

6 MARCH 2016 - TODAY'S SERVICES

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Mothering Sunday

7.30AM—SUNG EUCHARIST

9.00AM—FAMILY EUCHARIST

ST JOHN

THE BAPTIST

EST. 1888
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Incorporating ministries with Eastern
Hills Parish

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

TUESDAY	8	8.50am 10.00am	Guild Meeting-Maheno Room Hoy & Morning tea—Maheno Room—\$5- all welcome
WEDNESDAY	9	7.00pm 7.30pm	Bible Study- Maheno Room Parish Council—Coxen Room
THURSDAY	10	9.30am	Mah-jong—Church
FRIDAY	11	10.00am	Eucharist
SUNDAY	13	7.30am 9.00am	Sung Eucharist Family Eucharist

Welcome! We are glad you are with us!

Before the service, speak to the Lord in prayer.

During the service, let the Lord speak to you.

After the service, speak to one another.

Please take this pew sheet and the notice sheet home with you for your prayers in the week.

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. *Luke 15.21*

HYMNS: 7.30am Eucharist:- **MP** : 440, 315, 396, 152.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

God of compassion, you are slow to anger, and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts: receive in your loving embrace all who come home to you, and seat them at your bountiful table, that, with all your children, they may feast with delight on all that satisfies the hungry heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

1ST READING: JOSHUA 5. 2-12

VANESSA HANLON JOANNE WOOD

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, 'Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites a second time.' So Joshua made flint knives, and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath-haaraloth. This is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the warriors, had died during the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt. Although all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people born on the journey through the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised. For the Israelites travelled for forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the warriors who came out of Egypt, perished, not having listened to the voice of the Lord. To them the Lord swore that he would not let them see the land that he had sworn to their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way. When the circumcising of all the nation was done, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed. (continued over page)

FIRST READING (Continued):

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were encamped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

PSALM 32 (verses to be said alternately between reader and congregation)

1. Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- 2. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
3. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- 4. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**
5. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord', and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- 6. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**
7. You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

2ND READING : 2 CORINTHIANS 5.16-21 RUTH SOUTHGATE LAURA BENTLEY

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

GOSPEL: LUKE 15: 1-3, 11B-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So Jesus told them this parable: 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' " So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found." '

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- ♦ **The Church of England: +Justin Welby Archbishop of Canterbury**
- ♦ **The Diocese of Bathurst: +Ian Palmer; Clergy and People**

In The Diocese:

- ♦ **The Parish of Tamborine Mountain:** Valerie Hoare, John Corner, Martin Hunnybun, Robin Keeley
- ♦ **Youth and family workers in parishes**
- ♦ **Fraser Coast Anglican College:** Principal - Leisa Harper; Chaplain - Greg Loumeau; Chair of College Council - Jonathan Hensman; members of College Council

Locally: Terminally ill and their carers.

Pray for The Sick: Joel, Jim, Valmai, Bronwyn, Albert , Duncan Family, Coral, Marie, Steph, Kerrie, Ollie, John, Helen, Roselee, Esther, Pam D., Linda, Emma

(NOTE: under the Federal Privacy Act, consent of the person you wish to pray for must be obtained. No details of need / illness can be published without consent)



The Fourth Sunday in Lent– Sunday 6 March 2016

Joshua 5.2-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5.16-21; Luke 15: 1-3,11b-32

There are probably few stories that Jesus tells in the New Testament that are as moving and significant to all of us as that of the Prodigal Son. No tale illustrates God's love and forgiveness in such tender ways. I often try to place myself in the place of the prodigal son on his journey home and to feel what he must have felt, a spiritual exercise that can bring me to some grief, then imagining the joy not only of the welcome home but the reconciliation that came with it. This Lenten season we remember that we are walking that same road home to the father where we are welcomed and forgiven through Christ.

Pray for reconciliation with those who we have wronged and who have wronged us; and pray that we might be as quick to show mercy and love as the father from the parable.

Give thanks for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan, and pray for peace between and within both countries.

Text: The Rev Will Johnston, Assistant Curate,
St Peter's, East Maitland, Diocese of Newcastle

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6 March 2016 News & Coming Events for your Diary

If you are new to the parish or visiting **Welcome**. Please accept this invitation to stay and join in with us for fellowship and a chat outside after the service, where tea and coffee will be served.

- ◇ Tuesday 8 March: 8.50am—Guild Meeting—Maheno Room
- ◇ Tuesday 8 March: 10.00am—Hoy and Morning tea _ Maheno Room- \$5
- ◇ Wednesday 9 March : 7.00pm—Bible Study—Maheno Room
- ◇ Wednesday 9 March: 7.30pm—Parish Council—Coxen Room
- ◇ Thursday 10 March : 9.30am—Mah-jong—Church
- ◇ Friday 11 March : 10.00am—Eucharist
- ◇ Sunday 13 March : 7.30am—Sung Eucharist
- ◇ Sunday 13 March : 9.00am—Family Eucharist

Election Day Stalls

On Saturday 19th March, we will be having our stalls on the lawn and your help would be greatly appreciated.

You can help in a number of ways.

Cook for the cake stall or donate ingredients, money or your time manning the stall.

Donate money towards the cost of the Sausage Sizzle or your time manning the stall.

Donate to the book stall.

There are sheet up the back of the Church for you to put down any time you are able to help.

This is a big day for us to make some extra money to help offset the shortfall in our weekly givings.

It is also a great day for meeting those people who live in the area.

Mothering Sunday

Today is Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday in Lent and as part of our Anglican Tradition you are invited to take a piece of Simnel Cake with you when you leave.

WHAT WE DO

Children's Church:

The parable of the prodigal son always creates interesting discussion at Children's Church – this morning we will be discussing what each character in the story might be thinking and feeling. Each Sunday during Lent, the older children will be learning about a spiritual practice and will be encouraged to take this practice up at home. This week's spiritual practice is to reflect on our thoughts and feelings during each day.

Children's Church happens each Sunday in term-time, during the 9:00 service. If you are visiting or here for the first time, your children are very welcome to join us. We meet in two groups:

Children's Church – for children in Year 3 to Year 7

Little Children's Church – for children aged 3-years to Year 2, younger children also welcome to attend with a parent .

Knitting Circle:

The knitting circle meets once a month in the Maheno room, the next meeting is on 16 March at 9.30 am.

St. John's Guild:

Guild meeting will be on Tuesday 8th March, 2016 at 8.50am in the Maheno Room followed by Hoy and Morning tea starting at 10.00am. Please come along and join this happy group, they supply the cards, and teach you how to play.

Mah-jong Group:

The Mah-jong Group meets Thursday morning from 9.30am—12.30pm at the back of the Church, and would love to have some more members. If you can play mah-jong, or would like to learn, please join us . Tea and coffee is supplied.

Cake & Book Stall: (A major fundraiser for the Parish):

Our next cake and book stalls will be on Saturday 19th March 2016 which is Election Day. As our Maheno Room is used for voting, we will have our stalls set up on the lawn. This is also the week before Easter so please keep this in mind when baking and decorating. Cards with the Easter Services are available to use on your goods to advise our service times for the Holy Week.

NEXT WEEKS READINGS
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
 Sunday 13 March 2016

Isaiah 43.16-21
 Psalm 126
 Philippians 3.3-14
 John 12.1-8

ROSTERED DUTIES	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'s	PETER JOHNSTON JACQUELINE HANLON	ROLAND SOWERBY LAURA BENTLEY
READERS	GEORGINA GREENHILL ANN WINFIELD	ELAINE ADAMS SARAH DAVIES
INTERCESSOR	ROSLYN THOMSON	ROLAND SOWERBY
DOOR	LIONEL ROWE MARGARET SALTER	BOB AND GLENDA LEE
TEA / COFFEE	ANN WINFIELD ROSLYN THOMSON	JOANNE WOOD WENDY BASTOW
OFFERTORY	DOROTHY CAMERON	
COUNTER	JUNE PARKER	
LITTLE CHILDREN'S CHURCH	LAUREN/DOROTHY	
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	ANDREA/MICHAEL	
FLOWERS	NO FLOWERS IN LENT	

Weekly Giving : Budget \$1750/Week; Last Week \$1264.05