

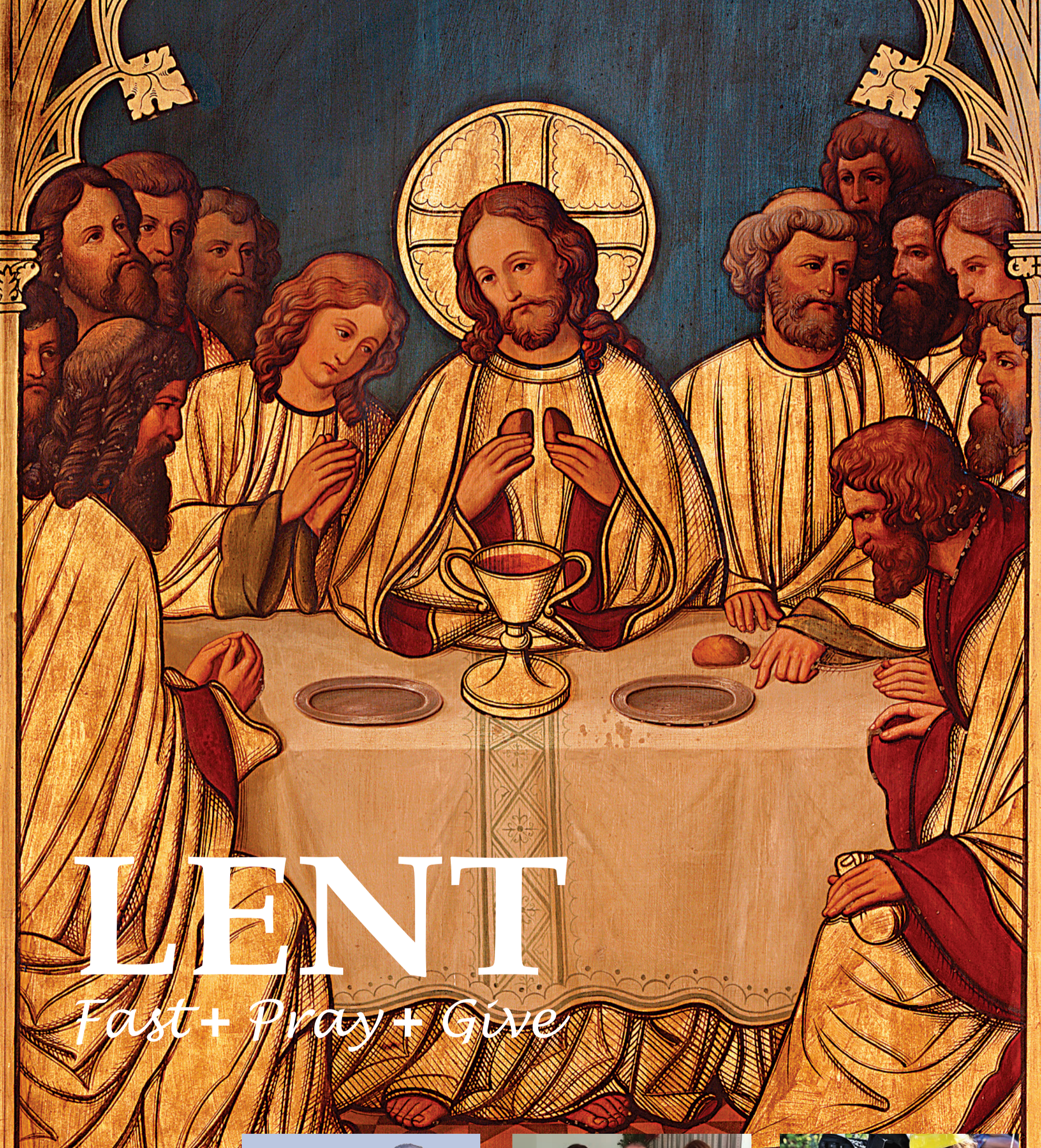


THE ADVOCATE

Inspired by God's love, through worship, prayer and scriptural reflection, we seek to live our Christ-centred values by meeting the needs of our communities through serving and accepting others.

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February/March 2021



LENT

Fast + Pray + Give

Inside the Advocate
this month



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When Holy Matrimony is a Family Affair

BY REV MARYANN LEONARD

On a very hot Saturday afternoon on the 23rd January my son Jonathon (Jono) and Gillian were married at Holy Trinity Benalla, with extreme air-conditioning and fans. There were only parents in attendance, with Molly Craig in charge of all things technical and musical and Stella the flower dog (Stella is a retired Seeing Eye Dog from my daughter Annalyse).

As COVID has provided a challenge and arranging nuptials and reception to be held on the same day, with no restrictions has become a gamble, the couple chose to have their nuptials before and with God at Holy Trinity. It

was an honour to be able to celebrate the marriage, while the three other parents were witnesses and Stella held out her paw in approval. All family members participated in the ceremony, reading and offering prayers.

Jono and Gillian will renew their vows in a few weeks' time with a party after. Thank you to Jean Evens who organised flowers. By the way, except for immediate family, no one knew of the wedding - so social media went crazy after!

PHOTO'S RIGHT: The wedding couple and flower girl Stella



Australia Day Outstanding Citizen Awards

BY CAROLINE BURGE

It was with a great sense of pride that the parish and community learnt of the well deserved Australia Day Citizen Awards presented to parishioners Barbara and Bruce Radford from Broadford.

Both Barbara and Bruce have been involved in many aspects of community life for many years whilst living in the town and bringing up their now grown up children.

A few years ago after Barbara retired from teaching at Assumption College she says she felt "lost" metaphorically and, after attending a bible study with a group from

'Love in Action' in Wallan, she was asked if she would consider starting up a group in Broadford, as the group in Wallan were starting to get calls from struggling families in other local communities.

When Barbara heard of the need in her local community, she set about getting a team of like-minded people with a passion for helping families who are 'doing it tough' within the Broadford and wider community. The team started off with an ecumenical group involving the Anglican, Salvation Army, Pentecostal and Uniting Churches.

Barbara reports that their aim is to build a community by encouraging local people to support local

people. Some have been homeless, others from domestic violence situations, others just struggling to pay rent and electricity. She feels that if they can provide food and toiletries that this in turn saves them money for rent and bills. Love in Action guides these families where to go for help from other organisations such as doctors etc.

The Kilmore Anglican parish is one of many groups that support Love in Action by donating groceries every week, with Parish Priest Rev Andre involved in the Love in Action team. He takes up donated food each week; delivers food to people who can't get out and joins in activities such as the big Christmas donations of food and gifts.

The local Tallarook shop also collects from Tallarook people for the group.

Love in Action also make sure children have all their needs for education such as uniforms, shoes, stationery etc. and this year they have spent over \$3000 on this, with local people donating all this money.

In 2020, Barbara asked for money from our parishioners to support a family who needed \$4000 to stop them from being evicted; and just before Christmas another \$2000 for a family whose house had burnt down. This money was happily donated by those in the parish wishing to help the wider community.

For Barbara and Bruce this is a continuation of their faith in God. Barbara has worked with marginalised kids whilst teaching at Assumption for 30 years. For Barbara, Love in Action is a continuation of looking after families as well as children. Bruce works behind the scenes in Love in Action and his award was for his involvement in so many community organisations over the years.

This final statement comes from Barbara: "All Bruce and I do comes

from our faith in God and what He has put us on earth to do. Once you know that, your whole life falls into place and doors open".

Thank you Bruce and Barbara for your total commitment to your faith and through that faith helping those in need.

PHOTO BELOW: Bruce and Barbara Radford with their Australia Day Outstanding Citizen Awards.



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Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta



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SAFE CHURCH

The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta has zero tolerance for abuse. We are committed to providing a safe, respectful, welcoming and positive environment for children and adults from all backgrounds.

If you have experienced abuse or suspect abuse may be occurring in a church setting or by a member of the church you should report this as soon as possible to the Director of Professional Standards on 1800 377 842 (1800 DPSVIC) or email professionalstandards@wangeratta-anglican.org.au.

For more information on our Safe Church policies and procedures contact the Safe Church and Systems Officer on 03 5721 3484.

Confirmation at St George's Numurkah

BY LOU HAMON

Four young people from St George's Numurkah re-affirmed their Christian belief and were admitted as full members of the church.

Originally planned for April, the confirmation by Bishop Clarence, his first in the Diocese, took place on Sunday 20th December in St. George's Numurkah.

In a 5pm service, with a church near capacity with COVID restrictions, Bishop Clarence Confirmed Grace Hall, Lily Patrick-Oudeman,

Emily Hall and Shellee Patrick.

In the same service "Admitted to First Communion" were Xavier Hall and Charlotte Hall.

Heather Stammers was the Confirmation Instructor, using Zoom and You Tube, as instructional tools due to lock-down.

This was a milestone for St Georges' being the first confirmation since 2015 when Bishop John confirmed four members prepared by Priest in

Charge Rev. Sally Boothey. Patrick.

As mentioned, it was a milestone for Bishop Clarence, his first confirmation as Bishop in the Diocese and also for Rev Victor Adams, Priest in Charge of the Parish of Numurkah-Nathalia, bearing fruit from his work with the youth in the Parish prior to COVID-19 lockdown.

PHOTO BELOW: In the photo with Bishop Clarence are from L to R, Shellee Patrick, Grace Hall, Emily Hall, Charlotte Hall, Xavier Hall and Lily Patrick-Oudeman.



VCC Emergencies Ministry



BY MARGARET BRICKHILL

This agency - providing support for people affected by a variety of emergencies - has been set up by the Victorian Council of Churches. It is part of the Victorian State Emergency Management Plan.

There is a small, paid, staff in Melbourne. Other responsibilities at regional and local government level (mirroring the operating structures of other emergency organisations) are undertaken by volunteers.

Last year more Anglicans were added to the volunteer lists in a variety of local government areas across the diocese. Following reading of a manual, the first part of their training was conducted via ZOOM. Later in the year there was covid-safe face to face training in Wangaratta and Wodonga, so that, in roleplays, prospective volunteers could practise support skills.

Volunteers are trained in Psychological First Aid and Emotional and Spiritual Care. All people of faith (clergy and lay-people) must be trained in this way to provide support in relief and recovery centres set up by Local Government Authorities and in other situations where support of this kind is needed. These can include community gatherings following a tragedy for one or more persons which has wide community significance.

Please pray for the agency and for the volunteers. You can learn more about this ministry, and support its work financially, at www.vccem.org.au.

from the Bishop



Dear People and Friends of the Diocese

The reality of the time.

What a rather uncertain start to the year with many having to head home from holiday or face mandatory quarantine, others having to quarantine and some of us having to alter our plans. The reality is that, like with the 1918 Spanish Flu, even with all the technological advances and possibilities of vaccines, we are still in a world pandemic and our collaborative way of working together is all that will pave the way to something better for the future. We have also become more aware to savor each precious moment while enjoying life in all its fullest, despite being constrained to do many other things. I pray that we will continue to experience hope, despite the risk of despair and able to see the light that is already shining through at the end of the tunnel.

The time to come.

I expect that we will have a busy time over the next few months leading up to our Diocesan Synod in May and General Synod. I am hoping to visit most Parishes and have intentional conversations about the shape of our ministry as we continue to navigate a plan of action that will be simple, easy and achievable. Many of these elements I outlined in my Charge to Synod at the end of November and I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the content, pray for this process and encourage one another as best we can, given the limitations and possible difficulties we might face through this world pandemic.

Ministry Action Plan (MAP)

I want to encourage all our parishioners within our 23 Pastoral Charges and 62 Churches to earnestly pray and to work with us, your clergy, Parish Leadership Teams and Parish Councils as we seek God's direction for our Parishes and Diocese and as we work towards a manageable and easy system of operation. This will not be completed within a short space of time, but we will walk, talk, and plan together. I know that, for many, a move away from the normal way of doing things (change as per my definition) is difficult, but changing direction is necessary if we remain true to our original vision for the Diocese in embracing the future together.

On Saturday, 20 February we will have a Governance Training Day (GTD) as well as a Diocesan envisioning day to which I have invited all church wardens, treasurers, and parish nominators. Soon we will be announcing dates and times for further discussions of the various groups within our Diocese to continue the conversation. The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese have already started this conversation. We will also be arranging meetings within our four Deaneries to further discussion over the next few months so that, at Synod, we will be able to put this plan into action. I would once again encourage us to approach this process slowly, systematically and strategically and to allow ourselves to be open to the leading and guiding of God's Holy Spirit.

Lent

Lent starts with our service on Ash Wednesday, 17 February and I do hope that all our parishioners will make concerted efforts to attend either special bible studies or services during the next few weeks leading up to Easter. Most parishes will follow a special Lenten theme and this time will be good for our spiritual enrichment. During Lent I ask that we favourably consider the ABM Lenten Appeal - parishes would have received special envelopes for this purpose.

I wish you all a blessed and holy Lent.

+ Clarence

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

| FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 17th Ash Wednesday | 24th Lady Day - Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wangaratta | 1st Maundy Thursday |
| 20th Diocesan Governance Day | 28th Palm Sunday | 2nd Good Friday |
| 27th Bishop in Council | 30th Chrism Mass - Holy Trinity Cathedral, Wangaratta | 4th Easter Sunday |
| | | 24th Bishop in Council |

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News from Mothers' Union

BY MARY MUNTZ

The bushfires in the north eastern areas of our Diocese were catastrophic and communities were devastated. The members of Corryong Mothers' Union were actively involved in the care and comfort of people during this time. On Shrove Tuesday they invited people helping with the aftermath to share pancakes with them. Gathering for pancakes in the Diocesan Parishes and the beginning of the Lenten observances coincided with some of the government's restrictions. Although unable to hold meetings members have been careful to keep in touch with each other and to offer comfort and support when needed. It is unfortunate that we have not been able to visit and take Communion to our friends in Aged Care facilities Branches acknowledged Shrove Tuesday as usual but the spread of Covid 19 changed the way Lenten Observances and Easter were celebrated this year.

It was a big disappointment that members were unable to attend the service at Holy Trinity Cathedral in March to celebrate Lady Day. Traditionally the Bishop presents members with a long service certificates and badges. Last year there was a 60 year badge for a member in Nathalia, two 50 year and two 25 year badges for Albury members. Mary Sumner Day is also acknowledged in August with a service at Holy Trinity Cathedral and the year 2020 marked 144 years since Mary Sumner was inspired by a vision concerning the Christian responsibilities of motherhood. At branch level members have organised their own Lady Day and Mary Sumner Day observances. The World Wide Wave of Prayer links very diverse Dioceses together as they pray for each other and in August our members were linked with Dioceses of Metabeleland, Mount Kenya Central, Niger West, and Clogher.

It was not possible for Mothers Union members to gather for our annual Morning Coffee and AGM in November but thanks to Rev David Holloway our yearly fundraising raffle was held via mail. Bishop Clarence has arranged for a meeting of current Executive and branch Presidents on Tuesday 2nd of February to become familiar with Mothers' Union in our Diocese.

MU Celebrate Christmas with Lessons & Carols at Avenel

BY DIANE GRANT

The sounds of traditional Christmas Carols and Bible Lessons fill the air this time of the year across the world. They spread the message of good will and the spirit and meaning of Christmas.

That took place on Thursday 16 December, as a small band of members of the Anglican Parish of Central Goulburn Mothers' Union (MU) branch gathered together for their annual Advent Seven Lessons and Carol's service at St

Paul's Anglican Church in Avenel.

The service was led for the first time by parish priest Rev. Richard Pennington.

This annual service gives the members some peace and preparation before the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem, as written in the Holy Bible and faithfully believed by many Christians for over 2000 years.

The MU members are all aware that this year has been a very challenging

one. They have not been able to meet, or enjoy each others' company since March. It has been the same across the world and all 4.3 million MU members have felt it in their own countries since the COVID 19 pandemic hit.

The Parish and Mothers' Union group donated goods towards Salvocare last week for their 2020 project.

The parish thanks all who donated goods or funds for the project - they were dropped off to the Salvation Army for

them to distribute locally. The branch sent Australian MU Christmas cards to their link branches in Northern Ireland and Frederickton Canada.

The MU members then enjoyed their end of year Christmas lunch at the Avenel Imperial Hotel.

The MU invites members of the community to attend a church service at any of our local churches this Christmas to share in and spread the good news that Jesus is the reason for the season.



PICTURE ABOVE: Di Grant, Jenny Moran, Gladys Burgoyne, Rev Richard Pennington, Marlene Brew, Mary Greenshields, Dawn Leece and Dawn Elliott.

Farewell to Canon Thomas

Sunday, January 3rd was the last service held by The Reverend Canon Thomas Leslie in a combined service for the Parochial District of Beechworth and Eldorado. We have been blessed with his ministry for the last three years, but now send him away with our blessings as he takes up the position of Dean of St. Alban the Martyr, and Rector of the Parish of Griffith in the

Diocese of the Riverina.

In his time with us he made many connections in the community, participating in local committees, choral groups and acted as Chaplain for sporting clubs and the RSL; he reached out to all denominations and those without faith and welcomed them all.

After the service to mark the Epiphany, and

some kind words from the Bishop, the parish and guests met at the Tarrawingee Inn for lunch in the garden, fortunately under the marquee, as the heavens opened! Jean Henderson spoke on our behalf and Thomas was presented with a gift from the congregation which he received with thanks and grace.

Go well Rev Tom!



Kilmore Community Garden

BY CAROLINE BURGE

Following on from the inaugural meeting of the Kilmore Community Garden group in December, a newly formed committee was made up at the first meeting for 2021.

As reported in the Advocate in December, a few locals in Kilmore expressed the wish to start up a Community Garden in the town but were in need of land. This is where the Anglican Parish of Kilmore came in. Rev André and Patty had often spoken of local community gardens in their home country of South

Africa to involve not only parishioners but also people in the local community. With the guiding hand of God bringing the two ideas together, the Kilmore Community Garden Committee was formed and a patch of land adjacent to Christ Church Kilmore, The Rectory and Church House (Op Shop) was offered for this use.

Plans and discussions on how this will work out will take place over the coming months, with other community groups being invited to join.

The Committee has already heard from lonely members out

in the community who would love to be part of this with other like minded gardeners; those who have moved into small units in town will also love to be involved.

The group have already thought ahead to excess crops of fruit and vegetables and it was decided that these can always be donated to Love in Action and also Freedom Care - both local organisations who help those in need.

PHOTO ABOVE: the newly formed committee



Rev'd Arthur John ("Jock") Gibson

28.12.1922 – 1.01.2021

BY TIM GIBSON

The Rev'd Jock Gibson, who died in Numurkah on New Year's Day, was ordained deacon in 1964 in Grafton Diocese, and priest in 1976 in Gippsland Diocese. He retired to live in Numurkah in the 1980's and assisted in this diocese from time to time until he was 80.

Jock was born into a church-going family in Strathfield, Sydney, his father being a well-respected medical specialist. He attended Trinity Grammar School, Summer Hill, where he and two of his brothers excelled as schoolboy swimming and rugby champions. In the final years of World War II he served in the 2/8 Commando Squadron and the 1st Parachute Battalion but did not see active service overseas. He was a regular swimmer to the age of 85 and took up bowls while at Numurkah.

The first of his careers was in commercial broadcasting in which, over some 20 years, he progressed from being an announcer in 2GN Goulburn and 2MW Murwillumbah, to becoming sales manager at 2MW and manager at 2KA Katoomba. He had a good voice and for many years was involved in amateur theatre, his specialty being mastering the "patter songs" in Gilbert and Sullivan performances. Part of his theatrical leaning was his sense of humour, always quick with a witty

comment and enjoying a good laugh.

The second of his careers was in the early 1970s in real estate and then project home sales in the Wollongong district. He was a natural salesman, with integrity, honesty and a high moral compass.

During all these years he was very involved with his parish church, being ordained as an honorary deacon when in Murwillumbah and when in Wollongong was guided further in his faith journey by Bishop Graham Delbridge, the Sydney Diocese bishop in that region. Jock's call to full-time ministry led to his being ordained priest when Bishop

Delbridge became Bishop of Gippsland and there followed ministries in Neerim South, Foster, Warragul and Morwell.

The fact that his last career was in ordained ministry was no surprise to his extended family, which included an uncle, two cousins-in-law and one nephew who were Anglican priests and another uncle who was a Methodist minister!

Jock's was a full life and, for most of it, happy, filled with the love of his family and, with his capacity for compassion, care and support for others in need, he earned the respect of those with whom he worked and interacted. There were the usual trials, disappointments and triumphs but in all this he was wonderfully supported by Anne, his wife of 75 years.

He is survived by Anne, three children (Jennifer, Trevor and Judith), five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



One of Cobram's well known elderly citizens turns 90!

BY BOB DAVIS

Rowan Bell has been a man of many talents; a single parent of four children, Animal Health Officer for 35 years and an untiring volunteer, including Shire Councillor, two terms as Mayor, plus an untiring voluntary commitment to many local organizations for many years.

Rowan's early life was spent at Dookie College where his father was the House Master. Rowan loved cattle and horses and he would often be seen out on the College farm with the cattle, or during the hay harvest driving a twelve horse Clydesdale team. He graduated from Dookie after receiving a Diploma of Agricultural Science. In 1950 he was employed as an Animal Health Officer, entering in to a career in the Livestock Division which spanned 35 years. In 1971 he was promoted

to Regional Animal Health Officer.

He was married in 1960 and four children were born between 1960 and 1967; Geoffrey, Wendy, Phillip and Dianne. His wife walked out and left him to raise the children. His calm and positive personality gave rise to a great home environment full of love. He arranged for all house - keeping duties, while he did all the shopping, washing and weekend care. The children never wanted for anything and he raised them to adulthood.

His involvement in local affairs is long; Secretary, Cobram Harness Racing Club thirty years, Cobram Rotary forty-four years, Cobram Shire ten years as a councillor including two years as Mayor and so the list goes on.

Another aspect of Rowan's life has been

his commitment to St Margaret's Anglican Church in Cobram. He has been a parishioner and supporter of all aspects of the church giving freely of his time and wisdom. He has used his faith to overcome the traumas of daily living and then rejoiced in the love of God and the fellowship of his congregation. Now an elder of the church community he is treated with dignity and reverence and remains an ever popular identity.

The incredible thing about Rowan's life is that there was a continual juggling of demands between family, his career and voluntary work, which he regularly faced and coped with and then got on with the job. The evidence of this is the love his family has for him, his standing in the community and his Christian faith. His has been a life dedicated to family, livestock and the community.



Catch up at Yackandandah

Yackandandah parishioners enjoying a catch-up in the grounds of Holy Trinity, Yackandandah, following the first parish service after Christmas. Seated on the park bench from L to R; Ron Furze, Reg & Pat Muller, Max Dunlop.



Hazel Celebrates 106th Birthday!

Lesley Baker of Yackandandah Parish was joined by many family and friends recently as they helped Lesley's mother, Hazel Fox, celebrate her amazing "106th" birthday.

Hazel is a beloved resident of Yackandandah Health Aged Care ("Yamaroo").



Sophie takes her Faith into the Community

BY MARGARET BRICKHILL

Cathedral parishioner, Sophie Freischmidt, was a finalist in the Rural City of Wangaratta 2021 Citizen of the Year Award. She was nominated by Susan Callus, owner of Wangaratta's sewing emporium, My Little Patch. Sophie has made outstanding contributions to the wellbeing of the Wangaratta community. She has done this in quiet and generous ways for more than six decades since she and her late husband, Peter, settled in Wangaratta.

Sophie is a regular and much-loved member of the weekly sewing circle at My Little Patch; which, since it opened in 2008, has undertaken fundraising for individuals or groups in need. Sophie inspired the business and its customers to raise funds for Loaves & Fishes – Christians Caring, the group of twelve local churches providing emergency relief in Wangaratta, auspiced by Anglicare Victoria. Many thousands of dollars have been raised.

Each Monday morning Sophie delivers groceries and other goods to the emergency relief store. They are from the Sunday collection at the Cathedral and also, very often, from Sophie's family, friends and neighbours. Some weeks during 2020 Sophie delivered supplies each day. Her visits to the Anglicare Victoria premises are always greeted warmly, not only for the groceries, but also for her cheerfulness and conversations with the store volunteers as they accept the donations.

Sophie got to know many

Wangaratta families through her twenty-four years as a Kindergarten Assistant Teacher. She has made many friends through participation and voluntary work with the Citizen Advice Bureau, Cursillo, the Benedictine Community of Christ the King Taminick and Mothers' Union. As well as her cheerfulness and generosity, this woman of great faith is known for her enthusiasm and compassion and her deep life of prayer.

Sophie has belonged to the Cathedral Parish for a very long time. She is part of its liturgical life as a Eucharistic Assistant and Welcomer. She is a caring presence for people in hospital and in aged care facilities – for

which she holds the Bishop's Licence. During 2020 Sophie kept in touch regularly with many neighbours, friends and parishioners, through phone chats or to deliver groceries and other items they needed.

Many in the Diocese will know Sophie as the Friday volunteer in the Cathedral Shop. Her warmth and enthusiasm are appreciated, as is the information that she is able to give to people about the Cathedral; or about the city she knows so well – and to which she has contributed so much.

PHOTO BELOW: Sophie Freischmidt (right) with her daughter Ann Pettett (left).



Parish Partnerships

BY MARYANN LEONARD

During Advent, our Parish collected personal care

products for adults and children in need. As you can see, our car was packed to capacity with donations. Anglicare will

be making up care packs for distribution and also keeping some on hand to give to those in immediate need.



Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD



We Australians have some interesting expressions for how we arrive at agreement. Something has to “pass the pub test” or “satisfy the mob”. Being one of the mob is often very important; getting the mob on side is even more important. Our Church is a very complex mob.

It is not often that we examine how we make decisions. Decisions do not just drop out of heaven. For example, our creeds did not just appear because somebody thought it would be a good idea. We have our creeds, and especially the Nicene Creed, which we recite almost every time we celebrate the Holy Communion, because there was disagreement about how the relationship of God, the creator of the universe, our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world and the Holy Spirit was to be understood. When Christians were able to come out into the open and publicly talk about their faith they discovered that there are matters about which they disagreed. The Emperor, Constantine, at the beginning of the fourth century, made Christian faith publicly acceptable. There is little doubt that Constantine hoped that Christian faith would help unify the Empire across all of its ethnic and linguistic divides. But it took less than a decade for it to become obvious that Christians could disagree with each other as vigorously as anybody else. For an emperor who was trying to bring peace to a divided empire this was intolerable. The Christians had to sort it out and so the Emperor summoned the Council that met at Nicaea in 325 AD. The theology and the politics of that Council make for a great story, but that can wait. Even with the decisions of the Council it took six decades for the Church to more or less reach agreement, by which time new questions had emerged.

There has never been a time when there has not been disagreement among the followers of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We see it among the Apostles; we see it in the letters of Saint Paul; we see it in the Acts of the Apostles as the Church emerged in the years following the resurrection of our Lord. Acts 15 describes what has become known as the Council of Jerusalem, at which the relationship of Jewish followers of Jesus and Gentile followers of Jesus had to be resolved. In writing to the Gentile Christians the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem used an interesting little formula — “it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us ...”. In Jerusalem the first generation of Christians had to work it out. At Nicaea, a dozen or more generations later, the Church had to work it out again. It has been thus ever since — at the very least our decisions have to seem good to us. We make our decisions collectively. It is not I, it is we who make the decisions. For the decisions of the councils of the church to carry the day they have to pass the pub test with the faithful. We, the faithful, are the mob who need to be convinced.

One of the mechanisms by which our own church tries to ensure that decisions will pass the pub test of the Australian Anglican faithful is that, should a matter come to a vote then a substantial majority is necessary for it to be carried. At the General Synod most matters need a two-thirds majority and there are some that need a three-quarters majority and these majorities need to be in all three houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity.

We are bound together by something that is truly divine — the grace of God, mediated through faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ and sustained by the action of the Holy Spirit. It is also the case in our particular setting that we happen to be a mob of Australian Anglicans. By and large each and every one of us has made some sort of decision to have our Christian affiliation in a particular Anglican Church. Australian Anglicans associate with each other voluntarily. Because our association is a voluntary association it is necessary that our decisions receive broad acceptance if we are to hold the association together.

A little more than one hundred and fifty years ago the Archbishop of Canterbury called together all the Anglican Bishops in the world for what became the first Lambeth Conference. In part it was to try and work out how we related to each other. Anglicans in the United States were totally free from the Royal Supremacy and because of events in South Africa Queen Victoria had decided that ecclesiastical affairs in the colonies were up to the colonial churches. At that conference the Bishops decided that there would be no central authority to enforce decisions. Internationally and in our Australian Anglican Church we try to make our decisions as much as possible by consensus. This is not an easy process and often it takes considerable time and negotiation. Making good decisions that maintain the fellowship of Christ's faithful people requires great commitment, patience and care.

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Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Release of Australian refugees from detention

In the last few weeks the Australian Government has started releasing refugees who had been detained in Australia for over 7 years, into the community. This action commenced without any notice and detainees were informed and transported within hours out of the hotels where they had been held for the last couple of years as Medivac patients who had been brought to Australia for treatment but had received little if any. Most had been in motel rooms with no access to visitors, fresh air or exercise (at the same time as returning travellers were complaining about 2 weeks quarantine!). Not all were released, and some were informed that the Minister would not sign them out but no reason was given to either group. This caused much distress to both groups.

No preparation was provided to those being released into the community, despite having had no experience of living freely in Australia. With little warning those being released were loaded onto transport and taken away. They were taken to MITA in Broadmeadows to be signed out and given their property. They were divided into 2 groups and taken to allocated accommodation by contractors, AMES and Life Without Barriers who were similarly unprepared for the release. One group was taken to a motel on the edge of a high way on the outskirts of Melbourne and the other to a decommissioned aged care building.

The men were given \$150 in cash and informed that they had 2 weeks accommodation after which they needed to find their own. The men have the right to work but no right to income support from Centrelink or SRSS. They are expected to find their own housing to be self sufficient and employed in 2 weeks - an impossible task for people with no familiarity with the country and who have been in detention for nearly 8 years. They have no idea how to negotiate banks, public transport, medical care, shopping etc after not being allowed to even choose what they ate or where they slept for the past 7+ years.

The motel had no cooking facilities, and they realised a meal would cost them over \$20. Supporters of the refugees sourced rice cookers for them as a solution. The decommissioned age care home had at least a kitchen but the Contractors locked it down and no visitors are allowed but the people are free to come and go if they know where to go. They were given MYKI cards but were unsure on bus routes or if the cards could be used to get them back.

The Brigidine Asylum seekers Project has supported the group by purchasing groceries; the contracted case workers sent from another area of Melbourne to tell them about public transport had no idea that they had no food.

Later Minister Dutton announced on radio that the release was aimed at saving money. After 8 years of being held in detention at exorbitant costs to the tax payer, questions about the sudden release with no preparation for financial reasons must be asked. This is not a new experience as, in July 2013, during a very cold winter, families were put into houses that were filthy, empty and cold and it was noted that pregnant women were sleeping on newspaper on bare floors. At that time it was ordinary Australians in the community who stepped up to assist. Few Australians realise what is happening in our own country and how harsh the government has been in its actions

There is an urgent need for these released refugees to find jobs and accommodation in a very short time and, as the government has no intention of assisting, it will fall back on the community to bring together what ever resources we can to assist these people, who have only been seeking safety and peace, to finally find it in Australia and to be able now to remain here.

Please bring this to the attention of your networks and, if it is possible for any of us or our networks to access our available resources to support these now released refugees, please would you contact Marie Sellstrom 0417398528 or email mtsellstrom@bigpond.com to make any offers of support or to get more information. It may be an opportunity for us Anglicans to explore how we may be able to assist people who came for the sole purpose of seeking safety and peace, and who have been locked away for so long.

Suzie Don Leonard
Chair Diocesan Social Justice Committee

Lent a time for self-opening, not self-denial

BY REV DAVID KERR

Jesus opened himself wherever he went, giving of his time, his energy, his teaching, his power, and even his identity. And yet, for everything he gave, did he ever seem to go without? Did he ever seem vexed by going without copious wealth or other human pleasures? The only times Jesus was angered were those times when people were not open to faith, not open to God. Jesus gave of himself, but did not deplete himself. Rather, his identity grew and developed, even

when giving up his spirit on the Cross. This Lent, do not ask what people are giving up. Ask to what they are opening themselves. It is easy for the Church and Christians to assume that self-denial is required of us, a requirement to sacrifice our own needs and pleasures to do God's work. If we deny ourselves the joy of the gospel, the joy of true openness to grace, we end up denying others joy. If we are free to enjoy certain privileges, food, shelter, safety on the streets, rights to worship, wed or preside and we try to justify to ourselves

why others cannot, we are not being true to God. We are not being true vessels of the Spirit. If we are not a church open to the possibilities of grace, we are a church that paints itself into the corner in which it will die. We can only feel grace by opening ourselves to wisdom we wouldn't otherwise expect. Jesus offered himself to all, but those constricted by doctrine did not accept the gift; those open to true belief received it with gratitude - not the pharisees, but the centurion who gazed upon his body.



Great Way to Begin the School Year

BY CATHY CARDEN

It was with a sense of anticipation, gratitude and quiet excitement that 130 staff from Cathedral College Wangaratta gathered at Holy Trinity Cathedral at 8.30 am on Monday 25th January to begin the 2021 school year. Using the Bible readings of the day about Paul's conversion and ministry and Jesus' commission to his disciples, Junior School Chaplain, Mrs Cathy Carden used her sermon to outline how the staff in Anglican schools can contribute to the culture, ethos and ministry of the school by sharing five attributes of Anglican schools in Australia:

Faith – In Anglican schools, we expect people to encounter the living God in daily life. We find this in nature; we learn from our Indigenous peoples, and their particular relationship with the land; we explore how each other experiences faith in their lives.

Reason - we encourage

students to be informed, to challenge worldviews – and to apply reason to their understanding of religion and faith.

Worship - experienced formally in fortnightly Chapel services, but also informally through opportunities for meditation and reflection. There is the underlying hope that, as people become familiar with the rhythm of prayer and worship, a group of largely unchurched people are doing church and participation precedes understanding.

Character and service – Serving others builds character and we have many opportunities for development of this. Whilst the activities themselves are important, after the event it is the character building and gratitude for what we have that remains a lifelong learning for the students involved.

Pluralism - is both a reality and a goal of Anglican schools.

Pluralism exists where various religious, ethnic, racial, and political groups are able to thrive in a single society – in our case school - with 'thrive' being the key word. We believe that our schools are better places because we welcome diversity and warmly respect and invite people of all backgrounds and beliefs to share their life with us, those who practice other faiths as well as those with no faith.

By living out these attributes, the staff are helping fulfil one of the goals and pillars of the school – being 'Distinctly Anglican'. The service continued with prayers for the school and community and included the opportunity to partake of communion (bread). We were grateful to Dean Ken Goodger for kindly assisting with preparation of the Cathedral and leading of the service.

It was wonderful to be able to gather in this way, albeit maintaining social distance and a great way to begin our school year. We hope and pray that we will be able to have our students return to the Cathedral during Holy Week for our school Easter services.

A Rare Event - Carols in the Park at Christmas

BY GILL BAKER

With Covid restrictions prevailing it looked as though the Eldorado Combined Churches Carol Service could not happen at St Jude's this Christmas.

However, some creative thinking brought together Rev Tom (who sadly for us has since flown the nest), a piano on a trailer, a keyboard, a few local musos, a microphone for the readers and about 30 community members in

the park, which had plenty of room for families to socially distance.

Carols rang out across the valley and, although we could not have the usual cuppa and cakes afterwards, a pleasant evening was had by all.



Beau sent us on our way to Jingle Bells

EASTER PARISH SERVICE TIMES

EASTER DATES

HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, WANGARATTA

Palm Sunday 28th March
Maundy Thursday 1st April
Good Friday 2nd April
Easter Sunday 4th April

Palm Sunday
 8.00am – Holy Communion
 10.00am - Blessing of the Palms
 and Procession with Eucharist.

Maundy Thursday
 Liturgy of the Last
 Supper ~ 7.30 pm

Good Friday
 Liturgy of the
 Day ~ 2.00 pm

Easter Day
 Vigil Mass ~ 6.00 am
 Holy Communion ~ 8.00am
 Choral Eucharist ~ 10.00 am

King Valley
 Moyhu ~ Easter Day
 9.30 am
 Whitfield ~ Easter Day
 11.00 am

ALBURY

Good Friday
 9.00am
Easter Day
 9.00am

ALEXANDRA

Maundy Thursday
 7pm.
Good Friday
 9.30am
Easter Sunday
 9.30am

BEECHWORTH

For service times please contact the Parish
 on 03 5725 1477

BENALLA

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes
 6pm at both Holy Trinity and St Aidan's
Ash Wednesday
 8am & 4pm Holy Trinity Benalla
 11am St Aidan's Swanpool
Stations of the Cross
 Each Friday during Lent
 5.30pm Holy Trinity Benalla
Soup and Bread
 Each Friday during Lent at 6pm in Parish Centre
Palm Sunday
 10am Holy Trinity
Maundy Thursday
 7pm Holy Trinity
Good Friday
 11.15am St Aidan's, followed by Hot Cross Buns
 3.00pm Holy Trinity, followed by Hot Cross Buns
Easter Vigil
 6.00pm
Easter Day
 9am Holy Trinity
 11.15am St Aidan's

CENTRAL GOULBURN

Palm Sunday
 9.00 am Christ Church Seymour
 11.00 am St John's Nagambie
Maundy Thursday
 7.00 pm Christ Church Seymour
Good Friday
 9.00 am Christ Church Seymour
 11.00 am St John's Nagambie
Easter Sunday
 8.00 am Christ Church Seymour
 9.30 am St Paul's Avenel
 11.00 am St John's Nagambie

COBRAM

Maundy Thursday
 7pm Washing of feet
Good Friday
 9am Combined Devotion Service at St.
 George's Numurkah
 11am Ecumenical Stations of the Cross
 Service at Millpark gardens in Cobram
Easter
 6am Service of Light and renewal of
 baptismal vows

KILMORE

Palm Sunday
 9.00am Christ Church, Kilmore
 11.00am St Stephen's, Tallarook
30th Holy Tuesday
 Tenebrae 07.00pm Broadford
31st Holy Wednesday
 Stations of the Cross: 07.00pm Kilmore
Maundy Thursday
 10.00am St Matthew's, Broadford
 7.00pm Christ Church, Kilmore
Good Friday
 9.00am Christ Church, Kilmore
 11.00am St Matthew's, Broadford
 11.00am St Stephen's, Tallarook
Saturday 3rd April Easter Vigil
 7.00pm Christ Church, Kilmore
Easter Day
 9.00am Christ Church, Kilmore
 11.00am St Matthew's, Broadford

MANSFIELD

Ash Wednesday: 17th February
 10:00am AND 6:00pm St Johns
Palm Sunday
 9:30am Holy Eucharist St Johns
Maundy Thursday
 7:00pm Service of Preparation St Johns
Good Friday
 9:30am: Morning prayer
 3pm-6pm: Easter Vigil with music
 St Johns
Holy Saturday
 7:00 pm Service of the Light:
 St Peter's, Grey ST, Jamieson
Easter Day
 6:00am Service of the Light: followed by
 breakfast

MT BEAUTY/TAWONGA

Easter Sunday
 10.30 am

MARYSVILLE

Palm Sunday
 10.00am: Palm Sunday Liturgy and
 Eucharist, St Thomas, Buxton
Maundy Thursday
 7.00pm: Commemoration of the Last
 Supper, Christ Church, Marysville
Good Friday
 12noon: Good Friday Liturgy, Christ Church,
 Marysville
Easter Day
 8.30am: Easter Holy Communion,
 St Thomas, Buxton
 10.00am: Easter Family Eucharist, Christ
 Church, Marysville

MILAWA

Good Friday
 9.00am
Easter Sunday
 9.00am

NORTHERN ALBURY

Maundy Thursday
 7:00pm (St. Mark's): Liturgy for Maundy
 Thursday.
Good Friday
 9:00am St. Mark's. The passion and death
 of our Lord.
 10:30 am St. Mark's. Ecumenical stations
 of the cross.
 7:00pm St. James'. Tenebrae. A service of
 readings and reflection.
Saturday, 3rd April
 8:00pm St. John's Great vigil of Easter.
Easter
 8:30am St. James'. Eucharist with renewal
 of baptismal promises.
 10:00am St. Mark's. Eucharist with renewal
 of baptismal promises.
 5:00pm St. Paul's. Eucharist with renewal
 of baptismal promises.

NUMURKAH NATHALIA

Maundy Thursday
 10am Washing of the feet Nathalia
 4pm Numurkah
Good Friday
 9am Combined Devotion Service at St
 George's Numurkah
Easter
 6:30am Ecumenical Dawn Service in the
 Hamon Rose garden
 8am Service of Light and renewal of
 baptismal vows, Nathalia
 11am Numurkah
 1:30pm Wakiti Creek

RUTHERGLEN CHILTERN

Palm Sunday
 8:45am St Stephen's, Rutherglen – Holy
 Eucharist with Sunday School.
Wednesday 31st March
 9:00am St Paul's, Chiltern – Holy
 Eucharist.
Maundy Thursday
 9:00am St Stephen's, Rutherglen –
 Stations of the Cross
 7:00pm St Stephen's, Rutherglen – Holy
 Eucharist with footwashing, stripping of the
 altar – followed by the Watch until 10pm.
Good Friday
 8:45am St Stephen's, Rutherglen – Liturgy;
 10:45am St Paul's, Chiltern – Liturgy.
Saturday 3rd April - Easter Eve
 9:00pm St Stephen's, Rutherglen – Easter
 Vigil with liturgy of new fire, renewal of
 Baptismal vows and the first Eucharist of
 Easter
Easter Day
 8am All Souls', Barnawartha – Holy
 Eucharist;
 9:30am St Stephen's, Rutherglen – Holy
 Eucharist;
 11am St Paul's, Chiltern – Holy Eucharist.

SHEPPARTON

Palm Sunday
 Usual Sunday morning services St. Augus-
 tine's, St. Luke's, St. Paul's, Christ Church
Holy Week – St. Augustine's
 Mon – Wed 7pm zoom services
 7pm Maundy Thursday – foot washing,
 Eucharist, followed by Vigil
Good Friday
 9 am St. Andrew's UC (Anglican service),
 Dookie
 9.30 am St. Augustine's
 9.30 am St. Paul's Rushworth
****Holy Saturday – NO midnight mass**
Easter Day
 **6.30 am Lighting of the New Fire and
 Eucharist, St. Augustine's
 9.30 am St. Augustine's, Shepparton
 9.00 am St. Paul's, Rushworth
 11.00 am Christ Church, Murchison

TALLANGATTA

Good Friday
 9.00am
Easter Day
 9.00am

WODONGA

Saturday 27th March
 5.00pm, St Johns Wodonga
Palm Sunday
 9.30am Holy Eucharist liturgy of the palms,
 St Johns Wodonga
Monday 29th March
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross, St Johns
 Wodonga
Tuesday 30th March
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross, St Johns
 Wodonga
Wednesday 31st March
 10.00am Lent Course, St Johns Wodonga
 7.00pm Stations of the Cross, St Johns
 Wodonga
Maundy Thursday
 7.00pm Holy Eucharist, St John's Wodonga
 7.00pm Uniting Tradition, Emmanuel
Good Friday
 12noon Devotion and Solemn Proclama-
 tion of the Cross, St John's Wodonga
 9.00am Anglican Tradition, Emmanuel
Saturday, 3rd April
 8.00pm The Easter Vigil/ Lighting of New
 Fire, St Johns Wodonga
Easter Day
 6.00am Uniting Tradition, Lighting of New
 Fire, Emmanuel
 9.00am Anglican tradition, Emmanuel
 9.30am Holy Eucharist, St John's Wodonga
 11.30am Holy Eucharist, Bethanga

YACKANDANDAH

Maundy Thursday
 6pm Tangambalanga service
Good Friday
 9am Yackandandah
 2pm Dederang Stations
Easter Day
 9am Allans Flat
 10.30am Yackandandah

YARRAWONGA

For service times please check the Parish
 of Yarrawonga website or facebook page.
 Or contact the Parish on 5744 3045

YEA

**Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th & Wednes-
 day 31st March - 5.30pm St Luke's Yea**
Maundy Thursday
 7.30pm St.Luke's Yea, followed by vigil
 until midnight
Good Friday
 9.30am St Luke's Yea followed by hot
 cross buns
Easter Service
 5.30pm Christ Church Molesworth
Easter Day
 6.00am Yea Wetlands & 9.30am St Luke's Yea

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www.numurkahnathaliaanglicans.org.

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