

The Gippsland Anglican

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Messages of hope and resilience

Boarding school supporting students during COVID

Lisa Baker

The stress and uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic has meant increased anxiety for students preparing for their final Year 12 exams.

International boarding students at Gippsland Grammar have the additional stress of closed borders, which means they have not seen their families in Shanghai, China for more than 18 months because of the pandemic.

But the local independent boarding school is supporting its students to better understand the pressure associated with the pandemic rollercoaster by calling on renowned parenting expert Michael Grose.

Mr Grose 'visited' the school for an online Zoom session, attended by about 200 members of the school community from throughout the region. Each participant brought different experiences and challenges, some with children in the school's Early Learning Centre and others with teenagers undertaking VCE.

"Fundamentally what is behind anxiety is a lack of control ... and we need to give them [children] ideas to give them control," Mr Grose said. "We need to get children out of their heads and into their guts."

Mr Grose said everyone had different ways of coping or managing in different situations. He explained that personality types and genetic predisposition impacted the way individuals coped in different or stressful situations.



Gippsland Grammar school captain Connor Hare

Mr Grose said there was no doubt that encouraging children to live in the present moment would make them feel less anxious.

"Teenagers, and even adults, will fuse anxious thought with fact," he said.

Mr Grose said the key was to help students recognise or notice the thought and move forward from there.

Gippsland Grammar Principal, Leisa Harper, was delighted to be able to help the school community convert some of the anxiety into resilience.

"I know the pandemic continues to bring worry and anxiety to children and young people," Mrs Harper said.

"While children and teenagers were the special focus of this presentation, the messages of hope and resilience were just as pertinent for parents and teachers.

"I was so pleased to engage with our families on

this important issue – anxiety, the common cold of mental health.

"It gave us a practical language to talk about anxiety, permission to be vulnerable, and tools to move forward."

Gippsland Grammar School Captain Connor Hare, from Sale, said he and his classmates were trying to stay focused on their studies.

"I think I speak for most Year 12s at Gippsland Grammar in saying that our focus takes a hit every time we go into lockdown and the GAT again being postponed probably creates more stress.

"However, we're all in the same boat and the GAT's really something we'd prefer to happen soon so we can focus on the bigger picture, being November exams.

"Something lockdown's taught us though is not to take school for granted, and to appreciate that we're able to spend at least some of the little

time we have left with mates on campus, unlike other Year 12s (in Sydney or Melbourne) or last year's Year 12s."

Gippsland Grammar's Head of Boarding, Stuart Llewellyn, said with each state lockdown most boarders were able to return home; however, a number of students had remained in the boarding house, including two international students.

"During lockdowns and Learn@Home programs we try to keep normal routines – normal wake-up and bedtime, no mobiles during school days etc. – with additional active time where all boarders and staff participate in physical activity like going for a walk, playing Four Square or Just Dance on the Wii, which is always popular and fun," Mr Llewellyn explained.

"We've also enjoyed Kahoot Games on Zoom as a nice opportunity for the entire boarding family to stay connected during lockdowns."

Gippsland Grammar's boarding facility, Blackwood House, caters for up to 54 students in twin rooms with ensuite facilities.

Boarder Sienna Shields-Strong said lockdown in Blackwood House meant she had greater access to her family.

"I talk to my family more in lockdown than I do normally which is nice. I miss my puppy dogs when I am in lockdown but it is okay because I get many updates from home."

Fellow boarder Andrew Hutchings said lockdown life had become the norm.

"I have been missing my family quite a bit but I am not missing the old 'normality' as lockdown has become the new normal.

"I am doing well ... we all get along so everyone is able to cope well with lockdown."

Mrs Harper said the school's students were well prepared, irrespective of whether they had to learn at home, in Blackwood House or onsite at school.

"Our students are well supported by a range of staff and assistance. The current Year 12 students know that last year's cohort achieved highly and reached their goals even with the significant interruptions which is reassuring for them.

"Everyone is happy to be back working on campus but we all know the situation can change very quickly.

"Students know how well our systems work and they gain most comfort from that."

Courtesy Gippsland Grammar

The Season of Creation



When you think of the long history of ecumenical cooperation between the Christian Churches, it is highly significant that the first-ever joint statement from the leader of the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Anglican churches comes as an appeal for action on climate change.

Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, have called on Christian leaders to pray for world leaders in this Season of Creation, ahead of the United Nations' COP26 Conference in Glasgow, 1–12 November.

"We call on everyone, whatever their belief or worldview, to endeavour to listen to the cry of the earth and of people who are poor, examining their behaviour and pledging meaningful sacrifices for the sake of the earth which God has given us." The joint declaration concludes: "This is a critical moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend on it."

I encourage you to read the full statement at www.gippsanglican.org.au.

1 September was proclaimed a Day of Prayer for Creation in 1989 by the Orthodox Church, and Pope Francis echoed this summons in 2015. The Season of Creation spans the five weeks from the start of spring through to the feast of St Francis on 4 October.

Pope Francis takes the opening words of his namesake's canticle *Laudato Si* – 'Praise to you [Lord]' – as the title for his 2015 Encyclical, subtitled 'On care for our common home'. We may know the Franciscan canticle, or song, better as a beloved hymn, 'All creatures of our God and King' (*Together in Song*, 100).

In that encyclical, Pope Francis reflects, "Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters on a wonderful pilgrimage, woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother river and mother earth." (*Laudato Si*, 92).

An Anglican theological worldview also admits a high doctrine of creation, and attends closely to humankind's vocation both to delight in and to care for the world around us.

Gippsland Anglicans have a Facebook page dedicated

to celebrating the Season of Creation: Celebrating Creation Gippsland.

As an expression of that sense of universal inter-connectedness, our renewed diocesan vision for 2021–2024 commits us to act for the good of earth and all creatures: one important aspect of our Connecting in Service.

And the global Communion of Anglican Churches has long since cast one of its Five Marks of Mission as an imperative to "safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth."

This is foregrounded in one of the primary areas of focus for the 2022 Lambeth Conference, as explained under the overarching theme 'God's church for God's world': "Many parts of the Anglican Communion are experiencing first-hand the human impact of rising tides, drought, famine and species extinction. As one of the biggest emergencies of our time, the Anglican communion is playing a vital role in climate action. What will it mean to treasure, safeguard and sustain God's creation for current and future generations?" (see lambethconference.org).

The unison of voices across these various forums reminds us that the call to environmental stewardship, including the urgent need to

arrest global warming, is not tangential to our faith and discipleship; nor is it novel, or part of some broader 'progressive' agenda in the church or in politics. It is absolutely mainstream – integral to the vocation we share with Anglicans, with Christians of all traditions, and with people of faith and goodwill the world over.

One way in which we can act for the good of earth and all creatures as Gippsland Anglicans is to pray with these our sisters and brothers. The National Council of Churches in Australia, presided over by retired Anglican bishop Philip Huggins, has composed a prayer for this Season of Creation, which ends as follows, and which I commend to you:

We pray that the breath of your creative Word would move our hearts, as in the waters of our birth and baptism. Give us faith to follow Christ to our just place in the beloved community. Enlighten us with the grace to respond to your covenant and call to care for our common home. In our tilling and keeping, gladden our hearts to know that we participate with your Holy Spirit to renew the face of your Earth, and safeguard a home for all. In the name of the One who came to proclaim good news to all creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

+RM

Prayer against poverty

Lauren Enright, Christians Against Poverty

As we look around this blessed nation, it's easy to think that poverty doesn't exist here. But when we look a little closer, we can see Australians who are struggling to pay their bills, they're struggling with being isolated, their relationships are under pressure and money is often the major reason.

Thank you, God, that we have a government that sets up support systems, but help us to see where people fall through the cracks.

Help us to notice when money problems are really a symptom of needing community, of needing relationships restored with those and around them and ultimately with you, Father.

Help us to not become complacent as our economy opens up again and the immediate need becomes less obvious; keep our hearts large and eyes open, attuned and responsive to the direction of your Holy Spirit.

Anti-Poverty Week this year is 17–23 October.



Partnering with Beyond Blue in bushfire recovery

Rev'd Cathy Turnbull

In late May this year, I had the privilege to work with two wonderful researchers across a number of bushfire-affected communities in East Gippsland. The researchers were commissioned by Beyond Blue to look into how to best connect with remote rural communities, in particular following a natural disaster event such as a bushfire, and to assist with recovery, in particular people's mental health needs.

This research project was unique in that it was designed around the idea of a small number of participants. This allowed the researchers to go deeper into the experience of participants to better understand the needs of individuals and communities following the bushfires. With this in mind, I organised for 10 different individuals to be part of the project. The people involved lived across a number of different communities impacted by the bushfires and provided a broad spectrum of experience. I also organised a couple of opportunities to informally connect with

small groups of people and business owners, including a Men's Shed and a community food bank. Overall, the experiences included those of farmers, a single mum, a CFA captain, small business owners, volunteer community leaders, a neighbourhood house coordinator, youth, a bush nurse and clergy across a large age demographic with the youngest being 21 and the oldest in their 80s.

It was a busy week, driving the researchers around the district. Each of the 10 people involved in the project spent one to two hours with the researchers in a relaxed, informal interview setting. The feedback from each one was positive and they found it enjoyable, which was a credit to the two researchers' ability to relate to and listen deeply to what people were telling them about their experience and how they felt mental health services could be improved in their local area. As we travelled around, it was good to be able to support each town's local businesses for our meal and coffee breaks – the researchers enjoyed in particular their Buchan Burgers from the Buchan Valley Roadhouse.

Due to COVID restrictions, we have only had one feedback session from the researchers and Beyond Blue, via Zoom, but they are hoping to be able to travel to East Gippsland soon to provide an opportunity for feedback on outcomes achieved by the research project for those who participated in the interviews. So far, the feedback has been really positive and, despite the breadth and depth of the interviewees, some really important common themes came through. It is hoped that this project will lead to positive change in the way mental health providers such as Beyond Blue can reach out to remote rural communities impacted by natural disasters in the future. It was a great project for the Diocese, through our bushfire response, to be part of, and an important one – as we are all discovering with the prolonged impact of COVID on the mental health of so many.

The Rev'd Cathy Turnbull is Missional Deacon for the Eastern Region (Bushfire Response), Anglican Diocese of Gippsland. See p. 12 for Mental Health Week events.

Anglicare Victoria Award for bushfire financial counselling team

Cathrine Muston

The East Gippsland based Bushfire Financial Counselling team, led by Leonie Cooke, won the Excellence in Service award for a team at Anglicare Victoria's Chairperson's Awards in August.

The Bushfire Financial Counselling team went above and beyond in their duties in a challenging environment to deliver more than \$2 million in financial outcomes through their advocacy for communities affected by the January 2020 bushfires. The short-term module housing provided to residents who had a total loss of housing meant that people were able to return to their land

and slowly recover and rebuild. Financial counsellors supported survivors through this process by getting the hire contracts for housing to be amended to better reflect the financial hardship experiences as well as negotiating a more realistic estimate of loss from insurance companies.

Every year, staff and clients gather to celebrate the excellence, achievement and innovation of clients, staff and teams through these awards, but this year the ceremony was held online. Anglicare CEO Paul McDonald hosted the ceremony with his usual energy and enthusiasm, creating a party atmosphere with balloons and poppers.

He was joined by chairperson Matthew Pringle, who acknowledged that it had been a tough year and one where both staff and clients have had to "dig deep" to stay connected and engaged.

"... we acknowledge the efforts of everyone who has made – and continues to make – this organisation so remarkable," he said.

Special guests were Jo Motley, who rapped and hip-hopped for the 550 staff and clients at the webinar, as well as Minister for Child Protection, Luke Donellan.

Gippsland was well represented in nominations for all categories, an indication of the excellent service provided to clients by committed and caring staff.



Aleyda (left) and Ange, the two researchers for the Beyond Blue Re-imagine Project in Buchan enjoying lunch

Religious press awards for *The Gippsland Anglican*

Sally Woollett

The Gippsland Anglican was delighted to be recognised in this year's Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) Awards in several categories, including Best Regional Publication:

- Silver Award for Best Regional Publication
- Highly Commended for Best Feature Single Author (Max Thomas: 'The Gippsland Lakes – can we sustain and renew?', June 2020, p. 8)
- Bronze Award for Best Faith Reflection (James Garth: 'Science and faith – defusing the conflict', August 2020, p. 9)
- Bronze Award for Best Social Justice Article (Heather Toms: 'Prison, privilege and prayer – isolation and the call to social justice', May 2020, p. 8)
- Gold Award for Best Original Illustration (Lynton Allan: *A Bush Christmas*, December 2020, p. 1)

TGA warmly congratulates these contributors, and thanks everyone who supports the paper and makes it possible – as well as ARPA and their judging panel, and the previous TGA editor, Jan Down, who set a fine example of editorship.

Describing Lynton Allan's winning artwork, the judges commented: "The use of colour enhances the historical setting and conveys the sense of the Australian outback. Here is the beginning of a new way of life, which, after all, is what Christmas is all about."

We warmly congratulate our sister publication, *The Melbourne Anglican*, on their Silver Award for Best Review, Silver Award for Best Cover Newspaper and Bronze Award for Best Cover Illustration.

Mark Brolly, interim editor at the time of the awards, and Australian Vice-President of ARPA, said, "We at TMA were delighted with the successes of TGA at the annual ARPA awards again this year, given the close links we have had with Gippsland's Anglican paper, particularly in the past decade since the late Bishop John McIntyre's time. Warmest congratulations!"



Lynton Allan's artwork A Bush Christmas received the Gold Award for Best Original Illustration at this year's ARPA awards



Clergy Conference perspective

Rev'd Jo White

The Clergy Conference concluded on Thursday 26 August. It was to have been at The Abbey, Raymond Island, until regional Victoria was also locked down tight. So, the conference went online.

Zoom is good and Zoom is not so good. The good part is that we still had amazing presenters and we still prayed together and even shared Holy Communion together. The not-so-good was a sense of loss, because we were not fellowshipping face to face. Those friendships in the embryonic stage, those friendships that need more time, and those that are longstanding and need proximity to help draw us closer together were not well served by Zoom.

A feature of the annual Clergy Conference is daily shared Bible study, which often sparks a lot of discussion over coffee and during lunchtime. Such dialogue was limited to small groups on Zoom. Our presenter was The Rev'd Dr Chris Porter. Chris is a New Testament scholar and postdoctoral fellow at Trinity College Theological School, working on the Fourth Gospel, with a particular emphasis in the intersection of theology and psychology. Our studies focused on John: 6-7 and 1 John: 2-3,

noting the radical nature of the Love Command.

I found myself questioning how easily we create *us* and *them*. It's almost as if we are hard-wired toward enmity. This was something Chris drew to our attention on several occasions, as we looked into the historical and sociological aspects of John 6-7, delving into the festivals of Succoth and Passover. In essence, my response to this incredibly challenging presentation from Chris was that, as Christians, we must open our hearts to others; we are not to change them or challenge them to be more like us, but we are to simply love them.

The key focus of our time on Zoom was a presentation by The Rev'd Susan Marcuccio, National Supervision Director for Chaplaincy Australia and a board member and supervisor trainer with the Australasian Association of Supervision. For the past five years, Susan has been a trainer with St Mark's Theological Centre, teaching the Graduate Certificate in Professional Supervision. Susan presented to the clergy of the Diocese the benefits and the process of professional supervision. In the not-too-distant future, professional supervision will become mandatory for all clergy. Many of the clergy of our Diocese are already undertaking supervision as best practice. I have been

seeing a therapist for the purpose of supervision for over 20 years and have found this very beneficial in developing self-knowledge, dealing with stress and finding ways through difficult situations. Susan brought some new perspectives to the purpose of supervision and took us through a supervision session, so we could understand how a supervisor might help us move forward and get a broader perspective in our various ministry settings.

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen, Rector of St Paul's Warragul and a member of General Synod, presented findings from the *National Anglican Family Violence Research Report*. This report looked at intimate partner violence in the context of the Anglican Church. The findings were shocking. We were reminded of the 10 Commitments for Preventing and Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (*TGA* August 2021, p. 4). Tracy asked us to revisit Faithfulness in Service and suggested talking about this sensitive topic at Parish Council. She stressed the need to bring this out into the open.

Bishop Richard was gracious in his leading of the entire conference. He was always the first on Zoom, with a friendly smile and a welcome for each person as they joined the meeting.

There was a richness in our shared times of prayer –

for the most part, my morning and evening prayer are said alone, but during the conference I felt the closeness of my brothers and sisters, as we shared the daily office together. Thanks to the internet and Zoom we were able to see each other's faces, hear each other's voices; we were apart and yet strangely together. There was a strong sense of the weight of COVID, of lethargy and sloth. A panel discussion took as its topic the challenges of the COVID crisis. Among the gleanings from this panel were acknowledgement of rolling griefs, missing touch, yearning for authentic

connections, the importance of keeping physically active and making the most of the opportunity to take a retreat in daily life, finding creative ways to engage with the community, redefine our roles and the importance of goals in the short and long term. The Rev'd Dr Rhys Bezzant, Senior Lecturer at Ridley College, commented that he felt Zoom was a kind of community placeholder. He described Zoom as transactional rather than a forum for building friendships. This is a comment I tend to agree with and yet Zoom has enabled many things and will no doubt continue to do so.

The Rev'd Jenny Wicking and The Rev'd Tony Wicking, Chaplains to Diocesan Lay Readers, reminded clergy of the very valuable contribution of Lay Readers across the Diocese. In the Bass-Phillip Island Parish we are very fortunate to have four Lay Readers who all lead services and preach regularly.

In closing the conference, Bishop Richard invited all priests to prepare the elements of Holy Communion at home and join him in con-celebration. This sharing in Holy Communion across the medium of Zoom was surprisingly intimate and unifying. My heart was warmed, as I joined in the sacrament with fellow clergy across the Diocese and glimpsing their moment of intimacy with the elements, as we shared bread and wine together.

"Our identity as Christians"

Fran Grimes

With a snap lockdown called for regional Victoria two days before Clergy Conference was set to start, we all settled quickly into our homes, ready for a full few days of 'meeting' and learning.

It was good to see more than 30 faces of Gippsland clergy together and to meet on the first night over a cuppa or otherwise after a time of Evening Prayer. Dividing into breakout groups of four or five meant we could catch up more meaningfully with each other.

The Rev'd Dr Chris Porter, New Testament scholar and

postdoctoral fellow at Trinity College, shared his insights into John's gospel and the community he wrote to. These were instructive and profound. Leading our Bible study, he helped us focus on our identity as Christians within the Anglican tradition and supplied us with questions that gave us the means to think further on these areas.

Another thread of the conference was time with The Rev'd Susan Marcuccio, National Supervision Director for Chaplaincy Australia. Her talks emphasised the central role supervision plays in the support of those in Christian

COVID-19 vaccines – a Christian GP view

Hugh and Lesley
Chisholm

COVID-19 is here to stay, for some years at least. At some stage we will have to leave lockdowns behind and learn to live with COVID-19 in the community.

Our best weapon against COVID-19 virus infection is vaccination. Thankfully, we have some good and effective options available this year.

All the current COVID-19 vaccines approved and available in Australia are effective in reducing the risk of catching the COVID-19 virus. If you do become infected, the vaccines are effective in reducing transmission and the severity of illness, likely to keep you out of hospital and intensive care. Both AstraZenica vaccine (Vaxzevria) and Pfizer vaccine (Comirnaty) are generally well tolerated, with only minor, short-lived side effects; similarly for Moderna (Spikevax).

The AstraZenica vaccine has had a bad rap, somewhat unfairly, because of the unfortunate but extremely rare side effect of very serious clotting problems. This has created a great deal

of fear in the community. The risks of these severe side effects are very low compared to the risks of serious disease and clotting for someone infected with COVID-19. The AstraZenica vaccine works in a similar way to many previous vaccines you may have had. It is based on a weakened version of the common cold virus, which is also a coronavirus. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines work differently to the AstraZenica vaccine, because they contain messenger RNA (mRNA). The 'message' carried by this mRNA is like a set of instructions that teaches body cells to make a spike protein. This protein is the same as the one on the membrane of the COVID-19 virus. When cells do this, it is a trigger for the body to make antibodies, boosting the immune response. This mRNA does not multiply in the body and cannot affect our DNA. It is destroyed in the body after the instructions are used.

These clergy conferences during the pandemic will always be remembered as one of the many ways we have had to adapt so that this suffering world can return to being together again.

How mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Work

Understanding the virus that causes COVID-19.

Coronaviruses, like the one that causes COVID-19, are named for the crown-like spikes on their surface, called **spike proteins**. These **spike proteins** are ideal targets for vaccines.

What is mRNA?

Messenger RNA, or mRNA, is genetic material that tells your body how to make proteins.

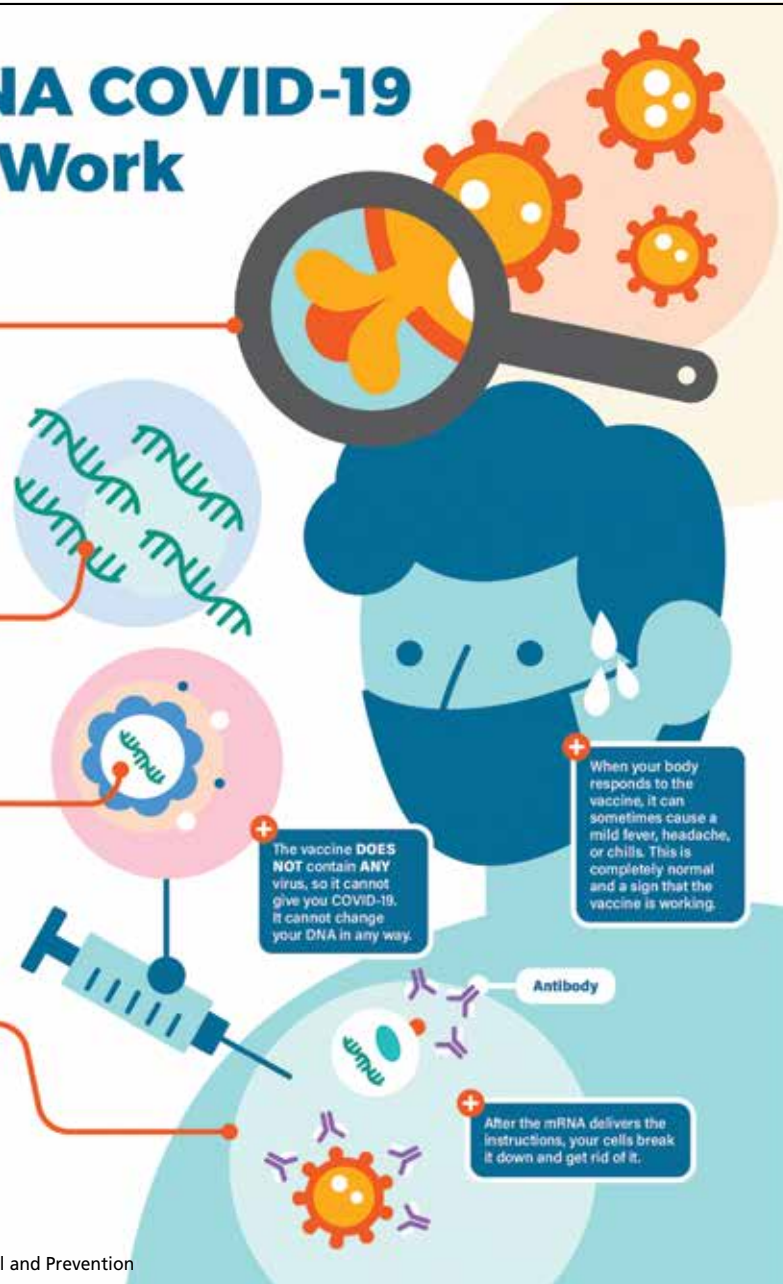
What is in the vaccine?

The vaccine is made of mRNA wrapped in a coating that makes delivery easy and keeps the body from damaging it.

How does the vaccine work?

The mRNA in the vaccine teaches your cells how to make copies of the **spike protein**. If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.

Courtesy US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



technology are working on vaccines that are more effective against the newer variants of concern.

We strongly encourage all people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, not just for yourself and those you love, but for your community. Our federal government is aiming for 80% of people aged 16 and over across Australia with two vaccine doses before more fully opening up our communities again. Even higher numbers will help prevent the expected further infections and deaths in vulnerable and unvaccinated people, as restrictions ease.

If fear or uncertainty is holding you back, speak to your GP about your concerns. Now is the time to do your part. As Christians, we long to be able to meet together for worship and it will be reassuring if our fellow worshippers have been vaccinated as well. We may have to still wear masks, but at least we can sing and praise with all our hearts.

We are blessed to live in this country, where we have the expertise and resources to develop and provide vaccines and a government that is prioritising this. We have much to be thankful for.

Hugh and Lesley
Chisholm are general
practitioners at
Leongatha Healthcare.

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Sapling of sacred tree arrives safely in Victoria

A sapling from a sacred tree revered by the world's Buddhist community has been imported from Sri Lanka in a great biosecurity success story.

Head of Biosecurity at the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Andrew Tongue, said the sapling is from the famous Bodhi tree (*Ficus religiosa*), under whose shade Buddha achieved enlightenment. In the Buddhist faith, it symbolises wisdom, compassion and awareness.

"The specimen is a direct descendent of the original Bodhi tree in India, from which a branch was taken to Sri Lanka in 288BC," Mr Tongue said.

"As imported plants can carry a range of biosecurity risks, this sapling had to



Photo: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

A biosecurity officer at the Department of Agriculture Post-Entry Quarantine (PEQ) Facility in Mickleham, Victoria, tends to the Bodhi tree sapling

comply with our strict import conditions and will spend 12 months at our post entry quarantine (PEQ) facility.

"These conditions help ensure the sapling is free of potentially dangerous

plant diseases, including the bacteria *Xylella fastidiosa*, which is Australia's number one plant pest threat.

"It's being checked weekly by our plant pathologists and undergoing testing during its

12-month quarantine period before being released in May 2022."

Once cleared by the department's Melbourne-based PEQ experts as being pest and disease free, the sapling is destined for Bendigo in Victoria.

There it will be planted in a Buddhist temple known as Bodhi Dhamma Vihara, on a block of land owned by the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion associated with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Despite receiving a blessing during a spectacular farewell in Sri Lanka, it has not been all smooth sailing for the little tree. PEQ staff picked up the sapling from the airport's clearing agent when the consignment arrived in May. It was a bare-rooted plant in a fairly stressed condition.

Wrapped in paper, in a polystyrene box, it had a rough journey here, sustaining a snapped stem and some insect damage. Plant pathologists examined it and

checked for obvious illness and nematodes.

"The importer did all the right things, including washing the plant before packing it, but PEQ staff found insects on it. They had to remove most of its foliage to lessen the pest risk," Mr Tongue said.

"It looked a bit like a stick after treatment. Bodhi trees are used to hot and humid conditions, and to help it grow it was put in a special hot house where temperatures can range from 25 to 35 degrees.

"Because Melbourne's days during winter are so cold and short, the staff also provided the plant with extra light. Clearly the small sapling must have felt at home with warmth and extra light because new leaves grew within the first week of quarantine. It is now very healthy and stands almost one metre tall."

Courtesy Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Across the ages

Brightening spirits with art

Paula Walland

School Chaplain at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School, The Rev'd Lynton Allan, received a Gold Award for Best Original Illustration at this year's Australasian Religious Press Association Awards (see p. 3).

Lynton provides a unique style of chaplaincy to students at St Paul's by using his artwork to tell stories. His award-winning artwork, *A Bush Christmas*, was published on the front page of *The Gippsland Anglican's* December 2020 edition.

Lynton's artwork represents a vulnerable and alone Mary, facing the harshness of life without help from family or the security and comforts of a home. It includes the Jesus tree, an unusual eucalypt near an Aboriginal community in central Queensland, named for the unique shape formed by its broken limbs and burl (lumpy growths). His artwork reflects on the fragility of happiness and security during a global pandemic, incorporating symbols of Christmas as elements of hope.

Lynton often takes

his inspiration from the Australian bush: "I always admire artists who capture the true essence of the Australian outback, those who portray it in an honest and raw fashion. Frederick McCubbin is one such artist. The painting is my nod to his famous painting *On the Wallaby Track*, which was also a phrase used for itinerant workers roaming the bush on the fringes of properties, looking for work during difficult times."

He has created many beautiful artworks over the years and has contributed significantly to the St Paul's

community during online learning by sharing his art and inspirational stories. To brighten the spirits of students upon their return to school from the term 1 holidays, he painted a mural of the Gippsland landscape in the school's canteen in Warragul. It was inspired by a 20-year-old advertisement promoting Australia's network coverage, connecting loved ones in remote areas.

Lynton said, "For me, as I painted the mural, I reflected on the concept of connection. Life is the most important journey that we all travel on. Like

the rough track, it can at times be difficult to navigate and challenging. However, no matter where we are, God has us covered and connected to a vast source of guiding inner presence and amazing love. There are no drop-out zones or individual experiences beyond reach. This gives us a strong and reassuring foundation to keep going forward on the journey of life."

St Paul's Senior Chaplain, Rev'd Daniel Lowe, said, "Students are drawn to Lynton's artwork out of curiosity. The fact that he creates much of his art in the school's common rooms invites students to enter into a conversation with him. It amazes me how often Lynton can then turn an informal chat about his art into a gently pastoral conversation with almost any student."

Lynton's inspiration for students to persevere during difficult times and actively pursue future goals and their full potential, along with his gifted artworks, will be appreciated by students and staff for many years to come.

Courtesy St Paul's Anglican Grammar School



Lynton Allan's mural in the St Paul's canteen in Warragul

Statement on Afghanistan

Everyone is disheartened and extremely anxious about the situation in Afghanistan. Although sad and disturbing, it is time to accept the truth. A very dark chapter of history is beginning there. The darkest era we have ever seen has started and been imposed in this part of the modern world. It is complete chaos in Afghanistan and disturbing news is coming out every moment.

In their occupation, the Taliban are violating basic human rights: there are reports of them looting homes, forcibly marrying young girls, forcing civilians to participate in fighting, killing government officials and killing locally engaged employees of western allies.

Taliban fighters have been seen shooting at protestors trying to replace the Taliban regime's flag with the Afghanistan national flag, with several people killed during the violence. On the day I write this, I have been told that a girl in a taxi was shot dead by the Taliban, in the place where I lived and grew up, because she had no male companion.

Everything has collapsed completely; there is no hope for the future of the people, especially for the women of Afghanistan. Afghan women are crying and asking for help as their rights to education and work have been greatly diminished. People in Afghanistan and many Afghans around the world feel that Afghanistan is bleeding and the whole of the international community is watching. Cruelty has started once again in Afghanistan.

The Taliban are putting on a facade to the western media, but the reality is very different. In a recent conference, the Taliban claimed not to harm government workers and that they will give women their rights. However, they are reportedly searching house by house for people who were working with the government, including military personnel and civilians. It has been widely reported that village elders have been ordered to give the Taliban a list of every girl over 15 and widow under 45, to be married to Taliban fighters. Female Afghan journalists and international reporters working there are living in fear as homes are raided.

Some US senior government advisors have conceded that they did not predict such a rapid takeover by the Taliban. Many countries are angry at the miscalculation. Some are comparing the US withdrawal in Afghanistan to their defeat in Vietnam in 1975.

What is done is done; the time to prevent this is gone and any guilt the world leaders have, for letting this happen again, they must live with. Many Afghans, including myself, may never see a free and democratic Afghanistan again. All we can do to support Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan is pray and hope that one day it can be free from the grip of these terrorists.

'Taz' (name unpublished by request)



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Staying in touch through TGA

As the correspondent of St Mary's Morwell to our wonderful TGA, I have always been very grateful that I can share with everyone in the Diocese the many special services, projects and programs in our parish. Given the frequent lockdowns and the cancellation of special services and events yet again, I thought perhaps there was nothing to share with TGA readers this month. It occurred to me how much I and so many others across the Diocese value the TGA and how the paper helps to keep us informed and in contact with each other. Thinking about all that is happening in our parish, I decided to write because a lot has been happening across the airwaves!

I recently had a phone call from a church friend whom I have not been able to see for months and months. It's wonderful to have a network of phone calls across our parish. We are all thinking of those who live alone or who are facing health problems. We are contacting friends and neighbours, both members of our church family and those we know in our community. I think our prayer life has 'stepped up' as result of this time of COVID.

Zoom services organised by the Ven Sue Jacka have been a time of joyous worship. This is the season when we celebrate creation. Sue has encouraged us to send photos of God's creation, to be made into banner to see when we return to church.

We continue to plan special services and activities, knowing we may have to cancel if there is another lockdown. We are grateful that we can, with precautions, continue to take services in some of our nursing homes.

We continue to pray for Bishop Richard, all of our clergy and everyone in our Diocese at this difficult and challenging time.

Carolyn Raymond

Bishop Blackwood and Bill Adams

Lambeth Letters, published by Oxford University Press in 1963, is a collection of letters written by William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942 until his untimely death in 1944. The letters are compiled by his nephew, F.S. Temple. As one might imagine, some of the Archbishop's correspondents were people in key posts, including the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of London and the RC Archbishop of Westminster. There is also a letter, dated 9 September 1943, to the then Bishop of Gippsland, Rt Rev'd D.B. Blackwood. It is in reply to a letter sent by the Bishop of Gippsland to the Archbishop of Canterbury to inform him that on 5 May that year the Gippsland Synod had passed a resolution that "the Church should be represented at any peace conference." It was a bold suggestion, and the Archbishop had his reservations.

Blackwood was Bishop of Gippsland from 1942 to 1954, so it is very likely that he not only confirmed Bill Adams, to whom a tribute was published recently in TGA (September 2021, p. 9), but also had later contact with Bill through the parishes to which Bill belonged and through the Church of England Boys' Society.

Clifford Jones



Our commitment to a
Safe Church

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland does not tolerate abuse, misconduct and harm in its Christian community.

We are committed to ensuring all people in contact with the Church can participate in a safe and responsible environment.

If you have been harmed by a church worker, or you know someone who has, please contact Cheryl Russell, Director of Professional Standards, for a confidential discussion.

Contact: 03 5633 1573, 0407 563 313, cherylrussell1@bigpond.com

To find out more about Safe Church, and about Safe Ministry resources, visit www.gippsanglican.org.au/safe-church.

With both the Feast Day of St Francis and Australian Wildlife Week this month, this issue of *TGA* looks at some of Australia's vulnerable (and resilient) plant and animal species in a changing world.

Caring for a keystone species

Lynne Amore

It was during an extreme heat event in the 2018/19 summer that my partner Christopher and I decided where our future lay.

We were monitoring a grey-headed flying fox colony in the Maffra area, and before long realised it was rapidly becoming a rescue situation. These poor animals were literally falling from the trees from heat exhaustion, too weakened to hold on.

I had joined Wildlife Victoria as a rescuer in early 2017, having long had an interest and liking for bats. I had been vaccinated for Australian bat lyssavirus, but this was a job for more than two people, and no one close by had known how to help.

We had to do something.

We saved some of the animals by cooling them with misting water, enabling them to recover enough to climb

back to safety in their trees, and some of the babies, which we cooled and rehydrated and took into care, for later release.

Over 1000 animals died from heat exhaustion – roughly 30% of that colony, including mothers with babies. It was traumatic and heart-wrenching to see such devastation and suffering of wildlife, and uplifting and satisfying to work alongside friends and some dedicated, experienced bat rescuers through Wildlife Victoria who had come to assist us.

At the time, no one else in Gippsland who was vaccinated was able to rescue or care for the flying foxes, so I decided to become a specialist flying fox carer. Since meeting Tamsyn from Fly by Night Bat Clinic back then, it has been a very steep learning curve, but she has been an amazing mentor.

We went on to build the

first flight/creche aviary in the region, and have been able to secure some funding for equipment dedicated to the rescue of flying foxes during extreme heat events.

Thus Moonshadow Flying Fox Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre was established, committed to conservation, rescue, first aid and ongoing treatment and rehabilitation

of injured, ill and misplaced animals, including microbats. It is such a privilege to be able to care for these amazing creatures. Humanity as a whole needs to care more for their welfare – even if it's just calling for help for distressed wildlife. Everyone can do a little; together it becomes a lot.

Lynne Amore is founder of Moonshadow Flying Fox Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre. For more information about grey-headed flying foxes and the rescue services, visit www.moonshadowflyingfoxrescuerehabcentre.org or find them on Facebook. For specific bat issues, phone 0429 930 138 or call Wildlife Victoria (03 8400 7300) which will contact your nearest rescuer. If you find a bat on the ground or hanging low down or alone in a tree, call a wildlife rescuer immediately. Do not touch or disturb it.

'Love thy neighbour' key to ocean conservation

Lines on maps are hindering current efforts to conserve the world's marine species such as sea turtles, according to University of Queensland (UQ) research.

The study looked at more than 28,000 distribution maps of the world's marine species and found more than 90 per cent lived in or travelled through at least two political jurisdictions, with 58 per cent covering more than 10 jurisdictions.

UQ marine ecology researcher Dr Leslie Roberson said these facts highlighted the need for nations to work together to better direct their conservation efforts.

"We try to fit nature into our abstract concept of borders, for instance protecting a species in one country but those protections end as soon as it crosses into the neighbouring country," she said.

"This is a problem for nature conservation on land, but it is an even bigger problem in the ocean because the lines we draw on the map make even less ecological sense in the water.

"For example, most sea turtle species are threatened and migrate across country borders.

"If one country has exceptional conservation protections but its neighbours are catching turtles as bycatch, increasing plastic pollution or simply hunting them, then the species can be compromised overall.

"The extent to which some species span multiple jurisdictions proves how important it is for marine conservationists to not only consider their own country, but their neighbours and their neighbour's neighbour."

UQ conservationist scientist Associate Professor Carissa Klein said the transboundary nature of many marine plants and animals is complex, making conservation efforts even more challenging.

"Even if the individual animal or plant doesn't move much, these species are found in many countries and are connected across large distances because of how things like food, disease, pollution and eggs move in the ocean," Dr Klein said.

"We need to combine many sources of knowledge about the ocean, such as fishing, mining and shipping industries, the military and traditional scientific data across all jurisdictions if we're to make meaningful impacts."

Dr Roberson said Australia's ocean territory was one of the most important places on earth when it came to conservation efforts because of its vast number of local and transboundary species.

"What Australia chooses to do with its ocean doesn't only affect Australia – it's critical for the biodiversity we share with Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and countries around the world."

Courtesy University of Queensland



Photo: David Troeger/Unsplash



Shelterbelts – Bunyip Landcare takes a closer look

Sue Anderson

A stand of silver wattles and blackwoods 10 days after the Bunyip Complex bushfires, which at this site was hot enough to explode a large granite boulder

After the Bunyip Complex bushfires in March 2019, Bunyip Landcare Group members observed the effects of fire on their shelterbelts (windbreaks). Like the curate's egg, there was good in parts. In some cases, the fire was led into patches of remnant vegetation and to the built environment. At other locations, and depending on the wind direction, grassfires hit the shelterbelts and ran along them, thus deflecting fire from adjacent paddocks and saving precious feed.

Members also noticed that some species burned less than others. Blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*) and silver wattle (*Acacia dealbata*) were noticeably green, and in some cases the adjacent pasture grasses also survived.

These differing results led Bunyip Landcare Group to question the traditional building blocks of shelterbelts and to look for a review of every aspect: species selection and numbers, height, width, length, orientation and location. Cardinia Shire

Council supported the review and applied to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning for funding. Consultant EcoLogical has produced guidelines that will be released before the end of 2021. In the interim, here are some thoughts for discussion.

As climate change brings higher temperatures and drier summer pasture and undergrowth, the risk of hotter and more intense bushfires and grassfires becomes greater. The risk of fire in shelterbelts needs to be weighed against herd health and protection of stock and crops from increasing wind, cold, sun and heatwaves. This is just another of the many risks that landowners need to evaluate for their businesses.

The conventional Landcare shelterbelt design is a pyramid shape, with tall eucalypts in the centre bracketed by smaller trees, and with shrubs next to fences. This is great for wind protection, especially if the belt is as long as possible to avoid turbulence at the ends and is at right angles to the prevailing wind. The wind slides up the sides and the smaller plants support the

tall trees, reducing the chances of trees falling over fences. Species are usually selected to mirror the original indigenous vegetation at the site. Shelterbelts are also expected to double as biodiversity corridors for native birds, mammals and reptiles.

The first thing we can consider in mitigation of the effects of climate change is species selection. The extreme flammability of most eucalypt species suggests that fewer gum trees is a good idea. Rather than making them the backbone of the shelterbelt, they can be replaced at intervals with other species, making them more widely spaced. *Melaleuca* (tea-tree) species are also highly flammable and, although wonderfully suited to wet areas, can be replaced with less flammable shrubs.

Some species will survive less well with increased heat, and we can look at revegetating with native species that might survive better under climate change, or sourcing seed for our desired species from hotter areas. This can be complicated, so professional advice is essential.

Catchment management authorities and Landcare networks are good sources of information about indigenous plants.

There are suggestions that a 'middle storey' of medium-sized trees or shrubs can be dispensed with. This is to avoid the effect of a 'fire ladder' leading flames to ignite the canopy in a less intense fire. Unfortunately in this case the benefits of the pyramid shape will be lost and the tall trees will be vulnerable to high winds. However, a wider shelterbelt can avoid the chance of unsupported larger trees falling over

fences. A greater focus on small and medium shrubs can provide biodiversity benefits by increasing the variety of flowering plants that support beneficial birds and insects, such as native bees that help pollination.

An obvious tactic to protect buildings is to be sure that shelterbelts are at least 100 metres from houses and sheds. (The CFA has good guidelines on planting for gardens: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property/landscaping.)

The conventional wisdom has been to connect shelterbelts to any remnant vegetation, but this proved problematic at one property where it led the fire towards built assets via the remnant woodland. Had the landowner known of this risk, they would have left a gap between the two areas. Similarly, a gap of 50 metres in a long shelterbelt, or redesign into a zigzag shape, might slow a fire.

A further suggestion is to make sure that the canopy of shelterbelts is well below the ridge line of hills rather than running along the top. This could avoid

the spread of embers from a burning canopy.

Planning the direction of a shelterbelt to take account of fire-bearing winds is an unresolved conundrum – we have all seen the devastating effects of wind changes in bushfires. What works for one wind direction can be very damaging in another. Each site needs to be evaluated for the needs of the farm as a whole and for the risks.

Shelterbelts can also have a role in instances of riverine and overland flooding, which are likely to increase with climate change. Lines of trees at right angles to water flow can significantly slow the progress and the intensity of floodwaters.

Here on the Home Farm at Bunyip, we are continuing our plantings during lockdown, and this year we have used far fewer eucalypts and tea-trees. The substituted shrubs will provide increased biodiversity and a colourful display of flowers throughout the year. We'll let you know how we get on!

Sue Anderson is president of Bunyip Landcare Group.



This three-metre strip in the centre of a shelterbelt will allow maintenance and weed control. It will become a highly protected 'superhighway' for birds and mammals

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David Perryman, Bishop's Chaplain

When did you begin your role with the Diocese?

The opportunity came about in 2016 when I was discussing, with Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, where I would be placed. We discussed a couple of different parishes and settled on Avon. This was to be part-time, so my other two days were to be spent at the Registry Office as her Chaplain. The initial appointment was (I believe) for 12 months. However, Bishop Kay left in December 2018 and so I just kept showing up and no one said otherwise ... I kid! Bishop-in-Council eventually allocated the position to the Registry staff budget, so I have stayed on ever since, for which I feel both very appreciative and honoured.

What does your work involve?

Good question – no idea! Every time I get this question, my answer changes. My role is to support the mission and ministry of the Bishop.

That can take on so many forms that it's a little mind boggling. I wrote a list once and it covered working on correspondence for the Bishop, assisting in planning of conferences/retreats, proof-reading and sending Ad Clerums, updating the website, organising meetings/parish visits ... I could go on. Really, the best description is "all and other duties (I once assisted with installing a dryer) as required."

I do my best to care for the Bishop; for this I keep my ear to the ground and eyes peeled for anything that will help him, whether that be resources, news, or square meals and caffeine. Anything that will keep him fuelled and nourished.

At a liturgical level during services, I like to think of myself as the Bishop's 'coat rack': holding his staff, mitre and book, and ensuring I remain discreet, effectively invisible, while doing so.

I once read that a good Bishop's Chaplain will cover

their Bishop's weaknesses so that they can play to their strengths. I don't think our Bishop has many weaknesses (besides a Carlton membership), but if I'm doing my job well, then he is adequately equipped and doesn't have to 'sweat the small stuff', allowing him to focus on and play to his many gifts. He does this brilliantly and for me it's a very humbling role to have.

How does COVID affect the operation of the Registry Office?

COVID has impacted us all as a community. We have the technology to work remotely and, as Kevin Broughton wisely noted in the August issue (p. 10), has opened avenues that might not otherwise have been considered. It has enabled us to connect with others, who, due to distance or location, we've previously not been able to. COVID has taken a toll on the 'personal' side of our operations, including being



David Perryman

unable to welcome others in and build relationships. Every event must be planned with a COVID failsafe in mind, which has made planning more complicated, as would be the case for many others!

What changes have you seen across the Gippsland Diocese in recent times, and what changes are you anticipating?

I've seen a greater willingness to be Creative in Spirit, both at a parish and diocesan level.

Our situation, while taxing and difficult, has forced us to enter the online sphere, whether that be streaming services or increasing a greater social media presence. COVID has made us query what is truly possible, how barriers can be overcome – and old boundaries have at times had to be reconsidered. The changes I anticipate are those that will continue in this vein and, God willing, stay with us.

What would you say to someone considering lay ministry?

Lay or ordained, your ministry is now. But if you are considering ordained ministry, my advice is this: take the plunge and discern with God if it's your call and vocation. Put your toe in the water and see! Just don't think your vocation sits in a neat box; God has a marvellous way of moving out of those spaces!

Vale Tony Peters



The Rev'd Tony Peters and his wife, Anne, in Traralgon in 1995

Rev'd Dr John Batt

On 3 August at the Nielsen Chapel in Warragul, a COVID-restricted congregation, and many others via Zoom, farewelled The Rev'd Tony Peters (6 August 1936 – 15 July 2021). The service was led by long-term friends and clergy colleagues The Rev'd Jon Pinniger and Archdeacon Clem Watts. It was a sad, solemn yet joyous occasion. The service was a celebration of Tony's love for his wife, Anne, his family and a commitment to his ministerial vocation. Family

members participated with a candle-lighting ceremony by Tony's grandchildren, a poem read by daughters Amanda, Felicity and Penelope and the coffin bearers (Tony's children and grandchildren). The departing funeral procession was flanked by family and friends as we farewelled Tony on his final earthly journey, to Springvale Crematorium.

Jon and Clem gave moving testimonies to Tony's personal life, family and ministry. They kindly shared their notes with me for this tribute.

Tony began life in Sydney

at Coogee, educated at Coogee Prep and then Scots College. Tony won entry into Medicine at Sydney University but often joked that he played too much golf and not enough study, deciding after three years that medicine was not for him. After university he worked in managerial roles for Ampol and then in the coffee industry.

Tony had become a Christian at 18 and later came to believe that he was being called to offer for the ordained ministry. Tony went to theological college, married but unfortunately this ended in divorce.

Tony came to Melbourne, where he managed a Christian bookshop attached to All Saints Greensborough. There he met Anne, and they began their life together. Tony was still feeling a call to ministry and he had been told about a Bishop in Gippsland who he had been told was an "open minded sort of bloke who said he would give me a job" (*Gippsland Senior*, Spring 2019). After a successful meeting with the Selection Committee, he was ordained by Bishop Sheumach at age 58.

Tony and Anne served at

Paynesville, Traralgon and the Co-operating Parish of Churchill before Tony was told that, at age 65, he had to retire from ministry. Not perturbed, he marked out a ministry for himself at Fulham Correction Centre as Chaplain from 2005 to 2011. During that time Tony also fulfilled a role there as Coordinating Chaplain. Tony had a great ability to get alongside men, listen to their issues and connect with them. This ability to empathise and relate to others was forged by God's grace and love through his own lived experience – 'the school of hard knocks', as Archdeacon Clem remarked in his address. God had used Tony's experience to help him serve the greater good. Tony had a gentleness, patience and ability to connect with others that came from a deep spirituality and a genuine Christian love for his neighbour.

Tony had a deep love for his wife Anne and every member of his family. Many times, whenever I visited Tony in their home in Warragul, Tony was quick to make the offer of a cuppa and a chat. Family members floated in and out, a constant presence – a grandchild on his lap, Tony

reading a book to them. Very evident was the great love for Tony and his love for them. It was a happy, welcoming home with an abundance of dogs vying for Tony's attention. Rev'd Jon remarked, "How proud Tony was of you all!"

Tony will be missed. Tony's life is a testimony to God's grace and redemptive purposes. It was a life that came with its challenges. The challenges were not dwelt on but through God's grace transformed into a new life filled with hope and a commitment to bless others in loving service. Staff at Lyrebird Village, where Tony lived the last stage of his life, said how much "Tony will be missed as a very socially active favourite of all the residents ... recognised as a spiritual leader who was always supportive of other residents." A chance to work out his vocation was given to him by a kindly Bishop Sheumach, which bore fruit and was a blessing to many in the Gippsland Diocese.

The Christ life within Tony had given him a lifelong purpose, strength, new beginnings and a promise of eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Pastoral care fosters Benetas connections

The past year and a half has been testing for everyone, and never more so than in aged care. But trying times often see incredible ingenuity in finding a way through.

The Traralgon Pastoral Care team from Victorian aged care provider Benetas had to significantly adapt to tackle the challenges of COVID in providing much-needed support to older Australians.

The residents in Dalkeith Garden's residential aged care home, Dalkeith Heights retirement village and local Home Care clients have grappled with additional worries about their health, isolation from loved ones and even mourning the passing of friends and family from a distance.

The unique support that Pastoral Care could offer through skilled practitioners such as John Harper and Damir Posenjak was the source of comfort and connection for many of these people. The statewide Benetas Pastoral Care team found great benefit in sharing stories to help tackle common challenges, especially regarding grief and memorials.

Sharing knowledge and experience enriched the offering of the whole team statewide as the need and will to adapt was strong and well received. John Harper found that Pastoral Care memorials and streaming of funeral services were critical links to help Dalkeith residents heal.



Pastoral care practitioner John Harper (left) with members of a Benetas gardening club

"Marking the passing of friends and family even by virtual means when there were limits on gatherings for funerals and movement was needed for everyone's wellbeing," he said.

"At Benetas, the Pastoral Care offering focusses on supporting emotional and spiritual wellbeing for all, faith or no faith.

"For residents seeking faith based support, parish clergy and volunteers who normally would visit and conduct services and provide other support, were unable to due to restrictions on visitors. Pastoral Care filled this gap by live streaming church services and helping facilitate memorial

sessions with residents.

"Residents have voiced their thanks and gratitude for the continued support that has given emotional, mental and spiritual connection in memory of residents that have passed."

Mr Posenjak noticed in particular that there was a strong sense of grief and loss, isolation and loneliness experienced by residents and employees at Benetas St Georges, Altona North, especially when a resident died, without the normal avenues to process this, such as face-to-face memorial services. Mr Posenjak decided to create virtual memorial videos, specific for each resident who died, in an

effort to celebrate their life and help the residents have their moment to grieve.

"We did the research and included photos and quotes about their life. These were then shared with the community, enabling employees and residents to view the videos individually or in small groups to reflect, remember and acknowledge the loss of much-loved residents."

The work of the whole Pastoral Care team also inspired the development of training sessions on grief, loss and bereavement care for employees. This was clearly needed in the community as pastoral care referrals immediately

increased for grief and loss support.

Mr Harper found he was also called upon to support pandemic-weary employees, saying that, because so much more was being asked of aged care employees, fatigue was obviously setting in.

"I found that what they needed most during these hard times was a listening ear and tremendous encouragement for their hard work and effort that was demonstrated to support the health and care of Benetas customers," he said.

"Isolation doesn't have to mean you are alone and we have been happily creating positive experiences by way of facilitating online church services, memorial services, men's groups, gardening clubs and even a visit from Santa Claus at Christmas.

"The important role of Pastoral Care is just what is needed for many people, faith or no faith, and helps us foster the Benetas community with respect, spirituality, responsibility and connectedness."

Benetas Pastoral Care is a referral-based service that helps cater to people's needs, holistically taking into account their cultural, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. Pastoral Care is frequently called upon in times of sadness, loss and despair but can also play a significant part in celebrations such as birthdays, carol singing at Christmas and recovery.

Courtesy Benetas



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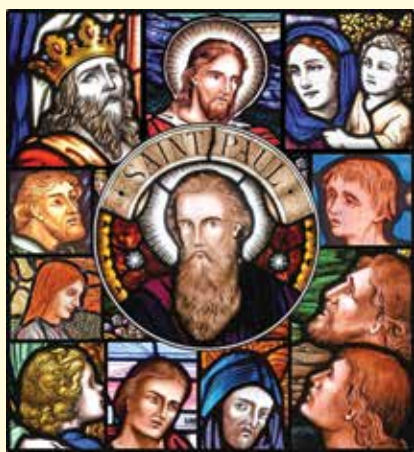
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at www.stpaulssale.org.au

Parkville Research Seminar Series

University of Divinity
2–5 pm, 11 October
Zoom details at vox.divinity.edu.au/event

Victorian Seniors Festival Reimagined (ongoing virtual event)

www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au

Mental Health Expo (virtual event)

1–3 pm, 12 October
www.mhfa.org.au/cms/mental-health-expo

Christians Against Poverty Virtual Fundraising Dinner

With MasterChef 2021 winner Justin Narayan
7.30–8.30 pm, 23 October
www.antipovertyweek.org.au/event

All Saints Day – Eucharist at The Abbey

11 am, 1 November
A service to name, celebrate and
remember those who have been or are
'Saints of The Abbey' – all who know
and love The Abbey today and all
who have gone before
To RSVP or to nominate one of the
'Saints of The Abbey' from past years,
email info@theabbey.org.au

Flowers of remembrance at Bunyip

11 am, 7 November
Remembering those who have died
and commemorating All Souls' Day
Eucharist followed by lunch
(if COVID restrictions allow)
Contact Ken Parker: (03) 5976 1634

Diocesan Retreat at The Abbey

5.30 pm, 12 November –
3 pm, 13 November
Come on retreat –
savour the beauty and peace of
The Abbey on Raymond Island with
Retreat Leader Bishop Richard Treloar
All welcome
(subject to COVID restrictions)
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Bruthen Bouncebackability Spring Fair and Community Market

9 am – 1 pm, 20 November
Bruthen Mechanics Hall

Reverence and learning at Drouin Lay Reader seminar

Sue Newcombe

Arriving at
Christ Church
Drouin for a Lay
Reader seminar in

August, we may not have
immediately recognised
everyone behind their
masks, but how good
it was to be together in
person. Sadly, the seminar
the following Saturday at

Sale was cut short due to
regional lockdown. While
having a cuppa I was drawn
to a banner proclaiming
'Joyful, joyful, we adore
thee' which I took to be
a great message and start to
our time together.

After a welcome by The
Rev'ds Jenny and Tony
Wicking, Alisha Moyle
led us in a time of
reflective worship. Bishop
Richard followed with
an Acknowledgement of
Country and Reconcil-
iation, before welcoming
all participants and
thanking Lay Readers
for picking up the
extra workload, with
six parishes seek-
ing an incumbent.
He highlighted
how valued and
respected Lay
Readers and our
ministry are in
the Diocese.

Bishop Richard spoke
about Exploring Faith
Matters, a study course
in theology (without the
essays and exams) being
offered in the Diocese;
we heard about the
authority Lay Readers
have to offer Extended
Communion in aged
care facilities and other
settings where needed,
with the support of their
Rector. Marion Dewar
shared her experience of
this with us.

The Rev'd Canon Dr
Bob Derrenbacher, Dean
at Trinity, and Frank Woods
Associate Professor in
New Testament studies
there, joined us via
Zoom to teach and share
insights and research into
Luke's Gospel.

The afternoon brought
a session led by Peter and
Jenny Batten. This was
an interesting and valuable
lesson on how to care for
ourselves, especially in our
busy times.

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Little wattlebird in a St Mary
Mackillop callistemon, Mallacoota

Photo: Rev'd Jude Benton