

# The Vicar's Chat

24 April 2020

[www.apok.org.au](http://www.apok.org.au)

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## 1. ANZAC Day

At 6am I'll be standing outside the church with a candle remembering:

- The sacrifices of so many,
- those who stayed behind,
- those who suffered PTSD when it was not a recognised condition,
- those who serve in peacekeeping forces today
- Those in the defense forces separated by distance and stress.

***God of love and liberty,***

***We bring out thanks today for the peace and  
security we enjoy.***

***We remember those who in time of war***

***Faithfully served their country.***

***We pray for their families,***

***And for ourselves whose freedom is won at such a cost.***

***Make us people zealous for peace,***

***And hasten the day***

***When nation shall not lift up sword against nation***

***Neither learn war any more.***

***This we pray in the name of one who gave his life***

***For the sake of the world:***

***Jesus Christ, our redeemer. AMEN.***

Please feel free to join me as long as you observe the required Social Distance.

## 2. Worship for Sunday 26 April 2020, 9am

You can connect in a variety of ways.

- Zoom link: ... just click ....  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86803759342?pwd=Um1TYXd0dGxvemVTWC9qb3BUVXRXUT09> ... this code from now on will not change from Sunday to Sunday. If you use a previous link it will not work.
- Or go the parish website [www.apok.org.au](http://www.apok.org.au) and click on Church On Line. This will take you to the worship that is being conducted with the zoom tool.
- The parish Facebook page.  
This Sunday we will be observing St. Marks day, the patronal festival of St. Marks Pottsville.

## 3. A visual Praise Song / Prayer For A Time Of Pandemic

Click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCYoikGal6U&feature=youtu.be>

## 4. The Great Pause

Many people are referring to this time as The Great Pause. This is of course true for the many thousands of people who have lost their jobs and wonder if their old job will be there for them on the other side. Some are busier than ever and are stressed because there is so much change and it's happening so fast! There is much that we don't know about the future. What we do know is that old routines are gone.

*The ordinary compulsions that normally boss us around, the tyranny of tasks, are mostly not there anymore. There is a built-in spaciousness to our days.*

— **Mirabai Starr**

I don't like the image of The Great Pause. People are more than the economic pause that we are living in. Life is going on. God is still almighty, holy and wondrous! Life is not on pause. We are not frozen, like children playing Statues. God's Spirit is within everybody, always desiring attention, always prompting through the still small voice, always surrounding with infinite love, acceptance and grace. One of my favorite writers is Jean-Pierre de Caussade, who wrote a wonderful little book called Abandonment to Divine Providence. In this book he explores the idea that God is in every single moment of our lives.

“There is not a moment in which God does not present Himself under the cover of some pain to be endured, of some consolation to be enjoyed, or of some duty to be

performed. All that takes place within us, around us, or through us, contains and conceals His divine action.”

“If we wish to be united to God we should value all the operations of his grace, but we should cling only to the duties of the present moment.”

Since he is one of my favorites you will no doubt have to endure more from him in due course.

I subscribe to the Mikeys Funnies. The following comes from one of this week’s mailings:

**Sunrises** - not cancelled.

**Reading** - not cancelled.

**Family** - not cancelled.

**Love** - not cancelled.

**Music** - not cancelled.

**Singing** - not cancelled.

**Laughing** - not cancelled.

**Hope** - not cancelled.

**Sunsets** - not cancelled.

The teacher of the earth science class was lecturing on map reading. After explaining about latitude, longitude, degrees, and minutes the teacher asked, "Suppose I asked you to meet me for lunch at 23 degrees, 4 minutes north latitude, and 45 degrees, 15 minutes east longitude . . .?"

After a confused silence, a voice volunteered, "I guess you'd be eating alone."

**today'sThot ...**

I wonder if God was so fed up with all our fighting down here that He sent us to our rooms.

## 5. Stewardship, Your Church Finances

Your Anglican Church is taking a financial hit. Extra expenses are being incurred as well as the complete absence of a collection of Sunday. We give thanks for the Job Keeper program being implemented by the federal government that is helping many across our great nation. You can support your church by,

- Using Parish Direct ... Contact the parish office,
- Making a regular direct deposit to the parish bank account BSB 062 073 Account 1001 5155,
- Having a chat to a warden or the treasurer,
- Delivering your offering to the church office on a Wednesday or a Friday morning,
- Posting it.

Our Lord said,

*“give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put in your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back”* NRSV

*“Give away your life; you’ll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity.”* The Message

Luke 6:38

**Teach us, good lord,  
To serve you as you deserve,  
To give and not to count the cost,  
To fight and not to heed the wounds,  
To toil and not to seek for rest,  
To labour and not to ask for any reward  
Save that of knowing that we do your will. AMEN**

## 6. Spiritual Practice as a mission outreach and an opportunity for personal growth

"Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results", a quote that is attributed to Einstein.

Different times call for an adjusted mission.

In an attempt to reach that segment of the population called SBNR (Spiritual But Not Religious) we are trying some different things. Spiritual practices are being developed and then sent to the parish and the wider community. Its hoped that as Christians use these practices their faith and service will be enriched. For the wider community we pray that as the SBNR encounter them, they will be intrigued, their spiritual appetite awakened, and they may, in time become curious and search in the direction of the church.

The spiritual practices will connect with the readings for each week. The document that is circulated to the Christian community (through your email or by Australia Post) will be explicitly Christian. It will contain the gospel readings for the coming week.

The practice that is circulated to the community will not explicitly be Christian. We will however be clear where the practice is coming from (Anglican Parish of Kingscliff). We will also provide them with ways to connect to us by referring to our website, Facebook page,

email and phone number. This practice will be posted on community Facebook pages and on signs at each church.

This mission outreach is based upon the thinking that I believe the Holy Spirit is alive and prompting everybody. The problem is people aren't listening! These practices will be designed to kindle a listening heart and mind.

I encourage you to engage with these types of prayers.

I encourage you to pray for those in the wider community who will respond to the Spirit and use these prayer practices. Pray that lots and lots will use them. Love and Prayers

## *The Reverend Greg March*

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PS.

My dad died in 2018 aged 92. Here is a photo of him on ANZAC day 3 years before that with his 9<sup>th</sup> Division buddies. ... he's the one in the middle.

