



THE ADVOCATE

Our Diocesan Vision is to walk in the way of Christ.

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SUMMER 2022/23



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Anglican flock welcomes new shepherd

BY JAMIE KRONBORG

The Reverend Matthew Healy was confirmed as priest-in-charge of the newly combined Anglican Church parish and parochial districts of Beechworth and Yackandandah on Saturday.

Bishop Clarence Bester of the Wangaratta Anglican diocese officiated, supported by archdeacon and vicar-general Neil Hicks, Canon Scott Jessup from Rutherglen and Christ Church priest Rev'd Gunnar Rippon.

Wangaratta, Shepparton and Benalla.

He will now lead a ministry team in Beechworth and Yackandandah districts that includes Rev'd Gunnar Rippon, Rev'd Sue Hall, Rev'd Heather Matthews and readers Bob van Oort and Carol Dunlop.

Participating congregations include Christ Church Beechworth, St Jude's Eldorado, Holy Trinity Yackandandah, St Paul's Allans Flat, St Andrew's Dederang, St Mark's Tangambalanga and St Aidan's Tawonga.

Bishop Clarence said the new ministry arrangement across parishes is the fourth co-operative model in the Wangaratta diocese, which ranges from Corryong to Barmah and south to Kilmore and Buxton.

Rev'd Gunnar acted as precentor at the induction service and Christ Church organist Sandra Williams directed the music. Katherine Presley, Rev'd Matthew's wife, led psalm 95.

Members of the parochial districts' congregations also presented Rev'd Matthew with local produce as gifts of welcome for his family.

PHOTO LEFT: Revd Matthew Healy and Bishop Clarence at Matthew's induction in Beechworth.



South Region Lay Training

BY DR JANE FREEMANTLE

On 8th October members of the South Region of the Diocese of Wangaratta gathered to discover some of the mysteries of our worship and ministry through a Lay Training Day. The South Region includes the Parishes (and Parochial Districts) of Wangaratta, Wangaratta West and the Warbys, Alexandra, Benalla, Central Goulburn, Cobram, Euroa, Kilmore, Mansfield, Marysville, Milawa, Numurkah & Nathalia, Shepparton and Yea. The South Region Training Day was led by Rev'd. Victor Adams, Mr Ross Smith and Dr. Jane Freemantle.

Forty-one people gathered at St John's Hall Mansfield - of the 42 attendees 7 were leaders for the day. Representatives came from Mansfield, Euroa, Numurka/Nathalia, Cobram, Dixons Creek, Jamieson, Yea, Benalla, Tallarook, Alexandra, Wangaratta. We were delighted to also welcome the Bishop to our Training Day.

The day included instruction for those providing the important lay ministries in our communities and were led

by members of our lay and clerical community.

Four sessions were offered. Each participant had an opportunity to attend each session. Each session went for 35 minutes. The sessions were:

- Symbols and Rituals: led by the Venerable Catie Inches-Ogden
- Bible reading: Rev'd. Victor Adams
- Welcomers and sides persons: Ms Molly Craig & Ms Christine Challman
- Intercessions: led by Dr Jane Freemantle

Registrants were welcomed to the day with tea/coffee and homemade scones (baked by Gwen Gray) and were randomly allocated to one of four groups and provided with that group's timetable. The Ven. Cate Inches Ogden opened the day with Morning Prayer. Attendees then moved to their '1st session' and so the Lay Training began with groups moving between the sessions. We observed the Angelus at midday, with all attendees having been given a copy and a brief explanation of its origins and meaning. We completed three sessions prior to the lunch break.

Lunch of homemade soup (made by the parishioners of St John's), fresh bread (from our wonderful Mansfield French Patisserie) and sweet treats (again provided by the St John's parishioners) were enjoyed. Warm fellowship, swapping stories and creating new friendships and networks accompanied the delicious lunch.

The training resumed after lunch and the day was concluded with closing remarks and a blessing from our Bishop. An evaluation of the day (75% response rate) provided exceptionally positive comments and valuable suggestions and topics for the next lay training day.

We were extremely grateful to the Mansfield parishioners who so warmly and generously not only welcomed all the attendees, but also provided such splendid hospitality. Indeed, one of the recurring comments from the evaluations was about the importance of us all gathering together as members of our united Diocese and encouragement for further such gatherings in 2023.

PHOTO BELOW: Attendees at the south lay training day




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CONTACT US

GENERAL ENQUIRIES, DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Fiona van Bree
Tel: (03) 5721 3484
registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au
www.wangeratta-anglican.org.au

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EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTRIBUTIONS
Diocese of Wangaratta
PO Box 457, Wangaratta VIC 3677
registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au
Tel: (03) 5721 3484

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Welcome to the Reverend Melissa Clark

BY DR JANE FREEMANTLE

welcome to Mel.

We were absolutely delighted to welcome the Reverend Melissa (Mel) Clark as our new Mansfield Anglican Parish Priest in Charge on Wednesday 23rd November 2022. The Reverend Mel comes to us from the Parish of Woodend-Trentham, the Diocese of Bendigo. We are most grateful to our Bishop Clarence who enabled Rev'd Mel to 'hop' across the Diocesan boundaries to be inducted into the Parish of Mansfield, the Diocese of Wangaratta.

In the very short time since her induction and leading us in worship on the 1st Sunday of Advent, Mel has endeared herself with her sparkling personality, her generous and engaging manner and her insightful sermons. We are also very pleased to welcome her 'best friend' Oscar to our parish. Oscar ably 'assisted' Mel in her first service at Jamieson for our Advent 2 service. Both were so warmly welcomed by the Jamieson congregation.

Mel is already planning an exciting Advent program as we journey towards Christmas Day and has challenged every parishioner to bring at least one friend to each Christmas service to fill the churches of St John and St Peter in joyful celebration of the birth of the Christ child. Welcome Mel, we are absolutely thrilled to have you here with us and look forward to a long and fruitful time together in the Mansfield Anglican Parish.

PHOTO BELOW: Rev'd Melissa Clark and Oscar



The church was filled to overflowing as the Right Reverend Clarence E Bester led a beautiful induction service, supported by senior clergy members of the Diocese of Wangaratta. Members of Mel's previous parish, the Wangaratta Diocesan clergy, Mel's family members, members of the Mansfield and Jamieson parishes and the wider Mansfield community joined together in a service of welcome and celebration of a new chapter in our parish ministry. We were also really delighted to have representatives of the other worship communities in Mansfield attending, who all offered warm words of



PHOTO ABOVE: Rev'd Melissa Clark, Bishop Clarence Bester, Rev'd Scott Jessup. Rev'd Lesly Lewis and Dr Jane Freemantle at the induction of Rev'd Melissa Clark, Parish of Yea.

Clergy Movements as of December 2022

VACANT POSITIONS

Cooperative ministry of Euroa and Murchison/Rushworth

APPOINTMENTS

Reverend Melissa Clark - Priest in charge, Mansfield. Effective 22 November

Reverend Matthew Healy - Priest in charge, Beechworth and Yackandandah. Effective 26 November

Reverend Alan Kelb - Priest in charge, Tallangatta. Effective 27 November

PERMISSION TO OFFICIATE

Reverend Michelle Wood. Effective as of 16 November

Reverend Paul Wood. Effective as of 30 November

Reverend Patricia Matthews. Effective as of 30 November

from the Bishop



Dear Clergy, People and Friends of the Diocese

ALL ARE WELCOME, ALL INVITED

When I served as rector of a Parish in South Africa, I was amazed at a story a Presbyterian Christian told me when he parked in our Church premises. He said, "I took one look at the Notice Board and saw the words 'ALL WELCOME' and I knew that this would be the place for me". Patrick was his name and he attended services every Wednesday morning with his spouse and would always point to the Notice Board referencing the welcome sign. I served in this parish for 12 years and had the privilege of officiating at Patrick's funeral and I will always remember how the words 'ALL WELCOME' changed his life.

EVEN THE STRANGER

These are often the words we use in our Pew Sheets, on our Notice Boards and even when we extend the invitation to Holy Communion to those who join us for worship. I see these words on social media when we extend an invitation for people to join for Services or Prayer at different times and I would want to believe that we will truly offer the generosity of welcome to the stranger, that we will offer friendship to the lonely and bring comfort to those who mourn. Even though it sometimes looks as if we are 'losing ground' with people and fewer people are coming to Church, there are still those who seek to be part of a community of faith, or just those who need to be made to feel welcome.

BUT IT IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE

It is however not only those who come for the first time, but also those who frequent our places of worship or who worship occasionally with the hope that they could become part of a community of faith. I asked Patrick once why it was that he continued coming to the Church I served after many years and yet never really joined or even wanted to be confirmed or received into the Anglican Church. What he said to me is something that I will never forget and something that spoke volumes about the congregation I served back then. He said: "The welcome notice might be on the board, but the real welcome was the wonderful 'koinonia' (fellowship) that was shared and people always being happy and accepting of others with no strings attached."

A GENEROUS WELCOME TO ALL

I have found that most congregations within our Diocese express this generous welcome and the kind of hospitality offered is what makes people feel so comfortable in most spaces. I have also had experiences, seen and heard how newcomers or visitors often felt as if they were just standing in a corner, as those who were familiar with each other were only engaging with one another. Sadly, some people have felt ignored when others stare them straight in the face and make them feel as if they do not exist. Then the well-known occurrence when people accidentally sit in what others consider as 'their seat', has often made people feel uncomfortable and forced them to move. As a Priest for the past 26 years and as bishop for almost three years, I have witnessed this repeatedly.

I want to believe that, when we offer a welcome, when we receive others wanting to share worship with us into our space, we will truly offer that sense of welcome hospitality that I believe the Diocese of Wangaratta and its Bishop truly stands for. To do the opposite and be the cause of people feeling unwelcome is un-Christian, let alone not very humane.

THE CHRISTMAS WELCOME

This Christmas time, many will want to come and, for whatever reason, come and hear the Christmas story. For some it might be the only, or one of just a few times a year when they do come and the good news is that we will advertise our services by welcoming them. I therefore do pray that we will truly offer that welcome to others, that we will put on our best smile, open our hearts and allow the love of God to flow through us, offering the generosity of this to all people irrespective of person.

Mary and Joseph could not find a place in the Inn and Jesus was born in a stable because everyone turned them away. It was in the 'midst' of that space, where a welcome was found - in a stable, among animals - and a true welcoming spirit extended to all who would later join.

I pray therefore that we will become even more welcoming and build on the generosity of our welcome to all, where we can bring others to Jesus and God's Church and not get them to flee from a space which needs to have this motto: 'ALL ARE WELCOME. ALL ARE INVITED.' This is what made a space so special for Patrick.

Blessed and Holy Christmas to all of you and a peaceful and restful time during the festive break.

Clarence, Michelle, Kian & Kyle

Parish Partnerships

BY REVD DAVID STILL

About 7 months ago, I took on a new role for the Diocese of Wangaratta which meant that the majority of my time is now spent with Anglicare Victoria. This has two components. One is to manage the day-to-day activities of Loaves and Fishes – Christians Caring, and also to work with the parishes of the Diocese of Wangaratta to build shared programs together. Currently in the Diocese we have two active programs. One is Euroa Foodshare, which is an Emergency Relief food parcel program. It is run by the Parochial District of Euroa and is staffed by volunteers from the parish and wider community in Euroa. The second is a homework club in Eldorado, which is planned to restart in the new year after a break due to all of the Covid restrictions that we have lived through over the last few years.

During the second half of the year, this has led me to many visits around the Diocese to either speak at the end of a service for a few minutes or preach about the opportunities for Anglicare Victoria to work with a parish. This has led to a smaller number of ongoing conversations which I hope will lead to further partnerships around the Diocese.

We may sometimes think of Anglicare as a large organisation, which it is, that does a lot of other work in our region. This used to be the case, but unfortunately the funding that enabled the work that was once done by Anglicare is not longer available. What we have is a wonderful opportunity across the Diocese, no matter how large or small a parish or parochial district might be to engage with the communities of which we are a part of. This enables us as the Church to address some needs and to build relationships with those with whom we may not normally come in contact.

If you would like to know more about building a partnership between your parish and Anglicare Victoria to meet a need in your community, please contact me david.still@anglicarevic.org.au or calling me on 0437 902 234.

Wangaratta West & the Warbys - Artisan Market

BY MARGARET GIBSON

What a superb day it was! The weather was kind, the crowd of happy shoppers was large, the Artisan Market Stall holders were happy with their results, and our own stalls were all very well supported. It kept many busy for weeks, but the results of our busyness are manifold—happy stall holders, happy parishioner and dare I say, a happy Treasurer. Many thanks to the organising committee, very ably led by Sue Wheeler.

There was a superb range of goods on offer from the Market Stall holders, and our very own Cake Stall did its usual roaring trade. The BBQ was busy from the start, with egg and bacon rolls on offer for the early birds, sausages and onions in bread, beautiful crepes with both sweet and savoury fillings for lunch and of course, cups of tea or coffee with a biscuit available all day.

What a fantastic parish effort, and such great co-operation and help from so many.

We sincerely thank everyone in the parish who contributed in any way to this very successful market by distributing flyers and posters, donating money to buy produce for food, cooking and providing food, manning a stall, walking around talking to people, helping to setup and pack up. Our aim was to create an event that would bring people onto the church grounds and to make St Michael's church and WWW more "fully known", and to also provide an avenue for all WWW congregations to come together to work happily for God. I believe we achieved this. We are truly blessed with so many willing hands.

Next Artisan Market is planned for 29th April, with a Mother's Day Theme



Confirmation at St Jude's Anglican Church, Eldorado.

BY GILL BAKER

What a joy to be present at St Jude's Anglican Church on 9th October 2022, when the Rt Rev Clarence Bester, Bishop of Wangaratta, presided and preached at the confirmation service of 5 young people, all of whom had, at some time in the past, been baptised there.

Friends and family came from near and far as the young people

confirmed the promises of faith made on their behalf at baptism. The Ross Family travelled from Bacchus Marsh where they now live, Maddy and Alex Sheppard are grandchildren of Carol and Kelvin of Eldorado. For this family the connection goes go way back, as the Stained Glass window in St Jude's is in memory of Victoria Sheppard whose family worshipped at St Jude's for many years. Audrey and Chloe Peacock live

locally, and Charlotte Wallace is our Deacon, Sue Hall's granddaughter.

We wish these young people all the best for their future.

It was a pleasure to welcome all those who came along to the service, and were very pleased that Bp Clarence's mum Cynthia and wife Michelle were able to join us for the morning.



All Souls' Day Ecumenical Service at Broadford

BY CAROLINE BURGE

On the cool damp evening of All Souls' Day, parishioners and community members of the local Christian churches gathered at Broadford Cemetery to remember those who have died and to bless the graves.

Fr Prakash Cutinha from the local Roman Catholic Parish started the 'Blessings of the Graves' on All Souls' Day in 2021 with plans to make it an annual event but to also include other churches in the area.

This year, all Christian churches

in the local area were invited to participate, with our own Rev'd André DuPlooy, and also Rev'd Len Sherratt from the Broadford Uniting Church, Major Gail Roberts from the Salvation Army, and Fr Prakash all participating.

Names of those who had died and been interred in the cemetery in the previous year were read out by Major Gail Roberts and members of their families were invited to light a candle from the Paschal Candle.

The evening was led by the Broadford Cemetery Trust

Chairman, Mr Paul Fleming, with the Opening Prayers being said by Fr Prakash; the Gospel of the day being read by Rev'd André; the prayers were read by Major Gail Roberts; and the final blessing by Rev'd Len Sherratt. The leaders of the four churches, each went to the north, south, east and west areas of the cemetery and sprinkled the graves with holy water. Parishioners from each of the churches followed their church leader and joined in the prayers as the graves were blessed.

PHOTO BELOW: Rev'd André sprinkling the graves



News from the Cathedral

BY KIERAN CRICHTON



Since the last Advocate there have been significant gatherings at Holy Trinity Cathedral. The beginning of July saw the long-awaited ordination of Rev David Kerr; Mothers' Union members from across the diocese gathered to mark Mary Sumner Day on 9 August.

The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was marked at Holy Trinity Cathedral with a well-attended memorial service. The gathering was graced with the presence of federal, state and local government representatives.

The Dean, Very Rev'd Ken Goodger, was present at St Paul's Melbourne for the Provincial Evensong for the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Right Rev'd Justin Welby. It was a proud father-son moment as Jacob Goodger, now the Dean's Verger at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, escorted the Archbishop during the service.

The Cathedral was packed to capacity for the 2022 Jazz Mass on Sunday 30 October. The crowd was led in song by Rebecca Barnard (vocals) and Tim Neal (organ). It was an inspiring morning of song enhanced by a thoughtful homily from the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, the Very Rev Keren Terpstra.

Evensong

Joyful music and thoughtful preaching is the hallmark of monthly Evensong at Holy Trinity Cathedral. Over the last few months the service has grown to attract a congregation of 40 or

50 who share in the music and a fellowship meal afterwards.

The highlight of Evensong in the past couple of months came in October when Dr Helen Haines, independent Member of Parliament for Indi, spoke about her work with local communities and life in Canberra. It was an evening of insightful words, with much to offer to the Cathedral in considering local community connection.

Choir and Organ

Sunday 17 July saw a significant development for the Cathedral Choir with six new choral scholars being commissioned on their first Sunday. The choral scholarship program runs in partnership with Cathedral College Wangaratta and it was a real joy to welcome Mr Nick Jones as he presented the new choral scholars to the Dean at the commissioning. Welcome and congratulations to our scholars: Charlotte, Edwina, Elizabeth, Eva, Hannah and Mackenzie!

The past six months have brought real joy in the Cathedral as our choirs have grown and developed while they learn and share new music. The Cathedral Choristers have graced weekly worship with an anthem and new service music. It is always a highlight to hear them singing well.

The Cathedral Singers, our adult choir, has gone from strength to strength. Monthly Evensong has seen a diversity of repertoire, taking in pieces by J.S. Bach, Richard Shephard, Thomas

Tomkins, and Herbert Sumsion. Evensong is usually concluded with a community meal, to which all are invited.

The Cathedral's Willis organ has been silent for more than four years. The long wait was rewarded on Sunday 16 October when the organ played out in the 10.00am service. Hargraves Pipe Organs completed the reinstatement works in two weeks of intense physical labour. While the watchword at the start of the project was "it's not exactly rocket science," the process was more like assembling a 3D jigsaw puzzle without the picture of the end result.

The resurrection of the organ means we now have regular events featuring organ music. Come along on the second Saturday of the month to enjoy short organ concerts at 9.00am, 10.00am, and 11.00am during the Wangaratta Farmers Market. It's a great opportunity to hear the Willis organ sounding at its finest.

In the coming year there will be at least two major s with the organ. Stay tuned for the celebration concert in February. And on 4 May there will be a concert featuring music from film, including Star Wars. This date has become an important celebration of Star Wars: May the fourth be with you!

For Your Diary

The following music events are coming up in the Cathedral:

Sunday 18 December, 6.30-8.00pm

Christmas Concert with traditional carols, performed by the Wangaratta Concert Band and the Sing Australia Choir. Entry is free, all welcome.

Saturday 14 January 2023, 9.00am and 11.00am
Kieran Crichton will present two

20-minute concerts on the Willis organ in Holy Trinity Cathedral. Music will include pieces by J.S. Bach and Alexandre Guilmant.

PHOTO'S BELOW: The new Choral scholars



MU Members Come Together for Annual Meeting

BY DIANE GRANT

The Mothers' Union has been operating in the Diocese of Wangaratta for over 80 years. The current branch members are all looking a little older and would welcome some new members to their ranks. This was one of the discussions held at the annual meeting at Purbrick hall on Monday 21 November.

The loyal members from the Diocesan MU branches and Lone members travelled through rain, hail and shine to attend their 2022 annual meeting.

The morning began with a Eucharist in the Lady Chapel led by Bishop Clarence Bester and MU Chaplain Rev'd Sue Hall with readings given by MU President Jan Craig and intercessory prayers by Sue Fyfe.

The Bishop spoke on how we can be good stewards for our parishes, church and MU, sharing our gifts, money and talents.

Before the service concluded Bishop Clarence Bester installed Robyn Aulmann as the new Lone member co-ordinator in front of those in attendance.

Following morning tea the Bishop

spoke on his thoughts and ideas for 2023 for not only the MU but the Diocese.

He spoke of how MU could reach out to new folk to encourage them to join this worldwide church welfare organisation that helps millions across the world; how women and men, young and older can be involved with the Wangaratta Diocese's branches of the Mother's Union that still work and meet in the Diocese.

It was brought to his attention that there could be some interested folk in Shepparton and Benalla parishes who might like to join MU or become Lone members. He suggested that this be followed up by MU executive members.

He asked the MU for their support by joining with a Diocesan team to look into Gender Based Violence (GBV) and to come up with a workshop program that could be co-ordinated around Lady Day in March 2023. Diane Grant and Robyn Aulman volunteered to be on the steering group for this matter.

He spoke on changes from old habits that would be fruitful to inspire new folk to come along and join the ranks of this worthwhile organisation and be able to support

marriage and family life.

Diocesan MU President Jan Craig gave her first annual report and one on her recent attendance at the Australian Council Meeting in Melbourne this was followed by the Treasurer's report by Rev'd David Holloway.

MU executive committee representatives and branch members gave their annual presentation of reports and individual branch reports. Janette Kettle gave a report on what the Albury parish was conducting around a project on Gender Based Violence in their church at the end of November.

Discussion was held on some general business issues relating to the MU branches activities, the prayer list, morning tea roster and 2023 activities - February 6 will be the first MU Executive meeting; March 25 Lady Day and GBV workshops; August 9, Mary Sumner Day; and Annual meeting November 20.

The meeting closed with prayers for departed members and the President's wish for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

The raffle was held and Wangaratta's Jean Hayes won first

prize and Sophie Frieschmidt 2nd prize.

The members enjoyed some lunch

and fellowship before braving the elements to go home after a very satisfying and encouraging get together.



PHOTO ABOVE: Welcoming Robyn Aulmann as MU Lone member co-ordinator (3rd from left) are MU Diocesan President Jan Craig, Chaplain Sue Hall, and Bishop Clarence Bester.

Christmas - some musings

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD

What came first — the solstice festival or Christmas? We could ask the same question about Spring celebrations and the Passover, about local celebrations and harvest gatherings, and the veneration of local saints.

When it comes to Christmas we know quite well that it was a very deliberate decision of the Bishop of Rome in 336 AD to "baptise" and "Christianise" the ancient celebration of the regeneration of the sun on 25th December as the Feast of the Incarnation of the Word of God. The people were already celebrating, so let us make this a celebration that is centred on something that is eternally true and significant.

The Celtic Cross is a superb example of the transformation of Irish and Scottish devotion to the sun that is now superseded by the Cross of Christ that stands over everything, including the sun.

There really is no way of knowing what would have happened to the mid-winter solstice festival had it not become recentred on the birth of our Lord and Saviour. The festival spread from the Mediterranean to the rest of the world as a celebration of Christ — it truly became Christmas.

The transformation of Christmas from about the middle of the nineteenth century, and especially after the Second World War, has been profound. It has moved from being a principally religious festival to being

almost completely one that is commercial. Advertising for Christmas starts in August or September and reaches a fever pitch as soon as the American celebration of Thanksgiving is over.

What is now becoming obvious is that the commercial foundation of modern manifestations of Christmas is collapsing. Bargain offers and sales have had to be introduced before the festival just to try to sustain the commercial activity. If Christmas is all about buying stuff, why pay a high price before 25th December when the same stuff is available at a much lower price as soon as that date is passed? The commercialisation of Christmas has wrecked the commercial value of Christmas for the retail outlets. In fact, if Christmas only has a commercial reason for existing it is nothing but a fad, and fads always fade away. Without a sound foundation, that is not commercial, there is no real motivation to spend significantly at all. This is especially the case in Australia, as we are at the time when everybody would probably put their resources to taking a holiday for the summer.

Christians transformed a pagan festival of the winter solstice by providing a new focus. The incarnation of the eternal Word of God became the centre of the celebration. Christ's explicit, concrete, tangible entry into the history of the world at Bethlehem of Judaea became the reason that the festival has transcended the particular circumstances of its origins and the impetus for its spread literally to the ends of

the earth.

In our culture a holiday for Christmas is well established. It seems to me that that the cultural attempts to strip the holiday of its eternal spiritual centre are beginning to reveal that commercial foundations are no foundations at all. Christians are the only ones who have a sound foundation for a great celebration on 25th December. The only reason that there is any celebration of 25th December in Australia is because Christians brought the festival to this continent when they arrived and they (we) have maintained it ever since.

I am not one who uses the word Mass very much to describe the great celebration of the Holy Communion. I guess that this is an expression of my very deep Protestant origins and predilections. But at Christmas we need to explicitly recognise that it is Christ's Mass that we celebrate.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of all creation, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became one of us and was born, a little baby boy, in Bethlehem. This is the eternal reason for having a celebration on 25th December each year (and every other day of the year for that matter).

Whether it is evening, midnight, or in the morning it is Christ's Mass that is celebrated. The final candle, of Christ, at the centre of the Advent ring is lit. Christ is the only reason for the celebration and this is totally the case in Australia.

St Luke's Christmas Hamper's

BY CAROL HOGG

A significant annual outreach programme for St Luke's, Yea is the Christmas Hamper programme. The hampers are distributed to over 60 local families. The hampers are distributed to bring a little joy to families who are struggling at this special time of the year.

All completed applications to receive a hamper are treated confidentially and the anonymous distribution just prior to Christmas is co-ordinated this year on behalf of St Luke's by Penny Bristow.

It is a continuing blessing to receive donations from

various groups and Yea organisations throughout the year. Amongst these generous donors are Rotary, the Country Race committee, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Strath Creek Faith Community, plus kind individuals.

This week, the Parents and Friends Committee of Sacred Heart Primary School, gave one of many donations from community organisations towards the Christmas hampers. Rev'd Mario Hendricks parish priest of St Luke's Anglican church Yea, was presented with a cheque for \$1,000 by school leaders Olivia Webb and Josh Dredge. Sacred Heart students raised the

money donated as part of their successful Colour Fun Run held recently. This generous giving highlights the support locally for St Luke's and this outreach programme and acknowledges the students, parents and the School's care for those less fortunate than themselves.

The packing up of the hampers just prior to Christmas is another example of the community spirit of support as many people offer to help and also volunteer to deliver the welcome gifts.

PHOTO BELOW: Presenting of the cheque to Rev'd Mario Hendricks



Diocesan Advent Quiet Days - Two locations

YACKANDANDAH

I along with 17 other people attended the Quiet Day at Yackandandah held by The Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup. It was a truly wonderful day.

The theme was St Joseph of Nazareth. Scott's addresses on Joseph as a person, Joseph's trust in God and his love and concern for Mary were insightful. The music

was beautiful and transportive and the setting perfect.

Between sessions we wandered the tranquil grounds or remained in the church reading or contemplating. Silence was observed throughout the day.

For me it was a blessing to step off the world, take a breath, and focus on God, resting in God's presence,

love and grace. Gillian Pearce, St Matthew's, Albury.

KILMORE
Eight people (6 parishioners of the Kilmore Parish, and 2 from Cobram) and a Guide Dog, participated in the Quiet Day at Christ Church, Kilmore.

The Rev'd André DuPlooy led the

day with the theme being "The Joy of Living - Ripening with Age" and participants were led through different joyous themes of our lives:

- A Ripening Mind and Heart
- The Second Journey
- What kind of person are we becoming
- A noble task
- A windfall of delight
- Becoming a grandparent
- I will sing a new song

Aside from André addressing those present, a calming silence was created throughout the day, apart from joining together for lunch, or for quiet discussion with our Leader.

Those who attended, though few in number, found the day to be thought provoking and restful in the lead up to Advent. Caroline Burge, Christ Church, Kilmore.



Preparing & reflecting on the Christmas message

BY REVD CATHY CARDEN

Luke 2:10-11 - But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

There is no-one more excited at Christmas time than children, and this is reflected in the activities and the Religious Education curriculum at Cathedral College Wangaratta. The students are reminded that 'Christ-mas' is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, as we remember his birthday each year.

As staff and students prepare and participate in Christmas Pageants (Prep/1/2), Christmas Carol Services (Prep-Year 10) and end of year Presentation Day Ceremonies, and look forward to Christmas and school holidays; we also look back and reflect on the multitude of opportunities we've had to share God's story to our 1000+ students and their families through the myriad of different services that have been held in our new Chapel of the Good Shepherd

since its opening in March.

Events throughout the year include:

- Scott Darlow – Indigenous Christian songwriter
- Revd David Still visiting from Anglicare
- Bishop Dino from Benalla – meet, greet and preach in one of our Chapel services
- Rev'd Ken Goodger – guest preacher at our Christmas Carol Services
- End of Term Two Eucharist services, presided over by Bishop Clarence
- ASC Principals' Morning Prayer service
- ASC Chaplains and Religious Educators Professional Development with renowned Christian Scientist Revd Dr Chris Mullherin
- Year 12 Valedictory Eucharist to commence their final week at school.
- Confirmation service

We have been delighted to strengthen our connection with Clergy in the Diocese through invitations for them to lead or participate in different events in the Chapel. This includes maintaining our

strong connection with Holy Trinity Cathedral, with two major services held at the Cathedral during the year, and having Rev'd Ken join us for both our Confirmation service and to speak at our Christmas Carol services. We were also blessed to have Bishop John Parkes work at the school for two days a week in Term One, doing an extraordinary job in preparing for the opening of the Chapel and sourcing high quality liturgical items including clerical robes and Eucharistic vessels. Chaplains, Revd Dr Mark Mickelborough and Revd Cathy Carden have been actively involved in Diocesan activities this year, including Clergy training days and retreats. Bishop Clarence and Canon Scott Jessup have provided ongoing and unstinting support and willingness to be involved in the life of the school and contributed in so many ways to our Chapel services.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunities, connections and support that we have at Cathedral College Wangaratta and we take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, safe and blessed Christmas.



PHOTOS ABOVE: Top - Students in the Christmas Pageant. Bottom - Students gathered out the front of Holy Trinity Cathedral

Community Garden Open Day at Kilmore

BY CAROLINE BURGE

Two years ago in the midst of the first year of the covid pandemic, the Parish of Kilmore was approached by some community members to ask if the parish had any 'spare' land to help out a community project in starting up a Community Garden. The seed was sown (a very apt saying), and members of the newly formed Community Garden got together with Rev'd André and some members from the parish, and the Kilmore Community Garden was formed, with the garden being created on land at Christ Church Kilmore.

On the last Saturday in October their first Open Day was held, with local schools and kindergartens being invited to enter a competition to create their own scarecrow to display. With many gardening and natural product stalls being run by members of the community, a great day was held.

Parish Priest, Rev'd André DuPlooy welcomed everyone in attendance and said how proud the parish was to be part of this great community project. The local radio station OKR

98.3FM recorded their show live from the grounds and the Broadford Singers entertained all present. The Guest Speaker for the day was Dr Kaylene Evers who talked of her extensive experience as a Psychologist helping people through life's ups and downs with compassion, care and joy. She spoke of the joy that can be found in the

garden, and how honoured the community was to have such a space to enjoy with the Community Garden.

The parish was proud to be part of their celebrations and ran the BBQ stall, raising money for parish funds.

PHOTO BELOW: Patty DuPlooy and Caroline Burge helping on the BBQ



Numurkah Annual Fete

BY ROB ELLIOTT

Early in November St George's Church, Numurkah held its annual fete on a balmy Friday afternoon and evening, the rain clouds and unspringlike weather having cleared for a short time. Hundreds of members of the local community wandered through the church grounds in search of a bargain at the many stalls: books, plants, sewing & crafts, Christmas gifts, white elephant, produce and of course the ever-popular cakes and slices. The barbeque and the dessert stall kept the crowd well fed while they listened to the entertainment provided by St Joseph's Primary School choir and the Numurkah Town Band.

A lot of preparation and hard work went into making the event such a winner and parishioners were delighted with its social success and the parish treasurer was pleased with the financial outcome.

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Book Summary

THE TIME IS NOW: a call to uncommon courage

By Joan Chittister

SUMMARY BY ANNE BAUMGARTEN

Have you ever wondered what the New Testament is referring to as the "gift of prophecy"? Perhaps you assumed prophecy was only for a select few, like the major and minor prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures or stand-out saints. Well, Joan Chittister, a leading Benedictine nun, is very clear that the world is calling for prophets and she offers many current social justice issues that are desperate for the prophetic voice. She asserts "prophecy is Christianity at its best". "It is the soul mate of prayer". Furthermore, she says prophets are you and me.

While we enjoy the many feel-good aspects of our faith, there is another, more edgy side that requires courage, boldness, risk-taking and obedience. It requires us to accept responsibility for carrying the message of Christ the prophet.

Following is a brief summary of Chittister's explanation of prophetic spirituality. We are often perplexed about how we can respond to worldwide suffering and evil. Perhaps we can pray about it, donate money, join a charity or trust that leaders at a higher level will fix things up. However, each of us has God-given gifts to equip us for a riskier journey of discipleship. It insists we take the Gospels seriously.

Prophetic spirituality has the courage to look closely at what is happening and to describe it truthfully. It does not involve judging others or making personal attacks, but it must speak up and persevere. Undoubtedly, those who benefit from maintaining the status quo see things very differently.

Chittister provides many descriptions of prophetic spirituality and how we behave when we follow this calling. It soon becomes clear that prophets do not obey their calling in order to gain public respect or to make it into the media and history books. They act with humility, in the community. They may not even see the fruits of their efforts in their lifetimes. They are agitators, often rejected by those who are heavily vested in worldly power, wealth and traditional practices.

Prophets share the vision to "bring the world closer to the reign of God". This is a kingdom where all people are equal and have equal rights. * People genuinely care for one another. Intrinsic values of justice, steadfast love and peace characterise this kingdom.

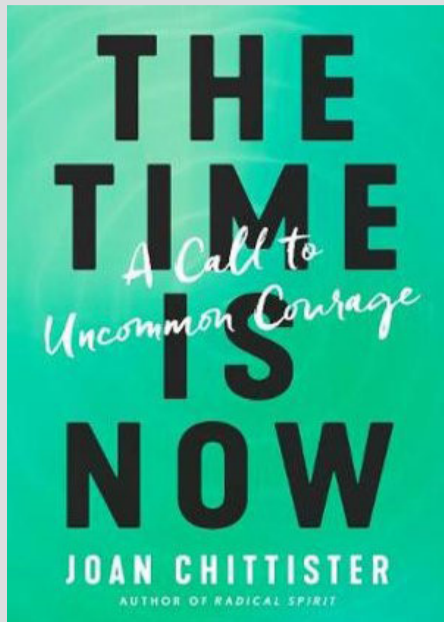
We already get daily glimpses of this new world in our own lives and the actions of groups shining lights on injustice everywhere. Prophetic acts always bring the world to breakthroughs. The changes may be disruptive, but they are true.

The strategy for us is simply faithful obedience. Of course, we are never alone or uninformed, no matter what dangers emerge. Together with our co-workers, we are parts of the body of Christ. As we faithfully serve God to build a better world, we are guided by the Gospels, which form the trustworthy blueprint for our work.

Along the way, Chittister motivates readers with well-chosen quotes from several poets, writers and prophets, such as Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton. Her own words at the end of this book also deliver some sustenance for the long journey ahead.

To follow the path of the prophet is to discover what it means to live driven by the wind of the Spirit to complete the work that the greatness of God has begun.

*Comment: One of the useful benchmarks for building a better world is the UN Declaration of Human Rights. A summary of its 30 articles can be found at this link <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>



St Luke's op shop volunteers' morning tea

BY JANET HUBBARD

Recently the committee of the St. Luke's Op. shop in Yea conducted a morning tea for its volunteers. Volunteers range in age from fourteen to ninety four and mostly come from in and around the township of Yea.

The Op. shop is well known to the community of Yea, particularly for its attractive and colourful window displays. Those people working in the shop constantly receive compliments and admiring comments on the beautiful decorations, which are mainly prepared by Jo Upton, with help from Barb O'Donnell and other talented volunteers. The two most popular windows have been the purple theme window, and the pink window which featured lines of pink bras to raise awareness of Breast Cancer.

The op. shop was established not only to raise funds for the church and the community, but also to provide a comfortable and attractive venue where people can browse for pre-loved items, find a listening ear if needed, and help the cause by donating goods for which they no longer have a use. Rev'd Mario has an office in the op. shop where he may be found on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The expenses involved in running a clean and attractive shop are quite considerable, and include rent, power and

cleaning, so the committee is grateful to those who donate items, patronise the shop and volunteer to work. Money raised is controlled by St Luke's and is used to run the church as well as being distributed to many community causes. These include the community free food pantry, to which a monthly donation is made, the Yea High School, the Yea Primary school, Sacred Heart School, Flowerdale Primary School, the Yea Kinder, the High School Deb. Ball, the hampers which are distributed at Christmas, Rural Australians for Refugees, the Suicide Awareness Group, and Family Violence Prevention (Melanesia) Goods in kind, such as uniforms and school supplies are also provided to local schools and the pre-

school.

At the morning tea, volunteers were treated to a delicious spread of food provided by the op. shop committee and the hall was filled with chatter as experiences and memories were shared. A feature of the day was the presentation of special badges to long serving volunteers.

Dawn Sundblom, who prepares the volunteers' roster received a life membership badge, as did Norma Tobias and Jenny Kindred, who is chairman of the Op. Shop committee. Denise Williams Kirkham, Penny Buck and Peg O'Connor received 10 years service badges.

The morning concluded with some fun as Jenny Kindred had organised games and quizzes which provided noisy consultation and lots of amusement.

PHOTO BELOW: Jenny Kindred, Denise Williams Kirkham, Penny Buck, Rev'd Mario and seated – Dawn Sundblom, Peg O'Connor, and Norma Tobias.



Fond farewell to the Venerable Catie Inches Ogden

BY DR JANE FREEMANTLE

On Sunday 30th October 2022, members of the Mansfield Anglican Parish bid a warm and loving farewell to our Priest, Archdeacon Emeritus, the Venerable Catie Inches Ogden CSC. St John's was filled to capacity with members of our parish and wider community as we gathered to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Catie who had served us so very well during her ministry of nearly two years.

The Venerable Catie was inducted into the Anglican Diocese of Mansfield and commissioned as Area Dean of the Central Deanery, Diocese of Wangaratta on 21st November 2020 and led

us in our celebration of Christ the King, her first service, the following day.

In her time with us Catie endeared herself to so many people in the communities of Mansfield, Jamieson and Bonnie Doon. Her pastoral care for all who met her, her hospital chaplaincy and home visiting to any one in need became well known. Catie took an interest in all whom she met and engaged in genuine conversation, meeting everyone 'where they were at!' Catie became a much sort after and engaging speaker at the RSL, Probus, Rotary and other Mansfield community groups as she shared her life's story and experiences over her many years of service in both parish and army ministry. Catie

encouraged and revitalised the ecumenical ministry in Mansfield which I know will continue in her absence.

For her parishioners her sermons were so highly valued. One of our parishioners made the comment: 'it seems as if Catie knows exactly what's in my heart and on my mind every Sunday and her sermons seem directed just to me'. We all felt this way as Catie brought the word of God to us and taught us all how to not only to listen to the word of God but challenged us to 'do' the word of God in our everyday lives.

At her farewell, on 29th October 2022, many parishioners expressed their profound thanks to Catie for her ministry. We have all experienced her love and care in so many different ways during her time with us. We are so grateful to her for the many extra hours she spent in her ministry to our Parish and her ministry will long remain indelibly inscribed in our hearts and minds. We wish her well as she embarks on this next chapter of her life.



PHOTO ABOVE: Farewell to the Venerable Catie Inches Ogden

Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD



For about a decade I have followed the practice of the Church of England of wearing red vestments on the three Sundays before the Feast of Christ the King. Since the introduction of the three year cycle of readings for the celebration of Sunday Eucharists (in 1969 by the Roman Catholic Church and in the seventies for most Anglican churches) the four Sundays before Advent have looked forward to the coming of the Kingdom of God, culminating in the Feast of Christ the King. These four Sundays are a distinct change of direction from the steady progress through the teaching and actions of Jesus that have followed Trinity Sunday. They function as the overture for the raising of the curtain of Advent.

On the Feast of Christ the King the old collect for the Sunday next before Advent is used as the post communion prayer by the Church of England and is the prayer for the week in A Prayer Book for Australia:

Stir up we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people, that they plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee, be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

It is a truly fascinating collect. It begins in the imperative mood. Most of our prayers, and certainly most of the traditional collects, are requests of God — we beseech thee ... , grant us ... , pour down upon us ... , etc. To begin a prayer in the imperative betrays an urgency about the request — Stir up ... the wills of thy faithful people. The “stir up” is Cranmer’s translation of the Latin “excita” — stir up to greater activity. The prelude to Advent is a call to God to get the faithful to jump into action.

The overture reaches its climax with the imperative of the final week before Advent. So Advent arrives and since 1662 we are instructed to say the collect for the first Sunday in Advent every day, after the collect of the day, until Christmas Eve. This collect unites our memories and our hopes in the present. It begins in the present, invokes the past and anticipates the future:

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.

This glorious collect is an original composition of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer for the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549. It was his successors, at the Restoration, who thought it appropriate for the whole season when the BCP was restored in 1662 after the decade of the Commonwealth.

The reminder to keep saying this collect through the whole season is a reminder of its timelessness and perpetual relevance. This is not a “pie in the sky when I die” prayer. It is prayer for “now in the time of this mortal life”. The change for which we are asking is for now — cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. These are tied to the way in which God humbly entered the compromised world of which we are part, in the incarnation, and the great hope of the coming of the kingdom. The hope to which the collect looks is concrete — that in the last day when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal.

In Advent we sing O come, O come, Emmanuel and we also sing Lo! He comes with clouds descending. Our season of Advent combines two Advents. Our word derives from the Latin “adventus”. This referred to the solemn arrival of a god and latterly of the emperor in Rome. The first advent is the birth of our Lord and Saviour in Bethlehem of Judaea, the second is his coming again in his glorious majesty.

Now in the time of this mortal life we look back and rejoice in the incarnation and we look forward to the final transformation of everything that there is. We live in the very compromised and ambiguous circumstances of the present. In Australia Advent is not a season of natural darkness as it is in the northern hemisphere, but nevertheless it is always a time to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light.

Advent is a season to be savoured. There is a sense in which it captures the essential message of the Gospel — that in our Lord Jesus Christ God has transformed the world for all the “nows” of countless mortal lives as they are taken from darkness to light in the hope of the coming of the kingdom.

St Paul’s Myrtleford celebrates 150 years

BY REVD MOIRA EVERS

On November 10 in 1872 St Paul’s Church in Myrtleford then “neatly built of pine” was opened for Divine Service. The Venerable Archdeacon Tucker D.D of Wangaratta, who preached an “able sermon,” was assisted by The Reverend S.B Holt of Bright who had the Cure of Souls for Myrtleford and surrounds.

In the one hundred and fifty years since this momentous occasion St Paul’s has stood like a beacon in the centre of the township baptising, marrying, and burying locals, proclaiming the Gospel and sharing the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation with the good people of Myrtleford and surrounds.

It was by chance that I happened across a one hundredth anniversary booklet in our parish archives dated from 1972. I had only recently arrived in the Parish and thought that this was too good an opportunity to pass us by and, when I alerted my congregation, they thought so too.

In a matter of six weeks an energetic Committee set to work organising a series of events to cover

our Anniversary month of November beginning with a High Tea on November 5th, continuing with a Festive Mass followed by dinner and Jazz (thanks to Wangaratta band “Sweet Buzz”) on November 11th, a very boisterous Trivia Night on December 18th and concluding with a community musical soiree on November 27th.

Far from our celebrations being a closed parish-only event, it is true to say that the wider community of Myrtleford

and surrounds embraced our anniversary with great joy. Indeed, we have been asked to continue the celebrations in the future and so we have more High Teas, trivia nights, jazz and supper and musical soirees planned for 2023.

Well done St Paul’s Myrtleford, here’s to another one hundred and fifty years!

PHOTO BELOW: Quiz Masters Rev’d Moira Evers and Rev’d Jane Trigg



ABM - Australia

BY REVD NORM HART

The Anglican Board of Mission is the official church organization which is tasked to carry out mission on behalf of the Anglican Church of Australia. We have missionaries serving in outback Australia, in Africa, in Asia, in the Pacific and in the Holy Land. ABM can always use your prayers, but money is also needed to pay people and for projects in communities where the church is active.

Rev’d Norm Hart, in Euroa, sorts and sells stamps to raise money for ABM-A.

Norm can also sell coins and postcards. Recently someone donated a huge bag of British pence, unfortunately the banks will not accept coins and they are too heavy to post so Norm dragged the bag to Melbourne and donated them to the Save the Children organization who have special arrangements and fully utilise the cash - thank you to whoever donated them. Norm wanted you to know that even though he could not use them to raise money for ABM he did find a suitable home.

Norm reckons he can use/ sell any recent stamps that have been used as there

are so few letters sent these days collectors are struggling to locate items for their collections.

Please put aside any stamps, coins, notes, postcards and envelopes. You can leave them at the Diocesan Offices or at the Cathedral Bookshop or drop them into Norm and Patti at 8 Bury St, Euroa.

Rev’d Norm is happy to help anyone who would like their collection valued; he has a reasonable knowledge of world coins and stamps, or if you’d like help selling them, his phone number is 0434896404.



Looking for a new home:

Two used wooden Altar Rails measuring 1370 mm wide, 695 mm high, centre post 870 mm high. Two Silver Plated Oil Burning candle stands 765 mm high (height 900mm with oil burner). Please call Hugh Elford 0474 591 212, Churchwarden at Wodonga for details.



Acknowledgement of Country

BY FRAN ROBERTSON

The Parochial District of Beechworth first investigated the acknowledgement of First Nations Peoples several years ago, during the term of Canon Thomas Leslie. In fact, the plaque was affixed to its place on a boulder at the entrance to Christ Church as one of the last actions he oversaw before taking up his position as the Dean of the Cathedral in Griffith. The wording of the plaque was sensitively written in consultation with local woman Coby Surrey.

There were many delays in arranging its dedication, but finally, on September 14th, Bishop Clarence celebrated the Wednesday morning Eucharist and then proceeded to bless the plaque with the following words:

This plaque, is a symbol that the parishioners of this church acknowledge the First Nations People as the traditional custodians of the lands, water and culture of this region.

As we thank Creator God, for those who cared for the land on which this church stands, and for those who built this church and who have worshipped in it, we dedicate

this plaque to God as a symbol of our heritage and of our common search for life together. May our shared journey forward be one of greater reconciliation and hope. May this plaque stimulate, inspire and strengthen us and all who will see it in the years to come. Amen.

Following the dedication, a sheaf of wattle was laid. The local community were invited to attend and approximately twenty enjoyed refreshments afterwards.



Uluru Statement from the Heart

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or

extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural

nature of our problem. This is the torment of our powerlessness.

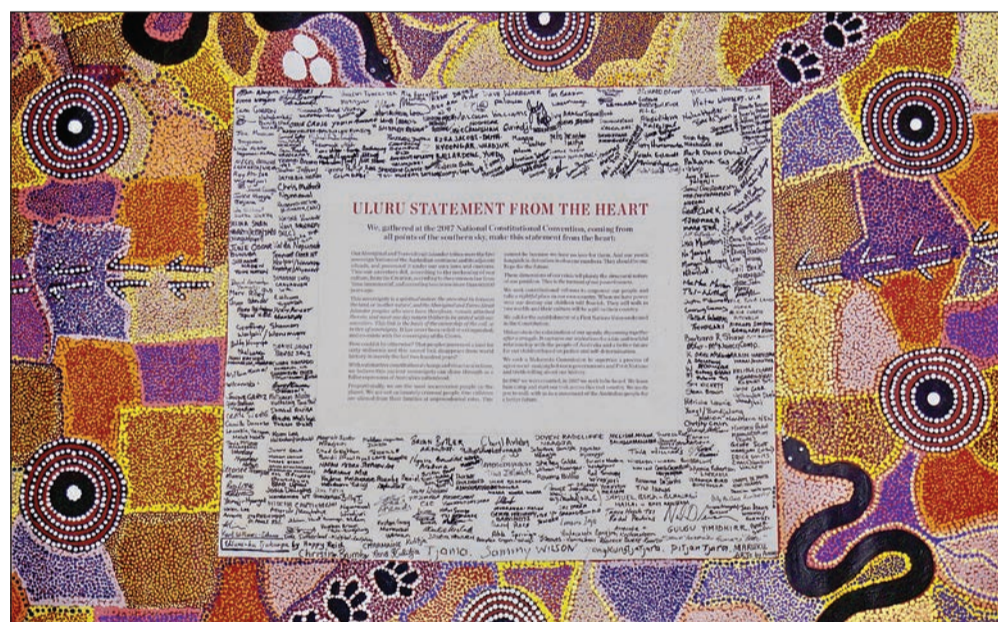
We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.



Climate Action: Selected Moments in History - Part One

BY ANNE BAUMGARTEN

William Blake's vatic words in 'Jerusalem' published in 1804, lamented the presence of 'dark Satanic mills' in the lush English landscape. Sadly, various forms of the ungodly image have haunted the globe from the Industrial Revolution to this day.

Fifty years after Blake's poem, a prescient scientist, Eunice Newton Foote, discovered the danger of releasing excessive carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Later, in 1859, John Tyndall conducted more rigorous atmospheric experiments that led him to coin the term 'Greenhouse Effect'.

Fast forward 120 years to 1973 at Wangaratta high school. Informed by the scientific facts of our human impact on the environment, a visionary student rallied a large group of students keen on doing their bit to respond to the impacts of pollution and climate change.

The group was called INSPECT. They were supported by a gifted science teacher who, starting in the 1970s, was building solar panels.

For whatever reasons, groups like INSPECT were given very little attention by the wider world. More politically inclined and visible environment groups emerged. Many labelled them crazy, 'loopy left wingers' and scaremongers. Meanwhile, assisted by exponential population growth and increased mechanisation, the dark Satanic mills increased their impact on planet Earth.

A glimmer of hope emerged for climate activists in response to the alarming decline of the ozone layer in the lower level of our stratosphere. Strong scientific facts had proven CFCs (Chlorofluorocarbons) were responsible. In a surprising act of international unity, the 1987 Montreal Protocol was ratified (the

US signed up in 1988). Ozone-depleting substances would be phased out. It may still be the only UN treaty ever ratified by all countries.

Sure enough, the ozone layer responded with measurable improvement. It gave us hope that international unity is possible.

By definition, the conservatives were conservationists. Notably, Margaret Thatcher spoke of the importance of environmental conservation. Her respected qualifications in chemistry added validity to her pleas. At that point in time, one could have assumed the universal issue of the preservation of the world's environment could be strongly non-political, or at least, bi-partisan.

In Australia, denial and opposition to science were useful political weapons. At the beginning of the 21st century in Australia, the science of climate change was

dismissed and labelled a myth created by panic merchants. It was happily tossed to the progressives. Business could continue the same as usual, the economic status quo was preserved and the prime minister declared he wanted Australians to feel "comfortable and relaxed". He wanted them to feel secure.

Some people will continue to deny that climate change is caused by humans. It is understandable that they will take that approach and they possibly won't budge. But many of us have expressed concern about the delays in dealing with climate change. Perhaps deep-rooted fear or the worldly lures of material comfort, convenience, money and power have led us to turn a blind eye to the facts that well-qualified climate scientists agree on unanimously. But communities are moving past denial into anger. They are now experiencing, first-hand, devastating bushfires, floods and

droughts predicted long ago. They aren't feeling "comfortable and relaxed".

So what can we do? Following Christ's example, we can take a servant-leadership role. We can lead with a shared Christian vision of restoring our earthly paradise. We can serve by taking action side by side with others at all levels in the community. God is with us, so our list of actions is potentially infinite and God is in charge.

One last observation: in the 1980s, after female voices were permitted to return to the cathedral choir, we joined with the St Peter's Eastern Hill choir to sing in Holy Trinity Cathedral. As we sang Blake's 'Jerusalem', the sanctuary filled with thick smoke: not from pollution, but incense. It was a sublime moment in time. Looking back, I do wonder if there was a uniquely Christian message of hope prayerfully weaving through Blake's words of protest.

Christmas Service Times



HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, WANGARATTA

Christmas Eve
6.00pm Family Eucharist
11.30pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Choral Eucharist

ALBURY	COBRAM	MILAWA	WANGARATTA
<i>Please contact the parish for their service times</i>	Christmas Eve 8pm Crib Service Christmas day 11am Service	Christmas Day 9.00am Eucharist with carols 1517 Snow Road Milawa Vic 3678.	Christmas Day 9.30am Holy Communion, All Saints', Moyhu 11.00am Holy Communion, Holy Trinity, Whitfield
ALEXANDRA	CORRYONG	MURCHISON/RUSHWORTH	WANGARATTA WEST
Christmas Eve 7.30pm (Ecumenical Eucharist with local churches at St. John's) Christmas Day 9.00am Holy Eucharist	20th December 6.00pm Lessons and Carols, All Saints Christmas Eve 6.00pm All Saints 8.00pm Holy Trinity Christmas Day 9.30am All Saints	Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Day Mass, Christ Church Murchison	Christmas Eve 7.00pm St Pauls, Gelnrowan Christmas Day 8.00am St George Taminick 9.30am St Michaels Wangaratta
ALPINE	EUROA	NORTHERN ALBURY	WODONGA
18th December Myrtleford Piazza 6pm - Community Christmas carols Christmas Eve 5pm Whorouly 6pm Harrietville 11:30pm Myrtleford Christmas Day 9am Bright 9am Myrtleford	Christmas Eve 5pm, St Dunstan's Violet Town, Holy Communion followed by Carols 10pm St Paul's Euroa, Holy Communion Christmas Day 8am St Andrew's Longwood, Holy Communion 9.30am St Paul's Euroa, Holy Communion	23rd December 7:30pm Quiet evening prayer, St. James' Lavington (for those facing a difficult Christmas) Christmas Eve 6:00pm All-ages carols service, St. Mark's North Albury 8:30pm Holy Communion, St. James' Lavington Christmas Day 8:30am: Holy Communion, St. Mark's North Albury 10:00am: Holy Communion, St. Mark's North Albury, St. Paul's Jindera	18th December 6.00pm Christmas Carols & Nine lessons, St John's, Wodonga Christmas Eve 7.00pm Midnight Service (AnglicanTradition) Emmanuel 10.30pm Carol singing St John's, Wodonga 11.00pm Midnight Mass St John's, Wodonga Christmas Day 9.00am Christmas Day Service (UnitingTradition) Emmanuel 9.30am Christmas Day Eucharist, St John's, Wodonga
BECHWORTH	KILMORE	NUMURKAH NATHALIA	YACKANDANDAH
18th December 7.30pm 9 Lessons and Carols, Christ Church, Beechworth 20th December 7.00pm Blue Christmas, Christ Church, Beechworth Christmas Eve 5pm Crib Service, Christ Church, Beechworth 6.30pm Carols & Eucharist, St Jude's, Eldorado 11.30pm Midnight Mass, Christ Church, Beechworth Christmas Day 10am Sung Eucharist, Christ Church, Beechworth	18th December 9.00am Holy Eucharist, Christ Church, Kilmore 11.00am Holy Eucharist, St Stephen, Tallarook 5.00 pm Carols and Nine Lessons, Christ Church, Kilmore Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Midnight Mass Broadford Christmas Day 9.00am Holy Eucharist, Christ Church, Kilmore	Christmas Eve 1:30pm St. Paul's Wakiti Creek 6pm Crib Service St. George's Numurkah Christmas Day 8:00am Holy Trinity Nathalia 9:30am St. George's Numurkah	Christmas Eve 5.00pm Carols & Eucharist, St Mark's, Tangambalanga 7.00pm Carols & Eucharist, St Andrew's, Dederang Christmas Day 9.00am Eucharist, St Paul's, Allans Flat 10.00am Eucharist, St Aidan's, Tawonga 10.00am Eucharist, Holy Trinity, Yackandandah
BENALLA	MANSFIELD	RUTHERGLEN CHILTERN	YARRAWONGA
Christmas Eve St Aidan's Swanpool - 5:30pm carol singing 6:00pm Eucharist Holy Trinity Benalla - 9:30pm carol singing 10:00pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day 9:30am Sung Eucharist, Holy Trinity Benalla	18th December 4.00pm Carols and Lessons St John's Christmas Eve 5.00pm Crib Service for Families St John's 7.00pm Holy Communion St Peter's 11.00pm Holy Communion St John's Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Day at St John's	Christmas Eve 5:00pm Family Service with Carols, Christ the King, Wahgunyah 8:00pm Holy Eucharist with Carols, St Paul's, Chiltern 11:30pm Midnight Mass with Carols, St Stephen's, Rutherglen Christmas Day 8:00am Holy Eucharist with Carols, All Souls', Barnawartha 9:30am Holy Eucharist with Carols, St Stephen's, Rutherglen	18th December 7.30 at St Cuthbert's, Yarrowonga Carols and Readings for Christmas Christmas Eve 7.00pm Family Eucharist. St Cuthbert's Yarrowonga 9.00pm Eucharist St Thomas' at St James Christmas Day 9.00 am Sung Eucharist St Cuthbert's, Yarrowonga
CENTRAL GOULBURN	MARYSVILLE	SHEPPARTON	YEA
Christmas Eve 5.00pm St. Paul's, Avenel 7.00pm St. John's, Nagambie Christmas Day 9.00am Christ church, Seymour.	Christmas Eve 11.00pm Midnight Mass, Marysville Christmas Day 9.00am Family Eucharist, Buxton	Christmas Day 5.30pm Crib Service 11pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day 8:30am Christmas Day Mass	18th December 6pm Lessons & Carols (an ecumenical service) Christmas Eve 11pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day 9am Christmas Service
TALLANGATTA			
Christmas Eve 7.00pm Christ Church, Tallangatta			

12 Days of Christmas

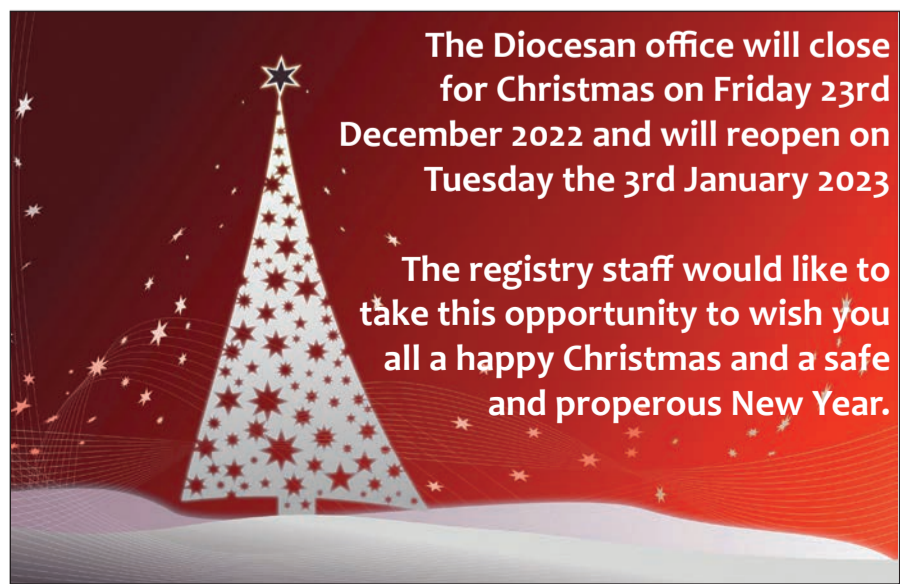
Did you know this about the 12 Days of Christmas? Here are the verses of the song, along with their supposed symbolism:

- A Partridge in a Pear Tree - Jesus Christ
- Two Turtle Doves - The Old and New Testaments
- Three French Hens - The three virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity
- Four Calling/Collie Birds - Four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- Five Golden Rings - First five books of the Old Testament
- Six Geese-a-Laying - Six days of creation before God's rest on the seventh day
- Seven Swans-a-Swimming - Seven gifts

of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.

- Eight Maids-a-Milking - Eight Beatitudes
- Nine Ladies Dancing - Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.
- Ten Lords-a-Leaping - Ten Commandments
- Eleven Pipers Piping - Eleven faithful disciples
- Twelve Drummers Drumming - Twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed

Thanks to Jo Dolling from the Parish of Benalla for sharing this.



The Diocesan office will close for Christmas on Friday 23rd December 2022 and will reopen on Tuesday the 3rd January 2023

The registry staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and a safe and properous New Year.

People and Parishes



Xavier Jeffries, Rev'd Lesley Lewis, Caleb Francis and Rev'd Scott Jessup at the clergy christmas party held at Bishops lodge.



Sue Hicks, Archdeacon Neil Hicks and Kyle Bester at the clergy christmas party held at Bishops lodge.



Bishop Clarence, Reverend Melissa Calrk and parishioners from the parish of Yea at the induction of Melissa.



Clergy gather together at the induction of the Reverend Matthew Healy at Christ Church Beechworth



Bishop Clarence Bester, Revd Alan Kelb and Archdeacon Neil Hicks at the licensing of Revd Alan Kelb as Priest in Charge of Tallangatta.



Fr Prakash Cutinha (Roman Catholic Church), Rev'd André DuPlooy, Major Gail Roberts (Salvation Army) and Rev'd Len Sherratt (Uniting Church) at All Souls day in Kilmore



Long standing parishioner of Alpine Margaret Goodman, "Queen for the night" at their dinner with jazz .