

Three new appointments
page 5

Drought service of lament and prayer
page 7

Heather Toms' Brick Award
page 7

The shy truth/the shy self
Nikolai Blaskow
page 10

James Brown tattoo artist
page 12

The Gippsland Anglican

Volume 116, Number 1, February 2019

Published in Gippsland Diocese since 1904

Mercy, courage, compassion, hope

Ecumenical conversation on the Gospel of Luke stirs large crowd at The Abbey

Photos: Edie Ashley



Sue Fordham

Bishop Pat O'Regan, the Rev'd Canon Professor Dorothy Lee, Bishop Richard Treloar

Our ecumenical activities at the Abbey so far have been held on breathlessly hot days. The first Thursday in December 2018, with the Catholic and Anglican bishops and the two theologians, Professor Frank Moloney (Roman Catholic) and Professor Dorothy Lee (Anglican) was no different.

As a warm morning turned to a sweltering afternoon, the top temperature may have been only 33 degrees but it felt more like 40 degrees to the 110 strong audience cocooned in the A-Frame.

In a preface to the opening prayer, Bishop Richard Treloar said that as Christians we needed to demonstrate the same radical inclusion shown by Yorta Yorta man William Cooper who, following

the persecution of Jews in Kristallnacht in 1938, walked to the German embassy in Melbourne to protest their treatment on this day, 80 years ago. This was to encapsulate the core of the Advent study of the Gospel of Luke: mercy, courage, compassion and hope.

The first session was conducted by the Very Rev'd Professor Frank Moloney as a general introduction to the Gospel of Luke, noting its structure, the themes of journeying; Luke as the relentless prophet; and the overwhelming compassion of God.

"Not only was Jesus born on a journey, he was born

for a journey, and so must we be," he said.

He also observed that Luke calls us to an uncompromising discipleship with a prophetic challenge to avoid the "achievable satiation" model, lest the Church becomes "settled and bourgeois".

And yet, the heart of the Gospel is positive and compassionate. Jesus befriends the friendless and people on the margins.

Professor Moloney finished his survey of Luke with a look at the parable of the prodigal son, which he preferred to call the parable of the stupid father. Stupid, for giving the youngest son his inheritance, stupid for giving that son his ring and stupid for

"Here was ecumenism at its best; united on stage, uniting us in audience. What a day!"

Michael Fox,
Paynesville

and the age to come, Christians believed in the "already" and the "not yet". Being an Advent people she said, "means being alert, watchful, but, without anxiety, and living now in God's future, a future that is both present and to come".

Bishop Pat O'Regan and Bishop Richard responded by suggesting what the church might do now to live in the light of God's future.

Bishop Pat spoke of "preparedness" in responding to the marginal, referring to Pope Francis in advocating for a church that was, "poor for the poor; a church that is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets".

Bishop Richard observed that our preparedness is expressed and shaped at the Eucharist where we experience the gravitational pull of the kingdom of God like a great star approaching – not (in a *Star Wars* allusion) a death star, but a life star. He urged us to

(Continued on page 5)



Professor Frank Maloney

Index

From the Bishop 2

Parish to Parish 2

Tambo and Gippsland welcome Philip Kissick 3

Around the Diocese 4-7

Kids' Min: Bass / Phillip Island 8

For young disciples: Quarks, black holes and God Daniel Lowe 9

Anglicare Fare: Connecting young people in Bass Coast 9

Reflection: The shy truth / the shy self Nikolai Blaskow 10

Editorial 10

Wholly, holy: Tattoo artist for God Metung 12

Diocesan calendar 12

A living legacy

Late last year I attended a Brodribb family reunion, which saw people from various parts of Australia and the UK gather at Port Albert, where they were photographed behind the Maritime Museum. Peter and Jill Coates from St John's Port Albert, which was on the tour that day, are among the faces.

The story of the Brodribbs connects with that of the Tuckers. Mike Tucker (far right) is one of several pictured here who are relatives of Father Gerard Tucker, co-founder of the Brotherhood of St Laurence, whose Board I served on with Mike for several years.

As a young man William Brodribb was a NSW pastoralist who saw opportunities in Strzelecki's discoveries in Gippsland. In 1841 he formed an expedition that named Port Albert and the Albert River. His eldest son was ordained

in Melbourne and returned to serve in England, where William was born. Brodribb later won the seat of Brighton and had a career in politics in Victoria and NSW.

Great Faithfulness, the centenary publication of the Diocese, details three generations of Tucker clergy who had an influence in Gippsland. In 1861 Joseph Tucker became the first Australian agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and was invited by the Bishop of Melbourne in 1869 to become Rector of Wangaratta and Archdeacon of Beechworth and Sale, covering some 400,000 hectares.

Joseph Tucker was joined in this ministry by his third son, Horace Tucker, and when Joseph retired in 1886 he went to live with Horace at Christ Church South Yarra, where Horace had become the Parish's

second Incumbent in 1880. Horace had since married Lavinia Brodribb, William Brodribb's sister, in 1873. One of the great late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century Christian socialists, Canon Tucker worked ecumenically during the 1890s depression in Melbourne to establish a scheme enabling families of the unemployed to settle in self-supporting villages. Several of these were established in west Gippsland, near Drouin and Neerim South.

In one of many initiatives to assist those of modest means, Horace Tucker built several "chapels of ease" so that the workers living in nearby suburbs could get to church on a Sunday without having to walk long distances. Of these, only St Martin's Hawksburn continues to function as an Anglican Church. Another, under the patronage of St Laurence, gave its name to the organization that Gerard Tucker, born to Horace and Lavinia in 1885, went on to co-found almost 90 years

ago. As a priest, Gerard Tucker was deeply influenced by both his grandfather and his father, and the Brotherhood of St Laurence continues his vision –

and theirs – in working for an Australia free of poverty. In the early 1950s Fr Tucker was invited to Bairnsdale, where his address on the subject of aged care inspired Canon Douglas Smith, the Rector, to start up what we know today as Clifton Waters Retirement Village.

The legacy of the Brodribbs in Gippsland is evident not only from the river and other landmarks that bear the family name. It is part of the pioneering spirit one encounters moving around the Diocese and hearing the stories of its people, past and present. Mindful of the pre-existing relationship with the land and the spirituality of our First Peoples, this legacy extends to those settlers who faced the tyranny of distance and topography to embody and build the Church's presence in remote areas – something of which I have been acutely conscious in an extended visit to our easternmost parishes in January.

In the intersecting story of three generations of Tucker clergy whose ministries were felt in Gippsland we are reminded of the call to advocate for justice, and to show compassion in caring for those most vulnerable in our midst. In this new year of grace, may our ecclesial family – whose baptismal waters are thick as blood – respond afresh to that calling.

+RM



Brodribb family reunion at Port Albert – Mike Tucker far right, beside Bishop Richard Treloar

The Gippsland Anglican

Member of Australasian Religious Press Association

Registered by Australia Post
Print Post Number 34352/00018

The *Gippsland Anglican* is the official newspaper of and is published by The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland, 453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria, 3850. www.gippsanglican.org.au

Editor: Jan Down
Tel: 0407 614 661
Email: editor@gippsanglican.org.au
Contributions are due by 15th of the month prior to publication

Layout by Devine Design
Printed by Fairfax Media,
30-32 Grandlee Drive,
Wendouree, Victoria, 3355.

The editor reserves the right of final choice and format of material included in each issue. The *Gippsland Anglican* and the editor cannot necessarily verify any material used in this publication. Views contained in submitted material are those of contributors.

Advertising Rates

Please contact the editor for all advertising submissions, costing and enquiries, including about inserts in the newspaper. A full advertising schedule can be sent out upon request.

Prayer Diary: around the parishes

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

AVON – EASTERN REGION

Holy Trinity, Stratford
All Saints, Briagolong
St Mary, Munro
Priest-in-Charge:
The Rev'd David Perryman

This mission-focused, three-centred Parish is located in East Gippsland. The parish is Christ-centred, seeking to make Jesus known in our local communities.

We currently have traditional worship services with the aim to bring all-age inclusive worship through 2019. We have regular Bible studies, *mainly music* and hopefully in early 2019 a children's movie night. In March we will be celebrating our second annual Family Fun Fair.

Please pray for us as we continue to grow community relationships, share the gospel and seek to implement all-age inclusive worship in the parish.

BAIRNSDALE EASTERN REGION

St John's, Bairnsdale
Rector:
The Rev'd Brenda Burney

We give thanks for the life and witness of our parish; for our community; for the possibilities and challenges that lie ahead; for our team of faithful, hard-working parishioners as they undertake their ministries and mission; for the blessing of Johnno's Outreach Centre and Men's Shed which

allow us to help those in need in our community.

Please pray for us as we seek to develop the ministries and mission identified at our parish visioning sessions last year: Praise and Prayer Evening Worship; Ministry to the homeless/needy; healing prayer; Alpha Courses; children's and youth ministry; and carpet bowls. We pray for those who will lead those ministries and that we will listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we discern what shape those ministries will take.

BASS / PHILLIP ISLAND – SOUTHERN REGION

St Paul's, Bass
St Philip's, Cowes

St Augustine's, San Remo
Rector: The Rev'd Jo White

The parish has worked hard to create its mission statement. Please pray that it will guide our decision making and enhance our life together. We give thanks that we are blessed with a fine, prominent position in the main street of Cowes.

This provides many opportunities for groups like Red Frogs, Theos and Scripture Union to minister to locals and visitors. We give thanks for the volunteers who open the Mary Talbot Room five days a week and those who help with fundraising barbeques and Devonshire teas, parish fete and regular second-hand book sales.

We plan to begin small groups this year so pray for this to grow gently and with God's leading.

Photo: Cathrine Muston



Happy Gippsland clergy at the Induction of the Rev'd Philip Kissick (centre) at St Matthew's, Bruthen

Tambo and Gippsland welcome Philip Kissick

Lyndon Phillips

Clergy from across the Diocese gathered on 16 January as Bishop Richard inducted and installed the Rev'd Philip Kissick as Rector to the Parish of Tambo.

This was a tremendous time of celebration and joy as the parish, wider community and Diocese welcomed Philip and his wife Ruth to Gippsland. Tambo's hospitality was evident as posters throughout Bruthen township invited all to come and share in this celebration.

Following a letter of introduction and support from the Parish of Beaufort / Skipton, wardens of Tambo enthusiastically welcomed Philip and Ruth during the service at St Matthew's Church Bruthen. Expressions

of welcome received from East Gippsland Mayor, Cr Natalie O'Connell, and Member for East Gippsland, Tim Bull MP, were also read by Archdeacon Edie Ashley.

Bishop Richard's message linking the history of ministry in Gippsland with the current environment of ministry informs us that the sense of hope and generosity, together with intentional pastoral care and practice is the essence of ministry that is the practice of Gippsland, encouraging all to reflect on how we journey with one another.

Previous incumbents, the Rev'd Laurie Baker, the Rev'd Canon Barb Logan; locum, the Rev'd Jude Benton; and Assisting Ministers, the Rev'd Jim Reeves, the Rev'd Canon Gordon Cooper and Archdeacon Ted Gibson were present and all offered their encouragement and welcome to Philip and Ruth into the diverse yet closely knit Parish of Tambo. Bishop Richard thanked those who had cared for the Parish between Incumbents for their generosity in pastorally caring for the parish over an extended period of time.

The Rev'd Jim Reeves welcomed Philip and Ruth on behalf of the local community sharing with the congregation the similarities between the locations and regions of ministry that both he and Philip had been involved with. The circular nature of life and the connections that are intrinsic to our being was the theme of Philip's response, linking together the message of hope, care and relationships.

A time of fellowship and supper followed the service where all who had gathered to welcome Philip and Ruth were able to once again share in the hospitality that Tambo offers and catch up with each other.

Philip and Ruth are settling into Bruthen easily and are looking forward to being involved with the wider community.

The Rev'd Lyndon Phillips is Rector of Rosedale, Priest-in-Charge of Heyfield and Regional Dean of the Eastern Region.

Photo: Jenny Lawrence



The Rev'd Philip and Ruth Kissick

GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANCIES

EASTERN REGION

- Heyfield

SOUTHERN REGION

- Yarram



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.

Contact the Diocese of Gippsland
453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria
PO Box 928, Sale, 3853
Telephone 03 5144 2044
Fax 03 5144 7183
Email registrar@gippsanglican.org.au

What's in a word?

**Colin Oakley
Westernport**

In Corinella, down on the foreshore, was a Christmas light display. I would like to say that we think outside the box, but in this case, it was not so. We thought in the box. Or boxes, as the case may be.

The invention of our local evangelist, Lyndell Park, these boxes were made from corflute board, with words from the prophecies and New Testament text cut out from them.

At night, lights inside lit up the boxes with the words standing out. During the day, scripture texts that were painted under the main words, could be seen. The large words were some that the world recognizes as related to Christmas: peace and love, but also hope and grace.

These boxes were made to look like Christmas presents. Our hope was that the public would link Christmas with presents and the words they saw first, but then question the others: grace and hope, and the scriptures that hold many lines that we hear in Christmas hymns and the Christmas story.

The words told us that not only is Jesus the reason for the season, but also so are we.

Jesus is at the centre not only of Christmas, but of all creation, which was made by and for him. The cross has an aim: you and me. The gift we receive at Christmas is also the gift we have at Easter.

We saw community interest in our church nativity scene and the foreshore

light display. Our prayer for ourselves and every other faith community, is that fruit will flow from our celebrations of the grace received. May His light shine in the darkness.



Trafalgar Christmas mural



Decorating tradition



The Advent wreath at St Mary's Morwell, made by Sandy Johnson

**Carolyn Raymond
Morwell**

At St Mary's in Morwell we are growing the tradition of decorating the church for significant times of the year. Our worship during Advent at the end of last year was

highlighted by a magnificent Advent wreath, made and decorated by Sandy Johnson. As we lit one candle more each week, the symbol of the Advent wreath stayed with us through the week.

Just before Christmas some of the congregation helped the Rev'd David Head

decorate the church. The evergreen Christmas tree, symbolizing the everlasting message of the gospels; the lights, symbolizing the light of Christ; and the cradle empty until Christmas Day, were installed. Large cut-outs of the figures of

the Christmas story were put up in the foyer. They could be seen from the street, welcoming people to this celebration. There were decorations all around the church, including wonderful flower vases in red and white, all of which became part of our worship.



Willing workers at the Korumburra community dinner

Combined Churches begin community dinners

**Martin Shaw
Korumburra / Poowong**

The Combined Churches of Korumburra, in partnership with St Vincent de Paul and Milpara Community House, held their first Community Dinner at the Anglican Parish Hall on Friday night, November 16.

Being the first of the monthly dinners planned, there was a bit of trepidation about how it would go - it would've been a lot of work if only a handful turned out for the event; that didn't happen. The smell of lasagna cooking, music and a good-time attitude enticed the community to come along. Everyone enjoyed the night, and there was a strong feeling of community spirit in the air - we were all buoyed by the outcome and are confident for the future potential of the dinner. As always, thanks go to the wonderful work of all our volunteers.

The seed for the idea of holding a monthly community dinner goes back to our Mission Statement and

discussions around its development. The Church's role is changing. While Sunday services mean much to those strong in the faith, we are all facing the challenge of attracting people to come to our services, and to gain a better understanding of what faith is about.

To achieve this, we need to move out of the building and onto the streets with strong outreach programs. Nothing new in this, we only have to look to the Salvos, but that is where we can best support our communities. To this end, the Rev'd Fran Grimes made a few calls. Vinnies, Milpara House and the Combined Churches of Korumburra were all keen and a date was set.

Since writing this we have had our second Community Dinner celebrating an early Christmas. The night again went well with everyone enjoying roast chicken and pork followed by Christmas pudding. Again there was a strong community feel on the night and we look forward to the continuation of the program in 2019.



Clergy Christmas Lunch

Clergy families enjoyed lunch and fun in the garden at Bishops Court. The Nutbush dancers are: Elisabeth, Emily and Merri Spalding, Cathrine Muston and Julie Lanham. Front: The Rev'd Canon Geoff Pittaway.

Mercy, courage, compassion, hope



The crowd packed into The Abbey for the ecumenical Advent Conversation

(Continued from page 1)

learn to live Eucharistically and prophetically; to be a bold minority.

Following a wonderful lunch, the afternoon session began with Professor Frank Moloney analysing the character of John the Baptist, a fiery, charismatic, urgent and passionate prophet in his role as forerunner of the Christ.

He described John as being at the crossroads of history, warning the Gentiles that just as the Jews had been brought low and the temple destroyed,

so too would they be destroyed if they betrayed the call to true discipleship.

He concluded that, like John, we are called to be "a marginal prophetic people, wheat rather than chaff, a people called to holiness".

"As good as it gets."

The Rev'd Philip Muston, Rector at Lakes Entrance / Metung

This address was followed by a review by Professor Lee of the visitation narrative which sees the overturning of social norms when the older, married, respected and pregnant Elizabeth, pays homage to the much younger, unmarried and pregnant Mary.

The longer birth narrative of both John and Jesus exalts the significance of Mary, and highlights the extraordinary faith of these two women, but especially Mary's, present not only at the birth of Jesus but at Pentecost when she is present at the birth of the church.

Professor Lee concluded that we are shown our vocation as God-bearers by these two wonderful women.

In commenting on these final talks, Bishop Pat spoke of our need to be prepared, penitential and persistent in pointing to Christ. Bishop Richard observed that ARCIC (the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission) had established common ground on our view of Mary and that he saw the Magnificat as a versified "yes" to God.

Question time was thoughtful and useful in exploring issues such as what to do next and how the concept of hell fitted with a loving God. The speakers seemed united in the belief that primitive understandings of hell as a place of eternal torment were unsustainable for that very reason.

The Advent conversation finished at four o'clock following a moving ecumenical service and the general consensus was that the day had been a wonderful learning and ecumenical experience.

The Bishop's Crozier presented at Abbey

In the break between sessions, the participants were surprised and delighted by the presentation to Bishop Richard of his crozier.

A gift from his Christ Church South Yarra congregation, the crozier was made in part from a cedar of Lebanon.

This tree, which had grown in Fawkner Park, adjacent to Christ Church, had blown down in a storm and the Parish was sufficiently prescient to harvest some of its timber for a new nave altar, from the remnants of which Bishop Richard's crozier was made.

The presentation was made by Lay Reader at Christ Church Mr Jamie Miller (who owns a farm near Moe) and the Rev'd Roxanne Addley, Assistant Curate at Christ Church.

Three new faces



Peter Carter

The Rev'd Peter Carter has been appointed as the minister of the Co-operating Churches of Churchill, Boolarra and Yinnar. His Induction will be on Sunday 17 February at 3:00 pm at Churchhill.

In the cycle of appointments, it was the Churches of Christ's nomination. Peter has worked as a mechanic and, prior to this, he was the Churches of Christ minister in Numurkah – his first time as a Pastor of a church, which he enjoyed very much.

He writes: "I am looking forward to this new ministry in the Co-operating Churches and to working with those who already have a passion for their Lord. It will also be great to get to know the people in the towns of Churchill, Yinnar and Boolarra, and have the opportunity to show them the love of Jesus".

Peter and his wife Tracy have three daughters, Elizabeth, Kellie and Christy. The family lived for many years at Smythsdale, south-west of Ballarat.

Ms Jackie Belot is the new full-time Chaplain at Gippsland Grammar School.

Jackie is an ordination candidate in the Diocese of Melbourne, and will be licensed as a Lay Chaplain in the first instance. She is a former student of Gippsland Grammar herself (years 7-10) and has served for almost 20 years in schools and as a church youth worker – most recently as Associate Chaplain and teacher of "RAVE" (Religious and Values Education) at Beaconhills College since 2014.

Jackie and her husband Troy Eckhardt moved to Sale in January, in time for her to begin work at the start of first term. An induction service will follow in due course.

Mr Roger Blythman has been appointed as Deputy Chancellor for the Diocese, assisting Ms Rowena Armstrong AO, QC in advising the bishop on legal and constitutional matters.

Roger graduated with a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Melbourne in 1971. He was admitted to practise as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1972. Thereafter

he has practised in the City of Melbourne as a solicitor dealing with a broad range of legal matters in most jurisdictions. Lately he has



Jackie Belot

given more emphasis to the creation and administration of trusts, including charitable trusts. He has also assisted with professional standards matters concerning church workers.

Roger has worshipped at Christ Church South Yarra since 1982, where he served on its vestry for over 20 years. He is married to Alison, who was born in Bairnsdale and lived at Bruthen until she moved to Melbourne for work. They have two sons, and have recently become grandparents.



Roger Blythman



The Rev'd Roxanne Addley, Jamie Miller and Bishop Richard Treloar with new crozier



L to R: Claire and Georgia Roughley, Charlotte Bingley, Rector Brenda, Bishop Richard, Matthew and Peggy McDonald Front: Grace Roughley, Ashleigh Corpe

Questions are good!

**Ursula Plunkett
Bairnsdale**

On Sunday, 18 November 2018, Bishop Richard Treloar visited St John's Bairnsdale to confirm five teenagers: Peggy and Matthew McDonald, Charlotte Bingle, Georgia and Claire

Roughley; and to admit to communion two younger ones: Ashleigh Corpe and Grace Roughley.

The bishop also hosted an informal Regional Gathering in the afternoon.

In his sermon, Bishop Richard spoke about the bishop's staff, which reminds us of a shepherd's crook,

but "also looks a bit like a question mark: inviting us to keep asking questions, so that we grow in our faith, and so that our faith grows with us on life's journey. Because the opposite of faith isn't doubt; the opposite of faith is certainty. As soon as we think we have it all figured out, we stop

asking questions, and we stop learning, and that's a sad day."

Five confirmees and two communicants made Bishop Richard think of the five loaves and two little fishes with which Jesus fed a whole multitude. What amazing things will God's Holy Spirit do through each of you, he wondered, and through all of us?

There were 98 people in church and the singing was amazing!

Regional Gathering

After lunch at the Rectory, parishioners from Bairnsdale, Paynesville, (including Archdeacon Edie Ashley) Metung, Lakes Entrance, Sale, Heyfield and Rosedale attended the Eastern Regional Gathering.

The Bishop spoke about his first three months in the Gippsland Diocese and how he hasn't stopped travelling from place to place, meeting people from different parts of Gippsland.

His introductory comments covered topics ranging from drought to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, to the wider cultural "trust deficit" affecting banks and many social institutions. He reflected on the demographic of our churches, the challenges of sustainability, our reliance in many places on op shops, and the changing face of volunteerism. Bishop Richard also shared some insights from Greg Sheridan's book, *God is Good for You*.

Many questions were asked, and topics discussed, including the spirituality of young people and how to connect "missing generations" with the church. Stories from school chaplaincy, *mainly music* and Messy Church offered encouragement.

We have to remember that God is with us at all times, and our mission is to find out what God is already doing in the world and join in!

Vale Annette Lade

Mary Nicholls



On Tuesday 4 December an overflowing congregation at St James' Traralgon gathered for the funeral of Annette Lade of Traralgon, formerly Traralgon South. She died on 24 November 2018, aged 71.

Annette, with generosity, friendliness and humour, served and encouraged her communities and diocese well, particularly for many of us, through her role on the Girl's Friendly Society

and GFS / KidsPlus+ Executive.

Annette served as Treasurer for over 26 years, and acted as leader, alongside Beryl Farmer and Kath Simpson, of a very active Traralgon South GFS group at St Stephen's. She also represented Gippsland as a leader of the South Australian GFS National Camp Jervois. If work prevented Annette from

attending our annual Gippsland GFS camps full-time, she endeavoured to turn up on the final day to assist the teams with clean up.

Despite a tragic car accident in 2014 which left her in a wheel chair, as a quadriplegic, Annette continued, with support and encouragement from her husband Trevor, to participate in nearly all of our diocesan Adult Fellowship activities. We all appreciated her hospitality for a couple of gatherings in the guest rooms at BUPA Care Traralgon, where she was confined for some time. Annette was an exceptional recipient of a Gippsland GFS "Life Membership" Award.

The service of thanksgiving and celebration of a life so

bravely and generously lived, in faith, was an example for us all. Stories were shared of Annette's valued participation, interest and giftedness in the Traralgon Garden Club, in her music (ukulele, singing), her challenges through rehabilitation to adapt to harmonica lessons and her own surprise and perseverance in the art of mouth painting in which over three years she became so proficient. A good friend to many, greatly missed. May she rest in peace, as the good and faithful servant we knew her to be.

Latrobe Valley Funeral Services

- Qualified, experienced and caring staff
- Modern chapels
- Refreshments and catering facilities available
- Secure, guaranteed, pre-paid and pre-arranged funeral plans
- Over 70 years of service to the Latrobe Valley

MOE 5126 1111
MORWELL 5134 4937
TRARALGON 5174 2258

Owned and operated by Paul and Katrina McInnes
Proud member of the Australian Funeral Directors Association and the Australian and British Institutes of Embalming



PAUL
McINNES
Director



JOHN
GALBRAITH
Consultant



MARK
RIDDLE
Consultant



DAVID
HASTIE
Consultant

Bunyip Lecture: aerial fire spotting in Gippsland

The next Bunyip Lecture will be presented by Ray Hodges on 24 February at 2:00 pm. Ray was brought up on a dairy farm just north of Newcastle NSW. His first educational love was chemistry, working at BHP research while doing his BSc. The farm was under an approach path of the nearby

RAAF base, and before going to Sydney to do his PhD, Ray ventured into this second love by learning to fly in the mid 1960s. Then, whilst in England, to top off his education, ever looking for a deeper meaning to life, he sought and accepted the even higher aspiration by becoming a believer.

In 1984, Oliver Raymond of APM Forests invited Ray to trial aerial fire spotting. Once its benefits were established, Latrobe Valley Aero Club members became the major participants for 30 years. Ray's last fire spotting flights were logged in 2011.

Ray and his wife Delma started downsizing from Churchill to Garfield in 2015, and also enjoying some flying in aircraft based at Drouin South.

Stephen Baggs Funeral Directors

Talk to us about our at-need, pre-paid or pre-arranged funeral services.

613 MAIN STREET BAIRNSDALE
Call 24 hours on 5153 2150 or visit us at www.stephenbaggs.com.au



The Rev'd Heather Toms with her brick and bottle

Brick award for Heather Toms

The Rev'd Heather Toms, Anglican Chaplain at Fulham Correctional Centre, received her "Brick" from the Rev'd Rob Ferguson (Senior Chaplain ACJM) during the Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry Christmas lunch in December.

The Brick celebrates a prison chaplain's ten year anniversary of service with ACJM (Colloquially a "brick" is a ten year prison sentence). During this time Heather has served as both the Anglican Chaplain, and as the Chaplaincy Coordinator for the prison. Her care of the men who have been residents of this facility is well known; other prison chaplains throughout the State often hear her praises

sung as men are transferred between prisons.

Heather's ministry includes not only pastoral care, but regular worship services which are well attended in the prison, as well as other pastoral services.

Prison chaplaincy is an important ministry of the Church, often reaching out to people who have never before considered God's presence in their lives. It is a ministry of "showing and telling" the Kingdom of God in a challenging environment. Our Anglican chaplaincy in prisons is a partnership between the Diocese and Anglicare Victoria, and is remembered annually throughout the Diocese on ACJM Sunday (this year on 5 May).

Geoff Pittaway to retire

The Rev'd Canon Geoff Pittaway, Rector of Mirboo North, Canon of St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, and Regional Dean of the Southern Region, is to retire later this month.

Geoff's deep commitment to the congregation and the whole community of Mirboo North, as well as to the Diocese of Gippsland have been greatly appreciated. In 2015 he was awarded Citizen of the Year for Mirboo North. In 2017 he was appointed as a Canon of the Cathedral.

He has also served as a member of Bishop in Council and has been Regional Coordinator with the Victorian Council of Churches Emergency Ministry.

Geoff and his wife Liz came to Mirboo North in 2008. Prior to this, Geoff ministered in parishes in Geelong and Melbourne. He offers the following farewell comment:

"Retirement always seemed a long way off, but now after 29 years in ministry it is only a matter of weeks away (24 February).

I finish in a good place. The community and Parish of Mirboo North have both been a positive and encouraging place for ministry. The congregation, while relatively modest in size, has always had a big impact on the surrounding community and further afield, including a continuing connection with Rwanda. I have enjoyed being able to be a part of the journey with them.

And I have been able to make solid and good connections with many people in the community where ministry takes place in all sorts of ways, showing that the Kingdom of God extends well beyond the walls of the Church.

Nonetheless, it has also been pleasing to see that the church buildings have become important gathering areas for the community to meet and enjoy.

The question for Liz and me is, "Now what?" Well, we will enjoy being closer to most of our family in Geelong. And there is the house painting to finish! And I hope to continue in some form of ministry, maybe the occasional locum, but more likely as a funeral celebrant which is a part of ministry that I find fulfilling, surprisingly.

Thank you to everyone in the Diocese of Gippsland for your friendship, encouragement, and fellowship as we travel together covered in the "dust" of our Lord and Leader, Jesus Christ. Your Christian brother, Geoff Pittaway."



The Rev'd Jo White, the Rev'd Canon Geoff Pittaway and Marion Dewar at the Deanery gathering late in 2018

Drought service of lament and prayer

Jan Down

An ecumenical service of lament and prayer for the ending of the drought was held at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, at 3:00 pm on Sunday 9 December. There was heavy rain just before the service, but not for long, and a great deal more rain is needed to break the drought.

Dean Susanna Pain welcomed the congregation of around 70 people from churches, farms and towns.

Ministers from several denominations took part in the service. The Uniting Church

minister, the Rev'd Sue Stott, led "The Grieving" section of the liturgy, when symbols of grief – bones, dry earth and a bare branch – were placed on a cloth. Sue talked about her visit to a family in her congregation who live on a 3000 acre sheep farm, at Giffard West, south of Sale. Sue learned that "drought is about decision making", and about priorities, in order to keep both animals and land healthy for when the drought breaks.

Pastor Jacquie Postlethwaite from the Baptist church led "The Questioning", inviting people to call out their

questions. Caption Simon Mapleback of the Salvation Army led "The Weeping", when a small bowl of water was placed to represent the tears of the people. Dean of St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Sale, Fr Peter Bickley gave the homily.

There were local stories told of the drought; music, poems and songs. A reading of hope and promise, from Isaiah 44:3-4 began "I shall pour out water on the thirsty soil and streams on dry ground..."

The prayers, led by the Rev'd Heather Toms, were followed by the "New Story" segment,



A farm just out of Sale – photo taken in mid January

when the Rev'd David Perryman added a young plant, food and pea straw to the growing collection of symbols.

The service moved from lament to hope, as Dean Susanna led a commitment to building the future, the Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow read the story of "The Rainmaker" and Bishop Richard brought the service to its positive conclusion, bringing encouragement to many.

Following afternoon tea, people were invited to join a prayer vigil for the breaking of the drought, which continued through to midnight.

Kids' Min



All the lost sheep were eventually found, with the help of visiting children.

Christmas Eve Family Service at St Philip's

**Kath Kent
Bass / Phillip Island**

The knitted sheep donated by the members of "Bee Crafty" for The Messy

Nativity Sheep Trail – held around the shops in Cowes – were the highlight at the 5:00 pm Family Service on Christmas Eve.

The Rev'd Jo White warmly welcomed families

of all ages to the service and the parish hall was suitably decorated for this occasion with a nativity scene, Advent candles and flowers.

Thanks to David Prideaux on keyboard and Imogen Price on guitar for providing music for the carols and to all those from the Worship Committee who participated and made the visitors welcome,



David Prideaux on keyboard and Imogen Price on guitar.

read lessons, led the prayers, provided data projection and dressed the shepherds.

There was much laughter as the shepherd and his helpers, chosen from the congregation, searched for the lost sheep, who were kept hidden amongst those present. The lost sheep bleating to be heard left a lot to the imagination, but finally all were found and

brought to safety.

In place of a formal sermon, Jo gave a wonderful reading of "Jed and Roy McCoy", with participation from those present, and using her acting abilities to the full.

An atmosphere of friendliness and excitement permeated the whole evening, which was a fitting opening to the joy of Christmas.

Inverloch hosts SUFM

Jane Peters



The Inverloch (Church of the Ascension) building was well used by the Scripture Union Family Mission team.

After a fifth Sunday combined parish service, the churches shared a meal with the team. It was an encouraging day.

DMG FINANCIAL PLANNING

We are here to assist you in making informed financial decisions to secure financial certainty.

We are very open about fees and will provide a quote before you commit to our services.

Contact Julie Irving

for a confidential chat.

03 5143 7400

67-71 Foster Street, Sale

www.dmgfinancial.com.au



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Keeping up on your super contributions during volatility

After a downturn in share prices and higher market volatility, many super fund members may think twice about continuing to make voluntary contributions.

The rewards of maintaining voluntary contributions throughout the ups and downs of markets include: continuing concessional tax treatment, compounding long-term returns, sticking to your investment strategy and paying less for shares after prices have fallen.

Super fund members having contributions regularly paid into their diversified super accounts are practising a form of a disciplined investment

strategy known as dollar-cost averaging.

Dollar-cost averaging simply involves investing the same amount of money into shares or broadly-diversified managed funds at regular intervals over a long period.

The main attribute of dollar-cost averaging is not so much the price paid for securities. It is the adherence to that disciplined, non-emotional approach to investing that is not thrown off course by prevailing market sentiment and higher volatility.

The tax benefits of salary-sacrificed contributions can help cushion your investments, on paper

at least, of a downturn in market prices. This is because these so-called concessional contributions are made in pre-tax dollars and subject only to the standard 15 per cent contributions tax.

Yet the same amount of money invested outside super would have been first subject to pay-as-you go tax; typically meaning that less is left to invest. With more money initially invested, fund members are somewhat cushioned from a downturn in prices.

For more information please contact Julie Irving from DMG Financial, 1300 932 3843 [1300 WEADVISE].

Important: Any information provided by the author detailed above is separate and external to our business and our AFSL. Neither our business, nor our Licensee take any responsibility for any action or any service provided by the author. Written by Robin Bowerman, Head of Corporate Affairs at Vanguard.



Quarks, black holes and God

Daniel Lowe



Daniel Lowe

Listening to an interview on the radio with a scientific expert on black holes, I was intrigued at just how vague some of his answers were. It seems that while we understand a lot more than we used to, there is still much about black holes that remain a mystery. The *National Geographic* says “No one has ever seen a black hole, and no one ever will... The presence of a hole is deduced by the effect it has on its surroundings. It’s like looking out a window and seeing every treetop bending

in one direction. You’d almost certainly be right in assuming that a strong yet invisible wind was blowing. When you ask the experts how certain we are that black holes are real, the steady answer is 99.9 percent; if there

aren’t black holes in the centre of most galaxies, there must be something even crazier.” (www.nationalgeographic.com.au/space/star-eater.aspx)

Life is no less confusing at the small end of the scale. Quarks are fun. They are subatomic particles that haven’t been observed but exist in theory, oh and they don’t exist except in pairs, threes or maybe fives! Or did you know that electrons have a crazy property? Two physicists, Drs S Haroche and D Wineland, won the Nobel Prize in physics for proving the correctness of the bizarre properties of quantum

mechanics, i.e. that electrons can be two places at the same time!

The Trinity – the concept of God as both three (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and one – is one of those notoriously difficult concepts to explain. Over the centuries people have come up with all sorts of metaphors, analogies and illustrations to try and explain it – the Trinity is like water; like an egg; an apple; a shamrock and in one elusive reference by author Adrian Plass, the Trinity is like a vacuum cleaner! The one thing everyone agrees on is that the Trinity is an incredibly hard concept to understand and even harder to explain.

In our predominantly secular society, we readily accept many of the mysteries

encountered in the scientific realm, confident that eventually we will figure it out, and yet there is a tendency to dismiss out of hand the mysteries of God. “We can’t see God so how do we know he exists?”; “How can something be both three and one?”

Just like the world science explores, God is mysterious, not boring. God is big and exciting and confusing. God does things that make little sense to us. We should expect God to be more amazing than the universe He created.

I don’t want a God who is less complicated than my alarm clock!

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

Anglicare Fare Connecting young people in Bass Coast

Cathrine Muston, Anglicare Development Officer

In 2018 Anglicare Victoria employed Emily Jolly as a Youth Worker in the Bass Coast. Since then, Emily has wasted no time in building up support for young people and creating partnerships in Wonthaggi.

Working alongside teachers at Wonthaggi Secondary College, Emily led a group of Year 10 students on the Hike for Higher Education Program to Maria Island. Upon their return she has worked to strengthen the students’ connection with higher education with a trip to Melbourne where they had the opportunity to visit RMIT, the University of Melbourne



Emily Jolly (kneeling) and young people painting the new Youth Hub at Wonthaggi

and William Angliss Institute.

As Anglicare’s representative on the YES Youth Hub Committee, Emily has been

instrumental in the Pick My Project grant application which was successful in receiving government funding to set up

a youth space which will host activities and provide support for young people.

The Youth Hub has been established with the particular focus to engage, educate and empower young people in the Bass Coast area. According to its business plan, the Hub will “provide a welcome and safe environment for youths to seek personal help, gain vital community skills, do homework and study and to also socialise and meet other youth in the area”. Construction and preparation for the YES Youth Hub is underway and it plans to open in February.

Alongside this she has gathered a number of organizations together to run a breakfast club for students on the senior campus, out of the Wonthaggi Anglican Church which is opposite the McBride campus of Wonthaggi Secondary College.

The funding for Emily Jolly’s position was initially for 12 months, but Anglicare Victoria has been able to extend the position thanks to a bequest

from South Gippsland resident, Robert Burden.

Robert was well known in the South Gippsland area, having moved with his parents to Dumbalk in 1927. From this time, Robert was a member of St. Andrew’s Dumbalk and St. David’s Meeniyan as well as a regular at St Peter’s Leongatha. He served on Parish Council for 40 years and as parish secretary for five as well as being a Lay Reader. Robert’s interests were wide and he always valued the sense of community that Church fellowship brought. It is therefore fitting that the generous bequest left to Anglicare Victoria by Robert’s estate should go towards ensuring that young people are connected to community and to further education.

Robert was the kind of man who wanted to make a difference in his own quiet way. If, like Robert, you would like to make a difference in your local community and support the work of Anglicare Victoria we would love to speak to you further.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED?

Very few of us give much thought to how we wish to be remembered when we pass. How we choose to have our lives celebrated and the legacy we leave for future generations are two things we rarely think about in today’s busy world.

Yet, while we plan for travel, finances, retirement and other important events – even consulting our families and solicitors if we plan to leave a Gift in our Will to a worthy organisation like Anglicare Victoria – so few of us realise how easily we can relieve the emotional stress, chaos and demands on those we leave behind.

Ensuring Peace of Mind; My Personal Wishes for Remembrance is a practical booklet, produced with compliments of Anglicare Victoria, which allows you the space and guidance to record today how you’d like your funeral or memorial service to be.



Jenny Disney, mother of two, grandmother of four and parishioner at St Margaret’s, Eltham, explains: “Once you start going to funerals on a regular basis, I think that’s the time to think about how you’d like to be remembered.”

“I’ve given away dozens of copies of *Ensuring Peace of Mind; My Personal Wishes for Remembrance* to other parishioners at St Margaret’s. It’s so well-presented and useful and is the most wonderful ‘organiser of ideas’ in the one place. It’s also very inclusive. It’s not giving me information and then asking me to make up my mind or telling me what to think, it allows me to simply write down my ideas and express what I would like to see happen.”

“Having this documented will make things so much easier for family and friends who are grieving, and yet needing to make quick decisions, as it lets them see that this is who and what their loved one wanted.”

Request Your FREE Copy Today



Ensuring Peace of Mind; My Personal Wishes for Remembrance is a 40-page booklet which allows you to record your wishes, key details and important personal information in an organised way in your own time. Importantly, it could save some difficult conversations and minimise your loved ones’ distress when they most need it – thus, giving you real peace of mind today.

- YES, please send me my FREE copy of Anglicare Victoria’s *Ensuring Peace of Mind; My Personal Wishes for Remembrance* today.
- Please also send me further information about leaving a Gift in my Will to Anglicare Victoria.

Full Name: _____
Address: _____
Postcode: _____
Daytime Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please cut off and mail to:
Anglicare Victoria
Mr Peter Burt
Relationship Manager
P.O. Box 45
ABBOTSFORD VIC 3067



(03) 9412 6197 | anglicarevic.org.au

BETTER TOMORROWS

The shy truth/

In this digital age of distraction, Nikolai Blaskow asks what light a Christian understanding of things might throw on our understanding of the self, and the inner life. He looks to the story of Jesus and Zaccheus for answers.

*A small shy truth arrives.
Arrives from without and within.
Arrives and is born.
Simple, steady, clear.
Like a mirror, like a bell,
like a flame.
Like rain in summer.
A precious truth arrives
and is born within us.
Within our emptiness.*

Michael Leunig

Why the truth might be – the self even more so. Indeed, Sebastian Smee in his *Quarterly Essay* “Net Loss, The Inner Life In the Digital Age”, suggests that for all our striving we are nowhere near even defining what the self is. But one thing, he suggests, is certain – that in the digital age we are losing ourselves and even the notion of an “inner life”. Should that be of concern?

While a notion of the self does exist, it is talked about by only the few. Saul Bellow in his 1964 comic novel, for instance (observes Smee), gives expression to it through the persona of Herzog as he waits full of desire for his lover Ramona. In these moments of anticipation, comes this

remarkable reflection on what the self might be:

In a city. In a century. In transition. In a mass. Transformed by science...Subject to tremendous controls...In a society that was no community and devalued the person...Which permitted savagery and barbarism in its own great cities. At the same time the pressure of human millions who have discovered what concerted thoughts and efforts can do. As megatons of water shape organisms on the ocean floor.

From this Bellow would seem to imply that the self is like organisms, stones – each formed by pressure. Not just angst and despair, notes Smee, but by “rapture, the simple euphoria of being alive, of anticipating, of desiring.” (QE 72 2018 35).

What Smee is concerned about is that the digital age actually aids and abets the demise of our capacity to reflect on what it means to be an individual self, particularly by promoting the illusion that the inner life and private life are one and the same thing.

My question, after reading the *Essay*, is this: what light might a Christian understanding of things throw on the self, and the inner life? I ask this question because Smee, for all of his best intentions to remain optimistic about the possibility of maintaining the integrity of the self and the sanctity of the inner life in the face of such intrusions, tends towards a sad recognition, that in the long run the digital invasion will progressively destroy that self and that inner life. He writes (QE 55):

“...Jesus... too had to struggle to overcome the cultural toxicities of his day.”

Today being human means being distracted. It is our new default setting. We are almost all living in a state of constant distraction. In the meantime, our deepest feelings are being flushed out, forced to the surface, dissolved in the endless chatter of our heavily mediated environment, trampled underfoot in the rush to be heard, and seen.

I suggest that the story of Jesus’ ability to see into the inner life of Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10) might be a good starting point to reassure us that even under the worst conditions there is nothing inevitable about the violation

EDITORIAL

Inspiration for action

How inspiring, to see thousands of school children striking for climate action around Australia late last year, including a small band at Yarragon (*Latrobe Valley Express* 3/12/18).

The original impetus came from one 15 year-old Swedish girl. Can one person make a difference? Yes!

So how much difference can one church make – or a whole diocese?

Gippsland parishes have just received the new Diocesan handbook for the environment, entitled *Building Better Relationships with our World*. It is also available via the diocesan website, on the Resources page.

In 2007, the Diocese adopted a bill entitled “Protection of the Environment Canon 2007” which acknowledges God’s sovereignty over creation and recognizes the serious threat of climate change, among other things. The handbook has been produced in response to the Canon.

It is a great resource for parishes in improving their efforts to “safeguard the integrity of creation, and to sustain and renew the life of earth”, as the fifth Mark of Mission says. Based on material from the dioceses of Grafton and Canberra / Goulburn, with their permission, it includes ways to “build better relationships” in the garden and through management of water, energy and transport. The parish audits of land, water and energy could be particularly helpful.

The handbook lists some “golden opportunities” for taking action, such as when building, or making a major purchase like a new hot water system or car, and offers resources.

Other than those times, we might sometimes wonder where to start, and what is most important. *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Roll Back Global Warming*, edited by Paul Hawken, lists in order of priority, and describes, the 80 most effective, practical solutions to climate change. The book was put together by an international coalition of researchers, scientists and policy makers, and is an incredibly positive read.

At number three, surprisingly, is reducing food waste. The researchers found that up to 35% of food in high-income countries like Australia is thrown out, often because of the “ugly” factor – think knobbly carrots. The food we waste contributes about 8% of total greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, millions of people don’t have enough to eat.

Just knowing what a difference we can make can be very motivating, and set us thinking about what we can do next to help heal God’s world.

Handley & Anderson

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Servicing South Gippsland & Phillip Island

Scott & Sharon Anderson

***With care & dignity we serve
South Gippsland and Phillip Island***

Main Office:
WONTHAGGI/INVERLOCH (03) 5672 1074
 176-178 Graham Street, Wonthaggi, 3995
 Fax: (03) 5672 1747
 email: randm33@bigpond.net.au

PHILLIP ISLAND (03) 5952 5171
 15 Warley Avenue, Cowes, 3922 (by appointment only)

Pre-paid & pre-arranged funeral plans available.

CARING & PERSONAL 24 HOUR SERVICE
www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au

MEMBER OF AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

the shy self

of the inner self and life. Here are some pointers as to why there is reason for optimism:

1. *Despite the hostile environment of Jericho, Jesus is clear minded enough to see beyond social stereotypes.*
2. *Even in a crowd situation, Jesus maintains the kind of presence of mind that:*
 - a. *spots Zacchaeus amongst the foliage in the tree;*
 - b. *sees beyond his notoriety as an embezzler.*
3. *Despite the white noise of the crowd, Jesus "hears" this man's cry for help, his strong desire to be something better than the man who has sold himself out to greed and betrayed his country – no distractions there, on Jesus' part.*
4. *Jesus, conscious of the crowd's displeasure, and ruthless criticism, nevertheless follows his intuition, by inviting himself to Zacchaeus' home.*
5. *To realize that this man Zacchaeus is ready for a radical makeover, to speak prophetically as Jesus does, requires a self-awareness that acknowledges his vocation, a deep connection with the man's inner state of mind and an awareness*

of God's disposition towards him as "a son of Abraham".

6. *And finally, there is the undeniable fact that this story puts before us: that the man whose mind was mindless (initially only driven by curiosity, "trying to see who Jesus was") becomes so mindful of his woeful predicament (that he had made his living by fraud at the expense of others, that his life is one of shameless selfcentredness).*

Ah, you protest, but Jesus is God – of course, he's able to overcome the destructive forces that eat away at the integrity of a person, but I'm just an ordinary mortal. However, Jesus, as our creed informs us, became "truly human", and he too had to struggle to overcome the cultural toxicities of his day – think of his dealings with the Syro-Phoenician woman, and the Canaanite woman: his self-possession with the Samaritan woman at the well did not happen in a vacuum.

Even Smee, in the end, holds out some hope for a breakthrough (QE 56):

But it may be, that even in this brave new interconnected world, we can find ways to pay attention again to our solitude, daring to hope

that we might connect that solitude to the solitude of others.

With the experiences of 2019 about to burst upon us, the shy truth of Jesus tells us that this is not a false hope. And that grand old saint, St Philotheos of Sinai agrees, perhaps not so shyly, offering this spectacular assurance:

Let us go forward with the heart completely attentive and the soul fully conscious. For if attentiveness and prayer are daily joined together, they become like Elijah's fire-bearing chariot, raising us to heaven. What do I mean? A spiritual heaven, with sun, moon, and stars, is formed in the blessed heart of one who has reached a state of watchfulness, or who strives to attain it; for such a heart... is enabled to contain within itself the uncontainable God.

St Philotheos of Sinai, "Texts on Watchfulness," in *The Philokalia*, Vol III London: Faber and Faber, 1984, p. 26

The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow is Head of RAVE (Religion and Values Education) at Gippsland Grammar School, and honorary priest at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale



Broadcasting Christian Music
24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Uplifting, encouraging and empowering
...that's our aim

204 Raymond Street, Sale, Vic., 3850
Telephone: 03 5143 0355
Fax: 03 5143 0388
Feedback: 03 5143 0357
www.lifefm.com.au

Life changing radio..... 103.9



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'.



OFFICE OF THE | Director of Professional Standards

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

The Diocese is committed to ensuring all people in contact with the Church can participate in a safe and responsible environment. If you may have been harmed by a church worker, or know someone who has, please come forward.

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

Tattoo artist for God

James Brown (Metung) in conversation with Jan Down

The next tattoo James Brown wants done is IHS, because it's the name of Jesus – coming from the first three letters of Jesus in Greek (ΙΗΣΟΥΣ) latinised to IHS. It will go under the face of Jesus, already on his forearm.

Tattooing was something James wanted to do from childhood, and he feels he was made to do this work.

As a boy, his two idols were Muhammad Ali, the boxer, and Bon Scott, the tattooed original lead singer of AC/DC. He remembers seeing Bon Scott on *Countdown* in 1974, wearing a dress and wig singing *Baby Please Don't Go*. James was thinking "he is such a character ... such a cool tattooed rocker".

At the same time, James was also growing into faith in Christ. He attended Sunday School at the Church of Christ in Essendon and then, when he was about nine or ten, joined the Christian Boys Club, run by Jack Pemberton, "Mr Pem".

"Jack was definitely the gentleman that established my love of the Lord, and faith, he was such a lovely man", James says. He remembers, "Before we left Christian Boys Club we'd all join hands and sing *Onward Christian Soldiers*, and still to this day that song resonates with me".

James' first tattoo was a home-made job when he was 11 years old: he took a pin from his mother's sewing kit and, taught by an older boy, wrapped it in cotton so just the tip of the pin was showing. He then dipped it in Indian ink and inscribed C O, the initials of his first girl friend who, of course, two weeks later said to him, "You're dropped."

The first real professional tattoo James received was his blood group, a classic soldier's tattoo done in his first year in the army at age 17. His father could see the point of this, but threatened him with caustic soda and a wire brush if he ever had any more. So when, several years later, his dad turned up unannounced for a visit, and saw him mowing the lawn in a singlet with tattoos down his arms, James says "I felt like a deer caught in the headlights". Fortunately,

by that time his dad was ready to accept it.

"Some people dislike tattoos greatly and will unfavourably judge you for having them", James says, "which is sad". He explains it to people by saying "If my body is the house where my soul resides, I've just decided to decorate the outside". He also likes to give people a laugh, and set them at ease.

After six years in the regular army (time James doesn't regret, as it taught him self-discipline – "I was a roguish, cheeky child" he says) he jumped at the opportunity that came up to do an apprenticeship as a tattoo artist.

He has now been in the business for 32 years and his art fascinates him as much today as it did when he was a young boy. He and his wife, Sally Brandum Brown, moved to Metung from Rye in 2016, and now run what they understand to be the only tattoo B&B in the world.

It is set in the bush on the outskirts of Metung, where in childhood James used to come with his Dad and spend time on the lakes fishing and cruising on Bull's cruisers. James says, "My Dad's ashes are spread smack in the middle of Lake King and I'll be out there with him one day, hopefully in about 40 years; it's an incredibly beautiful final resting place".

James and Sally attend St John's at Metung, where the Rev'd Heather Toms, Anglican chaplain at Fulham Prison, was recently taking a locum. This is how James came to be a prison chaplain himself.

One day she invited James to come with her to the prison. James says he cannot speak highly enough of Heather, who was recently presented with a Brick Award for ten years' service as a prison Chaplain. (See page 7).



James Brown

After that first visit, Heather asked James if he'd like to become a prison chaplain, and he felt a strong calling to this work, which he loves. He had worked in Turana Youth training Centre, with God's Squad, the Christian motorcycle club established by the Rev'd John Smith in the late 1960s. "Me being a big six foot five, 145 kg tattoo artist who is covered in tattoos, it gives me that avenue to relate virtually instantly – tattoos can break down barriers," James says. "Most of the lads that come to us are of faith, and some aren't; some find the Lord in prison, which is a beautiful, beautiful thing to witness". He has seen at least four baptisms in the prison, two of them at Christmas last year, with Bishop Richard present.

Lucky Diamond Rich, who is in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's most tattooed man, recently tattooed the Canterbury Cross on the back of James' leg. It was Lucky who said to James, "Tattoo ink is truth serum". James explains this is because tattooing is such intimate work, and it takes time. A large back piece might take 40 hours over many sessions, so you get to know people and they open up to you. "You've got to be a good artist and a good counsellor", James says, so it has been "a good training ground for prison chaplaincy".

Diocesan calendar

February

- 10 4:00 pm Evensong and Collation of the Ven Sue Jacka as Archdeacon of the Western Region, at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 17 3:00 pm Induction of the Rev'd Peter Carter at Churchill
- 24 2:00 pm "Aerial Fire Spotting in Gippsland" the 6th Bunyip Lecture, presented by Ray Hodges, at St Thomas', Bunyip (See also page 6)

March

- 2 10:00 am – 3:00 pm Avon Parish Family Fun Day at Holy Trinity Stratford. Free activities for children. More information on the church website/Facebook page. Enquiries to the Rev'd David Perryman: 0401 035 379
- 2 12 noon – 4:00 pm Gathering of The Abbey Dispersed Community, presenter: Sue Fordham. RSVP by 26 Feb. Inquiries: 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au
- 6 10:00 am Ash Wednesday service, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 6 5:30 pm Service of Lament in response to the national apology for institutional abuse – St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 13 Spiritual Direction Day at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 16 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Community Quiet Day led by Bishop Richard Treloar at Holy Trinity, Stratford. Details, Jane: 0411 316 346
- 25 11:00 am Anglican Mothers Union Lady Day, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

April

- 3 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Contemplative Quiet Afternoon with Exhibition – Stations of the Cross, at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 13 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Men's Retreat Afternoon at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

Advance notice: Launch of the "Get Out for Good" program in Gippsland at 10:00 am on Wednesday, 1 May at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. The program provides mentoring and support for those leaving prison.



SEMMENS FUNERALS
SERVICING GIPPSLAND
Col. Paul & Brad Semmens



Our Family Caring For Your Family Since 1979

Member Of The Australian Funeral Directors Association

Maffra 5147 1954
Sale 5144 1954
Heyfield 5148 3354

www.semmensfunerals.com.au
24 Hour Service



Barry & Annette Lett

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

We offer care, compassion and service with dignity, for the people of Gippsland
Caring and personal 24-hour service
Chapel facilities available.

67 Macarthur Street, Sale
Phone 5143 1232
www.lettsfunerals.com.au
Member Australian Funeral Directors Association