

From the
Administrator
page 2

Brenda Burney
inducted at Bairnsdale
page 3

World Day
of Prayer
page 5

Phyllis Andy
on Easter
page 10

Wholly holy:
Lynette Teese
page 12

The Gippsland Anglican

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Christ is risen – Alleluia!

Index

From the Administrator 2

Parish to parish 2

Brenda Burney inducted at Bairnsdale 3

Around the Diocese 4-7

Kids' Min: Korumburra 8

For young disciples: Where do you go when God seems distant? 9

Anglicare Fare: Caring Dads 9

Reflection: Celebrating the real Easter 10

Editorial 10

Cautious optimism grows in dairy industry 11

Wholly holy: One big family Lynette Teese 12

Diocesan calendar 12

There's a world outside our church walls

Easter is that wonderful season of celebrating new life, refreshed for us each year through the seasonal readings and liturgies, through which the Holy Spirit works to bring us to a fresh realization of the risen Lord and all that his continuing life means for us. This preceded of course by Good Friday, which confronts us with the terrible cost of the new life that we enjoy in Christ.

As a young person I spent three years in the northern hemisphere, where the new life is illustrated in the natural realm by the fresh growth of spring. Here in Gippsland, as we move into autumn, the connection is not so obvious, though personally I feel a new vitality once the hot weather is over and the cool changes sweep in. That's one reason we choose to live here, isn't it?

But back to Jesus: he didn't wait around in Jerusalem too long focusing attention on his resurrection. His overriding concern was that his disciples move quickly into continuing the mission he had begun but was now unable to carry on

in the flesh: "...the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all the nations", spreading out from the holy city into more rural areas like Galilee and then across borders into Syria and Africa and Europe and eventually... Australasia.

There's a world outside our church walls and boundaries, and in many ways it's struggling to maintain morale. Australians have enjoyed the apparent freedoms of secularization, but those freedoms have not always borne fruit or been balanced by form and discipline. Many people are as a result weighed down by disappointments and guilt, sometimes even bitterness. Forgiveness and



Photo: Les Ridge

Archdeacon Phillip Muston

new life in Christ are aspects of the "living water" (JOHN 4) that will sometimes be gratefully received if we are willing to be messengers of the good news in our own locations.

It's a thrill for me to get out around our widespread diocese seeing all the life and commitment to Jesus that is happening in our various faith communities. So I hope you have a happy and blessed Easter: that God really blesses you in your personal situation, no matter how difficult your struggle might be.

The Bishop Election Board makes steady progress in discovering our next bishop. We're getting to the "pointy end" of the process now, so please continue praying for "a shepherd and guide after (God's) own heart who will

walk in his ways and with loving care watch over his people". But even if there's an appointment within a month or so, it will still likely be July before we can expect to have a bishop consecrated, installed, and ready to take up the reigns of pastoral and administrative leadership.

Last month I wrote about the planned visit from Bishop Manasseh Gahima, from the Diocese of Gahini in Rwanda, our long-term diocesan mission partner. The Home Affairs Department did refuse him a visa on his first several applications, but eventually relented (and apologized) after it was too late for the original schedule to proceed. A new schedule is now being arranged for late April, so if things go well we should see Manasseh and Luke (the Principal of Gahini Secondary School) in Gippsland later this month.

See you in church, or on the streets,

Phillip Muston

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 organizations are also included. Each parish sends in its own profile and prayer needs.

BUNYIP (Corrected) (ESPISCOPAL DISTRICT) WESTERN REGION

St Thomas
Locum Priest:
The Rev'd Ken Parker

Your prayers are working. Thank you!

We have a sense of turning a corner and finding new life. Our spirituality days are meeting a need and our March 17 Celtic Day is a sell-out. Our newly refurbished hall is a joy. Finances are looking better and there is a sense of a future ahead. Our newly established Bunyip Lectures, contact with the primary school and ministry at Hillview Aged Care are good community contacts and our Church Mice (craft group) do wonders at the supermarket, raising awareness and cash!

Apologies to Bunyip and Avon parishes, that Bunyip's entry

in March TGA included some of Avon's text from February. The above entry is the real Bunyip - please pray for them.

CROAJINGOLONG COOPERATING PARISH EASTERN REGION

St John, Cann River
St Peter, Mallacoota
Locum Priest:
The Rev'd Heather Cahill

The Parish of Croajingolong runs from the foothills of the Great Dividing Range down to the sea, in far East Gippsland. The main centre of Mallacoota swells during the holiday season by eight times its normal population, so many visitors join our worship in the warmer months. Our three centres of Mallacoota, Cann River and Genoa are growing and moving forward in faith and outreach to the community. We hope to begin after-school groups for both primary and secondary students later in the year. Our Op Shop is doing well. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our faith journey as a parish and enrich our outreach endeavours.

DROUIN WESTERN REGION

Christ Church, Drouin
St James, Jindivick
Union Church, Longwarry
Rector:
The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding

Please pray for our church's engagement with the wider community as we continue to "open the doors and see all the people". Towards that vision, please pray a blessing upon our Pleasant Sunday Afternoons - three "open church" events for the wider community with entertainment (Warragul Municipal Band, Cath Connelly and The Baw Baw Singers) and hospitality. Pray for other collaborations we are working towards with our wider community: the RSL with Anzac Day and Remembrance Day events including a commemorative planting of a row of trees to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the end of the First World War; work towards indigenous reconciliation though collaborations for Reconciliation Week with special services and

hospitality events; for strategic building upon our burgeoning preschoolers program (SCAMPS) and youth group ("Operation Christ Kids").

HEYFIELD EASTERN REGION

St James, Heyfield
St Matthew, Tinamba
The Rev'd Lyndon Phillips
(two week days per week)

The Rev'd Lyndon Phillips, Priest-in-Charge at Rosedale, works two days a week in the Heyfield parish. These being week days, she rosters visiting priests to cover three Sundays per month, while Lay Readers at Heyfield, Debbie and David Chambers, take a service of Morning Prayer on the third Sunday. On the fifth Sunday, the Anglicans join in with the Uniting Church. Lyndon takes a service at Laurina Lodge, provides home communion and is available for pastoral support. An after-school program is scheduled to begin after Easter. The possibilities of joining with the Uniting Church or with an adjacent Anglican parish have been discussed and are still open for consideration.

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Brenda Burney inducted at Bairnsdale

Ursula Plunkett

St John's beautiful and historic church was filled with parishioners, family and friends for the induction of the Rev'd Brenda Burney, on Thursday 15 March, as Rector of the Parish of Bairnsdale.

After the procession of supporting clergy had entered the church the Rev'd Phyllis Andy gave the traditional Acknowledgement of the Land and Welcome to Country.

The Administrator, Archdeacon Philip Muston and Archdeacon Edie Ashley of East Gippsland welcomed the Rev'd Brenda, her husband Rod and the people present.

Brenda's last parish of Churchill / Boolara / Yinnar was well represented and 15 parishioners came forward to present Brenda to the Administrator followed by our three churchwardens who believed "that she is well qualified and has been prayerfully and lawfully appointed".

In his sermon Archdeacon Philip Muston talked about Moses, his many failings and how God did not give up on him and supported him; as we must support Brenda with thoughtfulness, prayer, consideration and encouragement as she takes up her ministry.

The Archdeacon then talked about Hebrews 13 – encouraging parishioners to show hospitality to Brenda and Rod, to our brothers and sisters, to strangers who could be angels in disguise. We must remember Brenda in prayer and imitate her faith and always remember the changelessness of Christ: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and tomorrow.

Members of our congregation then brought symbols of ministry to



Two photos in one: the Rev'd Brenda Burney and her husband Rod (photo: Dave Perryman); background church garden (photo: Linda Davies)

Archdeacon Edie who presented them to the Incumbent: a Bible, Prayer Book, water, stole, map, holy oil, bread and wine and holy vessels. Every symbol was acknowledged with thanks and prayer.

The licence was read by the Registrar, Mr Brian Norris, after which the Administrator led our new Rector to her stall and she was presented to us as "Rector of the Parish of Bairnsdale". A wonderful and exciting moment!

The Mayor of Bairnsdale, Joe Retino, welcomed our new Rector and said that it was important to acknowledge that we are a city of 41,000 people. He hoped that

the good relationship between council and church would continue.

Pastor Gary Stephens of the Presbyterian Church welcomed Brenda, whom he had known for some years, and greeted her for the other ministers unable to attend.

Churchwardens Peggie Arthur and Sheila Harrison then spoke words of appreciation and encouragement and gave gifts to Brenda, Rod and their dog Lucy.

The service finished with the Rev'd Brenda thanking members of her old parishes and St John's. She prayed for the world and community.

Beautiful refreshments were available and much enjoyed by all.



Photo: Judi Hogan

Receiving symbols of ministry: Archdeacon Edie Ashley and the Rev'd Brenda Burney



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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'.



Parishioners together enjoying the fellowship of their first combined Progressive Dinner

Moe-Newborough firsts

Alice Weatherall

The Moe Newborough amalgamation is well and truly established. There are and will continue to be first-off events together. Already we have celebrated joint services and a Christmas Parish Dinner together. We have had the Harvest Festival at St Aidan's; Progressive Dinner in parishioners' homes; and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Luncheon. The guild has amalgamated and to all

accounts is melding together nicely. Reports from the now combined Mothers Unions have also been positive.

The parish Lenten study groups ("Distorted images of God") are being well attended. The study group environment offers parishioners the opportunity to engage in a more in-depth discussion with peers, sharing information and knowledge about the subject course. These study groups are the perfect place to discover new perspectives. As we listen

and ask questions we soon start to notice a wide variety of different viewpoints on the same topic.

We are all working hard to make the transitions as enjoyable and joyful as possible. Church mergers are a lot of hard work, but they can produce fruitful results. A merged congregation can and will generate new life, new talents and an energy towards spreading the message of Jesus Christ, as is the case with the Moe-Newborough churches.

Lost sheep of Israel Corinella

Colin Oakley
Westernport

This may seem like a late Christmas story, but it should be told. Last December we put up a nativity scene outside the church. It was really well received by the community. People stopped as they passed in their cars to thank us for the display. We were pleasantly pleased to have brought the message of the gospel in some tangible way to our end of the wood. Even those who were not regular worshippers, contributed to the display.

And here is where our problem lay. A generous person had cut out and painted sheep and a donkey to add to the stable scene. They were lovely. Before long, one of the sheep walked. Being of the rather two dimensional sort – cut outs – we couldn't see how that could have happened. Then we realized we were dealing with a



Corinella is praying for the return of the lost sheep – both kinds

sheep rustler. We had a case of the lost sheep of Corinella, but we resisted the temptation of cursing the rustler.

On reflection, the title of lost sheep could apply to both the lost sheep cut-out or the mutton chopped opportunist who liberated the sheep. What do we do? We decided

to pray for the lost sheep: both the cut-out so generously donated, and the thief who now held a one-off creation somewhere against its will. Blessings to both.

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

Hope Restart receives building permit

Peter and Margaret Down

We were very excited to receive the Building Permit for The Hope Restart Centre Inc. which will be a Residential Rehabilitation for those suffering from alcohol and drug addiction.

We received the permit on 12 February 2018. It was the culmination of a lot of hard

work, but made well worthwhile because of the fantastic community support throughout East Gippsland. We have now taken another step along the way by calling for tenders for the project, and a lot of preparation is going on behind the scenes to get ready for the big day when the first sod will be turned and the building started.



Hope Restart Centre Chairman Peter Down, with wife and Project Officer Margaret Down, accepting the Building Permit approval from Brian Ross of EGBP Surveyors, Bairnsdale

"Make a difference" Lent Study Group

Carolyn Raymond – Morwell

Every year in Lent St Mary's offers a study group as part of our journey throughout Lent.

This year we are studying Our World today...Christians can make a difference, by Bishop Bill Ray, who is bishop of North Queensland diocese. Bishop Ray has used the readings set for each Sunday to inform and challenge us. Many in the congregation are keen to take part.

The Rev'd David Head is preaching throughout Lent on "Living Sacramentally". Both his sermons and the study group have informed our Lenten journey.



Lenten study group at St Mary's

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“All God creates is good” – World Day of Prayer

2018

Many churches around Gippsland recently gathered together for an ecumenical day of prayer.

Morwell

Carolyn Raymond

St Mary's Morwell was pleased to host the well-attended World Day of Prayer for all the churches in Morwell.

Suriname, this year's WDP focus, is a small country most of us knew little about. It is located on the north coast of South America, bordering the Atlantic Ocean. Dutch is still the main language spoken which reflects their history, but there are many different ethnic groups.

Suriname relies on bauxite mining for export income. Gold mining also provides income but this mining is threatening to pollute the rivers. A large percentage of the population are children, which is challenging the education system. This is a country struggling economically and women and children are most disadvantaged.

Several people from other Morwell churches participated in the service. Some “became” women from the country and shared with us their personal history, and their life's challenges. Other representatives from

the different churches led us in the confession, challenging us to look at how we care for God's creation.

We prayed for the people of Suriname, knowing now more of the challenges they face. We thanked God for the beauty of this country with its extensive forests and large rivers. We prayed too for ourselves, that we may care for and appreciate the world God has given us.

To pray together as a community of churches, unites us, no matter what denomination we come from.

Moe-Newborough

Alice Weatherall

About 50 people attended the World Prayer Day service at St Luke's on 2 March. The guest speaker was Wills Mana who is the new Chaplain (since December 2017) at Lowanna College, a state secondary school in Newborough.

Wills spoke to us about how, by the mercy and grace of God, we have many wonderful animals and a beautiful country and why we should endeavour to keep it that way.

The combined church congregation watched a short video of life and the living conditions in Suriname. The theme for the Suriname worship service urged us to evaluate how our actions affected our planet – one of our Lord's greatest creations.

The environmental crisis is also a crisis of global justice. God's justice always means loving and sacrificial self-giving. We, as Christians, cannot be silent. We live in the hope and belief that people have the means, and increasingly, the will to focus on justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

Wills suggested that we may use the way we do WDP activities to educate and campaign for climate justice.

The country focus in 2019 will be Slovenia with the theme “Come. Everything is Ready”.

Sale

Christine Morris

St Paul's cathedral hosted a very prayerful, creative, moving and multimedia evening service for the World Day of Prayer.

The 50 people who attended from many of the local churches were challenged with how we as individuals can best care for creation, ensure the future of the earth for the following generations, and make others aware that we all are responsible to take care of the environment.

The dramatized, colourful and powerful Genesis 1 Bible reading involved many people, and used music, sounds, dance, large pieces of cloth and lights to tell the creation story. Commencing with three areas covered in black cloth, we ended with a “day”, “night” and middle display with animals, birds, bread and vegetation.

The confession and prayers were written by the Suriname people. Instead of the usual speaker people moved around three stations. They could look at photos from Suriname and light a prayer candle, place an object or flower on the creation display and give thanks for God's creation. The third station was a display about recycling where people wrote their commitment to creation on sticky notes.



Some members of various Morwell churches who took part in the World Day of Prayer service, in front of the decorated altar at St Mary's. The Suriname flag has a many pointed star representing the different ethnic groups. The red, green and white stripes are symbolic of justice, the environment and peace.



Wills Mana, Chaplain from Lowanna College, speaking at the Moe-Newborough service



Harry Langres and Allan Huggins after the World Day of Prayer at St Mark's Anglican Church in Yarragon



“Night” from the Genesis story of creation at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale



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Graeme Clark – the man who invented the bionic ear

Reviewed by Richard Prideaux

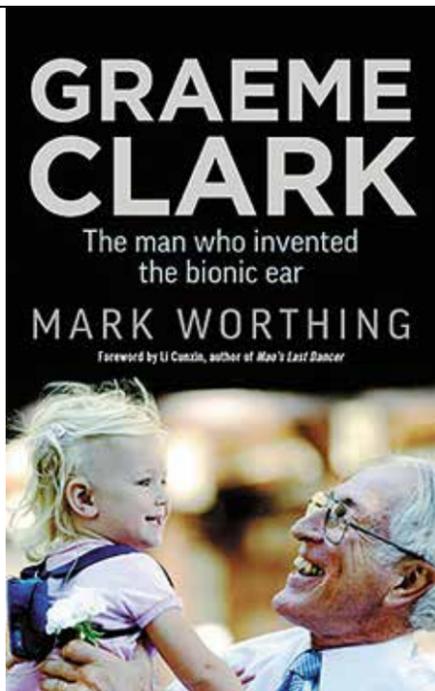
Science historian and Tabor College lecturer Mark Worthing has done us all a favour by meticulously charting the amazing journey of Graeme Clark's achievement of enabling children profoundly deaf from birth and adults with later in life deafness to hear and understand human voice.

He has achieved this worldwide first against all the odds, including the scorn of some of his international peers, and is deservedly feted as one of Australia's greatest ever scientists and a rightful member of the Royal Society, a winner of the prestigious Lister Medal, the Excellence in Surgery Award of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and many other international prizes.

I knew Graeme personally as we were both members of Ridley College Council for a period of time in the 1990s.

He was and still is a genial, quietly spoken but strong minded man with a deep Christian conviction.

One of the features of Worthing's biography is that it charts the growth of Clark's Christian faith which began with his church-attending parents, was strengthened by his membership of the Student Christian Movement at University; encouraged by the Challis Professor of Biology Charles Birch, Clarke's first lecturer in Zoology at Sydney University; substantially deepened by his friendship with Neuroscientist and Communication Professor Donald McKay, author of *The Clockwork Image* and a dynamic evangelical leader at Keele University in the UK;



and brought to a personal faith in Christ through the ministry of the Christian speaker at an SCM camp he attended at Otford on the New South Wales coast. The speaker was George Garnsey, whose father was then the Anglican Bishop of Gippsland.

Graeme's vision for a solution to profound deafness was sparked by the partial deafness of his pharmacist father and apparently at age 8 Graeme was heard to say: "When I grow up I am going to fix ears!"

This goal remained front and centre as he pursued a study program which commenced with degrees in Medicine, Surgery and Ear, Nose and Throat specialization and continued in later life with studies in the engineering behind miniaturization of micro-technology. This laborious and extremely demanding program was shared with his young wife Margaret and their eventual family of five.

Not the least of Clark's challenges was finding the vast amount of money required to form his research team. He turned out to be a master of fund-raising as well, persuading Reg Ansett to run three telethons on Channel 10, then premier Henry Bolte to supply Victorian State Government support and eventually obtaining substantial Federal funding.

The creation of a bionic ear, a cochlear implant of a powerful tiny microchip contained in a leak-proof gold box in the inner ear, uses electrical impulses to stimulate the nerves of the inner ear making signals which can be converted into audible voice by a person without any natural hearing. Such an achievement was declared impossible as late as 1964 by a leading American professor in otolaryngology. By early 1980 Clark had made it a reality and by the mid-1980s it was rapidly becoming the technology of choice to overcome deafness, much to the distress of the some in the Auslan community who saw Clark's work as the death of their identity.

This is a quite remarkable all-Australian story told in a clear and honest way with no frills, just like humble Graeme Clark himself. It is a read you will not be able to put down!

Richard Prideaux is a Lay Reader and member of the Cowes congregation in the Bass / Phillip Island parish, a part-time chaplain at Newhaven College, and blogs at richardprideaux.wordpress.com



A feast of creativity and fun!

St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, hosts creative weekend

On the weekend of 28-29 April, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale will be hosting two luminaries of the creative faith community, the Rev'd Dr Rod Pattenden and singer songwriter, Trish Watts.

Rod Pattenden is a Uniting Church minister in Newcastle, an artist, art historian, dancer and educational facilitator who is interested in the connection between spirituality and the arts. Rod has written and lectured widely on these aspects of the arts and creativity in Australia and overseas. He is the former chairperson of the Blake Prize for Religious Art.

Trish Watts, is a singer/songwriter, educator,

Voice Movement Therapy practitioner, spiritual director, and community choir director. Whether she is working with a group or individuals, her approach to life is as an adventure, evoking joy, energy, freedom, trust and connection. She has recently worked with children in Cambodia.

With Dean Susanna Pain, they celebrate over 25 years as co-founders and leaders of InterPlay® Australia, a community arts practice.

From 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm on Saturday 28 April they will lead us in a workshop: "Play with the Five Freedom Paths – storytelling, movement,

singing, silence and connection".

They will lead our worship on Sunday at 8:00 and 10:00 am with the theme of: "Sparks of Life: sustaining creative lives".

On Sunday evening, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, Trish will lead, "Sanctuary: Where heaven touches earth – uplifting and peaceful songs for inspiration, meditation and community joy". Entry by donation.

This should be an inspiring and uplifting weekend opening us to new possibilities, and nourishing us in word, and song.

To register interest, contact Susanna: 0418 637 469 Susanna.pain@gmail.com

Busy times at Bunyip

Chris Bennie

We are having a busy time at St Thomas' in Bunyip at the moment. On Sunday 4 March we had our second Bunyip Lecture, at three in the afternoon.

It was entitled, "An old Hotel, the Stage Coach and the Old Sale Road." The presenter, George Fry, is husband to one of our "Wednesday Eucharist Group," of regulars, a local farmer, business man and local historian. George's enthusiasm for his subjects soon rubbed off on all of us as he told us many stories, facts and myths of Bunyip and the surrounding regions. We had 25 to 30 there.

On Sunday 11 March at St Thomas' we celebrated three important festivals at our Sunday Eucharist: the Harvest Festival, Mothering Sunday, and a thanksgiving for the life and work of the great preacher and evangelist Billy Graham, who had inspired and strengthened many of us in our faith and lives.

Somehow Fr Ken Parker managed to weave all three matters into his sermon (I don't know how he did it!) along with some thoughts on the excellent book we are using for our Lenten studies: *Calling: A Song for the Baptized*, by Caroline A Westerhoff, a spiritual teacher in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, Georgia, USA.



Three celebrations in one at St Thomas' Bunyip – note the apples under the window

Large group explores Franciscan community idea

With St Clare and St Francis – The Next Step for the Abbey

Edie Ashley

Thirty five people gathered at The Abbey on Saturday 3 March to talk about the formation of a dispersed Franciscan Community associated with The Abbey, and for those interested, the next steps in becoming a Franciscan Tertiary.

The group of Gippslanders included people from Sale, Trafalgar, Warragul, Yarram, Bairnsdale, Paynesville and Lakes Entrance.

We were privileged to welcome a number of Tertiary Franciscans from the Victorian network, who came to talk with us about the pathway ahead.

Colin Valentine, the Regional Minister for the Victorian/Tasmanian Franciscan Region was with us, along with seven other Tertiaries – Sandra Jackson, Siobhan Carson, Jan and Michael Down, Drew Stocker, Patti Singleton with her husband David – as well as Glenys Wimmer, a Franciscan Tertiary from Sale.

The weather was magnificent, and the Lake at its best with the Classic Boat Festival in full swing.

We shared a simple meal, and then gathered for conversation. Each of the Franciscans shared their journey and call into becoming a professed Franciscan Tertiary. Colin Valentine, the

Regional Minister outlined the process and timeframe.

There was much discussion and excitement, as we grappled with the ways in which the standard process of becoming a professed Tertiary Franciscan might work as we formed the community at The Abbey. A number of people have expressed their commitment to starting the journey to becoming a Tertiary Franciscan.

It is the beginning of an important journey for those personally involved and for The Abbey, and for the Diocese of Gippsland.

We shared the Eucharist, we prayed for each other and went on our ways, encouraged by the sense of God's Spirit with us and the very early beginnings of what might become a Community in Dispersion at The Abbey.

Archdeacon Edie Ashley is Archdeacon of the Eastern Region, Abbey Priest, and Priest at Paynesville.



Sharing lunch at The Abbey

Exploring Pilgrimage at The Abbey

Walking, reflecting, praying, in the company of God's creation
5:00 pm Friday evening 4 May until after lunch Sunday 6 May 2018

"What is the difference between a walker and a pilgrim? The basic difference is that you become a pilgrim when you walk with your heart. You discover that you have deep questions in your heart and it is high time to answer them!" writes Dee Nolan in *A Food Lover's Pilgrimage to France*.

This weekend in May will be led by Jude Benton and Edie Ashley. Come along to The Abbey and explore this time with others. There will be short walks and longer, or the opportunity to potter at your own pace. Take time to listen to your heart, to be present to the environment around you and open to the Spirit of God, to pray, to share community and celebrate together.



Cross number 10 in the gardens at The Abbey on Raymond Island

Twin share full time \$235. Part time or other options available.

To book or for further information, phone The Abbey on (03) 5156 6580 or email infor@theabbey.org.au.



A welcoming sign at St John's, Nar Nar Goon

Family Church at St John's, Nar Nar Goon

Chris McAleer

The recent decision to develop a child-friendly family service at St John's as part of our Mission Action Plan has been whole-heartedly embraced by the congregation.

The interior has been rearranged to create a children's corner, while the sermons are intentionally focused to be accessible to children. The whole service is made easier for visitors to follow by using our projector and screen, which also allows the use of audio visuals. Contemporary worship songs have replaced the hymns and the overall informality has elicited a generally positive response.

It's early days yet with a long way to go, but the start has been positive. If you know of anyone who is moving into our area and looking for a spiritual home where they will be warmly accepted, please direct them to us.

More committed people will be needed to help us put the second part of our Mission Action Plan into operation with the opening of the new Parish Community Centre later this year. The 125th anniversary of St John's Anglican Church will be celebrated in 2019 and there's no better way to celebrate it than with more young families!

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

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Enjoying morning tea at mainly music, Korumburra

morning tea makers, presenters and technology savvy volunteers.

We applied for and received an Anglicare grant which has helped with start up costs. A report commissioned last year titled "The first thousand days" identified Korumburra as a growing area for young families who needed help with connecting to community supports so *mainly music* is a way to do this as well as providing fun and friendship for all involved.

The lead up to Easter has allowed some gentle proclaiming of God's love but even this is "too religious" for some, so please pray that God's message of love can be shared without resistance or fear.

Our prayer is that these families will be loved into the church community. *Mainly music* is such a great gift and we are thankful that we can use it to reach out to our parish with God's love.

*The Rev'd Fran Grimes
is Rector at
Korumburra / Poowong.*

Dancing feet at *mainly music*

**Fran Grimes
Korumburra / Poowong**

Mainly music has started at Korumburra this year.

The first week we were overwhelmed with registrations and at least one or two new families have registered

every week since.

Mums have expressed gratitude that there is now something in the town for young pre-school families.

It is so encouraging to open our wonderful facilities to the community. A great team has formed from church with welcomers,

Mothers Union offers free retreat for families

One of the objectives of Mothers' Union worldwide is to help families whose lives have met with adversity.

Here in Gippsland the members raise funds to provide for AMUA / St Barnabas Retreat Program, which allows up to three deserving families to experience quality time with a host family and other

recipients, for a catered three nights / four days break, on peaceful Raymond Island. MU pays the cost of accommodation and meals for the three days for participants sponsored by their parishes.

Parishes can contribute to the cost of travel to ensure participants are able to enjoy even more their time away of

refreshment, encouragement and love in this beautiful setting.

Transport can be arranged from the railway station at Bairnsdale. Our host family is there for the support of families. The feedback letters we have had from previous participants have been appreciative, enthusiastic and encouraging

How do you sponsor a family?

It is suggested that only one family from a parish attend at one time. Names are put to our Chaplain, the Rev'd Thelma Langshaw, for consideration. Her contact details are: The Rev'd Thelma Langshaw, Christ Church Omeo VIC 3898. Phone: 5159 1240 Mobile: 0428458367 or email: gburston@skymesh.com.au/.

Dates for 2018 will be Monday 1 October to Thursday 4 October, so please consider people who could benefit from this experience and provide their names to Thelma no later than 14 August, thank you.

Individual and parish donations are always appreciated towards the cost of running this program, and any donations can be sent to the AMUA Gippsland Treasurer.



Sunset on Raymond Island

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Where do you go when God seems distant, even absent?

A short provocation for ever curious students

Nikolai Blaskow

On an early evening walk by the Sale lake recently, my wife and I were treated to a truly wondrous spectacle: hundreds of swallows wheeling about in a beautiful, seemingly never ending aerobatic display to rival the Roulettes. In reality it lasted fifteen minutes but seemed to go on forever to the point that you feared they might die with exhaustion and drop out of the sky.

I know, you don't have to leap to the notion of God.

I'm sure the scientifically minded would have said it was an "awe-inspiring" act of Mother Nature. But the *experience* of it was more than that for me. I wondered how they didn't collide with one another, and what a weird and wonderful choreography was orchestrating this majestic dance. Round and round they wheeled as One—sometimes rising high into the twilight sky, at other times descending, skimming close to the water and then rising again, wheeling this way and that, with small clumps

of other swallows joining them... seamlessly.

And when they came within earshot, the *sounds* of a symphony not dissimilar to many hands clapping, only muted. Then, in one movement, they all stopped and seemed to fall down en masse: to float and disappear onto the rushes. In that sheer silence, I heard God.

It reminds of the Director Werner Herzog's moment in Antarctica when in the midst of these groups of penguins moving across the vast expanse of ice, one lone

penguin decided to turn his back on them and head for the glacial mountains in the distance. Herzog insists that you could have taken that penguin by force and set him amongst the others, but in the end he would still have set out for the mountains anyway. What was the command that turned him around?

Following on from International Women's Day, I choose this observation of St. Hildegard of Bingen (1098–1179), named a Doctor of the Church in 2012 as a challenging statement which she wrote in her famous book, *Scivias*.

You understand so little of what is around you because you do not use what is within you.



The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow

How, I wonder, would you answer her provocation?

The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow is Head of RAVE (Religion and Values Education) at Gippsland Grammar School, and is also on the Editorial Committee of the Journal DAN, Dialogue Australasia Network which provides resources for the teaching of Religious Education throughout Australia and the Pacific Region.

Anglicare Fare

"Caring Dads" – a step to positive parenting

Cathrine Muston (Anglicare Community Development Officer)

The role of parent is arguably the most significant one we can fill, yet it seems that many struggle to understand the impact that our actions, and inaction, can have on children. Anglicare Victoria has been trialling a cutting edge program for violent dads in inner Gippsland. *Caring Dads* is an internationally acclaimed model from Canada that teaches men about the impact of family violence on children and the importance of a respectful relationship with the children's mother.

Caring Dads is a 17 session program that aims to move men from a parent centred approach to parenting, towards a more child focused approach. Through active group discussion, exercises and homework, the men are led by trained facilitators to understand their own upbringing and how that in turn influences the behaviour of their children.

The courses are facilitated by experienced practitioners Tracey Logan and Dean Lawrence, who have found that the men who participate in the course are focussed more on themselves as a parent than on what their children need. The belief that



The Caring Dads team

children should be "seen and not heard" has contributed to participants' controlling or abusive behaviour with little understanding of the developmental needs of children. As one participant said, "I used to think that kids just needed a good whack. Now I think they just need an adult to make an effort".

Dean Lawrence, who worked in foster care for more than ten years before coming to *Caring Dads*, says that the most rewarding part of the program for him is when the men realize the impact that their behaviour has on their children and when they learn to parent with the child's needs as central. Tracey, who has been employed in

family services at Anglicare for five years, agrees and adds that because children take on the fear and stress of the adults around them, it is important to build sensitivity in the Dads about how they treat the children's mothers.

Dads want and can have a positive impact on their children, but often do not have the knowledge or skills to do so. Helping dads to understand the feelings and needs of their children, and to learn different ways of disciplining so that these needs are taken into consideration can help to end their controlling and abusive behaviour.

Emily Walker, Coordinator of the *Caring Dads* program has come to Anglicare from working in the Quantum

family violence program where she supported women and children who were victims and survivors of family violence. While at Quantum she noticed a large gap in programs for perpetrators of violence and so was keen to take up the opportunity to work in a program as innovative as *Caring Dads*. She says the benefits of the course are that the children and mothers are safer, and the fathers learn to be more sensitive to the needs of their children.

So far two programs have run in the Latrobe Valley and there is the ability to run groups in both South Gippsland / Bass Coast and Baw Baw Shires, but more referrals are needed. Men who are interested in participating in the groups must admit a level of accountability and that abusive behaviour is an issue.

Any enquiries can be directed to Emily Walker on 0428 945 854 or 5133 9998 or Caringdads@anglicarevic.org.au



The Rev'd Phyllis Andy

Celebrating the real Easter

Phyllis Andy

"I am the resurrection and the life says the Lord, Those who believe in me, even though they die yet will they live." JOHN 11:25

As Easter draws near I think of coming together to celebrate a gift of giving – our giving gifts to each other and God's gift to us of Jesus. As I watch the family stir to greet the day I join in too with the greetings.

When the Easter Sunday roast dinner is prepared for this big family gathering, and the table is set, we stand for the blessings of the food, and a reminder of what the day is really about: one person who is at the centre of such a celebration and that's Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

The food is then served, followed by the great Easter egg hunt in the garden, with about twenty kids and parents all searching. And I think of the last supper Jesus had with his disciples, before his death. The true meaning of Easter is life, love and sacrifice: that God gave us a gift – his only son Jesus, and that gift is the greatest gift of all, for all humankind. And the other is Jesus' giving of himself so that we might have eternal life.

We come to realize that this Easter time is taken for granted. So the message we must give the family – the true meaning of what Easter is about – is the love of God, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, living the life of being a true believer – giving, loving

and growing in faith. It's about Jesus' dying on the cross – the pain and suffering he took upon himself so that we might have new life.

We come to an understanding of our obligations to others. It's about preaching and practising: teaching the true word of the gospel to others and living in the Way – to me this is what Easter is about.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that every one who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." JOHN 3:16

The Rev'd Phyllis Andy:
Aboriginal Ministry, Lake Tyers,
East Gippsland.

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EDITORIAL

Playing in the kingdom

"Play is the essential and ultimate form of relationship with God." So said Brian Edgar, Professor of Theological Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary. He was speaking on the topic "Why God Doesn't Want Servants: Work-ethic and play-ethic in culture and spirituality" at the Ethos annual dinner in Melbourne late last year. (His new book, *The God Who Plays: a playful approach to theology and spirituality*, is now out.)

Brian argued that "The polarized view of work and play which has been so unhelpful in many ways can be overcome when both work and play are understood in terms of their relationship to God". He asked his listeners to imagine what a Christian life of work, service, sacrifice and worship would be like without play!

C S Lewis certainly knew how to be playful, and understood the importance of play, in writing *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Narnia fans will remember the resurrection scene when the Stone Table, on which Aslan the great lion has been killed, cracks and breaks in two as the sun rises. Aslan, alive again, meets the two girls, Lucy and Susan. His strength returning, he starts a game with them:

Round and round the hill-top he led them, now hopelessly out of their reach, now letting them almost catch his tail, now diving between them, now tossing them in the air with his huge and beautifully velvety paws and catching them again, and now stopping unexpectedly so that all three of them rolled over together in a happy laughing heap of fur and arms and legs. It was such a romp as no one has ever had except in Narnia; and whether it was more like playing with a thunderstorm or playing with a kitten, Lucy could never make up her mind.
(from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*)

Was creation work or play? In *The Magician's Nephew*, when Aslan sings up creation, it seems like awesome, holy, serious play – the dichotomy breaks down altogether. And perhaps that is how it will be in the Kingdom of God, when it is fully realized.

May we all have a blessed and playful Easter, to the glory of the God who plays.

*You shall go out in joy,
And be led forth in peace,
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

ISAIAH 55: 12

PNG EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY APPEAL

ABM has launched an emergency appeal for the people of Papua New Guinea in response to the magnitude – 7.5 earthquake which struck the Southern Highlands province on 26 February, causing landslides, destroying buildings and widespread damage. It is estimated that at least 67 people have been killed, and about 150,000 are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

Your prayers and support will be greatly appreciated by ABM's Partners. To donate to the PNG Earthquake Emergency Appeal, please phone: 1300 302 663 or visit: www.abmission.org/png-earthquake-emergency.

OUR EASTER COVER

One of the many names for Christ is the Tree of Life. Our cover image is also a reminder that Jesus' death and resurrection are for the whole of creation, not just human beings.

Thanks to Archdeacon Edie Ashley for the photo of the Gippsland Red Gum (*Eucalyptus Tereticornis Subsp. Mediana*), a significant tree for Gippsland and a threatened species. (See "Gippsland Red Gum Grassy Woodland and Associated Native Grassland" at: environment.gov.au/epbc/publications/gippsland-red-gum)

Photo: Jo McLeay



Ayrshire milking cow (with unusual colouring for the breed) on Kilmorack Farm, just out of Korumburra

Cautious optimism grows in the dairy industry

Churches support dairy farmers through tough times

Jan Down

Two years ago the Murray-Goulburn dairy cooperative suddenly, drastically and retrospectively cut its farm-gate price paid to dairy farmers, and was quickly followed by its main competitor, New Zealand-owned Fonterra, causing much pain to the farmers, with a flow-on effect to local economies.

Over that time, Gippsland churches have provided practical and moral support, while government and community groups have also assisted.

Now, the dairy industry is looking somewhat steadier and more hopeful.

Churches and farmers

John and Vanessa Sharman are dairy farmers at Shady Creek and parishioners at Warragul Anglican Church. John explained that the price cut had been “devastating” for farmers. Initially they were being asked to pay back money, though this “did not eventuate”.

Support from people at church was overwhelming, he said. Farmers were given vouchers as well as moral support. He commented that if he wasn't in church for a couple of weeks, people would ring to see how things were. “Which is the way the church should be”, he added.

Steve Dwyer is another

dairy farmer and member of the Catholic church at Maffra. He and his wife are also involved with the combined churches in Maffra. He assists with the *mainly music* group at the Anglican church. Steve said the Anglican and Uniting Churches in Maffra were supportive, with the provision of hampers for farmers being encouraging. Some people asked what was needed, which he felt was a good approach. He explained that the Catholic church also provided assistance through St Vincent's.

Talking was important too, Steve said, as some people were depressed and there were even some suicides.

Saputo and the ACCC

John Sharman thinks dairy farmers may be “almost at the end of a bad run”, as the take-over of the Murray-Goulburn dairy cooperative by the Canadian company, Saputo, looks increasingly likely.

Not that this sale is necessarily seen as a good thing in itself. John commented that as Murray-Goulburn is the last Australian dairy company, he will be sorry to see it sold, but that this is probably the best outcome out of a sad situation.

Damian Murphy, a dairy farmer, parishioner at St Peter's Leongatha, and also a member of various industry policy advisory groups, agreed “it was tough at the time” and a shock to everyone. Farmers are “still fairly angry”, because they see the situation

as caused by bad management at Murray-Goulburn.

But Damian said they had been “very fortunate with a good season since” as even though the price has been lower, a good season means inputs cost less, so this has eased the situation for farmers a little.

While generally in favour of the take-over, the sticking point for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) is its concern that there may not be enough competition in western Victoria. This is currently being addressed by Saputo.

A decision from the ACCC on the take-over was expected by 29 March, according to an ABC Rural report (8/3/2018) with Murray Goulburn looking to complete the sale by 30 June.

The local economy

Daniel Armstrong, a dairy industry consultant and a parishioner at Warragul Anglican Church, said that Australia is vulnerable to overseas prices – a lot of our dairy products are exported – but world prices are “at moderate levels at the moment”.

The down-turn in the industry has had an impact on towns in the dairying region of Gippsland. Daniel said that farmers have been more cautious with their spending, and there was “not a whole lot of confidence” for

expanding, but that over the last 12 months, farmers have generally “ticked along okay”.

Ken Fraser, Coordinator of Economic Development and Tourism for the South Gippsland Shire, agreed there had been an impact on local businesses, “from vets to all sorts of suppliers”.

There had also been an increase in clientele with rural financial counselling services, he said, but the numbers were dropping again now. He commented on the uncertainty that farmers have been experiencing, but if the Saputo deal went through this would give clear direction.

Dairying – past, present and future

Steve Dwyer reminisced on the history of the industry: “Dairying has provided our country towns with work and financial stability for a century.

I can still remember my father telling me Maffra never felt the Great Depression. Dairy farming provided work and wealth generation even in the toughest of environments.

“In 2018 we find ourselves in a dilemma. Farmers have had two years of losses and many have simply sold up and left the industry. The “milky way” at Newry – the road that begins at Wrights Lane and traces Lower Newry Road to Upper Maffra Road – used to boast dairy farms on each side of the road for ten miles. It now has two farmers producing for Murray Goulburn, countless hobby farms, two large vegetable farms and farmers delivering milk

to Darnum and Korumburra. It would be typical.”

With so much depending on the overseas market, as well as the push in the domestic market to keep supermarket prices down, Steve is concerned for the future of the industry. He said “It will eventually be the consumer who determines the fate of dairying” – whether they are prepared to pay for a premium product that will provide “enough of a living to encourage a new generation of farmers to enjoy farming and living off the land”.

John and Vanessa Sharman moved from beef cattle to dairy after the arrival of their first daughter. John said “It's a great life. You don't get many holidays but that's all part of the business.” They are both out milking at 4:30 every morning and again at 4:00 pm, finishing at 6:00 o'clock.

Damian Murphy agrees. “It's tough, but it's rewarding”. He enjoys being his own boss, being able to make decisions. He believes there is a future for dairy farming.

With land so expensive, getting into dairy farming can be a challenge for younger people, but share farming can sometimes provide a way in.

Following the closure of GOTAFE's Warragul and Leongatha campuses, Federation Training has announced that it will offer dairy industry training programs in Gippsland during 2018 (as reported in the *South Gippsland Sentinel-Times* 23/2/2018).

Reaching Indigenous Australia for Christ

Hear The Revd Neville Naden, BCA Indigenous Ministry Officer at the BCA Victoria Annual General Meeting and Dinner



Friday 27 April 2018

6.15pm drinks for 6.45pm

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Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919

Lynette Teese

I have a family that is never static. We come together every week and we're always happy to see each other. Sometimes someone in the family is off doing something different but we hope we will see them again soon, often with a new story to tell – of a holiday or a new babe; an illness, or with the sadness of a bereavement.

Of course, I'm talking about my church family. When I look back over my life I know I have always had them, even during that time when I was a teenager and thought I was too busy for them. My family waited and welcomed me back with a love and a joy that hadn't diminished in my absence, but had in fact grown to now include a husband and two small children.

Family is a powerful word. It means different things to different people; it has the power to build us up or to leave us feeling disconnected. Disconnected because sense of family means you belong, and you matter; it connects us to each other, to our time, and importantly, to our worth.

In family we have history and future, we have value and relevance. When we are missing these things we fail to thrive.

The words of family are commonplace around church. We worship our Father, we speak about sisters and brothers in Christ, and we care with pride for our beautiful home, the House of God. We take turns with the housekeeping and we work together to pay the bills.

I have so many warm and wonderful memories at St John's in Maffra. Sunday School as a small child with all the stories of a God who loved me just as I was, followed by youth group as a young teenager, where I got to practise being "one of the big kids".

One memorable Friday night we went on a walk about town with then Rector Arnold Weston. We walked a long way and found ourselves on the outskirts of town at the Maffra Cemetery, in the dark, which was a little frightening to say the least to my young self. A mischievous Rector pretended to hear a noise which had everyone running for the gate; unfortunately for me I twisted



Lynette Teese

One big family

an ankle in the fright and ended up being piggy-backed all the way back to church on the Rector's back. He was jolly about it, and very kind.

Being married at St John's in 1980 was a joy, as were the baptisms, one by one, of the six sons Brian and I were blessed with. They grew up in the church, as I had, and although they have all gone their own

way now, I know that Father God will not give up on them and longs for their return.

God calls us into fellowship with each other for good reason. We are the hands and feet of Jesus, we are the eyes and ears that monitor each other's wellbeing and we nurture and care, comfort and pray with each other when the going gets tough.

When our sweet 13 year old son Christian died unexpectedly in 2010 our

church family embraced us and held us together; their prayer carried us along and helped us to survive.

After Christian's funeral had finished and all our family and friends had left, Brian and I returned to the cemetery to see Christian's grave filled. We had family and friends back at our house but we went back to church instead, where we found our church family having their own cup of tea, after the hard work of the funeral was done, and we joined them. It is a very grace filled memory, and although more hard days followed, the thought of that small space of time gives me peace. All these things come from God, the Father who knew us before we came into being.

This family is easy to belong to. God becomes our Father when we place our faith in Christ, we are his children, other believers become our sisters and brothers in Christ, and this spiritual family is enormous!

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

Diocesan calendar

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*
- 7 9:30 am Safe Church Awareness Workshop – full: St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 22 9:00 am St Peter's Mallacoota: "Thank You" service for all Emergency Services and community support groups, recognizing their voluntary work in recent years
- 27 12 noon Community Lunch, St James' Traralgon*
- 28 10:30 am – 3:00 pm GFS Annual State Day, St John's Anglican Church, Ballarat North. Contact: gippsgskidsplus@gmail.com
- 28–29 A nourishing Feast of Creativity and Fun! At St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, with the Rev'd Dr Rod Pattenden and Trish Watts, both cofounders with Susanna Pain, of InterPlay Australia. Details: 0418 637 469

May

- 4–6 5:00 pm Friday – after lunch Sunday. Exploring Pilgrimage at The Abbey: walking, reflecting, praying in the company of God's creation. Led by Jude Benton and Edie Ashley. Part time options. Contact The Abbey 5156 0511 or info@theabbey.org.au
- 5 7:30 am Community Breakfast, St James' Traralgon*
- 25 12 noon Community Lunch, St James' Traralgon*
- 27 9:30 am A Wesley Celebration at St Thomas' Bunyip, with lively Wesley hymns!
- 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

June

- 13 10:00 am Anglican Mothers Union Australia – June Join In service at Newborough. Speakers from Latrobe Community Health Centres on "Falls Prevention"
- 29 – 1 July 5:00 pm Friday – 2:00 pm Sunday: Young Adults Weekend at The Abbey: A special time to relax together at The Abbey, to talk, walk and enjoy the special beauty of Raymond Island, time to pray and explore spiritual things together. Contact The Abbey 5156 0511 or info@theabbey.org.au
- 30 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Lay Reader Training Day at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- * Community breakfasts and lunches are held at St James' Traralgon. Phone 5174 2045 or 0422 573 374



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