



**ANGLICAN PARISH
OF
ST MARK'S DROMANA**
LIVING FOR JESUS;
LOVING LIKE JESUS;
LEADING TO JESUS

READINGS FOR TODAY

Reading: Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm: 139:1-11,23-24
2nd Reading: Romans 8:12-25
Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43

19 JULY 2026

PENTECOST 8

REFLECTION

Have you ever had an encounter with God? A dream or a vision? Perhaps a moment in prayer where the presence of the Lord has been physically tangible? If we've never had the experience, we can be dismissive of these things. Yet for those who have had experiences like these they are unforgettable and often life changing. In our reading from Genesis today we read of one such experience which happened to Jacob while on his way to a place called Haran. Stopping overnight on his journey, Jacob had a dream. He saw a ladder extending from earth to heaven and God's angels going up and down it. The Lord stood beside him in the dream and gave him a promise which continued the one he had given to Abraham. When Jacob rose from sleep he called the place Bethel – house of God – and set a stone pillar in place there so he would know it when he returned there. On this promise from the Lord Jacob journeyed forward, and returned in time. That place features in the lives of God's people for centuries after this. Bethel was the place where the Ark of the Covenant was kept for many years until David brought it up to Jerusalem. It was a place inhabited by the many descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – and still is. The impact of that one dream from the Lord was lasting for Jacob. It is one of hundreds of such experiences recorded in scripture which have been part of the way in which the Lord has made sure to help his people to know what he wants them to do or say, or to build or tear down. If you have had an experience like these don't be too quick to dismiss it. Write it down so that you can remember the details for later, and pray about it, seeking clarification in the scriptures as to what God is saying since a word from the Lord will always agree with his written word. Lastly, bring it to someone you trust who knows the Lord well. If they agree too then take it seriously. Encounters with the Lord can happen in all sorts of ways and genuine ones will always impact us in a way that is in line with God's character. They are a sign of the truth that Holy Spirit is present within us.

Janice

THIS WEEK : 19 - 26 JULY

- TODAY:** **Holy Communion**, 8.45am
 Family Service, 10.30am
 Parish Council, 1.30pm
- TUESDAY:** **Zoom Bible Study**, 7.00pm
 Contact: Graeme (0490 664 843)
- WEDNESDAY:** **Holy Communion**, 10.00am
 Op Shop Open, 10.00am - 3.00pm
 Bible Study, St Mark's, 11.00am
 Contact: Janice
 Cuppa,Craft & Chat Group, St Mark's,12.30pm
 Contact: Robyn (0409 425 044)
- THURSDAY:** **Women's Bible Study Group**, St Mark's, 9.30am
 Contact: Carol (0411 405 597)
 Op Shop Open, 10.00am - 3.00pm
 Men's Coffee & Chat, Blackthorn Cafe, 10.00am
 Contact: Steve (0437984679) Keith T (0413 319 327)
 Men's Bible Study, Mark's Place, 11.00am
 Contact: Kevin (0438 234 457)
- FRIDAY:** **Janice's Day Off**
 Op Shop Open, 10.00am - 3.00pm
- SATURDAY:** **Op Shop Open**, 10.00am - 2.00pm
- SUNDAY:** **Holy Communion**, 8.45am
 Family Service, 10.30am
 Newcomers' Lunch, 12 noon

OUR PARISH CONTACT NUMBER HAS CHANGED

**Please replace the old number in your contacts with the new one
0494 654 685. Thanks.**

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Monitored contact points: **0494 654 685**
 contact@stmarksdromana.org.au

Interim Pastoral Care Coordinator: **Janice 0401 717 435**

Parish Web Address: **www.stmarksdromana.org.au**

Facebook page: **stmarksdromana**

For Parishioners Only **Janice's contact number: 0401 717 435**

**Please call please contact Jan Glass 0421 047 513 or Keith Thomas 0413 319 327
if you need to contact Janice on her day off (Friday)**

NOTICES

'The LORD: slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love'

Old Testament talks by Bishop Paul Barker on the Character of God
These talks will take place over 3 Wednesday evenings on July 22, 29 and August 5 at 7.30pm in person at GWAC but can be live streamed via the link www.gwac.org.au/livestream Well worth the watch!

CAN YOU HELP?

We are again putting carry bags in the Samaritan's Purse boxes this year. Could you please look through your fabric box and see if you have any pieces you could donate. The fabric pieces need to be a minimum of 50cm X 85cm of light weight cotton in cheery prints. Please give to Edna or put in the box in the narthex.

OP SHOP

If you have a 1/2 a day spare once in a while and would like to assist us in the shop, we have a variety of ways in which you can help out including : Tip Runs, working B's. Weekly sorting, cleaning, sewing, counting jigsaw pieces!, or going on the shop roster once a month.

Every little helps and we would love to hear from you. Vicki. 0425770197.

LISTENING IN LENT

What We Heard draws together the main themes that emerged from almost 3,000 responses and engagements across the diocese.

It offers an initial summary of the hopes, concerns, prayers, and invitations that were shared, and has helped shape the shared journey now emerging across the diocese.

You can read the summary here: melbourneanglican.org.au/listeninginlent

2026 NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS CONFERENCE

leaving a faith legacy for our grandkids

29 August 9am - 4.30pm at St Mark's via online link to actual event in NSW. Cost online \$30 per person. Discount if we have 10 or more participants. For details and booking contact Graeme King 0490664843
prior to 23rd July for expression of interest.

STEP BACK IN TIME: A SIMPLE BIBLICAL MEAL EXPERIENCE

You are warmly invited to share in a special evening inspired by the simplicity and spirit of meals in Biblical times. Gather around a table where food is shared, not rushed-where conversation, connection, and quiet reflection are part of the experience. Rather than recreating a perfect historical feast, this evening offers a gentle step back in time-an opportunity to experience how people once gathered, ate simply, and connected deeply with one another. All welcome.

Saturday 5th September 2026 6pm to 9pm here at St Mark's

Cost \$33 per person. Bookings via <https://www.trybooking.com/DNRMY>

Building Appeal Donations are not Tax Deductible

Account Name – St Mark's Anglican Church Dromana

BSB – 703 122 Account Number – 05010814

Set up an online Direct Debit for your weekly/monthly offering
St Mark's banking details: 633-000 140772872

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS

In our country and the world:

- ❖ For de-escalation of the Middle East war.
- ❖ For the people of Israel and Iran and Middle East countries.
- ❖ For the victims and those who are mourning after the Bondi terrorist attack.
- ❖ For the Government plans to address the rise of antisemitism in Australia.
- ❖ For families suffering as a result of violence and home invasions.
- ❖ For all facing homelessness, hardship, anguish & despair amid rising costs.
- ❖ For all in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine and Myanmar.
- ❖ For those affected by natural disasters around the world.
- ❖ For King Charles III, the UK and the Commonwealth.
- ❖ For peace and unity in countries around the World.
- ❖ For aid agencies like Save the Children, Oxfam, CARE, UNICEF, World Vision.

In our community:

- ❖ For teachers and students.
- ❖ For doctors, nurses, paramedics, Coast Guard, the CFA & SES.
- ❖ For local community outreach groups such as the Dromana Community House and "Food for All".

In our Diocese and beyond:

- ❖ For Right Reverend Dr Richard (Ric) Thorpe as Archbishop of Melbourne.
- ❖ For Archbishop Geoffrey Smith's ministry as Primate of Australia.
- ❖ For the ministry of Bishop Paul Barker in the Jumbunna Region and Archdeacon Rev'd Sam Bleby, in the Frankston Archdeanery.
- ❖ In our Deanery, we pray for the parish of Mornington & Mount Martha Church, and their Vicar Rev'd Colleen Clayton.
- ❖ Keiron, Vicar of Flinders/Balnarring.
- ❖ For the work of the Church Missionary Society and Wei-Han the Victorian Director.
- ❖ For Anna Radkovic our CMS Link Missionary in Watamu, Kenya.
- ❖ For Christian churches around the world to be free to worship and be witnesses of the love of God shown through the coming of His Son.

In our Parish:

- ❖ For our leadership and ministry teams.
- ❖ For our Vicar Rev'd Janice O'Gorman.
- ❖ For the finances of our Parish.
- ❖ For the success of our building permit application.
- ❖ For our Parish, its people and those we reach out to every week.
- ❖ For the success of the new Beachside Youth program.
- ❖ For those preparing for baptism.
- ❖ For the 9am at home prayer time for the Parish, Dromana, & Mornington Peninsula.
- ❖ For all members of the Parish Council.
- ❖ That the Good News of Jesus will be known in Dromana.
- ❖ For Kevin, Anne, Doris B, Ellen, Ted & Monica, Lorna, Louise, Jen, TJ and family, Karen, Mary, Jan K, David, Belinda, Joan R, Robyn, Phillip, Nikki, Jason, Rhiannon, Richard, Pat, Keith S, Harry, Mike, Chloe, Jessica, Audrey, Backy, Fred, Robert.

Please send items for Pew Sheet to Maggie Dodu by Wednesday:

margaretdodu@me.com