

The Gippsland Anglican

Volume 115, Number 2, March 2018

Published in Gippsland Diocese since 1904

Jo White inducted at Cowes



Jan Down

The Rev'd Jo White and her husband Ken at the clergy dinner before the service

It was never going to work, trying to fit the numbers expected for the induction of the Rev'd Jo White into the tiny building of St Philip's at Cowes, so members of the parish of Bass / Phillip Island carried the necessary church furniture into the larger hall, and the new Rector was able to be placed in her stall by the Administrator of the diocese, Archdeacon Philip Muston, on Friday 16 February.

The hall was filled with over 100 people, including some from Jo's previous parish of Yarram, friends and family from Melbourne, Ballarat and Merricks, clergy and lay people from many parts of the diocese, as well as representatives of the three parish centres and the local community.

Philip Muston, not long returned from the installation of Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy in Perth, began his sermon with the comment that when Phillip Island is mentioned to Perth people, they instantly think of motor bikes and

penguins. "But not everyone can manage to ride a motor bike or a surfboard", he said, noting recent information from Anglicare that Phillip Island, despite its natural beauty and holiday feel, had comparatively high rates of domestic violence, depression and suicide. He made the point that setting alone cannot meet people's deepest needs, and challenged the parish to offer people "a bedrock of meaning and purpose", which comes through the person of Jesus Christ.

Regional Dean, the Rev'd Canon Geoff Pittaway, paid tribute to the Rev'd Canon Amy Turner, who was the locum priest for many months before Jo White arrived. "Amy has done a wonderful job in this parish", he said, to murmurs of warm agreement from the congregation.

Brief speeches of welcome following the induction were made by representatives of the local community and other churches. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Brett Tessari commented that "Church groups play a very important part in the community".



Clergy in procession to the church hall at Cowes

He particularly noted the support of the church for the schoolies each year, and the "magnificent effort" of feeding a cooked breakfast to the hordes of visitors who come for the Moto GP weekend.

The Rev'd Ian Tunnidge from the Uniting Church welcomed Jo on behalf of all the local churches, and the three church wardens, Ralph Leditsche, John Dawson and Les Ridge spoke for the three church centres of Bass, San Remo and Cowes.

Representatives of the local nursing homes were present, where Jo will also have a ministry.

The Rev'd Jo White thanked people for travelling so far to be there. She also expressed gratitude for those who transported the furniture across from the church, and

those who had worked so hard in preparing the rectory before her arrival where, with her husband Ken, she looks forward to offering their famous hospitality.

Jo spoke briefly about the importance to her of two Bible verses: "If any want to become my disciples, let them deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow me"; and more recently, John 3: 30 "He must increase, I must decrease".

"It's all about Him", Jo stressed.

Jo White was priested in 2011, and has since served in the parishes of Traralgon and Yarram. She was Chaplain to St Paul's Anglican Grammar School in 2012. Jo grew up in Melbourne and has a background in primary school teaching. She loves theatre, music and fine arts, and has a keen interest in Ignatian spirituality and Christian meditation.

Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy – an installation to remember

Sue Fordham

The translation of Kay Goldsworthy from Bishop of Gippsland to Archbishop of Perth couldn't be more stark.

Forget, if you like, the significance of her being the first female Archbishop in Australia. She has also gone from leading a country diocese of about 30 parishes to a province, (Continued page 3)

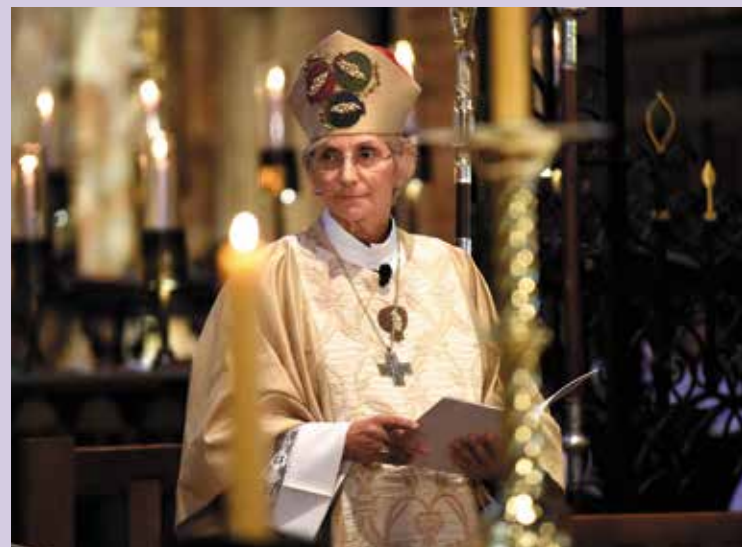


Photo: Chris Kershaw, courtesy of the Anglican Diocese of Perth

Index

From the Administrator	2
Parish to parish	2
January 26: Service of acknowledgement prayer and lament	3
Around the Diocese	4-7
Kids' Min: Wonthaggi	8
Anglicare Fare: Sale's Emergency Food Room upgraded	9
For young disciples: Our greatest fear	9
Reflection: A new beginning Anne Perryman	10
Editorial	10
David Perryman: Servant leadership	11
Amy Manners: Plastic planet	11
Wholly holy: Opening the door for God – Jan McIntyre	12
Diocesan calendar	12

A beautiful country indeed

One of the joys of my current role of Administrator is that I venture much further afield into Gippsland than is normal for one whose usual focus is in the more populated western region of our Diocese.

And what a beautiful country it is out east of Bairnsdale, with so much to explore and enjoy. But if this is already sounding like a tourist brochure, let me add that the challenges for the church "out east" become quickly apparent to the visitor.

Beyond Bairnsdale, which itself has been without a rector for a longish interregnum, we have one clergy vacancy after another. Tambo has been vacant for a couple of years (though serviced by a number of generous locum clergy). Lakes Entrance, because of Canon Barb's long illness, is vacant. Orbost has been under the long-term locum care of Bevil (with Barbara) Lunson since his retirement years ago. Croajingolong has been vacant for ages, with Heather Cahill currently serving as long-term locum. Omeo has an honorary priest-in-charge in Thelma Langshaw, who does marvellous work.

These are all attractive and fascinating communities, but I guess what they have in common is relatively small congregations in an era when ministry costs (though not

necessarily clergy stipends) are rising. Many of our eastern centres have declining populations, though there are some exceptions.

Part of my reason for travelling out east is to chair Appointments

Board meetings: that in itself is a sign that permanent clergy appointments are in process, but please be praying for these parts of our diocese because for various reasons it can be difficult for clergy to accept such appointments.

For one thing most of them are only part-time stipendiary positions. Orbost for example can only afford 1 to 2 days a week paid ministry. How many clergy families could afford to move there on that basis? Also, younger clergy are fewer than in past eras, and those who are young often want to stick close to their generational homelands in the cities. They sometimes see the far-flung East as a virtual retirement centre.

The majority of our middle-aged clergy have secondary school-age children, for whose sake they want to stay put.



Photo: Carol Monson

Archdeacon Phillip Muston

And those in late middle age often have elderly parents moving into levels of care that demand geographical proximity, or grandchildren who need to be cared for when both parents are forced out into the workforce to pay the rent or the mortgage.

All of these reasons are genuine considerations for clergy, of course, but they do make it hard to staff our eastern parishes. Let's, as a Diocese, stay in sympathy and solidarity with our eastern units in their plight. It's easy to say with Jesus: "Let the dead bury their dead – you (by which we normally read 'clergy') go and preach the Kingdom of God". Oh yeah? Well how about a few of you lay people consider moving out there as well! There are plenty of roles for non-ordained church leaders in these smaller centres, and lay people often have more employable skills to offer. Worker-ministers may well have to be the way of the future.

On a different subject, the Bishop Election Board is making steady progress with

the task of finding our next bishop. All is going well, though I am now guessing it will be May before we are likely to have an appointment, and then there will be 6-8 weeks while that person is consecrated (if need be) and goes through all the process of leaving, moving, and arriving before they can be installed at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. It was great to join a group of Gippslanders in Perth for Bishop Kay's installation there, but it was a reminder of what a huge move and adjustment is involved for both bishop and diocesan communities when an episcopal appointment is made.

Finally, we are looking forward to this month's visit from Bishop Manasseh Gahima, from the Diocese of Gahini in Rwanda, our long-term diocesan mission partner. Hopefully Manasseh will be accompanied by Mr Luke Karemangingo, the principal of the Secondary School in Gahini, who will spend time at Gippsland Grammar with the Rev'ds Nikolai Blaskow and Rich Lanham.

But again, do pray for this visit because at the time of writing our Federal Home Affairs Department is refusing visas to these two distinguished gentlemen. Hopefully it will all be sorted out before their arrival on March 5.

Blessings,

Phillip Muston

The Gippsland Anglican

Member of Australasian Religious Press Association
Member of Community Newspapers Association of Victoria
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.

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, appearing in alphabetical order. Diocesan organisations are also included. Each parish sends in its own profile and prayer needs.

BUNYIP (EPISCOPAL DISTRICT) WESTERN REGION

St Thomas
Locum Priest:
The Rev'd Ken Parker

Your prayers are working.
Thank you!

We offer children's ministry in the form of *mainly music* and Sunday School (which began mid 2017). Our mission is supported by our local op shop which is filled with generous volunteers.

Please pray for us as we begin to launch further this year into family and youth ministry and continue to build strong community connections starting with our Family Fun Fair.

CHURCHILL / BOOLARRA / YINNAR WESTERN REGION

Cooperating Churches in Churchill
Christ Church, Boolarra
Uniting Church, Yinnar
Priest-in-charge: Vacant

Our focus over the last few years has been in better connecting with our community. Our relationship with the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre continues to grow, with church members playing pivotal

roles on the Community Garden Group and in the Community Café. Several church members also serve at the breakfast program at Churchill Primary School.

We have a stall at the monthly Lion's Market and monthly Coffee Connections group and Saturday Breakfast, which gives us a chance to build on new and existing relationships. Ministry to children is important to us with Youth groups, school holiday programs, Easter and Christmas Club programs as well as Christmas Eve Crib Service.

We are saddened to lose the Rev'd Brenda Burney but we send her off with our prayers for God's blessings on her future ministry at

Bairnsdale. We pray for God's leading and guidance and for the person selected by God to fill our vacancy.

CORNER INLET SOUTHERN REGION

Christ Church, Foster
St Thomas, Toora
Union Church, Fish Creek
Transfiguration, Hedley
Sandy Point
Rector: The Rev'd Tim Fletcher

A new changeable notice board at Foster has given the parish an additional voice in the community. Over summer we were able to support several missions including Tidal River SUFM. Both *mainly music* groups (Toora and Fish Creek) are reaching out to a new generation of mothers and children. Please pray for our finances and struggling op shop.

January 26: Service of Acknowledgement, Prayer and Lament

Cathrine Muston, Anglicare Community Development Officer

January 26th. A day of celebration or a day of mourning? Can it be both? How do we honour and respect people in this land now called Australia: those who are recently arrived and those who have been here for millennia?

On January 26 this year a group of people met at Warragul Anglican Church to acknowledge, pray and lament with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for whom this day is one of a reminder of dispossession – of land, of language, of culture.

Using a service written by Aboriginal Christian leader Brooke Prentis, Aboriginal spokesperson for Common Grace, we explored our history and the origins of January 26 and Australia Day as a celebration. We prayed for, and lamented the injustices

committed against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the past and that continue in the present, and we read the call for justice from Habakkuk and from the gospel of Luke.

The idea for these services came from Aunty Jean Phillips, an Aboriginal Christian leader based in Brisbane who has been educating Australian Christians for many decades on our shared history.

For Aunty Jean, “the cross has all the answers” and nothing happens without prayer. So she called our nation to pray for an understanding

of the impact of colonization on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Speaking via video Aunty Jean told the gathered group that she had seen marches and rallies in the past and that they had played a role in joining people together, but that there was a need for more, for “a real constructive change in our nation” and that the core of this was prayer.

Since the initial service in Brisbane six years ago, the movement has grown so that

in 2018 there were services in every capital city and many regional towns, 17 services in total.

Common Grace is an organisation of around 35000 Australian Christians committed to “Jesus and Justice”. As an organization they are grounded in the understanding that God’s grace extends to all, and in all they seek to “embody the beauty, generosity and justice found in Jesus”.

Our God who took such incredible steps to reconcile with us, calls us to be reconciled with one another. January 26 provided an opportunity for those of us who met at Warragul Anglican Church to pray for our nation, its leaders and the ongoing work of reconciling all Australians to one another, and to God.

If you would like further information please go to www.commongrace.org.au



Centrepiece at the service



Some of those who attended the Service of Acknowledgement, Prayer and Lament at the Warragul Anglican Church

Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy – an installation to remember



The eight Gippsland representatives who presented Bishop Kay to the Perth Diocese: Archdeacon Edie Ashley, the Rev'd Brian Norris, the Hon Robert Fordham AM, the Rev'd Phyllis Andy, Ms June Treadwell OAM, Dean Susanna Pain, the Rev'd David Perryman, Archdeacon Philip Muston

(Continued from page 1)

geographically the largest in Australia, and from a small country cathedral to a large well-endowed one on St George’s Terrace in Perth overlooked by huge corporate towers: Korda Mentha, Citibank and RSM.

The shift is significant.

And yet, the bishop who gave us Gippslanders the courage to believe that we might carry the gospel to the farming communities, small towns and villages of our diocese, did it again on Saturday February 10.

It was hot, airlessly hot in St George’s Cathedral, as “our Bishop Kay” was installed as the eighth Archbishop of Perth and Metropolitan of Western

Australia with all the pageantry of Anglican liturgy at its best.

And her sermon spoke of the dichotomies that the archdiocese, her task and the task of all Christian people confronted: privilege and suffering; being at the centre yet being on the margins; opportunities and threats.

And all the while, being a church no longer at the centre of things but trying to find balance by looking outward and looking in, trusting each other and trusting God.

Her homecoming was a great occasion and the 16 Gippslanders who came to support her in her new life were privileged to be there.



Glenda Amos thanks "Rev Jo" for her ministry in Yarram

Holy Trinity Yarram celebrates centenary

Sunday 4 February marked 100 years since the laying of the Foundation Stone of Holy Trinity Church.

Many months of work during 2017 and also in recent weeks this year enabled this very special celebration to take place. A congregation of 80 people took part in the 10:30 am service. The Rev'd Jo White led the service and the Rev'd Canon Geoff Pittaway, Regional Dean, preached the sermon. Lessons were read by David Miller and Glenda Amos.

The community was represented by Danny O'Brien, Member for Gippsland South, Cr Garry Stephens for the Wellington Shire as well as members of other Yarram churches, Yarram RSL and the Holy Trinity congregation.

Past clergy, the Rev'd Jim Reeves, the Rev'd Gordon Cooper, the Rev'd Neil Thompson, and family members of past parishioners as well as friends joined the celebration. Warren Peart was guest organist for this special day.

Geoff Pittaway took, as his theme, the title of the hymn "We have a Gospel to proclaim" which was sung to welcome the Gospel.

During the service, a new chalice and a new paten were dedicated to mark the 150th anniversary of the Anglican church of Yarram which also occurs this year. These items will be used throughout the year at Holy

Trinity; Christ Church, Tarraville and also at St John's, Port Albert.

Two new wall hangings featuring a Celtic symbol of the Holy Trinity were commissioned by textile artist Cheryl Kane. These now hang on the east wall where they offer an elegant reminder of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

After the service most of the congregation adjourned to the church hall for a sumptuous lunch prepared by many people and supervised by Jill and Peter Coates of the St John's congregation. During lunch Glenda Amos gave a brief overview of the history of the building of the new Holy Trinity church 100 years ago.

Fundraising and planning went on for many years before the Foundation Stone was laid on February 6, 1918. Grand plans for a church to seat 200 people with a tower at the front were modified to the beautiful church we know today. Many items of furniture were donated by family members as memorials to loved ones, some of whom died in the Great War. In 1978, the narthex/foyer (of which the Heasley family were major supporters) was added – not a grand front but a useful addition to the church.

An exhibition of memorabilia was set up around the Hall as a small sample of the 100 years which have passed. This included a newly prepared brochure of photos and information about the stained glass

windows which have been dedicated to past parishioners and also in memory of family members who died on the battle field.

The final part of the day was an official farewell to "Rev Jo" who takes up a new position as Rector of Bass/ Phillip Island at Cowes, later this month. Rev Jo has been an outstanding leader in the Yarram Parish for the last four and a half years. Glenda Amos thanked her on behalf of the congregation at Holy Trinity and the community who have been touched by her faith, her integrity and her boundless enthusiasm for her work among us.

Rev Jo thanked everyone for attending the Centenary celebrations and said it had been a privilege to serve the Parish of Yarram. She and her husband Ken are sad to be leaving Yarram but looking forward to new and exciting challenges. Rev Jo was presented with a gift towards creating a new garden at the Rectory at Cowes.

She was also farewelled by the St John's congregation at Wildfish restaurant on a Friday night. They too thanked her for her leadership and work amongst their congregation, and presented her with a gift for the new garden.

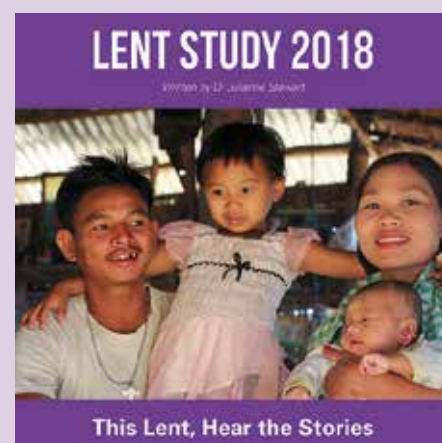


The congregation at Yarram Centenary service

FREE LENT RESOURCES

It's not too late to start something new for Lent!

1. Seven Bible studies for Lent, titled *Hear Our Stories*, is available from ABM. The studies were written by Dr Julianne Stewart who has recently completed her time as ABM's International Programs Director. These studies share personal encounters with Anglican communities around the world as they respond to the words from Isaiah 58 that we read on Ash Wednesday.



Also available as an app for a smart phone or as a booklet: *Into the Desert*, 40 days of Bible readings, reflections and prayers. Written by ABM's Reconciliation Coordinator Celia Kemp, it combines Australian history and literature with the wisdom of Desert monasticism.

To download the free resources visit www.abmission.org/len

2. The Anglican Communion Environmental Network (ACEN) has joined forces with the Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM) to produce a "Lenten Fast for Creation". After an introductory week, there are four themed weeks, on waste, food, energy and water; with a final "Week of Appreciating Nature" in the run up to Holy Week. Download here: <http://acen.anglicancommunion.org/media/317842/One-page-calendar.pdf> (Source: Anglican Communion News Service, 7/2/18)
3. TEAR Australia invites participation in Lenten reflections, prayers and action, through seven art works, available on cards by snail mail, or via a weekly email. See <https://www.fortomorrow.org.au/len>

Farewell to Katie Peken

Carol Monson
Warragul

The Drouin Anglican Church Hall was the scene of much laughter, busyness, chatting, dancing and a few tears. It was a wonderful gathering of people who came to say goodbye and thank you to Katie for her seven years of dedicated service to the Warragul Anglican Church.

Scott McArdle opened the formal part of the afternoon and evening function by encouraging everyone to celebrate the time Katie has ministered to the church.

Rector Phil Muston said it was hard to believe that Katie has been at Warragul for seven years in which



The Rev'd Katie Peken

time she has been tenaciously committed to the St Paul's children's and family ministry, committed to preaching her vision of the Gospels, shared her skills with technology and her theatrical creativity with music in church and at celebratory services. Phil commended Katie on the strength of her approach to pastoral care which included not only people who attended church services but many who did not. Phil concluded by wishing Katie all God's blessings for her future and thanked her for the partnership and the collegiality they shared.

Sue Jacka, Anglican Regional Dean, from the Trafalgar Anglican Church spoke of having enjoyed Katie's love for the



Children at Warragul Anglican Church sing the Super Katie song as a farewell

word of God, her generosity and her ability to share ideas and problems.

Carolyn West from the Warragul congregation thanked Katie for her friendship, assistance in overcoming adversity and her integrity.

Thanks must go to the musicians, SALT Club teachers and the children for a heart warming and enthusiastic singing of the *Super Katie* song.

Katie's last sermon at WAC preached at the morning service on the day of her farewell included "four encouragements" to the congregation:

1. "Keep the Main Thing the main thing – the Main Thing is Jesus."
2. "Be thankful" – Katie urged the church to be aware of God's generous provision, and to publicly praise him for his blessings.

3. "Love one another", calling on the immense power of God to obey this difficult command.
4. "Look to the future, the new heaven and the new earth." Katie said that through the work of the Spirit in us "we are to show glimpses of heaven, to demonstrate the healing, restoring power of Jesus here and now, so that people will turn to him in faith".

Young Christian media scholarship

The Ramon Williams ARPA Scholarship is available for a younger person involved in Christian media (writing /graphic design etc) to attend the Australasian Religious Press Conference 7–9 September in Brisbane this year.

The applicant must be 33 years or under at the time of application, and be nominated by an ARPA member publication – in this case, *The Gippsland Anglican*.

For more details, contact TGA editor, Jan Down: editor@gippsanglican.org.au or phone 0407 614 661.

Old films resurrected

The Diocesan Archivist, Mr Tim Gibson, has arranged for the transfer of some old films into electronic form that have now been transferred to YouTube. At this stage two films have been treated in this way.

The first is related to *Clifton Waters Village* (1999),



Bairnsdale and the other was made in 1996 as part of the restoration of Christ Church Tarraville in the Parish of Yarram.

The videos can be accessed via links on the diocesan website: www.gippsanglican.org.au under "Latest News".

INVITATION TO LAKESIDE RETREAT IN ITALY

"Peaks, shallows and deeps – lakeside reflections on Christian discipleship today" is the title of a guided holiday retreat to be hosted by the Church of the Ascension, Cadenabbia, Lake Como, Italy from 7–12 October, 2018.

For more information, see Retreat October 2018 tab at: www.churchonlakecomo.com

SYNOD DELAYED


I am advised that the Third Session of the Thirty-eighth Synod cannot be held at its scheduled time: from the 11th – 13th of May 2018 at Sale. The reason for this is that a synod cannot be held without a bishop, and it is most unlikely that our new bishop (after having been duly appointed) will have been installed by mid-May.

It is probable that our Synod

will instead be held later in the year, once the new bishop has been installed. Thank you for your patience and prayers whilst the Election Board continues its deliberations in the selection and appointment of our next bishop.

Archdeacon
Philip Muston,
Administrator





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



SEMMENS FUNERALS
SERVICING GIPPSLAND
Col, Pat & Brad Semmens

Maffra	5147 1954
Sale	5144 1954
Heyfield	5148 3354

www.semmensfunerals.com.au
24 Hour Service



Our Family Caring For Your Family Since 1979

Member Of The Australian Funeral Directors Association

“Simply Alive” retreat

Cynthia Grove

Alive, simply alive. The theme was “to be creative” and in this thirteen people came from Gippsland, Canberra, Melbourne, and Alice Springs in January to share the retreat led by Dean Susanna Pain at The Abbey.

Five words – Space; Savour; Stillness; Simplicity; Soak – framed the days we shared as we reflected on our experience of life and our relationship with God. But please don’t think it was dull, passive reflection. Rather, Susanna encouraged us to feel our bodies through expressive dance and to learn to share space in the gaps and the connections with each other.

Through this we came to experience the unity with the Spirit as that Spirit of God weaves between us and makes us not several but one. So beautiful, the movements and the togetherness, though occasionally the movements tested more ageing bodies.

Times for reflection, for stillness with God, times for creativity and learning from that work about our inner selves. There was laughter and yes, there were occasionally tears. There was silence, poetry, creating collages, paddling in the edges of the lake. Oh, and did I mention the koalas, kangaroos, an echidna and a tawny frogmouth who perhaps shared our retreat with us?

In sorrow we parted, for distances may mean we do not see each other again, but what we shared will remain with each of us. I wish others the blessings which we received from each other and the time together.

A reflection:

*There is stillness in this place
Not lack of movement
but rather a unity.
A world in a moment of peace.
no sense of strife or stress
breaches my mind.*

*Here, in this space,
my soul, my mind,
have freedom to move,
to explore the past,
discover new horizons,
Here I learn to forgive
others and myself and
to welcome in peace.*

*Here, in this space,
can I listen to God,
feel Him in my head,
my soul
and allow what
leadings and teachings
He will give.*

Our united thanks go to all those at The Abbey for their care for us and for the magnificent job they are doing there. Thank you, Archdeacon Edie, Anna, and Ian.



The group who attended “Simply Alive” retreat at The Abbey in January

Commemorating Australia Day

Carolyn Raymond Morwell

St Mary’s held an Australia Day service on the Sunday after Australia Day. We began the service with a Welcome to Country, and an acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of this land.

As we seek to live out our faith as Australians, the sentence for the day told us again of guidance and help. “My help comes from the Lord, which has made Heaven and Earth.” There was a strong emphasis on seeking forgiveness for past wrongs done to our Aboriginal people. We prayed for forgiveness, reconciliation and an end to all injustice. God’s love for all people was emphasized in the story of Jonah and God’s forgiveness of the Ninevites, and his forgiveness of Jonah himself.

We sang hymns that spoke of all people opening their hearts to God’s love. “Australians whatever your culture or race, Come lift up your hearts to the Giver of Grace”. We sang “Advance Australia Fair” revised by Robin Sharwood. Our final hymn was *Waltzing Matilda* revised by our rector, the Rev’d David Head. Some of you may have read this as David was interviewed by the *Latrobe Valley Express* and the hymn was quoted in full. I will do the same:



Australia Day service St Mary’s Morwell

Waltzing Matilda (adapted by David Head)

*Once upon a dream time
our land began its history
Thousands of years
before the coming of
the White.
The Koori nations
occupied and cared for
its beauty,
Received of its bounty
and honoured its might.
Come sing of freedom,
come sing of freedom,
Come sing of freedom,
of love and of grace,
As we raise our Australia
for God to bless and
guide us
Come sing of freedom,
of love and of grace.*

*Down came the white
man and preyed upon
their trustfulness
Up came the convicts,
the troopers and the law.
They settled and they
squatted and they
murdered in their
arrogance*

*Oppressing the people
who were here well
before.*

*Now their descendants
are claiming their lost
billabongs
Asking for justice and
honesty and place.
They’re calling us to free
them from their sorrow
and their misery
For stolen lands and
children and the decades
of disgrace.*

*Now we face a new
world of warfare, terror,
landlessness,
Calling us to welcome
from afar the refugee.
Our history of welcome
has been blighted by our
bigotry,
Help us Lord to open our
hearts inclusively.*

Australia Day, a day for acknowledgement, reflection and celebration. Our country, our past and our future.



Photo: Jude Benton

Sunset on Raymond Island

Taking the corner and turning into Lent

Dean Spalding

Candlemas is a lesser known feast – also known as the feast of “The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple” – it is always kept on 2 February, forty days after Christmas Day (LUKE 2:22, LEVITICUS 12:2-6). Because Candlemas can never fall in Lent (the earliest possible Ash Wednesday is 4 February), one of the purposes of Candlemas is to “signpost” the approach of the “corner” between Christmas and Easter. Part of the responsorial liturgy of Candlemas says:

Here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour’s birth.

Help us, in whom he has been born,

to live this life that has no end.

Here we have greeted the Light of the World.

Help us, who now extinguish these candles,

never to forsake the light of Christ.

Some candles are extinguished.

Here we now stand near the place of baptism.

Help us, who are marked with the cross,

to share the Lord’s death and resurrection.

Here we turn from Christ’s birth to his passion.

Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

There are other “signposts” to help us to turn the corner into Lent. On Shrove Tuesday, we feast on pancakes with eggs and leaven and sugar in preparation for the great fast of Lent, but we also burn the Palm Crosses of



the year before to prepare the ashes of repentance for their use on the following day – Ash Wednesday. We remove flowers from the church and change the liturgical colours from green to purple.

And so with all these signposts and symbols, we “take the corner”, turning from Christmas and Epiphanytide to Lent, Good Friday and Easter. Taking that corner well shows our preparedness to follow Jesus in his wholeness: not just followers of the bits of Jesus we find most palatable. Not just followers of the Babe of Bethlehem, but followers of the man who walks a road of controversy and hardship, passion and crucifixion, and resurrection.

The disciples sometimes found it hard to “take the corner” toward the suffering and death of Christ: when Jesus in the Gospels first announces his destiny to suffer, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and the scribes, and to be killed – Simon Peter rebukes Jesus. (We read this Gospel in the second week of Lent).

But it is essential that we – Jesus’ followers – travel with him on the harder road of Lent, Good Friday as well as Easter. Only then can he be our complete Christ – not just a Messiah for “fair weather” – when the sun’s shining down on me, and the world’s all as it should be – but a Saviour who can be our faithful companion when the going is tough, when illness or grief or loss loom. Then together with our faithful Christ we can anticipate that most bright and glorious morn of Easter Day.

The Rev’d Dr Dean Spalding is Rector of Drouin parish.



Extinguishing candles during the Candlemas service at Drouin

Shrove Tuesday pancakes

Korumburra

Not a pancake left and all plates shiny clean after Shrove Tuesday pancake night launched Korumburra Poowong Parish into Lent!



L-R: The Rev’d Fran Grimes, Lyn Olden, Helen Patching, Nancye Harley, Marg Vassil and Cheryl Routley

Traralgon

Students from St Paul’s Grammar School assisted Canon Jeff Richardson with the making of pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. As they dined parishioners and members of the community were treated to a number of musical items by the students. One of the teachers said that this event was a wonderful way for students to learn first-hand the nature of community awareness and involvement.



A good crowd enjoying pancakes at Traralgon

Large print hymn books needed

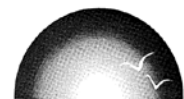
Sue Jacka

The ministry at Andrews House Aged Care in Traralgar has grown and we are looking for some more large print hymn books.

We are aware that many parishes now use TiS or projected lyrics for their worship services, but may have copies of old hymn books sitting in a cupboard somewhere.

If you could spare large print editions of either the **Australian Hymn Book** (AHB) or **Mission Praise** we would be delighted and you would make some older members of our community very happy. Please contact the Rev’d Sue Jacka 5633 1021, 0409 757 170 or traralgaranglican1@gmail.com.

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



The Nativity sets on display are many and varied and this year included a Teddy Nativity on loan from the mainly music group.

Telling the story

Jane Peters – Wonthaggi /Inverloch

For a number of years the Church of the Ascension at Inverloch has been involved in a significant outreach to children before Christmas. It started in a small way some years ago when

Wendy McBurnie, capably assisted by her husband Ian and others from the church, used their considerable skills to decorate the church for Christmas. Quilted wall hangings, nativity sets and

decorations from other countries made up the display and people were invited to visit.

A local school teacher heard about it and wanted to bring her class up to have a look. "We needed to do something when they got here" said Wendy, who has years of experience working in schools. So they organised a craft activity, told the Christmas story and gave them some refreshments.

It was such a success that the next year there were more teachers and classes that wanted to come. Every year it grew and now all the classes participate. The school sees it as part of the children's cultural education as they learn what Christmas is about for Christians.

Over the years the number of decorations that need to be hung have increased to fill several suitcases and there is a huge array of nativity sets and Christmas books. The activities have changed and evolved. As time pressure has grown the craft activities have been squeezed out but there is usually time for a song or two.

Of course, every year the Christmas story is told to each group because some children will never hear it anywhere else. Another activity that has not changed is the popular Nativity Photo where the class don costumes to represent angels, shepherds, wise people and of course Joseph and Mary. Even the Year Sixes look forward to doing it!

This past year the theme was presented around angels

and the role that they had as messengers to announce the good news of Jesus' birth. Each child wrote their name on an angel which was then hung on a very large Christmas tree at the doorway of the church. The children were told that to acknowledge their visit that day, people from the church had donated to support the Angel Flight Program so that people in rural and remote areas can be flown to receive medical treatments in major centres.

It is a tremendous privilege to be able to run this program each year and the parish appreciates the organization and love that are put into it by Wendy and Ian and their wonderful band of helpers from the parish and beyond.



A Christmas tree decorated by local school children

ANGLICAN BOARD OF MISSION
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

LENT APPEAL
Join us in mission

Celebrate the Centenary of the ABM

GOOD FRIDAY GIFT 2018

Donate at www.abmission.org/GoodFriday18

ABC Radio National's Religion Programs

Frequencies: Bairnsdale - 106.3 FM (3ABC RN)
Melbourne - 621 AM (3RN)

Religion and Ethics Report
Andrew West
Wednesday 5:30 pm – repeated: Thursday 5:30 am
and Friday 11:00 am

The Spirit of Things
Rachel Kohn
Sunday 6:00 pm – repeated: Wednesday 1:00 pm

God Forbid
James Carleton
Sunday 6:00 am – repeated Sunday 10:00 pm
and Monday 2:00pm

For more details: abc.net.au

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'.



Daniel Lowe

Fear of public speaking is a well-documented phenomenon and is certainly not a new thing. I can still vividly remember the symptoms of having to give a class presentation – dry mouth, nausea, sweat, shortness of breath, panic and mental blanks. So why is it so terrifying? Behaviourists suggest that it is fear at a primal level.

“...the fear is so great because we are not merely afraid of being embarrassed, or judged. We are afraid of being rejected from the social group, ostracized and left to defend ourselves all on our own. We fear ostracism still so much today it seems, fearing it more than death, because not so long ago getting kicked out of the group probably really was a death sentence.” (Glenn Croston Ph.D)

For young people today the threat of public speaking seems to be even greater. The fear of being ostracized is heightened by the constant pressure of social media. Here is a world where “what my friends think of me” is not only a matter of life and death, it is a constant pressing need. It is often said that there are three types of cultures in the world – cultures of shame, cultures of fear, and cultures of guilt, and each of them has its own way of pressuring people to behave or to conform to society. In a shame culture, if I believe I have done something wrong, but others believe I haven’t, there is little problem because there is no social shame involved. Yet if others believe I have done something wrong, even if I believe I have not done it, I am left to deal with the resulting shame.

The culture of social media is very much one of honour and shame. It is a brutal platform on which actions and opinions are exposed to instant public critique. What’s more, anyone’s smartphone has the power to capture and broadcast one misspoken word or untimely gesture. What you do anywhere, anytime, can be revealed to the entire world. Perhaps this explains some of the paralyzing fear and anxiety some students feel before a performance or class presentation. So how does Christianity speak into this? Perhaps the lyrics of the worship song “My Redeemer Lives” cuts to the heart of the matter: “My shame He’s taken away, my pain is healed in His name.” The gospel addresses shame by telling how Christ was shamed on our behalf to restore our honour. The gospel removes shame, it removes fear, and it removes guilt; it restores

honour, it restores power, it restores innocence. The gospel speaks to every person in every culture and addresses their every need. Including the terrified student about to speak in front of the class! “But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.” (ISAIAH 50:7)



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



Cathrine Muston (left), Anglicare Community Development Officer, and Christine Morris with the new shelving and freezer in the Emergency Food Room at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

Anglicare Fare

Sale's Emergency Food Room upgraded

Cathrine Muston (Anglicare Community Development Officer) and Christine Morris

St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Sale has expanded its ability to respond to emergency requests for food by relocating and upgrading an Emergency Food Room to assist in meeting the increasing demand. The room, which is usually stocked with donations from students at Gippsland Grammar and the parish, now has a large freezer and new shelves purchased from an Anglicare Parish Partnership grant to store food rescue items. The idea for expansion came from a Food Security Forum held in Sale in June last year

attended by representatives of community organizations, local government, churches and education providers. Dean Susanna Pain attended the forum and, alongside Christine Morris, set about shifting and making improvements to the Emergency Food Room. Now in the room next to the office, it is more secure and provides easier access for office staff. The food can now be displayed as if it were a shop which means that people can choose the items that they would prefer, giving people more independence and dignity.

Emergency relief has been provided from the Cathedral over many years, being available at weekends and out of hours for people to access. In its unofficial capacity, the Cathedral provided food for 16 singles and 20 families (some with 5 or 6 children) in the past year alone. Being a part of the local Food Security Action Group will also enable the parish to work in partnership with others to meet the growing demand for assistance for families and refer them to other services.



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

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

A new beginning

Anne Perryman

As I write, the church programs are starting up again after a break during January, we are in the process of organizing Pancake Day, and then looking to Ash Wednesday services as we start the season of Lent.

Over the years it seems to me that there has been less emphasis on promoting the benefits of practising Lenten disciplines. We don't want to appear to be "too religious" and maybe we have difficulty explaining how giving up chocolate or Facebook for 40 days connects to walking with Jesus as he journeys to the cross.

Breaking bad habits that block our spiritual growth is always a worthwhile pursuit, but perhaps we need to place less emphasis on what we are giving up (even if it is beneficial) and emphasizing more what we could take up. After all, the void left by the fast is meant to create more space and time for Bible reading, prayer or simply responding to God's call on our lives.

So what is God calling you to do or be?

We have been studying 1 Thessalonians in the parish recently and I was convicted by Paul's exhortation in 5:11: "Therefore encourage one another and build each

"...TO DO JUSTICE,
AND TO LOVE
KINDNESS,
AND TO WALK
HUMBLY WITH
YOUR GOD."

MICAH 6:8B

other up, as indeed you are doing". We all like to be encouraged and built up, but sometimes in the busyness of life we neglect this basic necessity.

As I continued to ponder these words and trying to live them out, I visited a lovely lady from our parish who now resides in an aged care facility. As I left Nancye after we had shared Communion and a time of prayer, I realized once again how this faithful lady always manages to bless and encourage me in return. I desire to be like Nancye – sowing seeds of blessing and encouragement wherever I go. She was simply living out God's call that we hear in Micah 6:8b "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God".

Could meditating on these words – allowing them to saturate my very being through Lent – make a



Donated vegetables ready to be distributed to people in need after the Wonthaggi Community Meal

difference? Only one seemingly small change... Perhaps it would be like the butterfly effect – a miniscule change in input bringing about a macroscopic difference in output. Maybe being 100% committed to a single change has the potential to make a 100 per cent difference in my life.

I realize that by the time this is printed Lent will be underway – but God's call for change is always perfectly timed – will you join me?

Maybe together we will discover

the benefits of a closer walk with God during Lent will simply become a new beneficial habit that won't be stopped at Easter, so that next Lent we can make another small life change as we seek to humbly walk even closer with our Lord on the way to the cross. Surely that is what we are called to do?

*The Rev'd Anne Perryman is
Assistant Priest in the parish of
Wonthaggi / Inverloch.*

EDITORIAL

Lamentation before celebration

– Lent before Easter

The book of Jonah is a great example of repentance. First there is Jonah's public admission of guilt as he says to the sailors on board ship, "I know it is because of me that this storm has come upon you". He admits his disobedience to God and is ready to accept the consequences.

When the great fish gives up Jonah, the sincerity of his repentance is seen in his next action as he immediately does what God had originally asked of him – to preach judgement and repentance to the city of Nineveh.

The people of the city, from the king down, then repent in sackcloth, making corporate acknowledgement of sin. The king proclaims a fast for the whole city, and calls on all the people to pray for God's mercy.

We might imagine that Nineveh's sin was both individual and corporate. In other words, the individual people that made up the city had rebelled against God in the way they were living; but there was also the bigger picture of the city as a whole. Not only might a city's laws be in direct opposition to God, but so can its ethos, its beliefs and values, in which everyone takes part but for which people are not individually responsible.

We are all caught up inextricably in various corporate structures. Think of climate change, where we have some individual choices and responsibilities, but where we are also citizens of a local municipality, a state and a nation, each of which makes decisions on our behalf. We are not individually guilty of depriving Pacific Islander people of their homes due to rising sea levels, but we have some (sometimes unavoidable) part in it.

Think of Reconciliation with the indigenous people of Australia. We are not personally guilty of stealing the land or depriving people of their culture, but we have benefited, we are living on land that was taken, and we need to acknowledge these things.

There is a difference between acknowledging private and corporate sin. Where a nation or state or school or church has wronged people there is a shared, distributed guilt, and therefore a need for a public, corporate acknowledgement.

An example of this was the seventeen services of Acknowledgement, Prayer and Lament held around the country in late January, including at Warragul Anglican Church – see the story on page 3.

How good that one of these services was held in Gippsland!

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

Servant leadership – transforming the model

David Perryman

Leadership. A topic, I believe, which is often under-discussed within theological colleges and sometimes within our parishes. Leadership is often seen as a characteristic of certain individuals rather than available in each of us as the people of God.

Often when we think of a leader we may think of the great and inspiring leaders who have come before us – Martin Luther King Jr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer or John Stott. We can often find ourselves looking at such individuals wishing we had the same abilities for leadership as they each did.

I believe one thing that the Church’s capacity to evangelize in the future hinges on is going to be our capacity to enable and empower leaders within our churches. We live in an age where the traditional models of ministry are having to transform. Parishes, we find, are less likely to have just one centre. Even within our own diocese, having a full-time priest is no longer a guarantee. As such, it has never been more important that we have the discussion around transforming leadership.

The problem is that leadership (as I mentioned earlier) is often thought of as an attribute that only a few possess.

However, Dr Ken Blanchard, (a Christian management consultant and author of many books, including *The Servant Leader*) makes a compelling argument that this actually isn’t the case.

Often when people think of leaders or leadership, they associate it with a particular role, position or office, whether that be lay or ordained. Instead Professor Blanchard argues (as do I), that leadership at its core is actually an influence process.

The fact is that we all have influence to some degree.



Window cross at St George’s, Wonthaggi

We have influence within our own families, our circles of friends or perhaps among our work colleagues. It is when we seek to influence that we actually partake in leadership. Many of us who are married or in a relationship will seek to influence our spouse or partner towards good decisions and choices. The same will go for our friends (at least I hope so).

Whenever we engage in influencing others, we engage in leadership. If there is anything our world needs right now, I believe it is good Christian influence. It is something that I hope that we can strive for in our parishes, not just from the Priest, but

from all members of every congregation. To build each other up, to encourage one another, and to enable one another for ministry in the wider community.

We are all leaders, each with a specific ministry and call as given to us by Christ. We have seen what self-centred leaders can do to the world – current political leaders around the world can show you that.

What we have is the opportunity is to show our churches and our communities a different model, one of service, enablement and the recognition that leadership is instilled in every single person. This I believe, will be crucial for our ongoing journey into this next century as ministry models transform and grow.

I would love to write further on this; however, for those who are interested in such further reflection, Professor Ken Blanchard has some amazing lectures on Servant Leadership, most of which are available on YouTube.

The Rev’d David Perryman is Priest-in-Charge in the parish of Avon.



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

Plastic planet

Amy Manners

Do you want plastic with your fish?

I meet a friend down the beach for fish and chips. While crunching down salty goodness, he tells me I have to see *Bright*, the new Netflix original starring Will Smith. “It’s like your classic cop film, but with orcs,” he says, still amazed by the concept.

I briefly wonder how orcs found their way out of Middle Earth when I’m overwhelmed by how many people are enjoying nature with soon-to-be rubbish in their hands. The array of plastic water bottles, Doritos packets, and throw-away cutlery is no surprise. But what really gets me is the number of surf-goers clutching disposable coffee cups on this sweltering summer’s day.

“Look at all those coffee cups,” I sigh.

“Mmmmm coffee,” my friend replies.

“I didn’t mean it in a good way.”

“I don’t get the problem?” He briefly stops chomping, confused.

“They’re paper cups lined with plastic, so because they’re mixed materials they can’t be recycled. Billions end up in landfill every year,” I take a deep breath and continue my spill, “It takes the plastic lining decades, even centuries, to degrade. And when it does, toxins seep into the soil. Or it might break down into micro plastic and eventually end up in the ocean only to be eaten by fish. Like the one you’re devouring now. You could be eating plastic!”

He laughs. “It’s stupid you think plastic in landfill will end up in a fish. Nature will be fine... Did you know *Bright* was Netflix’s most expensive movie ever? And it really shows, it’s got all the effects...”

But is nature really fine?

Eight million tonnes of plastic end up in the ocean each year. By 2050 there will be more plastic in the big blue than fish. I don’t think that’s a laughing matter...

So I’m the girl at the supermarket who stubbornly refuses a plastic bag at

the counter even though I’ve forgotten my reusable one again.

“I can manage,” I assure the checkout lady; her glare clearly states she doubts this. But I somehow manage to clutch deodorant, cheese and pasta under my arms, balance toilet paper beneath my chin, and hug a bunch of broccoli to my chest. I must look confused to the casual observer. But really I’m just determined not to let single-use plastic win again.

“Why?” I hear you ask

Because in an age where common sense says we should cut down our carbon footprint, we instead waste fossil fuel producing these petrochemical items only so they can be carelessly discarded. Single-use plastics are a regrettable invention, but they’re also part of a bigger issue: that we’re living on this planet as if it’s disposable.

It’s as if we think once we’ve filled the ocean and land with waste, exploited natural resources until there’s nothing left, and destroyed the atmosphere of Planet Earth, we can simply buy a new one. But we can’t. This is it.

There’s no place like this in all the Universe where life can flourish. The creation of our earthly home is nothing but a cosmic miracle. And God has appointed us, his children, to care for it. So I’m determined to refuse single-use plastic whenever I can and encourage others to do the same, because to me this action stands for something greater. It’s a resolve to not be part of earth’s problems, but part of her solution. For...

“...the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed... in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.” Romans chapter 8, verses 19 and 20.

Amy Manners is a Press Service International young writer for Christian Today. This article was first published in Christian Today on 13/2/2018 and is reprinted with permission.

Jan McIntyre
on prayer

An image I have when thinking of “private daily prayer” is of the legs and feet of my husband, Mac (God rest his soul) as he sat in the chapel at Bishops court in the morning, at his prayers. I would peek from the study door, just enough to see that part of him, going no further so as not to intrude. That told me all I needed to know – which was quite a lot, now I think about it.

For most of my life as a Christian (after having a conversion experience about age 17), I never could quite come at the “Quiet Time” idea. It seemed a bit soft, too gentle, very righteous, daggy, for old people, for ones who could get up early. Even now I am a little shy about letting on that I am going to be “just doing my prayers”. Yet, here I am, writing an article for publication!

I have really only managed a daily routine of prayer since being inspired by Anne Turner and the Anam Cara community, when we came to Gippsland. Herein I found a more dynamic and varied model attracting a range of people. It is possibly since living in Warragul from January 2017 that I have been the most successful in keeping this discipline. Perhaps partly because of living alone and some of what that means.

Now (as an old one?) I love the idea of a purposeful, separate time to look at God when I’m talking with him. I appreciate the solitary, focused time. I’ve decided that time doesn’t need to be



Jan McIntyre, photo taken in Liverpool, UK

Opening the door for God

long because that pressure can stop the starting! (How long is a piece of string?) I like something familiar and a framework; that’s why I use the daily services in the Book of Common Prayer. Words and sentiments can still reveal and be revealed in the familiar, because the world is not static. However, everyone is different and, in the end, we just want to open the door for God.

I have this prayer time in the morning. Now and then I have the evening as well, or instead. However, I can be too sleepy and distracted by then. I have discovered it is good to have a particular place; it helps with my awareness and focus.

I have incidental daily prayer with God at random times, but this starts the day saying hello to God and allows my deep, honest feelings to be struck and sometimes be released in tears. I have been told, “your tears are your prayers”.

I don’t feel guilty or hopeless if I wander in my thinking. That is a thing I have appreciated learning, to just gently come back, any number of times. I might apologise, say something like, “I’m not trying to work that out at the moment – this is the time to pray”; that may then be for wisdom, understanding, ideas. This time can help to lay the groundwork, to prepare me for thoughtful response rather than knee-jerk reaction.

There are so many questions about prayer, but one thing that calls me to it, is that to stop talking with God is the devil’s weapon. I also like: praying is talking to God, meditation is listening.

Jan McIntyre lived in Sale for eight years when her husband, John, was 11th Bishop of Gippsland until his early death in June 2014.

Diocesan calendar

March

- 11 9:30 am Harvest Festival at Bunyip
- 15 7:30 pm Induction of the Rev’d Brenda Burney as Rector of the Parish of Bairnsdale, at St John’s Bairnsdale
- 17 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara and Bunyip Parish Celtic Spirituality Quiet Day with Carol O’Connor and Cath Connelly (harpist) at St Thomas’ Bunyip. Cost \$10, bring lunch to share. Contact Bunyip parish: office: anglicanbunyip@desi.net.au
- 17 1:30 pm – 4.30 pm The many faces of St Paul: Messenger, Christ follower, the Church’s Apostle – a lecture and workshop by New Testament scholar, Dr Kieren Williams at Delbridge Hall, Cunninghame St, Sale. Entry to workshop is by donation, \$10-20 suggested. RSVP susanna.pain@gmail.com or 0418 637 469
- 18 8:00 am and 10:00 am Dr Kieren Williams preaching at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 23 12 noon Community Lunch, St James’ Traralgon*
- 23 5:00 – 8:30 pm Earth Hour, St Mark’s Yarragon, BBQ, campfire, damper, games. All age activities provided.
- 26 11:00 am Mothers Union celebrates Lady Day at the St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale. Service at 11:00 am, Catherine Muston after lunch speaker. All welcome.
- 27 11:00 am Blessing of the Oils and Reaffirmation of Ordination Vows – The Chrism Eucharist at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 29 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service: A Service of Shadows, based on Passion readings from the Gospels with beautiful and contemplative music, at Christ Church, Drouin. Contact Drouin parish: office@anglicanparishdrouin.org.au
- 30 2:00pm Good Friday: Stations of the Cross Bunyip, with Pat Waters’ remarkable paintings outside

Easter at The Abbey: Stations of the Cross: 3:00 pm Good Friday; Easter Vigil: Easter Light Service – 5:30 pm Easter Eve
Contact: info@theabbey.org.au

April

- 1 Easter Day
- 6 2:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop – Refresher, at St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale
- 7 7:30 am Community Breakfast, St James’ Traralgon*
- 27 12 noon Community Lunch, St James’ Traralgon*

May

- 5 7:30 am Community Breakfast, St James’ Traralgon*
- 27 2:00 pm “A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon” with a concert by the Warragul Municipal Band, directed by Benjamin Sim followed by afternoon tea in the parish hall at Christ Church Drouin. Gold coin donation. Contact Drouin parish: office@anglicanparishdrouin.org.au
- 25 12 noon Community Lunch, St James’ Traralgon*

* Community breakfasts and lunches are held at St James’ Traralgon. Phone: 5174 2045 or 0422 573 374



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