



THE ADVOCATE

Inspired by God's love, through worship, prayer and scriptural reflection, we seek to live our Christ-centred values by meeting the needs of our communities through serving and accepting others.

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May 2020

STAYING CONNECTED

Worshipping Together Even Though We Are Apart

BY MOTHER EDEN NICHOLLS

In time for Sunday 29th March, 2020, I wrote to all parishioners, giving them a pew sheet and a sermon. Inside the pew sheet, I wrote of how we were all navigating these uncertain and constantly changing events in our world, and that while we had hoped that places of worship would remain open, alas it was not to be. As the days and events unfolded, it was to be a Holy Week and Easter unlike anything we had experienced.

I decided not to go down the zoom/livestreaming way of operating, partly because I am not a technical person, and much of what I was seeing, I could not engage with and turned me off. There are a considerable number of people in the parish who do not have computers or access to reliable internet. We are people of the book, and whether that is old fashioned or not, that is who we are.

It is crucial that we continue to nurture ourselves spiritually. Under the theme "Worshipping together even though we are apart," each member of the parish received a booklet of 'Prayers which may be helpful' (this booklet is usually at the rear of the church for people to take if they wish), and a service booklet containing one Morning Prayer Service, the Service of Spiritual Communion, and the service of Compline, together with a list of the Anglican daily readings for the coming

week. I encouraged people to join me in prayer, even though we are separated by physical distance. Morning Prayer at 9.00am, Spiritual Communion at 10.00am Sundays and 12noon weekdays, and Compline at 7.00pm.

For Palm Sunday, each person received a pew sheet, a sermon, a palm cross that I had blessed, and the daily readings for the coming week. Booklets for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday (stations of the cross with reflections based around COVID-19 and events in our world), and for Easter, were also delivered.

Moving forward I have continued to provide a weekly pew sheet, sermon and a list of daily readings for the coming week. Parishioners are urged to continue their regular giving, and I have committed to doing so as well, and we gave them a list of ways this can be done. There is a seven day candle burning in St. Luke's church, and each time it is almost finished, I say a prayer and light a new candle from the old one. This has been publicised on facebook around the area, and we have received many positive comments from the wider community. Every night the windows of St. Luke's are flood-lit from the inside, as a visible sign that the church is continuing and is alive, despite the doors being locked. Our op shop is located in the main street of Yea.

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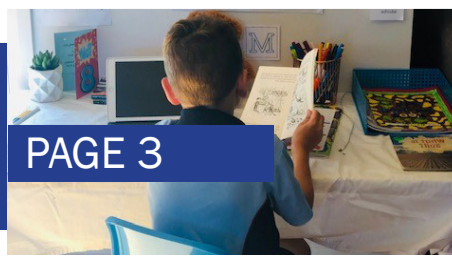


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News from Mothers' Union

BY MARY MUNTZ

Early in March life was quite normal and on Shrove Tuesday people gathered to eat pancakes together in their Parish Halls. This day marks the beginning of the Lenten period when the church activities reflect our preparations for the solemnity of Good Friday. The world was turned upside down by the outbreak of the Corona Virus and the government introduced measures to protect the people in our communities. The introduction of “social distancing” meant our normal church services were now cancelled. Parish priests have filled the void providing the readings, prayers and their sermons for each Holy Day. I am sure many of us embraced the televised worship of Good Friday and Easter Day services.

We are sharing a new journey with so many people at present. We all have different life stories, different experiences, different family situations, personalities and talents. Our general education, life experiences and workplace skills may have prepared parents and grandparents to help children with lessons at home but some may also be overwhelmed by that prospect and the necessity of fulfilling their own employment commitments. Daily activities may not have changed much for some people, but due to the cancellation of all meetings and social outings many of us have to find other ways to fill our days.

While sorting through a myriad of papers and magazines I found a Mia Mia printed in 2007. Barbara Swain was a member of MU in Alstonville, N.S.W. and Coordinator of a Mental Health Support Group. She wrote “The burden of mental health problems and disorders is high and rising. It has been estimated that depression alone will constitute one of the greatest problems worldwide by the year 2020”. I have heard comments that depression is something you “just go and get over it”. It is not that simple and sufferers need the support of family members, friends and professional care. There are many people who live happily on their own but at present are unable to meet at church, visit friends at home, have a coffee at the cafe, or discuss the minutes at a monthly meeting. The residents in our Aged Care Hostels and Nursing Homes have been denied their Easter Communion as their age group is the most vulnerable and the facilities are right to protect their residents. We pray that pastoral care visits will be restored as soon as practicable and social activities will again be possible.

We are so fortunate to live in a country where the governments have been proactive. It is unfortunate that it has been necessary for the police to be monitoring the behaviour of a small part of the population. We offer our thanks and praise for the dedication of all the workers in our hospitals. We continue to pray for families who are mourning and all who are in isolation

Worshipping Together Even Though We Are Apart - continued from page 1

On Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day, a small display with a reading and a reflection and/or question, was added in one of the front windows.

Word spread about the booklet containing the three prayer services, and the weekly pew sheets, sermons and list of readings, and I started to receive requests for copies from people associated with other churches around the area. For those who contacted me in time, they also received the Maundy Thursday, Good

Friday and Easter booklets. At present there are almost 50 people receiving the weekly mail out/letter box drop. I have been heartened by the number of people who have thanked me for the booklets and the weekly package, saying they feel connected through praying the same prayers, reading the same readings and sermon, and being able to do it at the same time that others are praying.

As we shelter in faith, not even COVID-19 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Keeping in touch – Marysville and Buxton

BY FR JOHN JESSOP

In some ways keeping in touch with one another in a small parish is probably easier than in a larger parish. In a dozen phone calls I can speak to all our parish families. Since most of our families are older, although very dynamic, voice contact without the complications of ‘social media’ is much appreciated. This is not to say that members of the parish are not familiar with social media and I know many use it. Our family is spread all over the world and the family WhatsApp group is very active. Nevertheless, a phone call is very welcome – so long as one is not trying to extricate eggs from the pan, or something similar, when it comes!

In addition to contacts between parishioners, there have been weekly letters from the Vicar, in fact there were two leading up to Easter, one for Holy Week, and one for Easter. These give a reminder of the readings, the hymns that might have been sung, a reflection, prayer intentions and notices. The ‘letter’ is posted to those without email (two actually). As soon as we were notified that churches had to be closed, we made sure

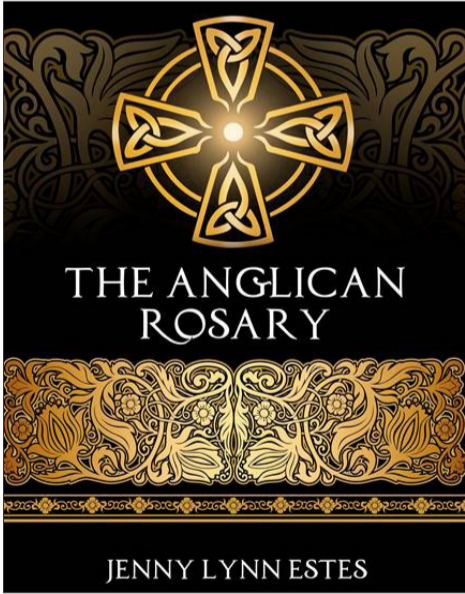
that a month’s worth of the reading sheets was distributed. We are very fortunate that our Parish Secretary is very good at forwarding information, whether it be items of general interest or specific items for the Parish Council.

We live in an area where tourism is a major feature of the local economy. This year Marysville was like a ghost town. Our Easter congregations are the largest of the year, at least three times greater than the normal weekly congregation. It was very strange not to be celebrating with a church overflowing. On the other hand, it was noticeable that the local press and our Lions newsletter, ‘The Triangle’, were very keen to publish reflections on the meaning of Easter. These were generally well received. We have a similar situation with ANZAC Day. We will be marking it in Marysville but without a gathering, and not at a published time.

We have not attempted to live-stream services although some of our parishioners have found broadcast services helpful. There is a profound difficulty in live-streaming the Eucharist for the essence of the celebration is the priest

and people together. There is an interaction between the priest and the congregation and this is a physical interaction. The whole point of sacramental worship is that the physical symbols are an integral part. It would be one thing to watch a service which involves the celebration of the Eucharist with the congregation present, for example, Bishop Clarence’s Consecration, but we would not be participating in that. This might be uplifting and have a spiritual benefit but it is not the

same as watching a priest ‘performing to the camera’ where there is no physical congregational participation. Live-streaming of an office is a different matter, as, for example, is ‘Songs of Praise’, for these require no physical response. The sacrament of Holy Communion is intensely personal – Christ died for me; and importantly communal – we all partake in the love of Christ. This is why we are looking forward to being able to celebrate the feast together.



Innovative & Inspirational

This introduction to The Anglican Rosary opens up a whole new venue for prayer and contemplation utilizing scripture, the Daily Office, Lectio Divina, and more.

THE ANGLICAN ROSARY:

Going Deeper with God - Prayers and Meditations with the Protestant Rosary

By Jenny Estes

Available on Amazon

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Front page photo: Art work from Year 4 History Student, Cathedral College Wangaratta

CONTACT US

GENERAL ENQUIRIES, DESIGN & PRODUCTION
Fiona van Bree
Tel: (03) 5721 3484
registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au
www.wangeratta-anglican.org.au

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Diocese of Wangaratta
PO Box 457, Wangaratta VIC 3677
registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au
Tel: (03) 5721 3484

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Editorial deadline is the 16th of each month (excluding December).

Contributions and photos are welcome (please limit to approximately 300 words) for consideration for publication dependent on space and content with the understanding that they may be edited. Pictures should be provided as a high resolution JPEG (200dpi) or Tiff if possible

SAFE CHURCH

The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta has zero tolerance for abuse. We are committed to providing a safe, respectful, welcoming and positive environment for children and adults from all backgrounds.

If you have experienced abuse or suspect abuse may be occurring in a church setting or by a member of the church you should report this as soon as possible to the Director of Professional Standards on 1800 377 842 (1800 DPSVIC) or email professionalstandards@wangeratta-anglican.org.au.

For more information on our Safe Church policies and procedures contact the Safe Church and Systems Officer on 03 5721 3484.

CCW Learning@home

BY KELLIE CAIRNCROSS

Term Two has certainly looked very different for Cathedral College Wangaratta teachers and students as they have commenced remote learning. The College has worked hard to ensure that students are provided with meaningful but achievable work and is mindful that they don't want to burden parents with feeling they are the classroom teacher.

Cathedral College Wangaratta's Junior School Chaplain Cathy Carden is part of the wellbeing team and said it was important for everyone involved to remain calm.

"Social media has raised anxiety but providing the work is the school's responsibility, not the parents', the College understands that most parents are not teachers, and many will be juggling their own work commitments and running a household"

"Each day, there will be manageable, age appropriate learning tasks set, as well as opportunities for other learning around the home, such as cooking,

gardening, maybe even building."

Ms Carden said communication was the key to the situation, whether it was among families, or between families and schools. The College has created a handbook for teachers, parents and students to help them navigate learning from home. "It's about regular communication and trusting teachers to identify where students need additional support when we return to regular school conditions. Our teachers will be checking in with our students on a daily basis and will be available during the school day to support students. We have always valued our partnership with home, and this is now more important than ever"

While Ms Carden works mostly with Cathedral College's younger students, she shares chaplaincy duties at the school with Reverend David Jones.

Principal Nick Jones explains "We have a dedicated and invested wellbeing team who are available to students and families to provide support and guidance during this

time. As well as a focus on wellbeing, an integral part of the CCW – learning@home program is fostering a sense of connectedness and belonging"

On Friday's, the College 'wraps up' the remote learning week in the form of a newsletter that shares student stories, Friday feel good vibes (jokes and staff videos), staff profile of the week, the weekly prayer and tips on wellbeing. Students can also share their photos and experiences. They are also being given opportunities to participate in challenges from home, for example, to commemorate ANZAC day, students have been asked to send a photo of something they have done with their family to acknowledge ANZAC day.

Nick Jones explained in a letter home to parents, "We trust that Cathedral College Wangaratta will continue to be a source of strength, stability and learning for your family. Term Two will be a very different experience for all of us; however, I am certain that we will emerge on the other side an even stronger, united and compassionate community than we already are".



PHOTO ABOVE: A junior school student working from home.

Keeping active in the Parish of Benalla

BY MOLLY CRAIG

Though the Parish of Benalla has its doors closed, we have been active in many other ways. We have been in regular weekly contact with parishioners via email, keeping them up to date with announcements from the Bishop, as well as our weekly pew sheet. Early on we were printing out copies of the pew sheet to go out to people who don't have the internet, but now we ring them instead, letting them know the readings for Sunday and any other news of the parish.

Social media has become very important for us. We have been sharing not only information about the parish, but also interesting articles from other parishes not only in our diocese, or Australia-wide, but worldwide. Watching services from around the world, including the Archbishop of Canterbury has been a real boost, as well as being able to watch services from former priests from our parish. Zoom has become our new best friend. Parish Council met recently via Zoom and,

though very different to meeting in person, it was usable and the meeting ran well. One of the great things about video conferencing is that you actually get to see people! After all these weeks with not seeing people you are used to seeing regularly it was really lovely to be able to talk face to face.

However, the biggest change for the parish is that we have a new Parish Priest, the Reverend Maryann Leonard. Though we weren't able to be there in person, the service of licensing was videoed and then shared

via our Facebook Page. We welcome Maryann and John to the parish and we are already enjoying working with them and look forward to a formal celebration with a Service of Recognition once we are able to meet in person once more.

from the Bishop



Dear People of the Diocese

As for so many of you, after 24 years of ordained ministry, I found Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2020 to be so very different, in that we were not able to do the things we are used to in relation to our rituals and ceremony. I have a feeling that, even if some of the restrictions are relaxed over the next few weeks, life and ministry will never be the same again. It is amazing how quickly any situation can change and the lasting effect that it will have on us all.

Mothers' Day this year will be different and many might not be able to connect with their mothers in the way in which they hoped. The new buzz word is 'virtual' and the use of technology has escalated to a new level, where programs we have never used before become all too familiar. We know that virtual does not replace the 'real deal', but it has been a way in which we have been able to keep in touch with friends, loved ones and congregation members. This technological connection has created opportunity for people to stay at home, to stay safe and to save lives - this reminder has been broadcast at every opportunity.

The strangeness has not only been for those who are ordained, but also for the faithful members of our parishes who still are not able to enter their places of worship. This struggle that we share with our parishioners is one of the primary reasons for suggesting that, as a Diocese, we should refrain from live-streaming Eucharist Services that, in my opinion, present a 'them and us' situation, where members of our congregation are merely spectators. I have always held strongly to the belief that the Eucharist is an event where Priest and People gather together to celebrate the sacrament of great unity and to participate in the holy mysteries. Much has been communicated with the clergy and people of the Diocese and I am proud of all our clergy for their creative and innovative way of providing material for services of Morning and Evening Prayer and other creative liturgies. Many services were done through the ZOOM app and through live streaming.

We are hopeful that, in registering and applying for the JobKeepers payment, we will be successful, which will take a little strain off Parishes. We know that, with the temporary closing of churches, financial resources are very limited. I do hope that, through the generosity of members of our congregations, we will be able to meet most of our expenses. Our sincere thanks to all those who have made a concerted effort to support their parishes and we look forward to engaging with every Parish Leadership Team over the next two weeks as we navigate a collaborative way forward.

There is this hope that restrictions will be eased over the next few months and that we will slowly but surely be able to re-enter our places of worship with the necessary social-distancing rules in place. Rev'd David Still, our Safe Ministry Officer, has been in contact with all clergy to ensure that we will be able to provide the dimensions, and therefore number of permitted attendees, when we are able to gather for worship in due course.

On 31 May we celebrate the feast of Pentecost which is the fiftieth day since Easter. We might not exactly know when restrictions will be lifted for us to enter our places of worship, but I do hope that Pentecost will be the time when we might be able to do so.

Meanwhile, continue to hope, to pray, to connect and to be reassured of God's presence within the Church and in each of our lives.

Every blessing,

[Signature]

Clarence E Bester
Bishop of Wangaratta



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Parish Partnerships

BY CATHY NESBITT



These first months of 2020 have been like none that I can recall. Yes we have experienced natural disasters in the past, but it has been one after the other so far.

During this time of Covid-19, I hope all readers are safe and well. Not just physically but also mentally. The way we have had to dramatically change the way we conduct our daily lives is not as easy in practice as it is in theory.

So at Anglicare Victoria, yes we have changed the way we operate, but the meaning behind the work we do is still the same and the outcomes we hope to achieve are still the same.

Currently the Anglicare office at 39 Ovens Street is closed to the public and all queries are to be dealt with initially via telephone on (03) 57237900 between 9.30am and 12.00pm.

The Loaves & Fishes – Christians Caring Emergency Relief Program is still operating Monday to Friday from 10am to 12pm. All interviews are now conducted via telephone and a designated time for collection is provided to the clients. It is expected that we will see an increase for this service in the months to come.

Homework and Brick Clubs have all been put on hold until further notice.

How can I help? This is one question we are getting asked a lot and it is wonderful to see, however it is a tricky one when we have physical distancing rules in place. However, Anglicare Wangaratta has teamed up with Pangerang House to get together a group of volunteers to assist with the Sew for Scrubs campaign. If you have a sewing machine and you can sew, let me know. If you have time to wash fabric or cut a pattern, let me know. We have contacted the local hospital and are working to ensure that our work with Sew for Scrubs stays with our local communities. So if you are interested, please send me an email: Cathy.Nesbitt@anglicarevic.org.au

I would also love to hear any stories that people may have about anyone that is being forgotten during this time. Unfortunately there will be people that fall through the cracks and we want to avoid this, so please if you know of anyone in this type of situation let me know.

Remember that in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity and we should seek out those opportunities.

Another thing we have been doing with our volunteers is keeping in touch and sharing photos of some of the projects we have been working on. Here are a few for you to enjoy and maybe get inspiration.

Bees Wax Cloth



Wood Carving



Paved area



Open for Rejoicing

BY REV HELEN MALCOLM

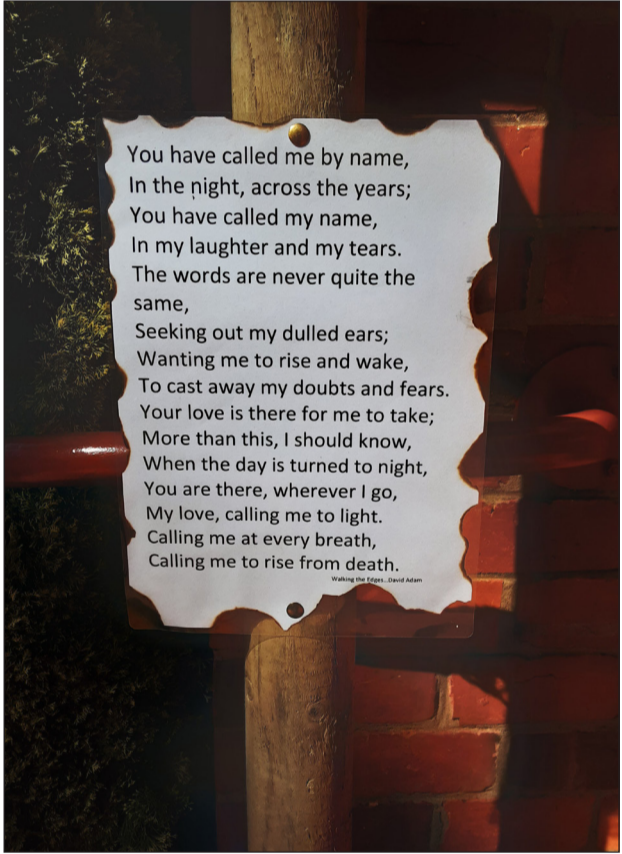
Our churches may be closed, but our hearts were open to rejoice on Easter Day and to give thanks that we can celebrate from this side of the Resurrection.

Parallels have been drawn between the disciples huddled in the upper room and the current physical isolation between families, friends and congregations. In Shepparton, Morning and Evening Prayer services via zoom throughout Holy Week and across the great Paschal Triduum kept us in touch and enabled us to remember Christ's entry into Jerusalem, to revisit the stations of the Cross and the happenings of Holy Week. We observed the solemnity of Good Friday with a Service of Reproach and relived the uncertain waiting of Holy Saturday.

On Easter Day, over 70 parishioners, relations and guests from other denominations, watched and listened as Rev. Jerome blessed and lit the new Paschal Candle and inserted the five nails into the Cross. Rev. Gunnar then proclaimed the Exultet and the Gloria was once again joyfully shared by everyone.

To ensure that the Shepparton community realised that the Church was still alive and active, despite the closed doors, our creative genius, Marg. Rippon, erected a Cross outside the Church doors with appropriate adornment, changing to represent the events, drama and meaning of those eight days: the journey to Jerusalem, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection.

Crosses and texts depict Holy Week (pictured), Good Friday and Easter Day - hopefully passers-by took a



moment to pause, to ponder the mystery and miracle of Easter and to remember and give thanks for God's sustaining presence with us day by day, even through the current challenges affecting all of us.

Easter at Home!

BY CAROLINE BURGE

From a worshipping perspective, Coronavirus could not have come at a worse time, for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, all such amazing occasions in the life of our church, when our church buildings take on such a huge transformation from being decorated with palms for Palm Sunday; Foot Washing and the official stripping of the church on Maundy Thursday; the stark bareness on Good Friday; and then the glory of Easter Day.

the world, in an instant, our church buildings were closed and worship as we knew it would be changed. Despite the various services and liturgies all taking on such a change, the services and liturgies STILL took place. Whilst not in our buildings, most services were held in Rectories, with make shift altars (usually the Rectory dining room table). What an inspiration to see so many electronic versions of Holy Week and Easter being publicised on Parish Websites and Facebook pages.

The Parish of Kilmore, was no different. With the artistic

talents of his wife Patty, Rev André DuPlooy took on board live-streaming and recording of all services from their dining room. The results were inspiring and the appreciation from the parish was wonderful. In an irony when numbers on an average Sunday reach about 50, it was amazing to see sometimes ten times that number tuning into Facebook or YouTube to watch or participate in a service on line. The parish Facebook and website have also been a great place for our Bishop Clarence, and Parish Priest Rev André to address the people during this uncertain time.

Whilst numbers worshipping in our church buildings might be non existent, it seems



PHOTO ABOVE: Christ Church Rectory Dining Room on Easter Day

that everyone is on board with social distancing, and staying safe at home. For

those without internet, the Pew Sheets have been available to pick up from our

churches, or can be dropped off.

Christ Church Kilmore 'nearly' completed

BY CAROLINE BURGE

It has taken over 156 years from the original “completion” of Christ Church Kilmore to the current day. On 19th November, 1857, the first stone was laid by Bishop Charles Perry, and in January 1861 the first service was held in Christ Church. There were 3 architects - Perrot, King and Fleury in succession, but despite many set-backs Christ Church was completed (except for the Bell Tower) in 1864.

Roll on 156 years, and once again, despite many set-backs, Christ Church is about to be completed once again. Over the years, many Priests and Parish Councils have worked on projects to raise much needed funds to complete the church with the original plan of a bell tower. Sadly the cost has always been the issue with never enough money raised to even start the project. Several years ago, as part of the renovations of Christ Church, it was decided to

finish the church by creating a new entrance, thus providing an airlock to keep the cold Kilmore wind out, and to finally give the church a ‘finished’ look.

Regardless of the church building not being used from mid March due to the Coronavirus lockdown, the builders have continued to work on the new entrance and it is hoped that by the time we all return to Christ Church, all will finally be completed.



Praying at home in the Parish of Shepparton

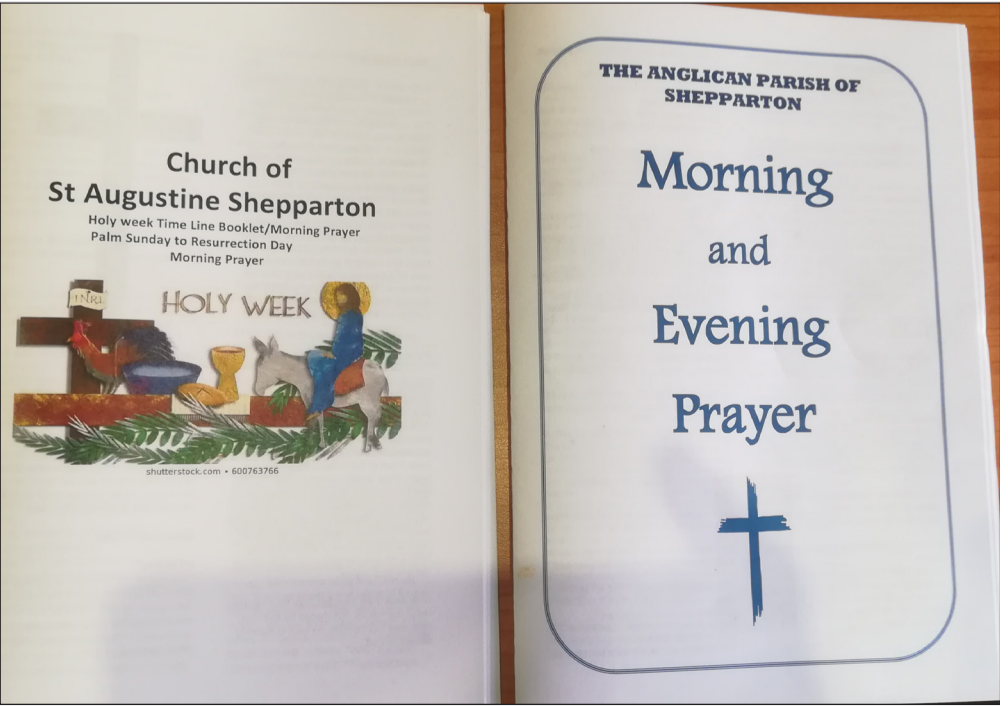
To help us to continue to pray together as a Parish while we cannot physically be together, everyone is encouraged to pray privately at the following times in your own home, using the Morning and Evening Prayer booklets that were distributed before Easter. Lessons and the prayer focus for each day will be sent through by sms.

Private Morning Prayer:
Monday,Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: 10am
Private Evening Prayer:
Daily except Tuesday and Thursday: 6pm

Zoom Liturgies:
Sunday Morning: 10am
Morning Prayer (Homily), Tuesday Evening Prayer: 6pm, (Communal Prayer)
Wednesday: 10am Morning

Prayer (Homily), Thursday: 6pm (Prayer and Mediation: Taize, Gregorian Chanting, Anglican Hymn, Classical Music), Last Saturday of every Month:10am (Quiet Hour). Saturday Evening: 6pm (Praise and Worship)

Parishioners have access to the clergy via mobile sms 24 hrs of the day





Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD

For about a month we have had a very strange experience of what it means to be “Church”. We have been excluded from our church buildings and mostly we have been confined to our own homes. Most of our normal social interactions have stopped.

For most of us this experience is absolutely new. Never have we been excluded from gatherings at which we give thanks and praise for the salvation that we have in our Lord Jesus Christ. That this crisis has happened when both Christians and Jews celebrate their fundamental reasons for being who they are has focussed our attention on just who do we think that we are. The Passover and Easter are the times when Jews and Christians get together because the celebrations are our celebrations not my celebration. There is something very important about gathering together.

We use the word “Church” in a number of ways. Obviously we call the building “the church”. Often we hear that the building is not really “the church”, it is the people who are “the church”. I want to suggest that it is not “either-or” but is far more complicated.

When we say that the people are the church, what do we really mean? “Church” is the English translation of a Greek word — “ekklesia”. All our words like “ecclesiastical” come from a literal transliteration of the Greek. Ekklesia was not a new word when St Paul started using it in his letters to describe what we have come to know as the Church. It is a very old Greek word that was used to describe an assembly, most notably for making political decisions. I find it rather ironic that politics and religion are so intimately bound together in this word, but then, I have thought, since I was a teenager, that the church is political and politics is religious.

What is essential to the meaning of this entity that we call the Church is that the Church gathers together. This gathering is tied to place. We gather together in a place — so when Paul is admonishing the Corinthians for the way they eat the Lord's Supper he begins by addressing them “to begin with, when you come together as a church ...” (1 Corinthians 11:18). If people are to get together then they need to do so somewhere. We are complex creatures but we are flesh and blood, we are physical beings, to use St Paul's description we are enlivened bodies (1 Corinthians 15:44). We live in time and space. So when we gather, we gather in time and space. But from the beginning, from the earliest days after our Lord's ascension, Christians have been aware that they are bound to the other groups of Christians who are not in the same place that they happen to be. Paul's letters abound with greetings to each other. His one letter to a group he had never visited, the letter to the Romans, begins with great enthusiasm about what they have in common even though they have never met.

For many weeks we have become aware of how and when people gather together to worship our Lord and God. We have discovered that not only do Christians get together at places they get together at times. As well as being a Priest I am a physicist and for sixty years have been aware of the complicated relationship of space and time. So getting together is as much about time as it is about space. We may have discovered that although we are not in the same place we are doing and saying the same things at the same time. We may not have gathered together at Saint Etheldreda's to say Morning or Evening Prayer, but we have gathered ourselves to do so at the same time as many others. Our gathering is at least temporal if not spatial.


Anglicans have had a special sense of belonging to each other through our use of a Prayer Book. We have prayed in similar ways (if not exactly the same way) at similar times of the day. Our Prayer Books are great repositories of spiritual wisdom. Our orders of prayer not only give us a structure of prayer they give us unity of prayer. We can still lift our voices in temporal unity, if not in spatial unity, by using these orders. We do not have to see or even hear each other to know that we are saying the same prayers. We praise God in unity with each other through our Lord, Jesus Christ and in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

We will be able to return to our churches down the track. And when we can physically get together in the same space we will once more break real bread and share a real cup. We will be sacramentally united in addition to the way we have been spiritually and intentionally united while we have been separated.

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