

# ONLINE SERVICE

14 June 2020

## Welcome and Notices

Amanda Fairs  
viola

## Call to Worship

## Prayer of Invocation

Young at Heart  
Tony Rinaudo, AM, FMNR  
Christine Bradbeer

Bible Reading: Matthew 13:1-16  
Suzanne Hart

Gospel of Matthew: Marker #2,  
The puzzle of parables  
Matthew 13

## Prayers of Intercession and The Lord's Prayer

Amanda Fairs  
viola

## Benediction



# NOTICES

14 June 2020

Wednesday 17 June

1.30 pm Covenanted Prayer Time

Sunday 21 June

11 am Way Markers in Matthew.



Streaming online during COVID-19

[blackburnpc.org.au](http://blackburnpc.org.au) or

[www.facebook.com/blackburnpresbyterian/](http://www.facebook.com/blackburnpresbyterian/)

For your prayers this week:

Congregational member: **Nina HAWKINS**



and



**Motor and Julia YAT** from the

Clayton Clayton church minister in Ethiopia where the Coronavirus lockdown has currently restricted everybody's movements.

MEMBERS who wish to continue their freewill offerings may use the banking details at the bottom of this page or post to our Treasurer. Vic Ansell,

GARDENIA ST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
53 Gardenia Street,  
Blackburn 3130

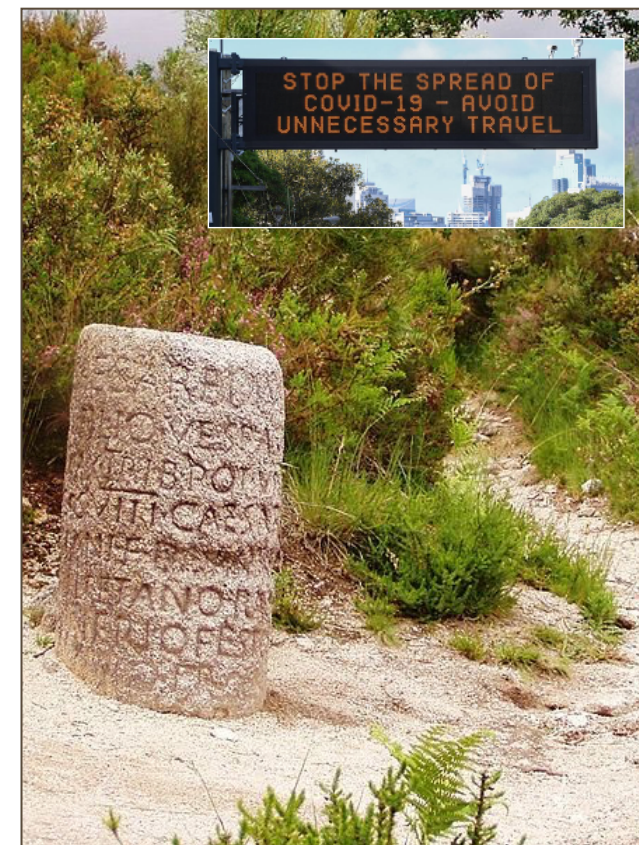


Minister: Rev Graham Bradbeer  
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Session Clerk: Mr Keith Ferres 98305466  
Treasurer: Mr Vic Ansell 5447 7118

Electronic Banking Details: ANZ Forest Hill,  
Account name: Blackburn Presbyterian Church  
BSB: 013-328. Account number: 2970 40694

# GARDENIA ST. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BLACKBURN

14 June 2020



Roman Wayside Marker  
Inset, Contemporary Roadside Advice

# WELCOME



The government failed to protect human rights defenders, and restricted the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association. The abuse of criminal law provisions to curtail legitimate expression persisted. Security forces committed human rights violations largely with impunity, using excessive force during policing and security operations. Violence flared in Papua, involving both peaceful and violent reactions to racist verbal attacks and violence against Papuans.

Amnesty International

The church in Indonesia has been wracked with adversity, including deadly suicide bombings that have left Christians reeling. While the government tightens the country's blasphemy laws, most problems for believers and churches come from confrontations with radical Islamic groups that continue to exert significant influence. In certain hot spots like West Java or Aceh, churches that evangelise often become targets of these groups.

Pray for Christian converts from Islam who are heavily pressured to renounce their faith. Pray they would have access to Bibles and community. Pray for Christian congregations who cannot secure church buildings.

Indonesia is the most populous Muslim country in the world. Pray that many Indonesian Muslims would come to know Christ. Pray that Christians would be courageous in sharing the gospel with Muslims.

Open Doors

## A puzzling set of parables

Route Marker #3

Sermon Notes

Matthew has placed five "wayside markers". Each one marks a block of the Lord's teaching; a new kind of 'five books'. The markers are listed below. Today we look at the third which refers to chapter 13. Matthew has arranged this chapter as the centre of his Gospel.

7:28 When Jesus had finished these words...

11:1 When Jesus had finished teaching his disciples...

**13:53 When Jesus had finished these parables...**

19:1 When Jesus had finished these words...

26:1 When Jesus had finished all these words...

There are seven parables here (four unique to Matthew): The sower, the mustard seed, the wheat and the tares, the leaven, the hidden treasure twinned with the pearl of great price, and the drag net.

Many of us heard these parables early in our lives. They are stories easily retold to children, but they are not children's stories. Parables don't provide clarity, but sometimes obscurity! Why?



Tony Rinaudo

Let's begin with a story of our own. Tony Rinaudo was awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in January 2019. As an agronomist and missionary he wanted to plant millions of trees in the West African Sahel. He experienced years of frustration.

One day while reducing air pressure in his vehicle tyres (to get better traction it sand) he spotted a bush. No. Not a burning bush, but one that looked a bit like a tree he'd seen.

In inspection he discovered it was the same type of tree struggling to regrow after being hacked down for fuel. At this point he realised that there is a root structure like an 'underground forest'. Rightly pruned, a bush could become a tree! He developed FMNR. Check it out.

Jesus does not mean literally that the kingdom is like a farmer who sows his wheat, or a merchant looking for pearls. What He does mean is that there is something in the unique situation which has arisen through the coming of the kingdom of heaven in His own Person and actions, which is analogous to the situation that may occur when a farmer does his sowing or when a merchant is on the search for precious pearls. There are mysteries about the kingdom of heaven, and they arise because the kingdom is present but not yet in its fullness, and because its King is at the moment rejected and humiliated so that the glory that belongs inherently to Him and which will one day be visible to all is at present obscured.

RVG Tasker, *Commentary on Matthew*  
1969, Tyndale Press

God has already planted the seeds of his kingdom. Jesus follows Isaiah (11:1,2) likening it to a tree that has been cut down in judgement (Isaiah 6:9,10). That ancient parable, like Jesus' parables (Matthew 13:14,15), preserves this truth. The seed is sown, the harvest is certainly coming.

Justice will also come. Although we are impatient for justice, we must take care what we ask for. God will not act all at once. God will delegate this to 'the Son of Man' (v.37 compare Daniel 7). His angels will sort the wheat from the tares - his job, not yours nor mine).

We are impatient for the work of God to be complete and obvious. We want vindication. But God is merciful. Do we want that? The patience of the farmer, and the housewife is required.

Understanding is urgent. Disciples (v.10) who seek this insight into God's rule in the world, will understand the parables. Two are explained because they asked.

Act now! This is not for later study. It is urgent. The pearl and treasure finders 'sell everything' for this one thing.