ultimately all of our dealings in the world will grow out of one of two sources. If fear is the primary driver of our lives, we will ensure we have more than enough weaponry to protect us and we will easily attack any person or country we perceive as a threat. If fear is our foundation, we will hoard our wealth, and we will grab what we can with little concern for the impact on others or on our environment. When fear is our foundation, we will tend to minimise care and compassion for those who are unrelated to us or different from us. But, when love is our foundation, everything changes. Love drives us to seek connection and understanding, not war. Love drives us to share what we have so that all may have their needs met. Love leads us to think carefully about how we treat our environment and how we use our resources, and how we deal with those who are suffering, even if they are unrelated to us. Authentic love is expressed in practical efforts to bring justice, in tough and vulnerable peacemaking, in concern for the "least" and most vulnerable. Authentic love recognises the connections and interdependence between all people and between us and our world. Authentic love is

the most desperately needed, and most powerful, solution to the tough struggles of our time. The challenge is whether we are prepared to embrace love, to live love, to "preach" love and to work to spread love through the world. Can we allow love to be the primary force behind our voting, our ethics, our morality, our social participation and our interactions. If we can and do, we will discover that, little by little, the world begins to shift further along a trajectory of compassion.

LOCAL APPLICATION: It should be common sense, and yet, love is so often rejected as a "strategy" for engaging other people in our communities and neighbourhoods. There is never a shortage of opportunities to express the kind of authentic love that Jesus practiced. Within our own homes and families, when we prioritise showing love, we discover deepened relationships, higher commitment levels, and the kind of self-giving serving of one another that enables us to navigate whatever conflicts may arise. In our churches, when we make love the primary framework within which we engage each other, we find ourselves learning from one another, celebrating our differences and making space for the needs of others. In this environment, conflicts over style of music, times of worship, and ministry priorities become less important and are much easier to navigate. In addition, when love is the driver of our ministry, the surrounding community inevitably feels and notices the difference. Those who struggle financially are able to find support and dignity in the church. Those who seek God are welcomed, even though they may think or act differently. Those who find themselves in crisis discover a place of safety and comfort and help. This has always been how the Church should look, but unfortunately, we have too often allowed our fear to trump our love, and we have become a people who too easily shut others out, point fingers and pronounce judgment. It is not our condemnation of others, nor our fear of them, that will lead us to God's life. Rather, it is our striving to live out the self-giving love of Christ that will bring life to those around us and those who are share in our community. Somehow we know this, but fail to live it. Perhaps this week our worship can help us to let what we know become what we do. https://sacredise.com/proper-25a/





Annual **Parish Meeting**

Our P.A.M will be held straight after our Eucharist in Thurgoona on the **8th November.** This is where you hear what has been happening in our parish over the last 12 months. You also get to register as an official member of this congregation. We do not have to change our office bearers this year, however, Rev'd Maryann still can ask for another Parish Councillor as we do not have a full compliment on Parish Council. After this short meeting we will gather for a light luncheon and share fellowship.

Tallangatta's PAM will be on the the 24th November at 3:30pm after Bingo in the Hall.



Gillian Baker and David Mitchell Memorial Diocesan Environment and Sustainability Trust Award 2026

In the next couple of weeks Felicity, myself and in consultation with the green thumbs of the Parish, we will embark on shopping for our garden requirements and supplies for Playgroup and our Parish community. A proposed area has been suggested.
The garden beds will be free standing for the benefit of both small children and adults. Bend free hopefully. There will be tools for the little ones, little gardening gloves and hoses that will reach, some fencing and netting etc. Everyone will be invited to begin our journey together by setting up beds, soil, and of course planting our plants. Also a Hot House is in this proposal.



Our next Market will be on the Second Saturday of November.

The reason for this is because both myself and John will be at the Installation of the new Dean at the Cathedral on the 21st, & other helpers will also be away.

Our Christmas Market will be on Saturday 19th. This will be the last Market until February 2027, & that will depend on the heat, and other weather interruptions.

More hands make light work. Baking, assisting at stalls, helping to make cuppas and spread jam and cream on scones. The time we need the most help is setting up and packing up.



On the 29th November(Advent1) Bishop Clarence (with Michelle), will be making an historical pastoral visit to the Anglican Parish of Thurgoona.

God willing and if all the preparations align, the Bishop will officially announce that the Mission District of Thurgoona will be now known as The Parochial District of Thurgoona. This means some things stay the same and some things will change. Please pray for this day and for our Bishop, that all will go ahead with God's blessing. Our numbers have increased from the original few to 52 on the 'books'.

After this significant Service, Jill and Greg are opening their beautiful gardens and surrounds for everyone to attend a luncheon to celebrate. All are invited and will be made welcome. For catering purposes we would like to get an idea of who would be coming. A sheet will be available in the foyer of St John's for this purpose.

PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FREE TO ATTEND THIS HISTORIC SERVICE

Messy Church is NOT only for kids!!!!! It is Multigenerational. Our next one is TODAY 4-6pm

We are learning about Abraham. Abraham is the foundational patriarch in the Bible whose faith and obedience to God established the covenant and lineage leading to the nation of Israel and Jesus Christ. **Free Meal:** Patriarchal Parma Chicken, Messy Mash Potato, Three Nation Carrots, Mystical Peas, Wild Chocolate Self Saucing Pudding. Come along even if you just want to enjoy a meal together.



Ministries in our Church. As I have mentioned a couple of weeks ago, we have many ministries that people can be involved in. One of these ministries is cleaning. This week, Narell was gifted for use at St John's, a new mop and bucket. This may sound mundane and not at all news worthy. But, it took 5 people to work out how one rinses the mop in the twirly thing. We also had the assistance of Bec, who has been coming to craft while on holidays from the UK, who undertook the the most 2026 way to discover how to use the mop....Dr Google. Light bulbs 'pinged' everywhere, and in no time Narell was an old hand at this palaver.

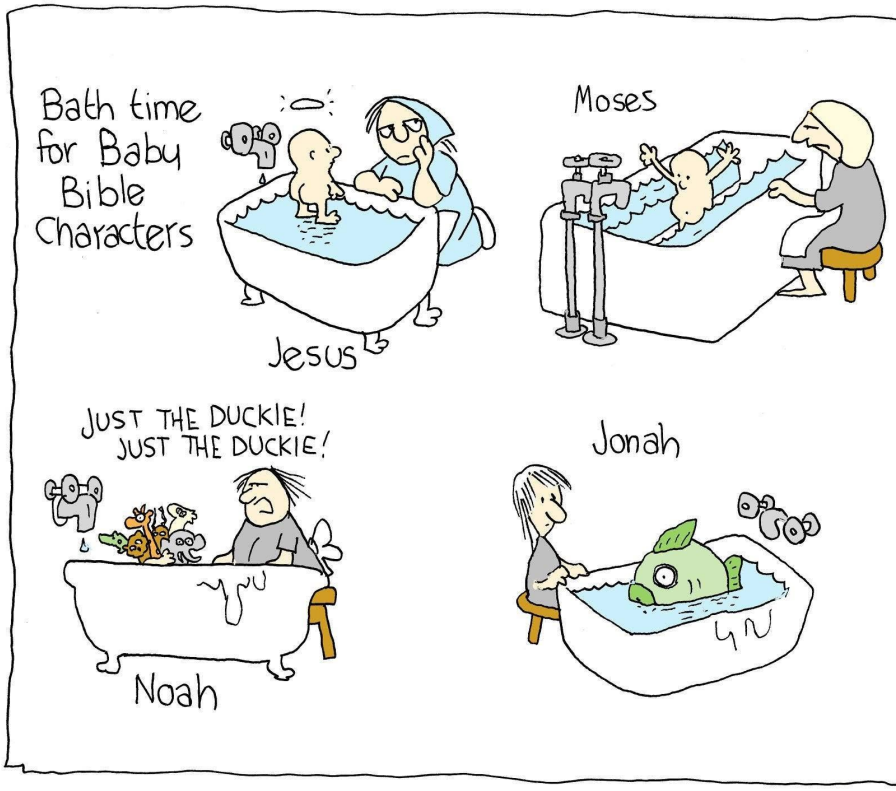
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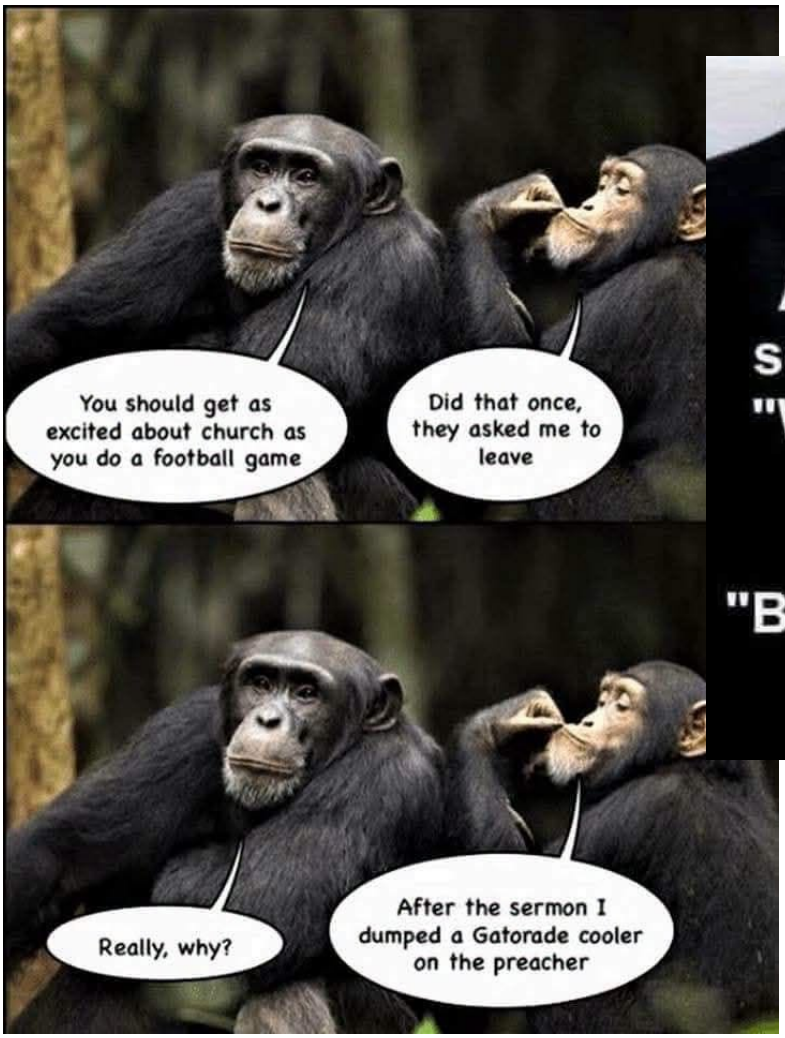
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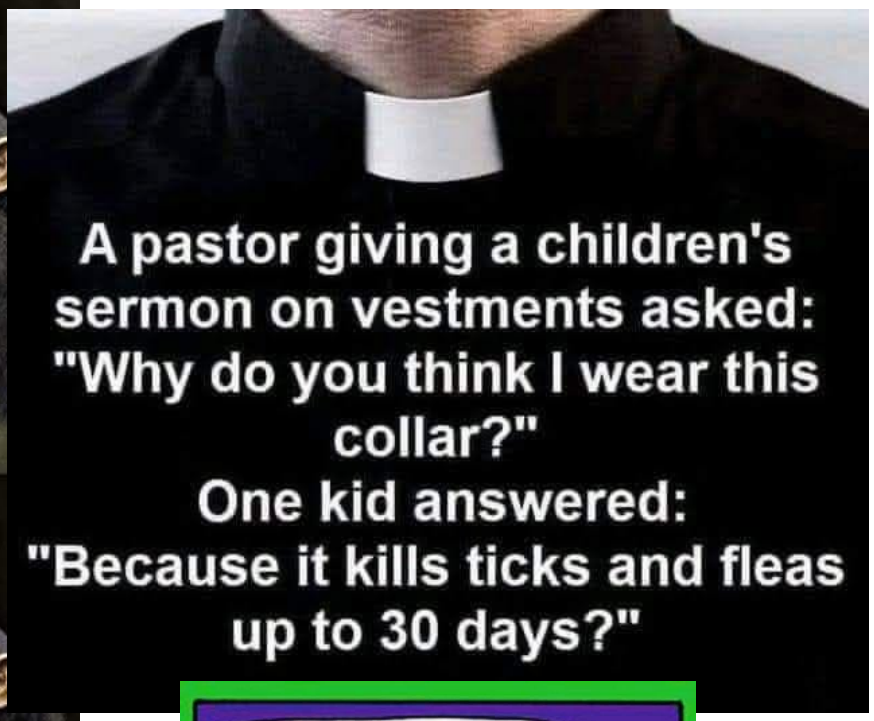
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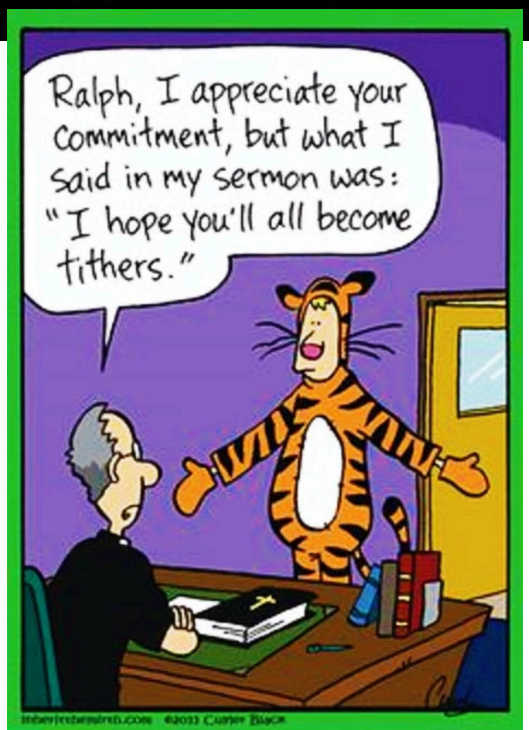
Melchizedek	Machpelah	Beersheba	sacrifice	Abimelech	offering
Keturah	Rebekah	Bethuel	Ishmael	Pharaoh	Abraham
Moriah	Midian	Hebron	angels	Canaan	Milcah
Laban	knife	Paran	altar	Gerar	Hager
Sodom	Egypt	Abram	Haran	Nahor	Terah
Isaac	Sarah	wood	ram	Lot	Ur


45 minutes after Mass.
She's just saying goodbye.
BETWEEN MASSES


Bath time for Baby Bible Characters
Jesus
Moses
JUST THE DUCKIE! JUST THE DUCKIE!
Noah
Jonah


You should get as excited about church as you do a football game
Did that once, they asked me to leave
Really, why?
After the sermon I dumped a Gatorade cooler on the preacher


A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked: "Why do you think I wear this collar?"
One kid answered: "Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days?"


Ralph, I appreciate your commitment, but what I said in my sermon was: "I hope you'll all become tithers."

THIS WEEK

Today:	4-6pm Messy Church St John's
Monday 26th:	11:00am DoW Zoom for those who have Op Shops
Tuesday 27th:	1:00pm Bingo Tallangatta
Wednesday 28th:	9:30am Estia
	10:00am Craft
	1:00pm Bible Study
	6:30pm Deb Ball Meeting
Thursday 29th:	10:30am Little Possums Playgroup
	Safe Church Training in other Parishes
Friday 30th:	9:30am Little Wildling's Playgroup
	Shopping for garden supplies St John's
Saturday 31st:	11:00am Singing Practice St John's
	1:pm Bingo St John's

Date	Welcomer	Reader 1	Reader 2	Prayers	Morning Tea	Sacristy Eucharist Assistance	Flowers	Cleaners
25/102026	Elaine	David	Karen	Glenda	Scott	David	Jill	Leonard's
01/11/2026	Sylvia	Greg	Jill	Glenda	Greg	John	Jill	Narell

Anglican Parish of Tallangatta BSB 803070 (WAW) Acc No: 100151216
Anglican Parish of Thurgoona: BSB: 640 000 (Hume) Acc No:1113-34891