Choose
Hope
Love
Justice

The Parish Paper

Established 1968 Volume 58 Issue #2 April 2026
The Anglican Parish of Bass—Phillip Island
Rector: The Rev'd Ruth Hanlon

Welcome Marinus and Hannah van Meerten, with children Samuel and Elianna



Our parish acknowledges the Boon Wurrung people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and meet.
We commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this country

Ruth's Reflections



Christ is risen:
He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!

As I write this, we have just celebrated a very special Easter time.

On Palm Sunday, we gathered in the Parish Hall for a fifth Sunday combined service. We raised our palm crosses and sang Hosanna to Jesus as we remembered his triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a colt of a donkey. He came in humility, not the conquering King the people were looking for. He was Isaiah's suffering servant King who rode towards the cross to save us through his death.

On Maundy Thursday, we reflected again on Jesus' humility and servant leadership as he washed his disciples' feet. It was humbling for me to wash some of the feet of those who gathered, including those from other denominations; Reminding us of our unity in Christ and his command to love one another. Whose feet is Jesus calling you to wash?

On Friday, we remembered again why it is called Good Friday. The only perfectly 'good' one who could take on our sins, the spotless lamb, sacrificed for us on the cross that we might be forgiven. It is so 'good' that Jesus died for us. It is right also not to quickly skip to the resurrection, but to remember the suffering that he endured and be so grateful to Jesus.

It was then a very special Easter morning. As the sun rose, we celebrated the risen Lord at the Inter-church dawn service on the Cowes foreshore. We then celebrated new life in Christ as Liam was baptised in the water; those who gathered to witness, breaking out in applause and shouts as he rose up from the water. At our 10am service in the hall, James was baptised in front of a huge crowd. Both young men sharing in that service their reason to be baptised; choosing to turn away from old ways of life and negative habits, desiring new life in Jesus, following him and walking in his ways. What a glorious Easter morn, thank you Jesus! (*see P11 for photos*)

Thank you to Michael Hanlon, who led the services at San Remo over Easter, with many visitors in attendance and at Bass on Easter morning. St Paul's enjoyed joining with the Catholic Church for the stations of the cross on Good Friday ,with Les and Sandy leading a service at the end of the walk. (*see P11 for photos*)

In March, we enjoyed a visit from Adrian Lane (Bush Church Aid) who encouraged us in our commitment to rural ministry in Australia. On Palm Sunday our eyes were opened to a different kind of mission work: Jon and Kara Thorne, with Interserve in Indonesia, shared of their mission

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Interchurch faithful gathered on the foreshore just as the sun was rising.

working through a business they created. People of different faiths working together in Information Technology. under Christian leadership and values. Community is built with bible studies, hospitality and friendship.

We continue in our mission here in Bass and Phillip Island. As I reflected on John 20: 19-31 on the first Sunday after Easter, we see how the disciples came to believe in the risen Christ, to receive the Holy Spirit, and then to be sent out as the Father had sent the son. Likewise, Jesus sends us to share the good news. In the current world climate, where there is much uncertainty and fear, people need to hear a message of love and hope.

I believe God is continuing to bless us and build and equip us in mission. He has sent Marinus and Hannah van Meerten, with their young children, Samuel and Elianna and with the support of BCA, to join us in ministry, to reach out especially in the growing area of San Remo, to connect with families and share the love of Jesus. It was wonderful to formally welcome the family at the commissioning service on 15 April, with Bishop Richard and BCA Director Greg Harris. (see story on P4) I am so excited to see what the Lord has in store.

God willing, (given the current fuel crisis!) Michael and I will be travelling to Eastern Europe in May. I celebrated 10 years since being ordained deacon in January and am eligible to take Long Service Leave. I will be taking six weeks leave. During that time, you will be well supported by Marinus, and with Liam Matthews for four weeks in May and Jonathon Taylor for the first couple of weeks of June.

Thank you for your prayers that we will have safe and refreshing travels.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Ruth

Parish Council Notes

Secretary, Janet Owens

Notes from Parish Council meeting held 16 April 2026

The March Parish Council meeting was cancelled, primarily due to inclement weather. The April meeting was held on16 April at St Augustine's.

Parish Council meeting venues: Meetings will continue to rotate between Cowes-San Remo and Cowes-Bass. The May meeting will be at Cowes.

Impact of fuel shortage: While the full impact of the fuel shortage is unknown at this time, the Parish Council is aware that travel issues may create challenges for clergy and congregations in the weeks to come. If further action and information are required, it will be provided on the parish website.

Changed service times: At the April meeting, the Sunday service time for Cowes was confirmed as **9:30am.** The trial of service times for San Remo and Bass is ongoing.

Finance: See P 10 for the treasurer's report

Sale of Property at Bass: House and garden have been cleaned and maintained. An opening was scheduled for mid-April.

Parish Directory: Almost completed with details of new people to be confirmed.

Food Bank: New storage units for non-perishable food are planned. This will free up room in the back pews where some food is currently stored.

Policy Manual: A policy manual was felt to be useful for noting issues when they arise and policies addressing them. Ongoing.

Annual site safety inspections are ongoing, to be completed soon.

Marinus and Hannah van Meerten: The Parish welcomes Marinus, Hannah and their young family. Marinus and Hannah were commissioned by BCA and the Bishop on 15 April and will be supporting the ministry and growth of the congregation at St Augustine's. ▶

Parish Council notes Cont.

The Parish Council Secretary's email is:
SEC.BPI@gippslandanglicans.org.au

- **Dates**:
  Domestic Violence (DV) Awareness Sunday: May 3
- Synod: May 15-17 in Sale
- Deanery: Friday 17 July meeting hosted by Bass Philip Island at Cowes. Speaker: Rev'd Ruth Hanlon.
- Next Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 21 May, 7pm in the Emmaus Room, Cowes

What Happens when the Holy Spirit Dares You to Dream



On the night of Wednesday 15 April, an event took place that marked a significant step of faith and vision for our parish . The Parish Hall rapidly filled with as many "out-of-towners" as parishioners, because this was the commissioning service of Marinus and Hannah van Meerten.

During 2025, members of the Parish Council met at the Allansfield Retreat Centre in Rhyll for a time of reflection and planning. During the retreat, the facilitator, Peter McPherson, posed the question: If money were no object, what would you most want the parish to do? The rapid consensus was to employ a second ministry team member. For many, that "what if" moment remained in the "too hard basket", along with the notion of ever paying off the parish loan. But not so for our Treasurer Richard Gijsbers. Rather than putting a stop to seemingly irresponsible wishful thinking, Richard revealed that he had already looked at the budget implications and had identified the potential sticking points.

Possessing 20–20 hindsight is a wonderful thing. It enables us to look back over the various seemingly unconnected identities and events that popped up in the following months and ultimately led to an invitation being extended to Marinus and Hannah. As an example of God's loving hand at work, consider the significance of Hannah's father being Peter McPherson who prompted us to step out in faith in the first place. More evidence of God's hand in all of this is BCA's involvement. It is Bush Church Aid that will be providing a significant proportion of the van Meerten's support.
So, with a healthy contingent of St John's Cranbourne supporters, Bishop John Harrower (past Bishop of Tasmania), many other disparate clergy and friends, plus folk from St Paul's Bass, St Augustine's San Remo and St Philip's Cowes, it was time for Ruth to welcome everyone and commence the proceedings with some rousing hymns.

▶ P8



The First Yolngu Pilot

My name is Yingiya Guyula and I'm a senior leader and elder from the Liya-dhalinymirr Djambarrpuyŋu clan. This is my journey with MAF in Arnhem Land.

Aeroplanes before cars

I was born and raised in the bush near Buckingham Bay and the Arafura swamp in Arnhem Land. We walked from country to country when I was young. There were no roads and not many airstrips then. We were known as the nomads who worked from season by season, going to the next waterhole; always on the move to the next place where food was available.

The only option of transport we had in the bush was the aeroplane. The landing strips were built by a pioneering missionary who used to fly around Arnhem Land. His name was Harold Shepardson, we called him 'Bapa Sheppy' which literally translates to 'Father Sheppy' in English. He used to fly into the bush and collect crocodile skins from our people and trade them with the outside world on our behalf. When this stopped in 1968, our people went on to do logging and timber and Sheppy continued to support us.

Sheppy flew in rations and also gave us a ride when we needed to go somewhere. I knew of aeroplanes as a little boy, but I never knew of cars, bicycles or anything else on the ground.

By the time I went to school, we had tractors in the homelands. I remember Balanda mechanics working on these tractors every time they broke down. I liked the idea of working on motors and engines and it soon became my ambition.

In 1973, I came to Dhupama college in Gove after boarding school. My desire to work on cars kept me in college. When I went back home to Galiwin'ku, I told my father that I wanted to become a car mechanic and he took me to the only workshop on the island with hopes of finding me job. To my disappointment, we were told that there were no jobs at the workshop but the mechanic introduced us to Sheppy.

Introduced to MAF

"Why cars?" asked Sheppy. "What about working on aeroplanes?"

"No, no, no! That's too much for me. Planes fly in the sky. What if something breaks if I made a mistake?" I reasoned.

A few days later, Sheppy came to meet me. "I've spoken to them; the MAF pilots and engineers. They've told me that they would love to train you. They would love to have a Yolngu working with them."

Hearing this, I paced around uncontrollably in deep thought. I was just offered a job! I took my time, looked at Sheppy and said, "OK. I'll give it a go."

Soon, I started working with MAF. I started with basic chores like making tea, sweeping the floor, keeping the hangar clean and washing aeroplanes. My eyes would always be on the engineers working on the planes.

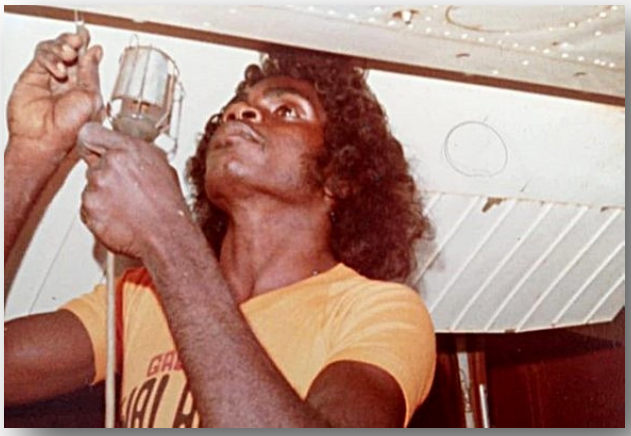


A couple of months later, I was given a spanner. "This is a spanner, and this is a spark plug," an engineer said. "You use this to take off the spark ▶

MAF cont.

plug. You'll have to clean it up; there's usually muck in there." Cleaning spark plugs was the first thing I did on aeroplanes.

I was always encouraged by the MAF staff; they would often tell me that I was doing a good job. Then came a time when I started working on propellers. I was excited that I had to use special tools like torque wrenches for the very first time!



I always had a licenced engineer double checking and signing off my work.

The Flying Yolngu

When all this was happening, Yolngu elders came around to tell me that they were very proud to see a Yolngu working on aeroplanes. "We've never seen a Yolngu work on aeroplanes," they said. They then went to the General Manger of MAF and asked if MAF would teach me to fly.

When I heard this, I told them that it would never happen and that I was more than happy fixing aeroplanes, but I finally gave into the idea of flying.

Back in the day, we had a flying club in Gove and every now and then we would hire an aeroplane to practice flight. There were a few of us Yolngu who started training, but because of time, money and availability, it was just me. I carried on because I was working with MAF.

I went on to get my learner's permit and radio communications license. I then started work on my restricted private pilot license. During the week, I serviced aeroplanes with MAF and on the weekends, I learnt to fly.

There was a time when I was asked to go to the MAF headquarters in Victoria to help dismantle a Cessna 207. In my downtime, I was given some lectures on flying and when the time came, I did a solo flight over Victoria. Everybody came out to the airport to see my landing; they were all Balanda. We didn't celebrate with champagne, but with coffee and lots of hugs! I asked myself, "What are these people excited about? It was nothing!" But then again, it was my first solo in the sky. I also did my solo cross-country flight in Victoria, from Ballarat to Mount Gambier to Horsham then Back to Ballarat. I was nervous about the 'four-seasons-a-day' Melbourne weather.

Impacted by MAF staff

In the recent years, many airlines and charities have entered Arnhem Land, but MAF was here from the start – right after Sheppy. Sheppy was a one-man airline, who flew around North-East Arnhem Land and MAF took over his work in this wild frontier with even more planes. MAF was the only one here, living and working in our homelands and amongst our people.

Working with MAF was the first job I ever had. Whenever I look back, I always say, "I could have been something else; I could have done something else," but then I look at Mission Aviation Fellowship and realise that it's a family I have grown up into. Rob Hadfield has been a big support to me and of course, all the pilots and engineers that I worked with during my time. I look at MAF as my tribe, my family.

I would like to start up a flying school for the Yolngu. I'm am currently looking for people who would support my dream. There are young indigenous people out there who have the knowledge; and I think we should use this time to train them to become the finest pilots and engineers.

Yingiya's dream for his people

There is a great opportunity for us, Yolngu to run an airline across the Top End that will serve the people in the homeland communities and I am prepared to stand up as a role model and show the youth what's possible. ❑

Mission Prayers

Rhoda Hayhurst

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who put their trust in him; raise us we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; that we may ever seek the things that are above where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen***

MAF Mission Aviation Fellowship

Pray for Josh and Ely Flynn and their children Evelyn, Margot, Reuben and Dorothy serving with MAF in Arnhem Land.

Please pray for:

- The health and spiritual wellbeing of all the family
- Protect and keep them safe as they travel.
- Pray for Christ to be lifted up and glorified in Arnhem Land
- Pray for all believers to have strength in the sacrifices they make to follow Jesus
- Pray for the ongoing challenges every day that peace and good governance may prevail.

Please pray for MAF International

- The safety of all pilots and ground staff
- Safe landing strips in dangerous areas
- Good maintenance of all planes
- Good cooperation between staff, spiritual protection in all areas of work.
- Health and strength of all members of the team
- God's continued guidance, and for wisdom and unity, as leaders make decisions that will shape the next decades of ministry.

BCA Bush Church Aid

Prayer

Lord our God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land. We ask you to strengthen and encourage all whose ministries are supported by The Bush Church Aid Society. Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness and call others to stand with them in the task of making Christ known. Grant that through the ministry of word and sacraments, through caring and service and by support of young people, the message of your redeeming love may be proclaimed and accepted by the people of our land. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord ***Amen***

Please pray for:

- David and Lauren Horne and their children Elka, Posy and Lennox, for strength and good health as they serve in Southern Beaches Tasmania.
- Whilst they never stop hoping and praying for new people to come to faith, they are putting a particular emphasis on growing in spiritual maturity this year. Pray that the Spirit would grow them in faith.
- Pray for them in May, a busy time when all the family have birthdays.
- Give thanks for all those who support BCA in prayer and financially

God of hope you call us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world; by your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom, a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service; that through our words and actions the same Spirit may bring many who are lost to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. ***Amen***

Please pray for:

- Marinus and Hannah van Meerten, with children Samuel and Elianna who we welcome into our parish as Minister in training at San Remo.
- Pray for peace and comfort as they move house and settle into their new home. Pray for welcoming neighbours and friends
- Lord fill them with your love and peace as they start their ministry.
  Protect them from all spiritual attacks
- Help us as people of this parish to stand with them and encourage them. We thank you for sending them to us. ▶

Mission Prayers Cont.

Local Parish Missions

Lord God we pray for all the communities in which we live and work. Help us always to be good neighbours and friends; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pray for all involved in parish mission. Pray that God will protect and keep safe all workers. Make our places of mission places of peace, encouragement and safety. God is our strength and refuge let us lean on Him and praise Him for His faithfulness in all things.

Please pray for the work of the MTR [Mary Talbot Room]

* Pray for more volunteers
* Pray for health and strength of current workers
* Pray for cooks to fill the shelves
* Give thanks for all who come through the door that they will be blessed and filled with peace
* Give thanks for the Emergency Food Relief at San Remo. We thank you for the abundance of donations and the many who use the food bank that they may be blessed by entering God's house
* Give thanks for all who work at the Book Sales over the year, for all who worked serving breakfasts at Grand Prix weekend
* Give thanks for all volunteers in the local community serving your people.

Teach us gracious Lord, to begin our works with reverence, to go on in obedience and to finish them with love; and then to wait patiently in hope, looking joyfully to you whose promises are faithful and reward infinite through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

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van Meerten's Commissioning Cont.

Before Bishop Richard could commission the van Meertens, it was necessary for them to become members of the BCA field team. This crucial step was carried out by BCA National Director Rev'd Canon Greg Harris. In this way, Marinus and Hannah became BCA field staff members attached to St Augustine's, San Remo. It was then the turn of Bishop Richard to commission Marinus and Hannah and in doing so, established Marinus as a Minister in training under the supervision of the Rev'd Ruth.

As with any ceremony or action involving commitment to service in God's kingdom, prayer needs to be front and centre. And so, at this juncture Archdeacon Graham Knott led us in a time of prayer that focused attention on our continued reliance on God's grace and good favour in all that lay before us.

With certificates presented and handshakes and hugs exchanged, a conclusion of the administrative part of the service was reached. It was now time for attention to be drawn away from things of this world through a sermon, and Greg Harris delivered a message that encapsulated the will of God for us and in particular, the van Meertens. It could be summed up in just three words: Not me … HIM. So simple and yet so powerful and memorable. So often we are tempted to think that our circumstances are ▶



Above: BCA ND Greg Harris confers BCA membership on the van Meertens.



Above: Bishop Richard commissions Marinus as a Minister in training.



Above L—R: Archdeacon Graham Knott; BCA ND Greg Harris; the Rev'd Fran Grimes; Jenny Dawson and Grace Ipple

all about us. But Greg reminded us that in reality, no matter what we do, it is ultimately all about God.

The final formality was far from formal, as it was a time of welcome to the van Merten family. The Regional Dean the Rev'd Doctor Fran Grimes welcomed Marinus and Hannah into our deanery and Diocese. Members of St Augustine's Jenny Dawson and Grace Ipple then made them even more welcome with heart-felt words and a basket of goodies that spoke for itself.

More rousing singing then followed to round out what was a most satisfying and inspiring service. Obligatory refreshments and fellowship followed, and many old relationships were rekindled as folk exclaimed, "I haven't seen you in ages!"

There remains just one more thing that has to do with stepping out in faith. It occurred at a Parish Council meeting earlier this year. We had reached the treasurer's report on the agenda and Richard arrived at the issue of just how we were going to budget for a second ministry team member. Instead of the expected belt-tightening message, I watched Richard pause and make a visible effort to maintain his composure. He then told us that he had looked seriously at the parish balance sheet with appropriate outgoing numbers plugged in and to his amazement it was clearly evident that a variety of financial events and provisions had made it workable. But as Richard listed each individual item that gave him the green light, the hand of God in all of it became so clear to him and tears of joy rendered him speechless for a few seconds. It was at that moment that any doubts I might have been harbouring about going ahead just evaporated. It was truly the will of God that the van Meertens take up the challenge to reach out to the influx of young families in San Remo for His glory. Not me … HIM! ❑



L-R: Bishop Richard; BCA Vic Adrian Lane; Marinus with Samuel; Hannah with Elianna, Rev's Ruth and Greg Harris

God and Mammon or "Where's the Money coming From?"

Richard Gijsbers

Some of you might be wondering: we have just revamped the Parish Hall, we have a debt of around $300K, we have just employed a Ministry Worker based in San Remo and we still have a Parish to run with all its associated costs. Where's the money for this coming from?

I will break it down. If you have any questions or want more detail, please let me know.

First, the debt. This is the money we owe on the Parish Hall, the kitchen and the Emmaus Room. It's a debt that has been hanging round for some time, but COVID and other interruptions cruelled our pitch in paying this off. It has also been growing, because the costs for preparing the Bass property for sale have been added to it.

The property has now been put on the market and, at the very least, the proceeds will cover the debt. I expect the sale will be completed later this year and we will receive more than the cost of the debt. Any surplus will be held by the Diocese in trust for the Parish.

Second, there is the project to revamp the Parish Hall. Broadly, this will end up costing us about $70K (and a bit more). Of this, we have received grants totalling about $30K ($25K from the Bendigo Bank—our thanks to them!). The Guild has raised about $18K (all that cooking for Devonshire teas and sausage sizzles, plus catering for funerals and 50th Wedding Anniversaries!) and you all have been very generous by kicking in with contributions of your own. The rest has come from Parish funds, especially those raised in between Jo's and Ruth's appointments to the Parish.

Third, there is the cost of simply running the Parish. This is about $200K each year. Ruth's stipend and costs, the rates we have to pay for the council, electricity and gas, and our share of keeping the Diocese operating all come out of that. Most of this comes from the offerings we collect each week, plus the electronic transfers. Lately, you all have been incredibly generous in contributing here (although "generous" is probably not the right word. It is, after all, an expression of your belief that this is God's work and you want to be a part of it. Either way, as Treasurer, I am grateful to you all). Your offerings, fund raising, and the hiring out of the Parish hall more than covers this cost.

Lastly, there is the cost of the new ministry in San Remo. San Remo is growing strongly as a community and we need to be active here, We need to provide more than just weekly services: St Augustine's needs to be an active part of the growing community there. After much prayer and thoughtful planning, the Parish Council decided that we should recruit a Ministry Worker. Overall this will cost about $76K per annum.

Bush Church Aid has offered to pay $50K each year towards this new and vital ministry. That leaves a shortfall of about $26K. By my current calculations and, if the present level of support continues, we will have a manageable deficit each year to cover these costs.

We have sufficient funds in our reserves to cover this deficit for at least three years, but we are hoping (praying? expecting?) the shortfall to be covered as giving increases from weekly offerings, special donations and from the community as the ministry develops.

I don't know about the rest of you but, to me, faith is expressed when, convinced that God is in charge and that what we are doing is an expression of God's will, we step out and wait upon God to make good, showing us what the next step will be.

Richard Gijsbers

Richard is the Parish Treasurer and also a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee.

Genesis 12: 2
Blessed to be a blessing

If you would like to share some of your blessings, why not remember your church in your will.

Eastertide around the Parish in Pictures





Above : Members of St Joseph's RC church and St Paul's march the cross through Bass and into St Paul's





Above: Liam Lee being baptised and rising to applause from Interchurch onlookers at the Cowes foreshore

Counter-clockwise from right: James Lewis was baptised at the 10am service, both young men shared and received candles and a bar of Marvellous Creations chocolate, symbolic of them becoming new creations in Christ!; Liam and James cut the commemorative cake, baked by Lois Wenham; approximately 145 people filled the hall on Easter morning, some standing in the foyer.









Sally Matthews

Scones, scones and more scones.

As we transition into our warmer clothes, we like to indulge in comfort foods, our favourites appear on our tables, and we explore new recipes too.

The humble scone is always available in our home, whether fresh from the oven or whipped out of the freezer. The humble scone is a CWA staple, as it enables us to raise funds to assist those most vulnerable in our community and most importantly, starts a conversation. We always serve scones at our events, they remind us of cosy times with our families and comfort for those in need. And anyway, doesn't everyone love a scone?

Now, how exciting is this? The Melbourne Royal Show are celebrating 90 years of CWA Tearooms.

The Secret Scone (*drum roll optional*)

Bake a set of 2 scones using the CWA scone recipe and add one secret ingredient! Full details are in the official schedule, which will be available online soon. royalshow.com.au.
I hope to see entries from our Parish.

Recently we had our Bass Group Exhibition, and I am sharing the recipes I use for Savory and Date Scones. The basic CWA scone recipe is used in each.

Date Scones

4 cups self raising flour
¼ cup brown sugar
11/2 cups chopped dates
300 ml milk
300 ml cream

Method

◊ Sift flour into a large bowl and add the sugar.
◊ Stir through the dates.
◊ Add combined milk and cream and bring to a soft dough.
◊ Turn out onto a floured surface and knead lightly.
◊ Roll to 2cm thickness and cut with a floured cutter.
◊ Brush tops with milk.
◊ Bake at 200-210 C in a fan forced oven for 15 - 18 minutes

Savory Scones

4 cups of self raising flour
Pinch salt
1 tablespoon of mustard powder
2 teaspoons dried mixed herbs
1 cup grated tasty cheese
2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
300 ml milk
300 ml cream

Method

◊ Sift dry ingredients into a bowl.
◊ Add cheeses and dried herbs
◊ Add combined milk and cream and bring to a soft dough.
◊ Turn out onto a floured surface and knead lightly.
◊ Roll to 2cm thickness and cut with a floured cutter.
◊ Brush tops with milk.
◊ Bake at 200-210 C in a fan forced oven for 15 - 18 minutes

Make these your scones by changing up ingredients but keep the quantities the same. ▶

Seasonal Cooking cont.

Perhaps you have mixed fruit in your cupboard? Try adding zest of an orange or lemon to the fruit scones, or fresh herbs to your savory scones.

Flour does differ – if your mixture is a bit wet, add a bit more flour, a bit dry? Add some milk.

Enjoy with family and friends and remember they freeze, beautifully, so you can always enjoy a scone with a cup of soup or tea.

Happy Baking,

Sally

CWA Award

Our very own Sally Matthews (St Philip's) has done us proud in winning a couple of CWA awards recently.

In her Seasonal Cooking article, Sally mentions the CWA Bass group Exhibition and it was there that she received the Cecily May Peasley Memorial Trophy and the Joy Snooks Memorial Trophy. These were awarded for Best in show and Highest Home Industries points for their exhibition.



Above: Sally receiving the Joy Snooks Award



Above: Sally with the Cecily May Peasley Trophy

More than just the Easter Bunny & Chocolate Overload

How come Lent moves around while Christmas stays put? By Daniel Engber

Ash Wednesday, the first of day of Lent, and 46 days before Easter, is the original movable feast. Why do some Christian holidays move around while others, like Christmas, always fall on the same day?

Because the church said so in 325 CE. The date of Easter is determined according to the lunar calendar, while the date of Christmas is fixed on the solar calendar.

Before 325, there was no official celebration of the birth of Christ, and Easter was celebrated by some Christians on Passover (a lunar holiday) and by others the following Sunday. The rationale: Christ's last supper took place on or around Passover, he was crucified on a Friday, and the festival of Easter celebrates his resurrection two days later.

In 325, church officials at the First Council of Nicaea formalized the date of Easter in an effort to get everyone to celebrate on the same day (and also, possibly, to dissociate it from the Jewish Passover feast). From then on, the holiday was celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon after 21 March, the start of spring. ▶

Lent on the move Cont

At the same time, the council inaugurated Christmas by making 25 Dec the Feast of the Nativity. Because Christmas was not directly related to a lunar holiday, and because it had never been celebrated before—the date of Christ's birth is not mentioned in the Bible, and questions about it had been settled by a proclamation from the pope just five years earlier—the council was able to establish an unambiguous date for the celebration.

But Easter remained tough to pin down. The Julian calendar in use at the time relied on the leap year to keep seasons from drifting with respect to dates, but the correction only worked so well. By the mid-16th century, the vernal equinox was occurring more than a week before 21 March.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII solved this problem by issuing a papal bull that eliminated 10 days from the calendar that year. 4 October 1582, was followed immediately by 15 October 1582. The start of the following spring occurred on 21 March , and Easter was restored to its proper season. To avoid future problems, Pope Gregory abolished leap years for every year that is evenly divisible by 100, except those that are evenly divisible by 400. (So, the year 2000 had an extra day, but 1900 didn't and 2100 won't, either.)

In theory, Easter falls on the Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. In practice, the church's methods are a bit imprecise, in part because the vernal equinox doesn't always fall on 21 March and in part because the church uses traditional tables (rather than modern astronomy) to determine the dates of full moons.

Eastern Orthodox churches never adopted the Gregorian calendar, so their Easter remains on the Julian calendar. This year it will fall on 1 May, 5 weeks after the Western Easter.

Editorial note: *You might be tempted to think that this article is after the fact. However, the season of Eastertide will be with us right up to the celebration of Pentecost. So, pertinent questions on this article will be asked at the most inopportune moment.*

ACNS Anglican Communion News Service

The impact of war spreads, but the Church remains rooted

Posted on: April 8

In Lebanon, an Archdeacon reports 'we don't have shelters; we don't have sirens. Our only siren is a bomb.' Yet, he maintains that 'people love to live… Faith is not just words… We are sustained by prayer.' Displacement is having a major impact across his area, with many outreach centres overwhelmed. As the conflict has escalated, the UN reports that over 3 million Iranians and 1 million Lebanese have had to flee their homes.

In East Jerusalem, members of St George's Cathedral and St George's Anglican College have been taking refuge nightly in a basement bomb shelter as Iranian missiles fired against Israel's defensive shields. Iran, retaliating against US and Israeli strikes, reportedly increased the numbers of cluster bombs it used, illegal under international law, to penetrate defences. Even when intercepted, shrapnel can be highly dangerous. Over Palm Sunday weekend, the threat posed by shrapnel was used by the Israeli authorities to prevent the traditional procession of heads of churches entering the Holy Sepulchre.

In Bahrain, Iran has retaliated to attacks from the US by targeting the US naval base and civilian infrastructure. St Christopher's Cathedral has been closed to worshipers since the start of the war, but is now hosting daily online prayer for the region. People join from around the world. The Cathedral is providing shelter for families who live in areas more frequently targeted, including using the bishop's residence as a sanctuary. Even in a region where attacks have been less damaging, many people now report heightened tension, sensitivity to sudden noises and fear of drones. Economic uncertainty continues for those employed in service and tourism industries and those being advised to work online outside the country.

https://www.anglicannews.org

Parish Dates 11 May–9 August 2026

May

10 Sun	Parish Paper Distributed	
14 Thu	**Ascension Day**	
15 Fri–17 Sun	25th Synod in Sale	Lay Representatives in Sale
21 Thu 12 pm	Guild	Emmaus Room
21 Tue 7 pm	Parish Council	Emmaus Room
24 Sunday	Pentecost	
31 Sunday	Trinity	
31 Sun 10.30 am	Combined Parish Service,	Parish Hall, Cowes
31 Sun	NO SERVICES	St Paul's, St Augustine's
27 May–3 June:	Week of Prayer for Reconciliation	
29 May–8 June:	Thy Kingdom Come – Ascension to Pentecost	

June

8 Mon	**King's Birthday Public Holiday**	
13 Sat 9 am	Sausage sizzle	St Philip's
13 Sat 9 am	Devonshire Teas	St Philip's
18 Thu 12 pm	Guild	Emmaus Room
18 Thu 7 pm	Parish Council	MTR San Remo
22 Mon 12.30 pm	MTR Committee Meeting	MTR San Remo

July

5 Sun	Congregational meeting	St Paul's
11–14	School Holiday Book Sale	Parish Hall
11 Sat 9 am	Sausage sizzle	St Philip's
12 Sat 9 am	Devonshire teas	St Philip's
12 Sun	Sea Sunday	
16 Thu 12 pm	Guild	Emmaus Room
16 Thu 7 pm	Parish Council	Emmaus Room
17 Fri 9 am–12 pm	Deanery	St Philip's Cowes
27 Mon 12.30	MTR Committee Meeting	MTR San Remo
31 Fri	Parish Paper Deadline	lesliejr1201@gmail.com

August

2 Sat 9.30 am–3 pm	Lay Readers Training Seminar, Christchurch Drouin	
6 Thu	Transfiguration of our Lord	
6 Thu	Parish Paper printed	
8 Sat 9 am	Sausage sizzle	St Philip's
8 Sat 9 am	Devonshire Teas	St Philip's
9 Sun	Parish Paper Issue	

Church Service Times

St Philip's
Sunday 9:30 am: Holy Communion
4th Sunday : Prayer, Praise and Proclamation.
All other Sundays: Holy Communion.
Thursday 10 am: Holy Communion

St Paul's
Sunday 11.30 am: 1st & 3rd Sunday Holy Communion
NB: There will be no services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

St Augustine's
11 am: 1st & 3rd Sunday Family Service
2nd & 4th Sunday: Holy Communion

5th Sunday of month
10.30 am combined Parish service in the Parish Hall
Speakers TBA

Service of the Word online
www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

MTR Op Shop St Augustine's
Open 10 am – 1.30 pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

The Parish Paper

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Fund raising via IGA

If you shop at the Cowes IGA, make sure you quote our church shopper number: **1331**

If San Remo is where you shop, please ask for a loyalty card and nominate St Augustine's, San Remo.

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