

The Gippsland Anglican

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Moe-Newborough declared new parish

**Jan Down with
Alice Weatherall,
Graeme and Mary Nicholls**

A service of amalgamation for Moe and Newborough parishes was held on Sunday 8 October, and Moe-Newborough declared a new parish.

The service began with a procession of invited clergy, some of whom had served locums in the two parishes. Noticeably, there were priests and ministers from other denominations and areas in attendance. The Right Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO, Bishop of Gippsland, was the celebrant, assisted

by her Chaplain, the Rev'd David Perryman and Fr Sathi Anthony, who has been Rector of both Moe and Newborough since February 2015.

Bishop Kay spoke on the parable of the mustard seed, which was the focus of the service. At the end, everyone was invited to take home a bottlebrush seedling to plant.

Fr Sathi afterwards expressed his deep appreciation of Bishop Kay's preparation of the service, her insight and encouragement.

People from both churches were involved in the



*Bottlebrush now planted
at entrance to the Parish
Community Garden*

service, which incorporated elements from the two worship traditions. The altar was incensed and there were Taizé chants sung during the intercessions.

Symbols representing the parish traditions were brought forward and placed near the altar as a sign of the coming together of the two worshipping communities.

Fr Sathi said Bishop Kay's sermon was "absolutely inspiring" and she had brought such joy to the congregation; they found the service beautiful and felt good afterwards, setting the tone for life in the new parish.

During the service a St Aidan's Newborough parishioner was confirmed. Kerri Brown and her husband Peter moved to Newborough twelve months ago and since arriving Kerri has become an active member. She was sponsored by her sister Alice Weatherall and her brother Fr James Hudson, from Newcastle.

Commenting on the amalgamation, Alice said "Church closures are a loss to the whole community. With declining numbers, the writing was on the wall ...

"Fortunately, the executive of both churches began the process of investigating the merger of the two parishes, ensuring that the residents in both parishes retain their place of worship."

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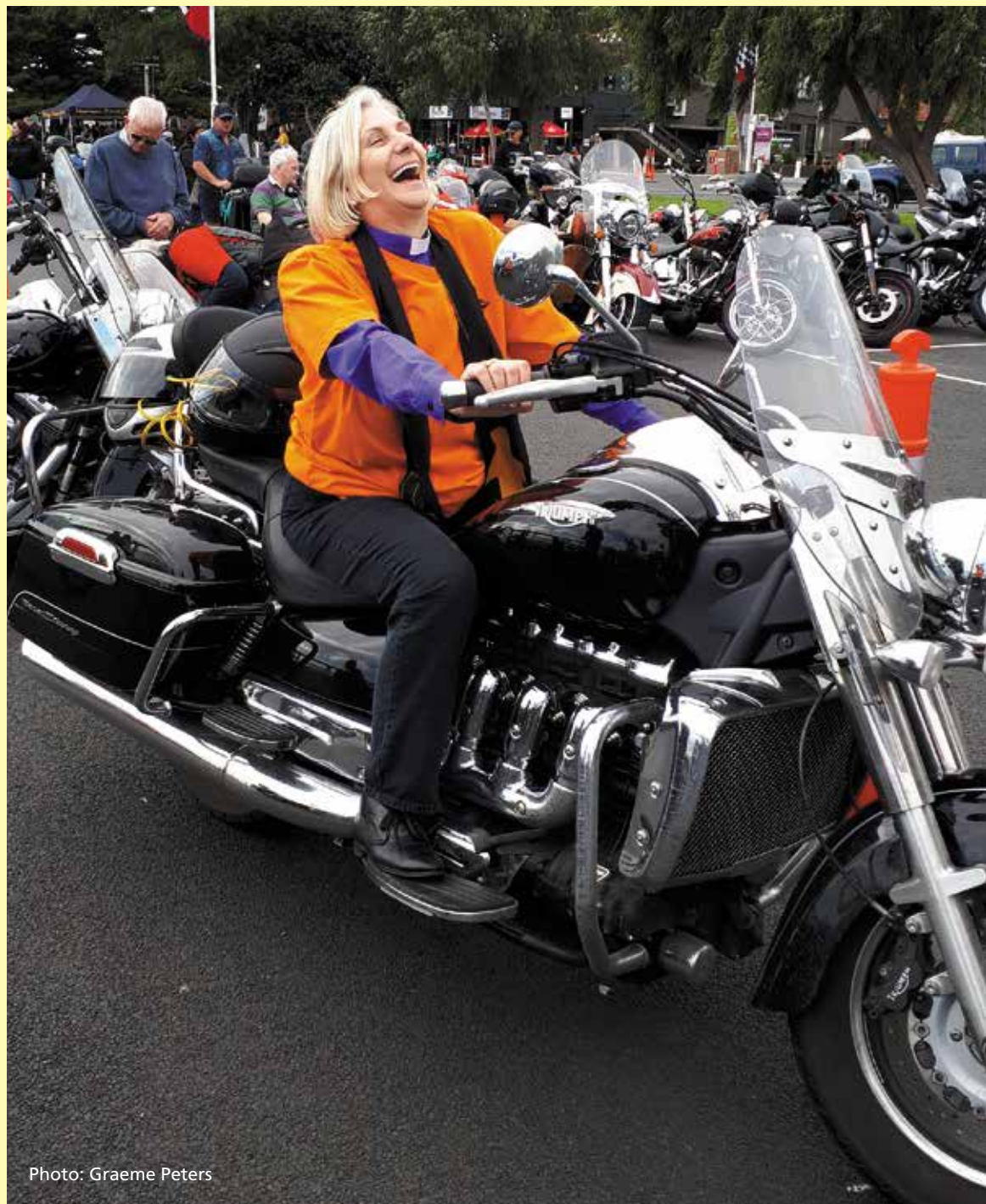


Photo: Graeme Peters

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy enjoys a joke, seated on the Rev'd Chris McAleer's bike: a Triumph Rocket 3 Touring

Blessing of the bikes at San Remo

Chris McAleer

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, the Reverends Canon Amy Turner, Graeme Peters and I joined a large group of local ministers to form the chaplains' team for the first Blessing of the Bikes at the new venue of San Remo on a very sunny 21 October.

Over ten thousand motorcyclists from as far away as Adelaide and Sydney converged on the seaside resort to receive a blessing at the start of the riding season.

The Blessing of the Bikes was started by Marcel Widmer in Mirboo North four years ago, and proved so popular it outgrew the town, so was moved to San Remo this year.

*The Rev'd Chris McAleer
is Priest-in-Charge,
Nar Nar Goon.*

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The daily food of Jesus' love

Have you noticed how many people no longer seem to do much cooking? For all sorts of reasons. Sometimes because people are frail and can't manage the shopping, chopping, slicing and dicing and then cooking and serving. Sometimes the task of cooking becomes too hard after a death, or a family breakdown, especially when people are only cooking for one.

Then there are those who are too busy to prepare meals, working long hours and arriving home with no energy left for anything much but a quick take away or a meal from the supermarket freezer.

And, there are many, many people for whom shopping and choosing good food and thinking through a menu and preparing a meal is something they have never learned to do. Many people no longer learn the basics of cooking and never sit with others at a table.

This month's *TGA* has an article about kitchen ministries. A story of the many ways in which Anglicans all across Gippsland are offering a welcome and sharing food and friendship as they meet each other over tables in parish centres, people's homes, with a mother's group at 123 or a retreat group at the Abbey,



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

or over an outdoor barbeque with the men's fellowship group. It seems simple, it sounds simple but we know that being with others in places of hospitality and welcome is one of the most important things we can share.

One of the places highlighted in the kitchen hand story is that of the Wonthaggi Monday night meal. When I went I met a young woman with a couple of children who was clearly struggling to keep everything together. There was plenty of noise and talking and eating and

trouble sitting still. We were talking about life and about this meal and time of community and why they came each week when her phone rang. After saying hello to a friend and a little conversation she said, "I'll call you back later, I'm at Church."

I hope that for many of the people who come to join us for meals and for whom we are helping hands in kitchens across the Diocese there is more and more a sense that they have come into "Church". Into the place where God is

worshipped, the place where the people identify as the body of Christ and love to show what that looks like, the place where strangers can meet at table and have our eyes and hearts opened by God's Holy Spirit to God's presence among us, the place where Jesus calls us together and teaches lessons of love.

As I travel around the Diocese each week, meeting and worshipping in parishes, hospitality is a hallmark of each visit. As we meet around the scriptures and are fed by God's Word, as we gather at Communion and are fed by Jesus' promise to feed us always with the bread of life, as we speak of matters great and small over a cuppa and lunch in the parish hall, the love of Christ among us feeds us again and again. The most wonderful banquet of blessing, the daily food of Jesus' love to strengthen us for the loving and serving and feeding of others in his name.

May every table at which you sit, every meal you help prepare for others, every invitation you make to someone to come with you to your parish, begin and end with God's blessing.

Thanks be to God,

+Kay

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Parish to Parish: praying for each other

"...That we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith..." (ROMANS 1:12)

This diocesan prayer diary features three parishes each month, in alphabetical order. Diocesan organizations will also be included. Each parish sends in its own profile and prayer needs.

WARRAGUL WESTERN REGION

Warragul Anglican Church
Rector: Archdeacon Philip Muston

This is an active church seeking to minister to the fast-growing community of Warragul, which has vast new housing estates on the edge of town. There are two congregations: a traditional Anglican communion service at 8 am with about 30 people and an all-age service at 9.45, with about 100 people. This is a time of change for the parish, as Archdeacon Philip Muston has announced he will be leaving mid 2018, and

the Rev'd Katie Peken will be leaving in early February. Please pray that the people of the parish will rise to the occasion, taking on some of the roles usually done by clergy. Please pray too for suitable locums for Warragul during the episcopal interregnum, while Philip is Administrator of the diocese.

WESTERNPORT SOUTHERN REGION

St John, Lang Lang
St George, Koo Wee Rup
St George, Corinella

The Westernport parish comprises two denominations and three centres. Though small in number we are active in the community and seeking new ways to interact with it. Currently, we are developing two areas of engagement with the wider community.

1. A community market at Corinella

2. Support of an RSL initiative in reaching out to those suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Also connected to these initiatives are changes in our buildings.

We would welcome prayers for blessings on these endeavours, as well as unity as we work at moving forward.

WONTHAGGI / INVERLOCH SOUTHERN REGION

St George's, Wonthaggi
Church of the Ascension, Inverloch
Rector: The Rev'd Graeme Peters
Associate Priest: The Rev'd Anne Perryman

The Parish is located in the breathtakingly beautiful Bass Coast area. We are a two-centred parish united in serving Jesus Christ and making him known in our community. We offer a range of worship services and Bible studies as well as outreach

activities such as a Community Meal and food rescue program which help many needy people. These activities are supported financially through our Op Shop in Inverloch.

We provide *mainly music* for toddlers and their carers and there are fortnightly Youth Group activities. We also offer traditional activities such as Guild, MU and Sunday School.

Pray for us as we seek to be more effective in our outreach. Pray especially for our Christmas program as we outreach to local schools and host a Scripture Union Family Mission at Inverloch.

Prayer

Gracious God, we bring before you the needs of these parishes: Warragul, Westernport and Wonthaggi / Inverloch. May they discover new ways to serve You. Equip them to make the gospel relevant as they care for all wherever You may lead. And in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Burnt Earth

Jan Down

Nikolai Blaskow's spectacular art installation, "Burnt Earth", staged by ITAON Gippsland Arts Group at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, shone spotlights on difficult issues facing humanity, illuminating the questions and possible sources of hope. The audience became "a people that walked in darkness", and out of it, as they moved between the dark cathedral and the well-lit Delbridge Hall.

Burnt Earth began in broad daylight, as the Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow welcomed about 200 people who had gathered outside St Paul's Cathedral, Sale on the evening of Saturday, 14 October.

Nicky Moffat, Gunaikurnai elder, gave the Welcome to Country, conducted a smoking ceremony and read "Fire Prayer".

Simon Gregg, Curator of the Gippsland Art Gallery, noted in his opening speech that the performers had been drawn together from across the region, "united in a common prayer for humankind, and for the earth".

Aiming to capture the thinking behind the installation, he posed the question: "Is it possible that all of humanity, and all that is beautiful in the world today came from a violent act? This is the concept behind 'Burnt Earth' – a terrifying but necessary event, or an act of 'cleansing' that allows new life to flourish."

Mr Gregg noted the influence of the French philosopher René Girard, who saw a relationship between the violent and the sacred; that all through human history, periods of peace are preceded by times of violence and upheaval.

These ideas are, in fact, the focus of the PhD thesis (with reference to Friedrich Nietzsche and René Girard) that Nikolai Blaskow is

working on, through Bangor University, Wales. Nikolai later commented that in the death and resurrection of Jesus, the cycles of violence have been ended.

The audience was then invited inside, and plunged into the darkness of the cathedral, lit only by strategically placed spotlights of various colours, which created an eerie atmosphere, evoking thoughts of bushfire, sacrificial fire, and the general gloom of the state of the world.

In contrast to the darkness, brightly coloured umbrellas hung upside down from the ceiling, suggestive of the rainbow of promise after the Flood; flowers cascaded over the archway to the Delbridge hall and a thousand paper cranes were suspended in the chancel.

When people were seated, the Gippsland Grammar School's Sinfonietta played the dark and ominous *Fire in the Forge*, by Ted Allen. Then Sarah Blasko's animation and song, *Explain*, was seen on the big screen, capturing "the essence of our self-contradictory complex relationship with each other and the planet", as the program notes described it.

The three hour event included live performances, films, sculpture, an animal enclosure, paintings (even a live body painting on a horizontal canvas set up on a platform in the hall), a clock room and a quiet room where people could lie down and listen to the sounds of nature.

People were invited to move about freely between the cathedral and the hall.

A group of children, dressed in creatively recycled clothes, made their way up and down the aisle at various times, representing a source of hope for the future.

Paintings were on display in the cathedral and in the hall, where a 1970s feature



Photo: Jan Down

Umbrellas hung from St Paul's Cathedral ceiling

documentary on Indigenous land rights, *The Redfern Story*, played continuously. Paintings included three works on loan, by Elcho Island artist, Terry Dhurritjini Yumulul, and others by Central Australian Indigenous artists. There were works by local Gippsland artist, Jeremy Kasper, metal sculptures by Anthony Hahn, and paintings by Leo Wimmer.

Also displayed were sculptures by Claire Flack who, having arrived in Sale from New South Wales not long ago, was immediately invited to join the ITAON Arts Group.

Among her works were "Luv", in the cathedral aisle, consisting of two faceless figures facing in towards the earth, which they hold between them; God's armour – a Roman soldier wearing the armour of God; and a

ceramic chess set telling stories from the artists' daughters' lives. Her daughters are 17th generation Yuin people, a clan from Nowra, NSW.

A silent video clip of the Loy Yang Power Station was shown in the cathedral, with cows peacefully grazing in the foreground. Nikolai Blaskow wrote in the detailed program guide "We marvel that behind the ... beauty and technologically impressive structure of Loy Yang... that over such a brief period our impact on the environment has been so devastating. It is the paradox of the beauty and yet the potentially destructive effect of modern technology on the planet that inspires this whole multimedia exhibition.

The choices we make are double-edged."

Many more people contributed to this extraordinary installation than can

be mentioned here, and a long list of acknowledgements and thanks to all those who assisted was included in the program notes.



Two mimes were performed on the altar: the sacrifice of Iphigenie, Agamemnon's daughter (from Greek mythology) and later, the biblical Abraham-Isaac story, speaking of the "human predisposition and inclination towards violence, exploitation and the silencing of the voice of conscience" (program notes).



Be a part of supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

The AMF exists to resource employment of Aboriginal people in ministry; training of Aboriginal people for ministry; development of Aboriginal ministry in the community; the planting of Aboriginal churches; education of the Diocese about Aboriginal issues.

Be a part of achieving these aims.

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Abbey retreat explores Franciscan pathway

Sue Fordham

The Abbey "Retreat with St Clare and St Francis", on October 6 – 7, affirmed the discernment of The Abbey Chapter to adopt a Franciscan model as the framework for the development of Abbey Life and Mission.

Personal interest in the Franciscan way evolved and strengthened and in the final reflection the 25 participants indicated their interest in exploring the next steps to becoming Franciscan tertiaries.

The Third Order includes both lay and ordained women and men. The first order has both Brothers and Sisters; the second, Sisters in the community of St Clare; and the tertiaries are a non-residential group who pray daily, come together from time to time and live out the Franciscan rule in their lives.

The retreat began on Friday night with dinner, followed by a film on the lives of Francis and Clare.

On Saturday we began with breakfast, followed by Morning Prayer using a Franciscan model devised by Bishop Kay. This model provides a service outline over a week and is a collection of prayers, meditations and readings gathered by the Bishop and presented in booklet form.

Then followed a discussion session of the Franciscan model of spirituality, pattern of prayer and way of being church. This was a lively and thoughtful session completed by considering how well this might fit with the vision and mission statement of the Abbey. It was agreed that the match was completely complementary. Dreams of a community at the Abbey were affirmed and the idea of an associated dispersed community generated enthusiasm.

In the session that followed morning tea, Leo and Glenys Wimmer, professed Franciscan tertiaries for 30 years, spoke of how they came to accept the Franciscan way of life. This was a profoundly moving session, that strengthened the desire for many to engage in the wonderful richness that their lives demonstrated.



A koala causes distraction during talks at the Abbey retreat



The Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Kay. Lunch followed, then a plenary session confirmed the growing desire to begin the journey of exploration.

A report such as this is cannot properly express the excitement, sense of joy and purpose and desire to get on with things that came from this retreat.

For more information about the Third Order of the Society of St Francis:

tssf.org.au/welcome

Or contact The Abbey Priest, Archdeacon Edie Ashley:

phone: 5156 0511 or email:

edieashley@bigpond.com

For information about The Abbey:

info@theabbey.org.au



Brian Norris, right, with Robert Fordham at Synod, 2016

Brian Norris to be ordained Deacon

Diocesan Registrar and Lay Reader, Mr Brian Norris, is to be ordained into the stream of ministry known as OLM – Ordained Local Minister – serving in a non-stipendiary capacity.

Bishop Kay Goldsworthy will ordain Mr Norris as a Deacon and he will be licensed as Deacon Assistant to the Very Rev'd Susanna Pain, in the Cathedral parish of Sale.

Philip Muston and Katie Peken leaving Warragul

Archdeacon Philip Muston, Rector at Warragul, has announced he will be leaving the parish in the middle of 2018, while the Rev'd Katie Peken, currently Assistant Priest at Warragul, is to move in February next year. (See also Parish to Parish, page 2)

New Corinella market

Colin Oakley

On Saturday 14 October, we held the inaugural St George's Corinella Community Market. It was a glorious day and the sun did seem to shine on the righteous, as we were graced with the dulcet voice and tunes of Rev Blues (AKA the Reverend Greg Jones and friend). It was a good start: there were about 25 vendors and a constant stream of visitors. More vendors are pouring in.

The team organising had made a great effort in communicating with the council (who were very helpful and supportive) and overseeing the event.

This market is to support the community whilst giving the church a presence and contact point, much like our op shop and monthly community lunch. The church had a stall for prayer, chat and reflection. There were quite a few who came with worries, concerns, and stories that were blessings.

As a church we have opportunities to serve others, and are there to help, proclaiming God's word.

Corinella and its surrounding areas are delightful and the people generous. Come and visit. Our market is on the second Saturday of the month, 8:00 – 1:00 pm.

The Rev'd Colin Oakley is Priest-in-Charge, Westernport.



First Community Market Day for St George's Coriella

Cathedral Giant Book Fair

Christine Morris, coordinator of the Giant Book Fair at St Paul's Cathedral, was overwhelmed by the generosity of the community in donating books. She said the huge quantity, quality and variety of the books donated was humbling. Many were very grateful for a place to donate their books, especially estates, or older parents downsizing.

People also came from afar, and often returned more than once to search for more, despite often complaining their bookcases were already overflowing!

The money raised was far beyond expectations and will help pay for the urgent replacement of the Cathedral guttering, fascia boards and washed-away mortar.

Some funds will also be given to the Hope Restart Centre, the proposed residential drug rehabilitation centre in Bairnsdale.

Two large trailers of leftover books were donated to CFA Yarragon for their annual Book Fair. Local op shops also received a selection of the leftovers.



Books ready for sale at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

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Cadwalladers lead Body and Soul Workshop



Dr Robyn and the Rev'd Dr Alan Cadwallader

Cynthia Grove Sale

Do you love digging in the dirt? Perhaps you prefer books? Dr Robyn and the Rev'd Dr Alan Cadwallader treated 30 people from a range of locations to a wonderful afternoon of exploration around these themes at St Paul's cathedral in Sale on 16 September.

Robyn, poet and author, took us through the illuminated texts of mediaeval years with a special focus on the prayer books known as Books of Hours. She showed us how the images used in the margins create their own story about life in those societies; how the illustrations merge with the cultural norms for the days and reinforce the roles and place of women in mediaeval society.

The curious and often delightful animal images which abound are not just for pleasure or amusement but serve to reinforce prevailing ideas. The works shown were beautiful – one could have looked at each one for a long while in order to see all it offered.

Robyn also explained the life of an anchoress – a female voluntarily walled up in a cell, usually attached to a church, yet still in touch with the world who would visit her for advice. The anchoress would hear the sounds and smell the life of the area but was yet apart. Robyn has written a highly praised novel – titled simply *The Anchoress* – about Sarah, a thirteenth century anchoress.

Alan, new testament scholar, theologian, author and archaeologist, invited us to explore Colossae and ancient inscriptions with him. We were introduced to squeezes (http://www.asia.si.edu/research/squeezeproject/sq_making.asp) as a way of studying inscriptions and were shown several. Alan also handed round a box of coins from roughly 2000 years ago, interesting both for their inscriptions (a very important source of knowledge in archaeology) and so that we could gauge an idea of their relative sizes. In every sentence Alan carried his listeners back to Colossae in Turkey and through the process of learning about what these remains have to offer. The afternoon was all too short.



The service of amalgamation on Sunday 8 October

Moe-Newborough declared new parish

Continued from page 1

Mary Nicholls, of Moe, described the amalgamation as a “natural progression in keeping with many other examples of how our once relatively separate communities have successfully amalgamated... We... as a strengthened body of Christ... can but benefit firstly, ourselves, as we as we learn to experience, understand and respect the diversity of worship, and secondly, the community, as they can see our unity in desire to serve the whole community.”

Graeme Nicholls noted that “Each parish had developed its own skills and experience in ministry as well as their own distinctive fellowships. Over time the parishes have grown to realize that bringing these aspects together within one parish structure gives the new parish a greater strength.

“The other advantage is that we are not wasting resources on duplicating administrative functions and in this way are freeing people to take up new areas of work. The challenge now that the amalgamation has occurred, is to clarify how best to use the benefits so gained to grow the church. The service ...in its own way was a real example of just what we can achieve together.”



Fr James Hudson, Kerri Brown, Bishop Kay and Alice Weatherall; Kerri was the first person to be confirmed in the new parish of Moe-Newborough

Clergy Retreat with Zena Liston

Philip Muston



Clergy retreat at Pallotti College in October

“Awakening your Inner Mystic” was the theme of the annual Gippsland Clergy Retreat, led by Zena Liston, of the Bass Hill Hermitage in South Gippsland, formerly of Ireland.

Most of the Diocesan clergy took part in the retreat, held at Pallotti College, Millgrove, 9–12 October.

Zena said that the retreat's title was playful, as she understood that many of the clergy were well in touch with their mystical side, which she described as the prayerful and experiential side of their faith. “Everybody is a different kind of mystic”, she said at one point. “There are as many different kinds of mystics as there are people.” She said that following Jesus was not a matter of trying to mimic Jesus, but of sitting at his feet and having an interior sense of our calling. Awareness, Attention and Appreciation were the “three As” of her approach to mystic practice.

Zena gave the clergy plenty in the way of resources to help them discover their own kind of mysticism, introducing them to the greats of the tradition such as Hildegard of Bingen, Ignatius and Thomas Merton. She also drew attention to the works of many lesser known contemporary contemplatives and mystics, by reading quotes and poems, visual displays and playing music.

One of the most memorable sessions was entitled “From Chronos to Kairos”, where she outlined ways in which the digital age was affecting human beings, especially with regard to relationships and people's sense of peace and quiet. She addressed the dangers of burnout and addiction that come to people living in the digital age.

Philip Muston is Archdeacon of the Western Region and rector at Warragul.

St Mary's Morwell is 130 years old!

Carolyn Raymond

How wonderful that St Mary's has been a centre of prayer, worship and fellowship for 130 years.

When I walk into the church, I feel the prayer and love which for 130 years has been flowing around our church. I know 130 years is not a long history for a church in England or Europe. However in Australia 130 years covers a large part of Gippsland history (since European settlement).

The congregations have seen many changes over the years. The growth of Morwell has been linked with the growth and changes in the electricity industry.

Initially priests stayed in Morwell only for a short time.

As the population increased, our ministers came and worked here for longer. For some time worship was celebrated in what is now the hall.

When the township of Yallourn was closed, St John's Yallourn was also closed and many people moved to Morwell. St John's had purchased the very beautiful mural *The Ascending Christ* by Arthur Boyd, which was moved to Morwell. To accommodate this mural a new church was built, which is the present building. We have been privileged to be able to reflect on this amazing mural, which is a back drop to all our services.

The Rev'd David Head, with the help of the Parish Council, had collected articles, photos and other memorabilia

and created a display. We all enjoyed reading these articles and identifying those we knew and loved in the historical photos. The services and activities reflect the changes in our community. Over time people from many different countries around the world have found a spiritual home at St Mary's. We now have our own website, another way of sharing who we are with our community.

The service to celebrate 130 years of worship was also our Stewardship Service. As well as looking at our stewardship in the form of our financial commitment to St Mary's in the present day, we reflected on the stewardship of past congregations and saw that their faithfulness was a gift to us in the present.



Diane Ferguson renews her baptismal vows before the congregation

As an expression of stewardship, Diane Ferguson re-affirmed her baptismal vows and I was presented with my Lay Reader's certificate.

The celebration continued in the hall after the service. Leonie Pryde, the longest serving member of our congregation, and David cut the 130th birthday cake together.

Anglicare Victoria and local Anglican parishes share a strong bond. Our partnership fosters volunteering, fundraising and social networks as we work together to build strong communities. To acknowledge the support and care that is provided by parishes and individual church members across the diocese, a series of morning and afternoon teas was held in each region to say "Thank You".

Guests were treated to tea and cake as they learned about the Gippsland Community Legal Service, a program run by Anglicare Victoria, and the complex needs of clients, as well as the new partnership with Latrobe Regional Hospital that is working to address some of the issues for people with mental illness in accessing legal advice.

Thank you gatherings

Cathrine Muston
Anglicare Community Development Officer

Members from the Financial Counselling program told the audience about the ways in which people can have difficulty with debt and how our financial counselling service works with people to get them back on to an even keel. The Targeted Care Packages program was also highlighted and guests learnt about the range of ways in which Anglicare Victoria is addressing the needs of the most vulnerable and at-risk young people in Gippsland.

Being in partnership makes us all stronger and more effective, but to maintain the

partnership our conversation needs to go both ways. Guests at the Trafalgar gathering highlighted the role that grandparents and mentors play in providing support for families as a way of integrating with Anglicare Victoria. Feedback on the needs of the local community and the role that Anglicare Victoria plays in our region was also discussed and local knowledge shared and valued.

It was good to meet together over morning and afternoon tea to share our hopes for better communities for Gippslanders.

As the Venerable Jan Crombie, Archdeacon for Parish Partnerships in the Diocese of

Melbourne says, "It is about being the best community we can be and helping each other flourish".



Sandra Wagner and Sandy Johnson of St Mary's Morwell parish at the Trafalgar morning tea



Enjoying the afternoon tea at Yarram are (L-R) David Hartmaier, Miriam Stackhouse (Mission Secretary), Joy Fear, Sue Bruns, Bev Piper (Mirboo North) and Rosanne Tutty (Mirboo North).



Stratford: Nola Adams talking with May Kine, Brenda Vice and Wendy Philbey from Avon parish

School donates to Cathedral Pantry



The Gippsland Grammar community got behind the annual St Paul's Cathedral Pantry Appeal again this year. At the presentation of the food donations are students Cameron Mekken, Abraham Wilson, Charlie Sargent, Erika Allen, Alannah Schenk, Meg Jones, St Paul's Cathedral representative Christine Morris, Grace Wall, Grace Mackie, Annabel Pearson, Jackson Logan and teacher Jenny Dyke

OSL healing ministry conference

Lloyd George

The triennial conference of the Order of St Luke in Australia was successfully held in Melbourne during October with some sixty people participating.

The Order has accepted the need for change as we face a time of differing needs with declining membership. Since the Order began in Australia in 1960 there has been a steady growth in the practice and understanding of healing ministry but the need for support and encouragement remains strong.

Guest speaker the Rev'd Bill Sims, OSL chaplain for New Zealand, spoke about ways in which the Order is adapting to the situation there.

The Order will continue to minister but will now be known as OSL Healing Ministries. The Rev'd Geoff McAuliffe has been inducted as the new national chaplain and Betty Revelant as the new national secretary, replacing Theo Bruinsma, whose service over many years was acknowledged. A new board has been elected.



Two keynote speakers contributed valuable insights based on their own personal experiences. Christian psychologist and author Dr Grant Bickerton noted studies that show the rate of "burn-out" among clergy and church workers is above community average. In suggesting ways of addressing this he stressed the importance of mutual support and understanding within the church community. Much of the stress experienced by clergy comes from high (and sometimes unreasonable) expectations!

Bishop John Harrower delivered the Pearce Memorial Lecture on the subject of "Dealing with Trauma". He spoke from the point of view of both sufferer and of one required to provide pastoral

care and support. He drew on his time as Bishop of Tasmania when he was confronted with the need to address victims of clergy abuse, and also on his own earlier missionary experience in Argentina during the years of conflict, and the Falkland Islands war. His talk was both heartfelt and encouraging and is to be made available on disc. It is very much related to the ministry of healing as the church continues to deal with the issue of child abuse and its consequences.

OSL Ministries will continue to be active in Gippsland with myself as regional chaplain. There are currently two healing prayer groups active: one in the Latrobe Valley (Traralgon) and another in West Gippsland (Drouin/Warragul). The retreat house at Rhyll ("Allansfield") is providing a valuable place for individual and small groups. Please contact me for information or for resources to assist in the development of healing ministry on 0427 460 485.

The Rev'd Lloyd George is a retired priest living at Warragul.

Silent vigil for asylum seekers

Eleanor Paterson

Two young women hold a candle while a toddler plays at their feet.

An 88 year old lady sits on a folding chair grasping a candle and a photo of an asylum seeker who had recently died on Manus Island.

Two young boys clutch their homemade sign. An older man stands in silence for two hours. A group of seasonal workers from Timor Leste. Members of East Gippsland Asylum Seeker Support group.

These were some of the people who gathered at the silent vigil in the grounds of St Mary's Catholic church in Bairnsdale on Sunday 8 October. The vigil was one of many actions taking place all over Australia on that day, to draw attention to the ongoing suffering of the 2000 refugees on Manus Island and Nauru.

These refugees on Manus

Island and Nauru – men, women and children – have not committed any crime. Their right to ask Australia for a place of safety is enshrined in international law. Their claims for protection have been assessed by authorities and over 80% of the people have been found to be genuine refugees.

The silent vigil was organised by EGASS: East

Gippsland Asylum Seekers Support Group based in Bairnsdale, which includes Christians from different traditions as well as people from the broader community.

The group's banners on that day read "Manus and Nauru, Not Safe For Refugees # Bring them Here". Another, a verse from St Matthew's Gospel (25:35) "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."



The silent vigil for asylum seekers, held in Bairnsdale



Cathedral Blessing of the Pets

Sale

At the St Paul's Anglican Cathedral Blessing of the Pet service eleven dogs, one cat, one calf and an insect were blessed, as well as others via photos by Dean Susanna Pain. Pictured are Anthony Hahn and calf; Faye and Jessica Flint (granddaughter), with dogs Sophie and Angel and cat Dawson.

It was a joyous and rather noisy service with many barks and a few bleats from the calf.



Blessing of the Pets

Morwell

As part of our honouring St Francis of Assisi, St Mary's held a Blessing of the Pets service. Many parishioners brought their much loved pets to be blessed, so honouring the love they share with their pets and also honouring all creation as St Francis did all those many years ago.

During the sermon the rooster became the self-appointed cheer leader. He crowed loudly and enthusiastically after each sentence the rector spoke. This made the sermon a little longer than usual.

STORY OF A GIPPSLAND CAROL

The inaugural Bunyip Lecture

Last year Dr.Jim Connelly's "Gippsland Carol" made its premiere at Sale Cathedral.

Jim, together with Brian Chapman, who wrote the music, will tell the story of his carol at the inaugural Bunyip Lecture on Sunday 3 December at 3:00 pm at St.Thomas' Parish Hall in A'beckett Rd, Bunyip.

It is hoped that Jim and Brian will teach "A Gippsland Carol" to the gathered company so that it can be sung at the Bunyip Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 17 December at 8:00 p.m.

More Bunyip Lectures are planned in 2018. Watch this space!

GFS Kidsplus+ events

Leadership Development Workshops

GFS Kidsplus+ are sponsoring a series of workshops to encourage, support and equip anyone interested in exploring ministry to children, youth and families at a parish or diocesan level. Please contact gippskids@people.net.au if you are interested.

Workshop Two, to be held at Christ Church Drouin 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm on 12 November, will explore leadership qualities, styles and our distinctive call to Christian leadership. There is no cost and all are welcome. Further workshops will continue in 2018 and we are open to parishes offering their facilities to host such occasions, or suggestions of topics for us to cover in support of your ministries.

Diocesan Family Traffic School Afternoon – 19 November

This annual event has proved popular, especially for our primary school and Sunday school groups; pre-schoolers; *mainly music* and MOPS children in parishes. Entry is free and a sausage sizzle tea and fruit salad are provided.

Come and join us as individual families and friends or as a group from your parish. Bring named helmets, bikes, or scooters. Some spares as well as games equipment will be available from the Kidsplus+ Equipment trailer if required. To help with catering please RSVP to Carol on 51748445 or Mary on 51272929 or email gippskidsplus@people.net.au, particularly if you are bringing a larger group.

2018 Diocesan Kidsplus+ Camp

This year's camp will be held

at Coonawarra Resort West of Bairnsdale from 24–26 March. We will have a new campsite, new challenges and adventures as we explore the theme "Walking through this land together". The camp will cost \$100.00; however those interested in taking up the optional horse riding trail ride or led pony ride would be required to pay extra (\$50.00 Trail Ride, \$20.00 Led pony ride). Payments will be required by first week of March so please make early enquiries.

We would encourage leaders of children's and youth parish ministries to join the camp team. Please phone Mary on: 51272929 if you feel you could contribute.

Some limited funds are available to help subsidise families with financial difficulties. Of course we would be delighted if readers of this paper might feel enabled to provide gifts of financial sponsorship also for this purpose. This could be offered through parish priests and their contacts or through our network Chairperson, Carol Johnstone: 51748445.



The Rev'd Jenny Ramage displaying her GFS Kidsplus+ Chaplain's Licence; GFS Chairperson Carol Johnstone in background. Jenny was commissioned as Gippsland GFS Kidsplus+ Chaplain in September.



Kidsplus+ Gippsland 2018 Coonawarra Resort Camp March 24 – 26

For children and youth aged 6 years to 18 years
THEME: Walking through this land together

Cost \$100.00 or \$90.00 for second
and subsequent family members attending

Applications available from gippskidsplus@people.net.au
or Ph 51272929

Optional horse riding activity extra cost



GFS Adult Friends with group following Commissioning Service and Leader Development workshop at Drouin



A LASTING GIFT: A bequest to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland or your parish

The Church, over the years, has been blessed with the generosity of Anglicans and others in support of its mission. One way you can support this ideal in a relatively easy way, is to make a gift through your will. In the first instance, of course, you will consider carefully the needs of your immediate family and friends before proceeding with a bequest to the church.

We offer a way of helping you to carry out your wishes. Your gift, through your bequest, will be very much appreciated. You may wish to support the Diocese of Gippsland as a whole, or your own parish, or for a particular purpose.

Making your bequest in your Will is a simple procedure, although in preparing or amending your Will you should always consult a solicitor. The Registrar of the Diocese of Gippsland has information to assist you in making a bequest, including the form of words you and your solicitor might want to use.

Telephone Brian Norris on 03 5144 2044, or go to www.gippsanglican.org.au and search 'bequests'.



Advent Ideas

Reverse Advent Calendar

Cathrine Muston suggests: The reverse Advent calendar simply substitutes receiving a gift for each day of Advent, with giving a grocery item for each day. It's easy to do:

1. Collect a couple of old cartons (old wine cartons are the best because they are divided into 12 sections)
2. Mark it out into a section for each day of Advent

3. For each day, choose a non-perishable grocery item (such as toothpaste, tinned fruit or jars of jam) and place in the box.
4. At the end of Advent, take it to your local Anglicare office or Food Bank.
5. Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with family and friends!

Free Advent Reflection Booklet

Anglican Overseas Aid is again producing a free Advent reflection booklet, this year highlighting the contrast between Presence over presents.

The booklets are suitable for personal reflection, small group study, or as a whole of church resource.

For orders, please contact AOA on: 1800 249 880 or email: aoa@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au



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Harry Potter and the crisis of identity

Daniel Lowe

“Hmm, difficult. VERY difficult. Plenty of courage, I see. Not a bad mind, either. There’s talent, oh yes. And a thirst to prove yourself. But where to put you?”

So says the Sorting Hat to Harry Potter. It occurred to me recently, as I watched another group of students emerging from the library’s Harry Potter display, that there is a great freedom in the Sorting Hat. In the world of Hogwarts, so much of a character’s identity is determined for them (although “the sorting hat takes your choice into account”).



The Rev'd Daniel Lowe

I wonder if part of the appeal for us is because we are under so much pressure in today’s world to determine or even create our own identity, to be “true to ourselves”. Author Jonathan Grant expresses it like this:

Modern authenticity encourages us to create our own beliefs and

morality, the only rule being that they must resonate with who we feel we really are. The worst thing we can do is to conform to some moral code that is imposed on us from outside – by society, our parents, the church, or whoever else.

The trouble is, we are cracking under the pressure. In a world which offers a plethora of choices but little in the way of guidance, young people particularly are getting lost. It often concerns me when I hear parents say things like, “We aren’t going to tell our kids what to believe. We don’t want to force our beliefs on them”.

For a start, this is naïve because every parent imposes a set of beliefs on their children simply through the

expectations they have for daily life together. Secondly, it sounds a bit like an abdication of parental responsibility. We guide and direct our children in how to dress, personal hygiene, healthy eating, navigating relationships and social interaction. Why are we so reluctant to guide their fundamental beliefs and values?

My suspicion is that it is often a combination of an insecurity in our own beliefs and a fear of contravening our society’s utter rejection of any imposition of belief on an individual – even our own child. At the same time, anxiety and depression are on the rise in young people and while the reasons are complex, the pressure of having to find or create their own identity and self-worth with little or no compass to guide them is surely a significant contributing factor.

But what is the alternative? A Sorting Hat is fine in the fantasy world of Harry Potter

but it doesn’t cut it in the real world. One alternative is the Christian view of identity. Not the moralistic, rule-making version that is often presented, but rather the view of human identity that we find in the Bible. In the words of pastor and writer Vaughan Roberts, “It speaks of a God who made us and loves us, and has rescued us and given us a glorious future. It tells us we’re not alone in the universe. We’re not lost. We don’t desperately have to try and discover who we are and fight for who we are – it’s a wonderful given”.

My prayer is that this is good news to anyone who finds themselves lost in their search for identity and self-worth. In the words of the psalmist, “I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made” (PSALM 139:14).

The Rev'd Daniel Lowe is School Chaplain at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School.

St Paul's Anglican Grammar School homelessness project

Cathrine Muston
Anglicare Community
Development Officer

Every year the Year 9 students at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School in Warragul participate in five days of service learning. This year, they have partnered with Anglicare Victoria to explore the issue of homelessness.

Students spent two days learning about the issues

surrounding homelessness with representatives from Quantum Housing, Youth Support Advocacy Service (YSAS) as well as hearing first-hand about homelessness from Jason and Jodie from the Council to Homeless Persons. Students then explored a variety of ways in which they could make a difference to the lives of young people who were homeless, and developed a plan of action.

Their plan involved

undertaking awareness-raising of the issue in their school and local community, as well as collecting donations of toiletries to contribute to hygiene packs for distribution to young people experiencing homelessness in the Latrobe Valley.

Head of Year 9, Ms Leonie Clark, was pleased with the students' engagement with the issue and the way in which they had worked together to contribute to the work of local service organisations.



The team of year 9 students who packed the hygiene bags for homeless young people



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Lived reconciliation

Dean Spalding

From the funeral homily

On 24 September this year, Drouin lost a respected driving force of reconciliation. Irma Pepper's funeral was held at Christ Church, Drouin, on 5 October. Almost three hundred people from the Aboriginal and non-indigenous communities gathered to honour the passing of a woman whose life was filled with gracious acts of peace-making and forgiveness.

Irma Pepper's life took a new direction in 1995 after suffering greatly from the loss of her husband George. As her son, Jason Pepper expressed it in the eulogy, "This was a pivotal point in her life. As she said 'I can go one of two ways: I can drink and drown my sorrows, or I can find comfort in a relationship with God'. She became a Christian and gave her life to the Lord."

She started to worship with Christ Church Anglican Church in Drouin. The decision to worship with an otherwise white congregation didn't always meet with the encouragement of Irma's own people, and required bold determination on her part. Irma's decision was a great gift to the congregation at Drouin, planting seeds of reconciliation that we hope will continue to bear fruit.

Irma Pepper (née Thomas) was a woman of great strength of character. She was born in Cummeragunja just on the NSW side of the Murray, not far from the majestic Barmah Red Gum forests. Irma's father was a Yuin man, born at Wallaga Lakes on the southern coast of NSW; Irma Thomas was a Yorta Yorta woman, and met and married George Helman Clifford Pepper, who was a Gunnai-Kurnai man born at Lake Tyers but raised, not far from Drouin, at Jackson's Track. Irma and George's five children – Wayne, Colleen, Wilma, William and Jason – share a rich cultural heritage spanning at least three tribes of the south-eastern part of this great land.

Irma and George won enormous respect, not only from their own people, but also from their white neighbours. They were respected as quiet achievers, with a very serious work ethic, and as eminently wise family people to whom others often turned for strength or counsel.

In 1995, George passed away and was buried from this church on 7 August 1995. A photograph taken of George's burial captured an image in which Irma believed she could see a vision of Jesus coming to take George home. She framed that photograph and treasured that belief.



Irma Pepper
(photo published with permission)

A member of the Christ Church congregation, Ila Hine, consequently invited Irma to come and worship at the 8 am Sunday services. Irma came and became an enthusiastic contributor to the Christ Church community. She joined Mothers' Union and the Missions Group, and was involved in Cursillo. Surrounded by her children, Irma was confirmed on 12 October 1997 by Bishop Arthur Jones, Bishop of Gippsland, who was delighted to confirm a woman of such faith.

Irma's middle name "Doris": means "gift"; and Irma's joining of this congregation was a great gift which allowed for a significant expression of reconciliation, mutual welcome and respect. This congregation was privileged to have an indigenous woman of Irma's calibre.

Irma consequently moved to Stratford and other parts of East Gippsland. In her most recent years, a decline in health took its toll on Irma's life.

Irma was particularly loved by three of the "elders" of this Parish: Ila Hine, who first invited Irma to consider joining this community; another is Iris Maxfield who had come to Drouin in 1948; and the third is Lorna Parke, who shared with me that she once drove Irma to Lorna's home town of Jindivick to show Irma the place where George Pepper had spent his childhood, at Jackson's Track.

Today we celebrate Irma's faith in Jesus who will come to bring his people home. In the parable from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus promises entry into the Kingdom of Heaven for those who share his heart of compassion; Jesus says that whenever we feed the hungry, give a drink to the thirsty, clothe the needy, or visit the sick or imprisoned, we actually do those things for him. These words of Jesus support Irma's vision of Jesus' visiting to come and take George home – and gives us confidence in knowing that Jesus has taken Irma to that same home.

A transcript of the eulogy prepared by Irma's sons – Wayne, William and Jason – is available on the Christ Church website: anglicanparishdrouin.org.au/news Two recollections in this eulogy – one of Irma, as a child, saving her little brother from drowning at the beach, and the other of Irma, as a young woman, spearing a snake that threatened her children—are beautifully told and add witness to the love and courage of this remarkable woman.

*The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding
is Rector at Drouin.*

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EDITORIAL

St Francis – open to all

When Brother Ramon, a Franciscan friar, hitched a ride with a truck driver, the driver asked him "If you could tell me in one sentence what you stood for, what would you say?"

Brother Ramon replied that this wouldn't be easy, as he'd want to say something about Jesus in his life. "But if I could communicate my attitude in one sentence, I would say that I seek to be open to every other human being as my brother and sister" (from his book, *Franciscan Spirituality*).

What did St Francis himself stand for? He turned away from fighting in the crusades. He embraced poverty and lepers. He only wanted to live the gospel, taking Jesus' words seriously: to preach the gospel, taking no gold or silver or bag for the journey. He stood for loving God and his neighbour, nothing more.

What do we stand for as Christians living in the complex 21st century, within the beautiful and conflicted Gippsland context?

"Burnt Earth", the recent exhibition at the Cathedral, pointed out some of the complexities and paradoxes. A subsequent visit to Wonthaggi – a town founded on a coal mine – brought home something more. Consider the mixed history of coal mining. It has killed people in accidents and given them a living. It has kept them warm and made them sick. It has powered steam trains, produced electricity and contributed to global warming.

Who are our neighbours now? The man who has lost his job at the Hazelwood Power Station, or the woman in India whose crops are failing because of a changing climate? Both of course! This is the dilemma. No one is more important than another. (And the two situations are not unrelated.)

Brother Ramon's aim to be open to all as brother and sister offers us a relevant challenge. And St Francis, rather than fighting, went unarmed to take the gospel to the Sultan.

From the hand of God, via the kitchen hands

Jan Down

Kitchen ministries are everywhere in parishes and groups across the diocese. These three examples serve to represent all those who offer their hands in such generous service.

*"The eyes of all look to you in hope;
And you give them their food in due season;
You open wide your hand;
And fill all things living with your bounteous gift."*

PSALM 145: 15, 16

Wonthaggi Community Meal

At 3:30 pm on Monday afternoon, most of the preparation for the evening meal is done, the cooks having started about midday. Several people are sitting around the huge work table in the room off the kitchen, buttering sliced bread sticks and stacking them on trays to be covered with plastic wrap.

There is chatter and laughter as they stop for a cuppa together after hours of hard work.

Yvonne Bain from Inverloch is now leading this team of volunteers, one of the three rotating teams of 8–12 people who cook, serve and clean up after the weekly Community Meal at St George's Wonthaggi.

The Rev'd Anne Perryman says a prayer with the team while they are on this short break. Tonight she will be the one to lead a two minute devotion between courses. She has already written up on the whiteboard in the hall the question for the night: "What will it be like in heaven?" and started the ball rolling by writing one answer herself: "Enjoying chicken casserole and veg, fruit salad and icecream, without cooking it!"

At 5:00 o'clock the doors to the church are opened, and people drift in, find a table and sit down to chat while they wait for the meal. After grace, the children are served first, bringing their meals back to the tables. Annemarie's three teenagers are at home, but the two youngest are there and excited to see friends and play in the secure playground behind the church. Elliot also likes writing answers on the whiteboard. Eating comes a poor third – there is too much else to do – but he manages to fit in some time at the table, especially when the dessert comes out.

Annemarie and Dom have been coming every Monday night for several years and deeply appreciate the nutritious meal provided for their family, as well as getting to know others, and the warmth and care from the church people. Annemarie says "They don't judge us", and Dom agrees – "There's no pressure."

It's a quieter night this time, with 82 meals served, including those for the volunteers. The Rev'd Graeme Peters says this is an easier number to manage; when there are 120, it can get a bit chaotic, with people queueing up, waiting for a table.

The Community Meal has been going for six years. The idea came up soon after Graeme arrived. He was talking to a shopkeeper one day who said that the church should be doing more to help the kids on the street who were in real need. When the Desalination Plant was being built, workers came in from outside the town needing accommodation, and rents skyrocketed as a result, forcing people into hardship.

When Graeme suggested the meal, the churches of Wonthaggi and Inverloch were enthusiastic and it has been going strong ever since.

This Community Meal is more than food for hungry people. The feel on this night is of a typical church family dinner. There are relationships being built over time, and so much care given out, amongst both guests and hosts.

The Abbey

Archdeacon Edie Ashley, Abbey Priest, is keenly aware of those, even in Australia, "who go hungry from time to time, or those in lands and communities who rely on 'food in due season' but with changing weather patterns food crops are not so plentiful or have been destroyed by rain or frost, infestation or deforestation and....people are hungry.

"Or those who have fled violence and are living in makeshift camps reliant on food parcels – when they can be delivered.

"Yet at The Abbey, in our churches and our ministries we share food with freedom and joy.

"May we always remember that the gift of food shared is God's good gift; that as Christians when we enjoy food in the company of others, we are one with those who are hungry for food and company; that as we share the bread and wine we experience the hospitality of God in Jesus Christ. Let us give thanks to God!"

The Abbey on Raymond Island is well-known for its sumptuous annual Feast (a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet?) as well as its catering for many events over the course of the year, such as the winter workshops, retreats of various kinds, and the clergy conference.



Annemarie and Dom and their children are regulars at the Wonthaggi Community Meal

Traditionally one of the Gippsland clergy cooks for the Winter Feast, which is a fundraiser for The Abbey. A team of volunteers from Paynesville and other parishes assist.

Ian Pearson is the caterer for other Abbey events, sometimes assisted by his wife, and occasionally by hired staff if numbers require it.

David and Deb Chambers, from Heyfield parish, minister to the clergy in catering for their annual conference.

The Abbey is also a place where people can choose to cook for themselves. Anna Esdaile is responsible for the safe and well-organised use of the kitchen; that it is kept clean; and to ensure all regulations are met. She is the go-to person for all who use the kitchen.

Those who visit The Abbey know the warmth and generosity of its hospitality.

St Paul's Cathedral

Dean at St Paul's Cathedral, Susanna Pain, describes hospitality as "core business – even an extension of the Eucharist".

The cathedral's hospitality is extended in many forms: *mainly music* and playgroup appreciate the freshly baked food; there is a monthly Men's Breakfast and occasionally wedding breakfasts or parties; Messy Church; supper after concerts or afternoon teas following guest speakers; and a Food Pantry open on weekends. Diocesan events such as ordinations or Synod are always well-provided for.

There is a substantial ministry through the funeral catering, managed by Fay Flint, assisted by Marion Hector and a team of others.

Fays says it is a service to people in the community. "When you see the people who come in ... it's good for them".

Marion is glad to use her organizational skills in service of church and community.

Ann Miller, one volunteer, sees a low-key educational role in providing healthy food. Like most churches now,

they also produce food for people's dietary needs, as well as caring for creation by recycling most of their waste.

Sometimes hospitality can be spontaneous. Dean Susanna remembers an ecumenical Walk of the Cross on Good Friday when, finishing in the park across the road, someone suggested morning tea in the hall, and they all had Hot Cross Buns together.

Bishop Kay offers a comment: "Jesus was always spending time with people around meals. On hillsides, in peoples' homes, in little towns and large cities. The gospel stories of being at table abound. In some we read about the food that Jesus and those with whom he ate shared together – bread, fish, wine.

At other times it isn't the menu that we read about, but rather how Jesus' presence with people revealed not only the welcome of table and food, but also the welcome of God and God's love. Outsiders were invited in, feet were washed, forgiveness offered and received, love shared, and robust discussions had, lessons learned, plenty for all."

*"You give them their food in due season;
You open wide your hand".*



Dinner at The Abbey during a pilgrimage series with the Rev'd Dr John Baldock, November 2016



Kitchen workers at the Synod Dinner, St Paul's Cathedral 2016



Paul Pratt

Paul Pratt

Litigation solicitor – Mirboo North

Jan Down

Imagine a faulty toaster, kettle or evaporative cooler starts a fire that burns your house down, but the manufacturer disputes your claim. These are the kinds of situations that Paul Pratt, a litigation lawyer at Mirboo North, frequently deals with in his work.

Paul sees the law in Australia as having been influenced by Christianity, as well as by capitalism.

He describes it as “a man-made tool influenced by God’s teaching”, providing “a civilized way to resolve disputes, based on fairness”.

It is challenging and stressful work. So why did he choose the law? “I’ve always liked arguing”, Paul confesses a little impishly. When he was in senior high school, thinking about possible careers, he was intrigued by the law on TV shows, and also aware that it would provide a secure, well-paid job with some status.

But his motivation and manner of working have changed considerably over the years, especially since becoming a Christian through an Alpha Course at St Mary’s about twenty years ago.

Now his work is more about helping people sort things out without having to go to court, and guiding them through what can be a very stressful and costly process, right when they can be going through an emotional time after losing a home to fire. His aim is to stay

honest and focus on helping people. Making a living is “not the main driver any more”, he says.

Paul finds prayer important to manage the stress of the job. “You realise Jesus is carrying you along. We wax and wane in our faith, but no matter how poorly I’ve prayed or not prayed, I’m always aware that God is there with me.”

One of the stressful aspects of the work is having to say no to people when there is not enough time, but Paul has learnt to be more honest about this, and about admitting mistakes. He finds people usually respect him for this. He is still working about 50 hours a week, and is trying to reduce this down further, as he has learned the importance of staying fresh and being able to think clearly, which is not possible

when you are exhausted.

Another challenge is to stay calm and focussed on the issues, rather than what he calls “playing the man”, especially when the other lawyer starts pitching into him – it can be hard not to retaliate.

Ethical dilemmas are not uncommon. Clients will sometimes ask him to do something he knows to be wrong, and he can be in the difficult position of having to stand up to a client who is paying the bill.

There are grey areas too, of course, and lawyers have a help-line to call for ethical guidance.

Paul finds his church family at St Mary’s very supportive and non-judgemental. He describes the church as “a calm place” where “you can go and be inspired by other people’s witness”.

St Mary’s was running Alpha courses regularly for some years, then took a break for a while, but has recently run another course at which Paul gave the first witness talk.

He is also involved as a worship leader, and is on rosters for prayers, reading the Bible and welcoming people.

Paul is Chairperson of the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation, which supports charitable initiatives in the town – for example, giving out grants to disadvantaged young people, to help them get to university.

He is also President of the Mirboo North Football / Netball Club, which recently had a great triumph: after scraping into the top five, the seniors football team had to win every finals match to make the grand final – which they also won!



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The Director of Professional Standards, Cheryl Russell, is available, and will maintain confidentiality, on telephone 03 5633 1573, on mobile 0407 563313, or email cherylrussell1@bigpond.com

Diocesan calendar

November

- 12 2:00 – 5:00 pm Leadership Training Workshop, hosted by GFS Kidsplus+ Network, Drouin. Contact the Rev’d J Ramage at Drouin parish.
- 18 8:00 – 9:00 am Men’s Breakfast, free. For all men, young and old, at St John’s Anglican Church, Nar Nar Goon. Bacon and egg sandwiches, hot drinks, guest speaker. For more info: Chris McAleer 0402 428 468
- 18 2:00 – 5:00 pm Open Garden at Oak Farm, 433 Old Telegraph Road East, Crossover, in aid of Neerim South Anglican Church Op Shop
- 18 4:00 pm Evensong with Friends of Anglican Music (FOAM) at St Luke’s Moe. Conductor: the Rev’d Derek Jones, organist Russell Savage of Moe. Choir rehearses from 2:00 pm. All welcome.
- 19 3:00 – 5:00 pm Diocesan Kidsplus+ Family Traffic School Afternoon, Morwell. Contact: 5127 1919 or 5174 8445.
- 25 8:30 – 10:00 am Bikers’ Breakfast at St John’s Anglican Church, Nar Nar Goon. Bacon and egg sandwiches, hot drinks, then a ride. For more info: Chris McAleer 0402 428 468
- 25 11:00 am Anam Cara Thanksgiving Service with Bishop Kay, St Mary’s Morwell
- 26 9:00 am Family Service (Eucharist), “Christ the King” Patronal Festival and 7:00 pm Ecumenical service, Christ Church Drouin
- 26 4:00 pm Christ the King Patronal Festival at Christ Church, Tarraville, then sparkling refreshments
- 30 Parish Treasurers Consultation Day, Leongatha. Booking sites via gippsanglican.org.au, info: Brian Norris, Registrar. Phone 03 5144 2044. Email: registrar@gippsanglican.org.au

December

- 10 10:00 am Holy Communion service to celebrate 25th anniversary of St John’s Neerim South church building with Bishop Kay followed directly afterwards by the blessing of the new Op Shop/Ministry Centre and a bring and share lunch. Everyone welcome
- 16 9:30 am Special Session of Synod, followed by lunch and 1:00 pm Farewell Eucharist with the laying up of the pastoral staff by Bishop Kay Goldsworthy

SUMMER MISSIONS

Scripture Union Family Camps and / or Theos at Cowes, Inverloch, Lakes Entrance, Mallacoota, Coolamatong, and around Victoria – see suvic.org.au for program dates and information.

January

- 22 5:30 pm – 3:30pm Thursday 25 “Simply Alive!” a gentle, creative space to begin the year. Led by Dean Susanna Pain, at The Abbey, Raymond Island. To book or further information contact The Abbey: phone: (03) 5156 6580 Email: info@theabbey.org.au



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