ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST MARK'S DROMANA

LIVING FOR JESUS;
LOVING LIKE JESUS;
LEADING TO JESUS

READINGS FOR TODAY

Reading: Judges 4:1-10
Psalm: 123
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

15 NOVEMBER 2026 **PENTECOST 25**

REFLECTION

In Judges 4 is the story of Deborah and Barak and the preparations for battle with Sisera who was commander of the Canaanite army which had been oppressing Israel. In the first few verses we see that the renewed covenant and promises the people made in Joshua 24 didn't last. Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord and the oppression under the Canaanites was their consequence. Yet when the people cried out to God for mercy, he listened and spoke to Deborah who was judging Israel at the time. The judges were placed in power by the Lord to continue in the footsteps of Moses and Joshua. They were not kings or queens, but faithful people appointed by the Lord to lead his people under his own Kingship. Deborah is a judge of Israel, and the Lord hears her and says to her to summon Barak to raise an army against Sisera and that if he does this then God will give Sisera into Barak's hand and the Canaanites will be defeated. Barak, however, isn't willing to do this without Deborah by his side. She agrees but tells him that now he won't be the one who gets the victory over Sisera, it will be a woman who will have that honour. Why is this story important? Firstly, it shows us how quickly the people of Israel broke covenant with the Lord. Secondly, it shows that their consequences for this were real, so there was no excuse for those choosing disobedience. They knew what was going to happen. Thirdly, it allows us to see a woman leading the people of Israel, appointed by the Lord to do so, walking in righteousness with God, and being called on to lead men into battle. This is one of the places that women's leadership is shown to be accepted by the Lord and his people, even in the Old Testament times. Lastly, it is a call to be faithful and to follow through. Barak had been told that the Lord would go before him but relied on Deborah instead. He was not prepared to simply follow the word of God. Although Barak wins the battle in the long run, he loses the fight. His lack of faith means he cannot receive his full reward. If you know you are called to step out in faith and you have to do it alone, do what you have been asked to do. The Lord will be with you.

Janice

THIS WEEK : 15 - 22 NOVEMBER

TODAY:
Holy Communion Service, 8.45am
Family Service, 10.30am
Parish Council, 1.30pm

TUESDAY:
Private Function in the Narthex, 10.00am - 3.00pm
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)
Fete Meeting, 2.00pm

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 Service, 8.45am
Family Service, 10.30am

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)

PARISH COUNCIL 2026 - 2027

Keith Thomas (People's Warden)
John Beasy, John Rogers, Michael Pakes, Heather Such,
Anne Cranwell, Backy Cowie, Stephen Parkinson
Nathan Kim (Treasurer)
Vacant: 1 x People's Warden, Vicar's Warden TBA
Parish Nominators: Carol Ann Parkinson, Graeme King

CHRISTMAS HAMPER

It's almost Christmas Hamper time and we have decided to do things differently this year. Many families are struggling and need to be able get what they need for their own family's requirements; so to give flexibility to their food budget we have decided to ask for donations towards the purchase of food vouchers to be distributed to families in need through Dromana Primary School instead of doing hampers. If you would normally spend an amount on food for the hampers would you please place that in an envelope marked 'Hamper money' in the offering or make a deposit with 'Hamper money' as the description into our church account. If needed we can also take donations through the square tap and pay. Thank you.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

6.00 pm Sunday 29th November 2026 St John's Anglican Church, Sorrento
Guest speaker: Archbishop Most Rev Dr Ric Thorpe
Byrdsong Choir, Conductor John Rogers
The service will be followed by refreshments.

FETE

A reminder that the Parish Fete will be held on Saturday 5th December and we will be looking for volunteers for setting up and pulling down as well as some donations of marquees to use over the stalls. If preparing plants, it would be helpful to have a picture of the flower if not currently in bloom and what the plant is. We have a volunteer who will help with labelling. Please see Janice.

"FOR THE HARVEST"

Here is the link for an electronic copy of 'For the Harvest', Archbishop Ric's vision for our diocese for the next 10 years.
ADM_ForTheHarvest_Strategy2026_Digital.pdf

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 P. 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:

- Helen Haines, her family, and community of Wangaratta.
- For the people of Israel and Iran and Middle East countries..
- 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 Rachel and her family on the passing of Karl Hiehler, Janice & family, William, Kevin, Anne, Doris B, Ellen, Ted & Monica, Lorna, Louise, Jen, TJ and family, Karen, Mary, Jan K, David, Belinda, Robyn, Phillip, Nikki, Jason, Rhiannon, Richard, Pat, Keith S, Harry, Mike, Chloe, Jessica, Audrey, Backy, Fred, Robert.

Please send Pew Sheet items to Maggie Dodu by Wednesday:
margaret.dodu@stmarksdromana.org.au