



## From Rev Canon Maree

† **Holy Communion:** Home communion will be given today. Please pray for our extended faith community.

† Please pray for those who have been part of our resource team and those who have worked very hard for this year and for those who will be part of 2018 resource team.

Rev Canon Maree



### Also this Week:

Today		AGM after service
Tues		Deanery meeting for Rev Maree
Wed	9am 9.15am 10-12	Morning prayer Reflections during lent Lollypops Playgroup
Thurs		SRE in our schools. Rev Maree's day off
Fri		Rev Maree's day off.

### † Mission for March: Anglican Board of Mission (see over)

Readings for next week	Jeremiah 31 : 31 - 34	Psalm 119 : 9 - 16
	Hebrews 5 : 5 - 14	John 12 : 20 - 33

### Coming:

Lenten reflections 9.15am Wednesday mornings during lent.	Please take lent 4 reflection available in the foyer.
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### Prayer for this week:

Dear God, bearer of miraculous life,  
Only God know what lies within our life waiting for healing.  
The healing may come in unexpected way.  
This time we pray for healing in our lives and in our faith community, in our families and in our wider community.  
Your promise is that, after we have asked, searched and knocked on the door of God's love, the Holy Spirit will be sent to us.  
Send , therefore , your Holy Spirit this day to each of us  
To heal restore and recreate.  
Create in us may miracle, that we ourselves may see and believe in the hope of your reign,  
Amen



### Our Values and Commitment

As individuals and as an organisation we embrace the following values:

**Faithfulness to God.** We celebrate the capacity of every person to respond to God's love. Holding a clear Christian commitment we respect the traditions and beliefs of other faiths.

- **Integrity in every aspect of our work.** We pursue transparency and accountability in all matters.
- **Respect for the created order and human dignity.** Our mission has its basis in God's unconditional love made known in Christ. We acknowledge our responsibility to care for Creation. We respect the dignity and vulnerability of each person and seek to emulate God's love in our relations with others.
- **Wise management of our resources.** Recognising the fine balance between good stewardship and compassionate action we commit ourselves to practical, equitable and merciful outcomes.
- **Creativity and hard work.** We believe that innovation and resourcefulness, combined with diligence, will have a powerful and positive impact on the struggle for justice.
- **Relational reciprocity.** In our internal and external relationships we commit to genuine two-way engagement, shared learning, honesty and cultural sensitivity.
- **Caring for and serving others.** Taking our inspiration from the example of Christ who modelled love and compassion for others.

### Jesmond Hall & Church

Sister Di Santleban and the group called "Zara's House" are currently hiring our facilities for teaching English, craft and gatherings. The church is being utilised for a crèche with a facilitator looking after children while the parents learn and gather.

I would love you to come and visit Jesmond premises and see the work and the life of the community there. So you are very welcome



Dear sisters and brothers,

### Flourishing by Grace -a Pastoral Letter From the Bishop

Last week, the clergy of the diocese in active ministry had the privilege of meeting together for two days to reflect on our diocesan life. It was an encouraging time where we prayed, worked hard and deepened our relationships.

We celebrated the signs of a healthy future emerging in the diocese but recognised fully that we are in difficult times. Our crisis arises from changing patterns of religious expression, our static ministry structures and resourcing, and the past failure to protect people in the church. Together we affirmed that the status quo is not an option. We affirmed that together we must embrace some further and significant changes.

There was a clear resolve to offer more opportunities for lay people to explore and deepen their faith. Over the coming months, your priests will be exploring opportunities for bible study and theological reflection for people attending the church and in the community. I invite you to pray about this work and get involved. Each faith community will be doing it differently. Our hope is that across the diocese there will be more opportunities to discover, experience and explore the wondrous loving grace God has bestowed on his creation.

We also reaffirmed the power of a personal invitation to friends and family to join in a church-based activity. For some, this will be an invitation to join in worship but for others that would be too demanding. Yet we can invite people to events, study groups, and activities in which grace and relationship can be experienced. I encourage you to pray for those whose life might be touched or transformed by a positive and helpful encounter with church community. Who are they? What might you invite them to?

We spent some time coming to terms with the reality that the way we use currently use our resources, physical and human, limits our mission and ministry decisions. Our goal is to ensure that we apply the gifts we have been given in the best way possible for God's mission. After our careful discussions, I indicated to the clergy that I would ask the Newcastle Anglican Church Corporation Board to undertake a review of our assets across the diocese as well as our needs. I have also asked it to propose some strategies to us. We have both our rules and our commitments are to ensuring good communication and consultation through these processes. Each step along the way needs to be shaped by our intention to flourish by God's grace.

It was impossible to meet without being aware of the story of abuse in our diocese and our response. The resolve to ensure a safe church and a prompt pastoral response to survivors was clearly evident. We have been touched greatly by our learnings and we have a strong resolve to embrace the findings of the Royal Commission and ensure the diocese serves its communities well.

I am delighted at the joy that has been shown that Sonia Roulston and Charlie Murry will join me in episcopal leadership in the diocese. Please pray for them, for Arthur Copeman, Katherine Bowyer and Stephen Phillips as they join with me as the senior leadership team of the diocese.

I have begun celebrating the Eucharist in the Cathedral each Wednesday, when I am in the Diocese. The focus of prayer for those who gather is the parishes in a specific deanery and a diocesan agency. Please know of my prayers for you all.

I commend to you the matters in this letter for your prayer and reflection during Lent -that we will spend time deepening our discipleship, that we will for and invite people to draw closer to Christian community, and that we will make good decisions about using our resources for mission.

With every blessing,  
Your servant in Christ,  
Bishop Peter Stuart

# ANGLICAN PARISH OF LAMBTON

St John the Baptist  
Lambton

11 March 2018

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## Today's Scripture Readings – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

Numbers 21 : 4 - 9	Psalms 107 : 1 – 3, 17 - 22
Ephesians 2: 1 - 10	John 3 : 14 -21

### John 3 : 16 For God so loved the world!

Often the text John 3 16 has become some sort of gimmick. You know, 'read this verse and you will be saved!' Done and done.

But God cannot be reduced to a formula. Neither can the way God, revealed in the life of Jesus be reduced to a formula. This idol of thinking that we can somehow we control God by saying "for God so loved the world!" It is an idol that needs to be broken, like the serpent in Hezekiah's day, quoting John 3:16 to people is not a sufficient guide for healing and for salvation.

Instead we need to be **authentic** in our faith! To understand and live what is in the scriptures, and have an authentic encounter with this mysterious, loving and gracious presence that we call on God- and use concrete steps transforming one's life ! Not just say or think it but actually live it.

And so, this is what God has instructed us to do. The prophet Micah tells us that we are to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God. We also need to take into account not just the death of Jesus, but his life as well.

So, Jesus calls us to life and living and he gives us the instruction for that. Right at the beginning of our Eucharistic service we hear the two great commandments: He said. "love the lord your God with all your heart, your soul, your mind and your strength and love your neighbour as your- self!"

In our modern wilderness we can lift up Micah 6:8 and the two great commandments as a source of healing. We must not use these as throw away slogans but we must live in this way, live this instructions every day. May we learn to love the world in this way as God so loves the world.

Rev Maree

### Refreshment Sunday ( or Mothering Sunday)

Today we think of the times when we have needed refreshment and healing