



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

READINGS FOR TODAY

Reading: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Psalm: 114

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

23 AUGUST 2026

PENTECOST 13

REFLECTION

This week and next week we will have the pleasure of a sermon from Rev'd Julia Boyd who is locum in my place. I am taking some much needed leave. Julia will be focusing on the Exodus and Romans readings, so I thought I would reflect on our gospel readings. Matthew 16:13-20 is a pivotal narrative which falls very close to the half way point in the book itself. Here Jesus brings his disciples to the region of Caesarea Philippi, which is an area in northern Israel where there was a strong pagan Roman presence. In this area there are mountains and rocky areas, greenery around streams of clear water, and a place commonly known as 'the gates of hades' because it had a cave which was used for human sacrifice. In this setting, amongst the pagan temples and idols of Roman culture, after asking his disciples who others think he is, Jesus challenges the disciples to identify who he really is. 'Who do you say that I am?'. Simon Peter answers as he often does on behalf of the group, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God'. There it is. No maybe, no hesitation, just a direct statement. Jesus is Messiah, Son of God. Jesus' response tells us how important this declaration is. Firstly, he blesses Peter, then he says this was revealed to Peter by the Father, not any human source. This tells us that it is the work of the Spirit to fully reveal Jesus to us. This is why explanations and talking often don't work on those with closed hearts. Then he tells Peter how his church will be built on himself and not even the gates of hades will prevail against it. This tells us that Jesus' authority as Son of God will always stand against Satan's attacks therefore the church Jesus builds will also stand firm in him. Lastly Jesus tells Peter that whatever he binds on earth is bound in heaven and whatever he looses on earth is loosed in heaven. This tells us that the authority and power of Jesus which will work through the church by faith in him is part of what it means to be one who speaks in Jesus' name. This is not our power but the power of Jesus Son of the living God whose authority we have when we speak by faith in him. Notice all this comes only with Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Son of the Living God, the Messiah. What the Lord does he only does through those who can truly speak those words and believe them. Who do you say that Jesus is? Can you declare those words too?

Janice

THIS WEEK : 23 - 30 AUGUST

TODAY:	Holy Communion , 8.45am Family Service , 10.30am
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 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 Grandparent Conference livestream, St Mark's 9.00am-4.00pm
SUNDAY:	Holy Communion , 8.45am Family Service , 10.30am

Reminder of upcoming events:

Saturday 5th September - 6 pm Biblical Meal Experience \$33 pp

Saturday 3rd October Trivia Night 6.45pm for 7pm \$10 per person

Sunday 4th October Bp Paul Barker visiting both services

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
<u>For Parishioners Only</u>	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

Janice is away on leave from Saturday 22nd August to Friday 4th September inclusive. While she is away, please call Jan Glass 0421 047 513 for any urgent pastoral matters. On Sundays our Locum will be the Rev'd Julia Boyd. Wednesday services will continue as normal..

National Grandparents Conference on Saturday 29th August 9am to 4.30pm livestreamed online at St Mark's direct from the conference happening in NSW. Bookings have now closed.

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>

Bookings close on Saturday 29th August.

We still have plenty of room at our tables.

CMS ANNA

7th September - Alf Stanway lecture at Ridley college.

Anna Radkovic our link missionary, now on home assignment, will speak with Wei Han Kuan about her work in Kenya.

(Arrangements will be made to join the livestream together in the church)

CMS ANNA'S VISIT TO ST MARK'S

Saturday 31st October - Sunday 1st November

Exciting and informative events are planned. Details to follow.

CMS SUMMER CONFERENCE

7th & 8th January at Crossway Baptist Church

Early bird tickets are now available online <https://my.cms.org.au/>

Speak with Steve Parkinson for more details.

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 Colombia and all who have suffered in the devastating earthquake.
- ❖ 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 St John's Flinders with St Mark's Balnarring, their Vicar Rev'd Keiron Jones and Deacon Rev'd Christine Barren.
- ❖ 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 William, 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