The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta

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

The Reverend Canon Maryann Leonard

missionnoproblem@gmail.com

0439 066 553

8th November 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

There is a strong connection between hope, wisdom, and connection. Without hope, we struggle to stay the course, and we make foolish, impulsive mistakes. With hope, we discover stamina and perseverance we didn't know we had, and we are able to slow ourselves down and move beyond our fear to the choices that bring life. This is the basic message of the Lectionary this week. May our worship renew our hope, and, through it, give us strength to commit to, and the wisdom to act in alignment with, God's always coming reign – for which we remain always watchful.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Sentence:

Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Matthew 24.42, 44

Collect:

Eternal God, you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand: keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes we may go out joyfully to meet him, and with him enter into the marriage feast that you have prepared for all who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

1st Reading **Joshua 24.1-3a; 24.14-25**

Joshua challenges the people to turn from their idols and serve only God, and they commit to doing so.

1 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the
elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before
God. 2 Joshua said to all the people, 'This is what the Lord , the God of Israel, says:
"Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived
beyond the River Euphrates and worshipped other gods. 3 But I took your father
Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and
gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, 14 'Now fear the Lord and serve him
with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshipped beyond the

River Euphrates and in Egypt, and serve the Lord . 15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord .' 16 Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! 17 It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. 18 And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord , because he is our God.' 19 Joshua said to the people, 'You are not able to serve the Lord . He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.' 21 But the people said to Joshua, 'No! We will serve the Lord .' 22 Then Joshua said, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord .' 'Yes, we are witnesses,' they replied. 23 'Now then,' said Joshua, 'throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord , the God of Israel.' 24 And the people said to Joshua, 'We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.' 25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78.1-7

A call for people to hear a message of God's greatness and goodness, remembering how God gave the people laws and instructions so that they and their children could remember God's deeds and hope in.

1 Give heed to my teaching, O my people: incline your ears to the words of my mouth;

2 **For I will open my mouth in a parable: and expound the mysteries of former times.**

3 What we have heard and known: what our forebears have told us,

4 **We will not hide from their children, but declare to a generation yet to come: the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, his mighty and wonderful works.**

5 He established a law in Jacob and made a decree in Israel: which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children,

6 **That future generations might know, and those yet unborn:**
that they in turn might teach it to their children;

7 So that they might put their confidence in God: and not forget his works, but keep his commandments,

Second Reading: **1 Thessalonians 4.9-18**

A word of encouragement to remind the believers that death is not the end, but that believers, both dead and alive, will enjoy life eternal in union with Christ, which is our Christian hope.

9 Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you, for you
yourselves have been taught by God to love each other. 10 And in fact, you do love
all of God's family throughout Macedonia. Yet we urge you, brothers and sisters, to
do so more and more, 11 and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: you should
mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, 12 so that
your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be
dependent on anybody. 13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed
about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind,
who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we
believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.
15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left
until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen
asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command,
with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in
Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught
up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be
with the Lord for ever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words. *Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.* **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia. **Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia.** Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia**

Jesus tells a story about bridesmaids who are waiting for the arrival of the bridegroom at a wedding. Some have extra oil and are able to wait for as long as it takes, while others, who do not have extra, have to leave to find more and so miss the groom's arrival. Then, when they return, they are shut out and not allowed in. Then Jesus encourages his hearers to be alert

Gospel: **Matthew 25.1-13**

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

1 ‘At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps
and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were
wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The
wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a
long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 ‘At midnight the
cry rang out: “Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!” 7 ‘Then all the
virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, “Give
us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.” 9 ‘“No,” they replied, “there may not
be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for
yourselves.” 10 ‘But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom
arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And
the door was shut. 11 ‘Later the others also came. “Lord, Lord,” they said, “open the
door for us!” 12 ‘But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.” 13 ‘Therefore
keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. *This is the Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



Prayer of the People

Loving God, you never leave us alone, nor fail to watch out for our well-being, restoring us and providing for us. Because you are faithful, we come to you now to make our petitions known to you. *Lord in your Mercy,* ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for the church and its leaders; Clarence our Bishop, Michelle, Rev’d Maryann, John & our parish; may we continue to be living witnesses for you. *Lord in your Mercy,* ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for the global community; enable us to serve those in need and work for peace. *Lord in your Mercy,* ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for all those who are cheated and abused; help us be advocates for the powerless, that we might enact godly justice. *Lord in your Mercy,* ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for those who suffer; make us agents of your restoration and healing. *Lord in your Mercy,* ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for your creation; make us good stewards, that many generations will know the goodness of your gifts. *Lord in your Mercy,* ***Hear our prayer.***

We remember those who have come to their eternal rest; help us to comfort those who grieve their loss. Dorothy Markby &Geoff Poliness Ⓟ We remember Years Minds; Bill Ginnes Ⓟ *Lord in your Mercy,* ***Hear our prayer.***

We lift up to you the prayers we hold secretly, for we know that you know all things. All these things we ask in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us. **Our Father.....**



As we begin to move closer to the end of this year and the start of the Advent season, the Lectionary offers a set of readings that make a good preparation. In the Gospel, Jesus' parable of the bridesmaids is a reminder that God is always coming to us, and that we need to be alert and watchful so that we don't miss God's presence and activity in our lives. In the letter to the Thessalonians, this reminder extends to death and to the end of time when our hope in Christ is fulfilled. The connection, though, of course, is that we need to live this hope now in each day of our lives. In the Old Testament related readings, the Day of the Lord is viewed by the prophet Amos as a time to be watchful of, and a reason to embrace justice and mercy. In the continuous Old Testament reading, Joshua challenges the people to be committed to God alone. Finally, in the Psalms and Wisdom readings, there is the celebration of living with wisdom, of remembering God's gracious acts on behalf of God's people, and of trust in God's help. When all of these ideas are brought together, we find there is a single, cohesive theme that emerges: As we hope and trust in God's coming and God's activity in our lives and our world – past, present, and future – we are inspired and challenged to live out this faith and hope by being alert, mindful, and wise. Our hope in Christ, then, forms the basis for wise and abundant living.

GLOBAL APPLICATION: Despair never solves problems, creates justice, or brings life. To make a positive impact on the world requires faith, hope, and love. This is the challenge of the Lectionary this week. In the face of the overwhelming challenges of our world, it is tempting to despair. But when we remember our hope in Christ, when we commit to stay true to Christ's message and mission, we discover resources that empower and sustain us for our work. These resources

include an alert watchfulness to recognise God's coming – God's presence and activity – and co-operate with what God is doing, the wisdom to know how best to respond to the challenges we face, and the stamina to keep going when it gets tough. When we remember that God's reign arrives in the subtle, unexpected ways Jesus spoke of, we discover that these resources are exactly what we need to make the small, consistent commitments and contributions that really do change the world for the better.

LOCAL APPLICATION: It is unfortunate that Christianity has become an 'evacuation' faith (to borrow Brian McLaren's word). Instead of engaging our communities and getting involved in the struggles of people, we have offered an escape and a lame hope that may promise bliss in eternity but has nothing to contribute to our world now. This is tragic and misguided. But, when we allow the hope that the Scriptures offer us (as in the Lectionary readings this week) to capture us, our engagement with the world changes dramatically. As we embrace our hope for the future we live differently now. We gain the wisdom of God's perspective and the faith to work as agents of inspiration and possibility in our communities. We begin to be alert and watchful for the signs of God's coming in the lives of those we serve, and we become more committed to live out our hope now. In this way we are able to contribute to the manifestation of God's reign where we are. And when our lives and ministries reflect Christ in this way, we can't help but be agents of grace, healing, and salvation to hurting, hopeless people. *Sacredise 2026*





Our P.A.M will be held straight after our service in Thurgoona **TODAY.** 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 and Birthday Wishes.**

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



Thank you to those who were able to attend our 'All Souls Day' Services. From the feedback, it was a moving and solemn time where we remembered ALL those who have passed into glory. Names were read of those who have died that were in our Years Minds folder and names provided by parishioners.



A wonderful thank you to the Hewson family for the donation of 300 suitable candles for our Remembrance Bowl. Please be careful when lighting candles. Please light your candle from one already lit by the one before you.

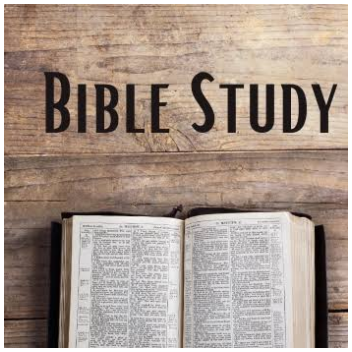
ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION AUSTRALIA

Thank you to all who are contributing to our 'Care Bags' and for the monetary donations as well. When our International '16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, concludes, we will deliver the gifts to the 'Centre Against Violence' in Wodonga. Please keep giving if you can.



At our monthly meeting this past Thursday, it has been decided to have an 'Anglican Mothers Union Australia' promotional table at our Market on the 14th. As well as all things AMUA, we will also be promoting awareness to the 'International 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence' with pamphlets and referral material for those who wish to avail themselves. Sue Forster is the person heading up this wonderful ministry. Please see Sue if you can spare a little time on Market day to being available for the table.

Our DoW AGM will be held on the 16th November @ 1pm in The Cottage.



Bible Study is held on a Wednesday 1pm @ The Cottage.

As the next Church Year is Year B, it is the Year of the Gospel of Mark. We are travelling slowly through the Chapters of Mark uncovering History, Context and meaning. Anyone can join us at any time. You would be made very welcome.



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 December. 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.

THE STORY BEHIND "GIVE ME OIL IN MY LAMP"



“Give Me Oil in My Lamp, Keep Me Praising” is a joyful Christian chorus that emerged around the 1950s, commonly associated with evangelical and charismatic worship movements. While its authorship isn’t firmly documented, it is most often attributed to A. Sevison. The song became widely sung during the revival movements of the 1960s and 1970s, especially in youth fellowships, camp meetings, Sunday schools, and open-air evangelism.

The hymn draws its meaning from Jesus’ parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-13, where the wise virgins keep oil in their lamps as they wait for the bridegroom’s arrival. In this context, the “oil” represents the Holy Spirit and a heart prepared and spiritually alive as believers await Christ’s return. The hymn is essentially a prayer, asking God to fill the believer with spiritual strength, joy, and constant praise, so that their “lamp” never runs dry.

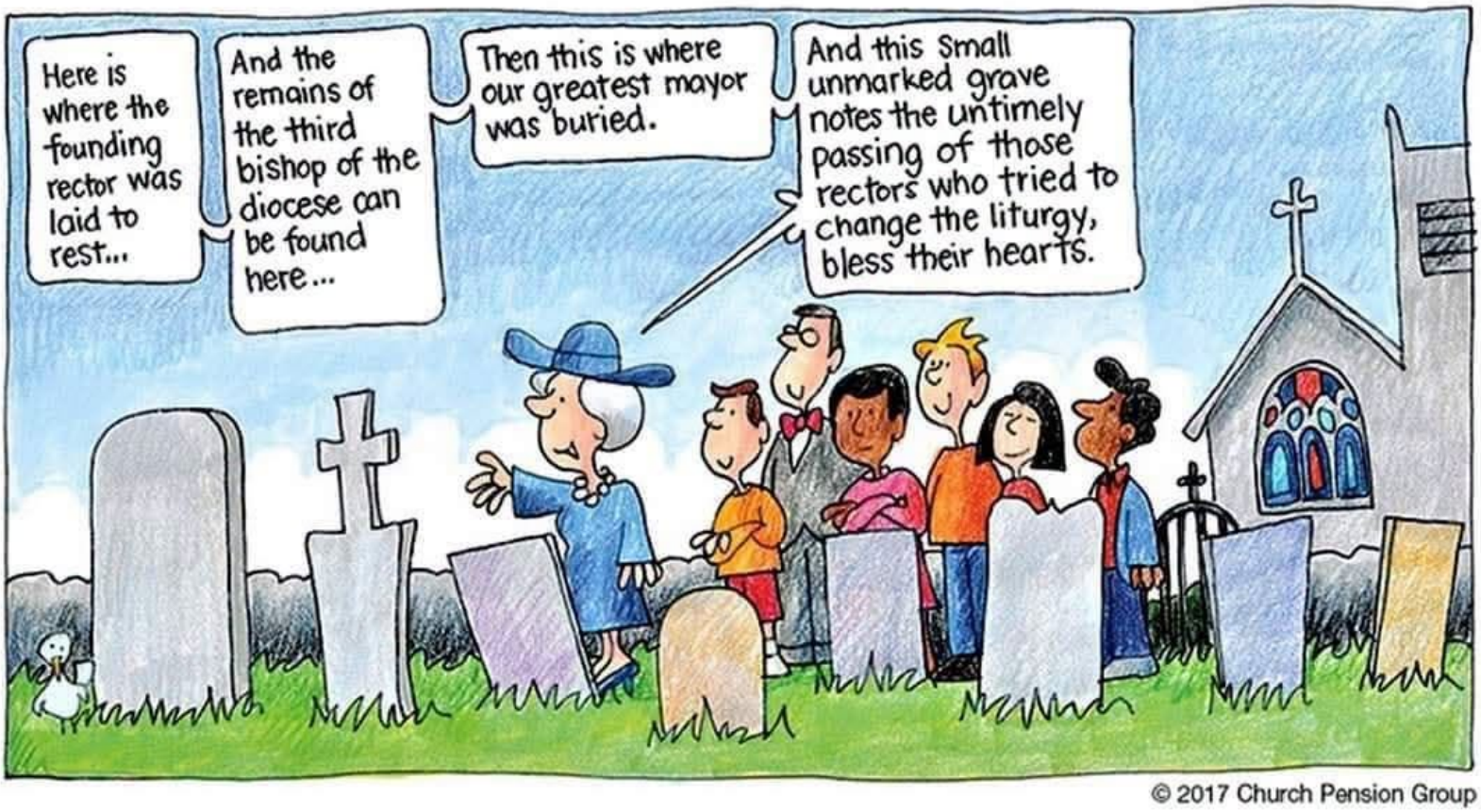
Its simple, repetitive melody and enthusiastic tone made it especially beloved among children and youth ministries, yet its message resonates across generations. Today, the hymn continues to be sung in churches worldwide. It remains a lively reminder that the Christian life requires ongoing spiritual renewal, joy in worship, and readiness for the coming of Christ.
#thestorybehind #givemeoilinmylamp #hymnsofpraise #joy #oil #peace #faith #praise #glory

As we have +Clarence visit on the 29th of this month and the last Sunday of the month in December is still in Christmas Tide, we will resume Messy Church Term 1 2027. Believe it or not, it will come around very quickly. Please promote this valuable ministry. Remember it is multi - generational not kids church. Thank you to Jill, Greg, John and families.THIS


A $1 BILL AND A $20 BILL, BOTH WELL WORN, WERE BEING RETIRED. THE $20 BRAGGED, "I'VE BEEN TO VEGAS, ATLANTIC CITY, ALL THE FINEST CLUBS AND CASINOS." THEN HE ASKED THE $1, "WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?"
SAID THE $1, "I'VE BEEN IN ALMOST EVERY EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE COUNTRY!"


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Parts of you get into Heaven, parts of you don't. How do you want to handle this?
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Here is where the founding rector was laid to rest...
And the remains of the third bishop of the diocese can be found here...
Then this is where our greatest mayor was buried.
And this small unmarked grave notes the untimely passing of those rectors who tried to change the liturgy, bless their hearts.
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THIS WEEK

TODAY:	Luncheon after PAM. Celebrating Rylye and Cassies Birthdays.
Monday 9th:	Rev'd Maryann & John day off.
Tuesday 10:	Rev'd Maryann celebrating a funeral in Eltham 10:00am Prayer Group @ The Cottage. 1:00pm Bingo Tallangatta
Wednesday 11th:	Remembrance Day. 9:30am Estia 10:00am Craft 1:00pm Bible Study
Thursday 12th:	10:30am Playgroup Tallangtta.
Friday 13th:	9:30am Playgroup Thurgoona
Saturday 14:	9:00am Market 1:00pm Bingo Thurgoona

Date	Welcomer	Reader 1	Reader 2	Prayers	Morning Tea	Sacristy Eucharist Assistance	Flowers	Cleaners
08/11/2026	Sylvia	David	Karen	Glenda	Lyn	David	Jill	Leonard
15/11/2026	Narell	Wendy	Elaine	Glenda	Scott	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