



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.

Issue: 101

Newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta | www.wangaratta-anglican.org.au

June/July 2021

'What is impossible for mortals is possible for God.'



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Right Rev'd Clarence E Bester

Theme: The God of Possibilities

Progress Report

Having only had Synod six months ago, we have not done as much as we hoped, however have begun a process of intentional conversations in February-April with the Bishop engaging with the Parish Leadership Teams of 22 Pastoral Charges. These meetings proved very informative, fruitful and forward looking. It gave the Teams the opportunity to share their views and have robust discussions with the Bishop about the shape of ministry.

Also, we have been able to exercise a ministry of visibility, availability and presence, creating opportunities for some re-organisation through our four area-deaneries for ongoing conversation about our Ministry Action Plan. There will be opportunities for training and developing our Laity for their ministries. I have covered

thousands of kilometres over the 3 months, enabling the privilege of continuing these conversations by 'cross-pollination' and ongoing interaction.

I sincerely hope that further discussions during Synod will prioritise clear directions for a ministry strategy that will foster the growth and development of all God's people in the Diocese.

The God of Possibilities

Knowing the difficulties and challenges we face as a Church, there is always this sense that things will work out. Knowing much about the God of Surprises as I tried to articulate last year, this year I have chosen as theme 'The God of Possibilities', believing that challenges create opportunities and opportunities give way to all kinds of possibilities. In the parable of the rich person in Luke 18:18-29, we see a rather bizarre comparison of a rich person entering God's kingdom

with what seems almost impossible - a camel going through the eye of a needle.

Jesus' response to the rich person - whom he invited to go and sell everything - and the man's own sadness in response - illustrated how difficult it is for people to change or face challenges. We know that, when it comes to change, people would prefer the 'usual', the known and the familiar and anything resembling change can be difficult.

As a Parish Priest for many years on three continents, I have experienced this resistance to change and challenge, especially if people want to do things as they have for many years. One could contextualise this parable and say that it will be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for change to be affected within congregations, despite the prospect of not being able to continue because of a lack of numbers, massive generational gaps and genuine financial constraints.

Continued page 6



Inside the Advocate this month

PAGE 3

PAGE 5

PAGE 8

Provincial Council meet at Kilmore

BY CAROLINE BURGE

On Tuesday April 13th, the Provincial Council held their biannual meeting at Christ Church Kilmore. This is the first time the meeting has been held in Kilmore and the first time in many years since the Diocese of Wangaratta has had the pleasure of hosting the meeting.

What a joy for the Parish of Kilmore to welcome nearly 30 members of the Provincial Council to their Parish Church. The Council is made up of Bishops and Assistant Bishops from the five Dioceses' in the Province of Victoria –

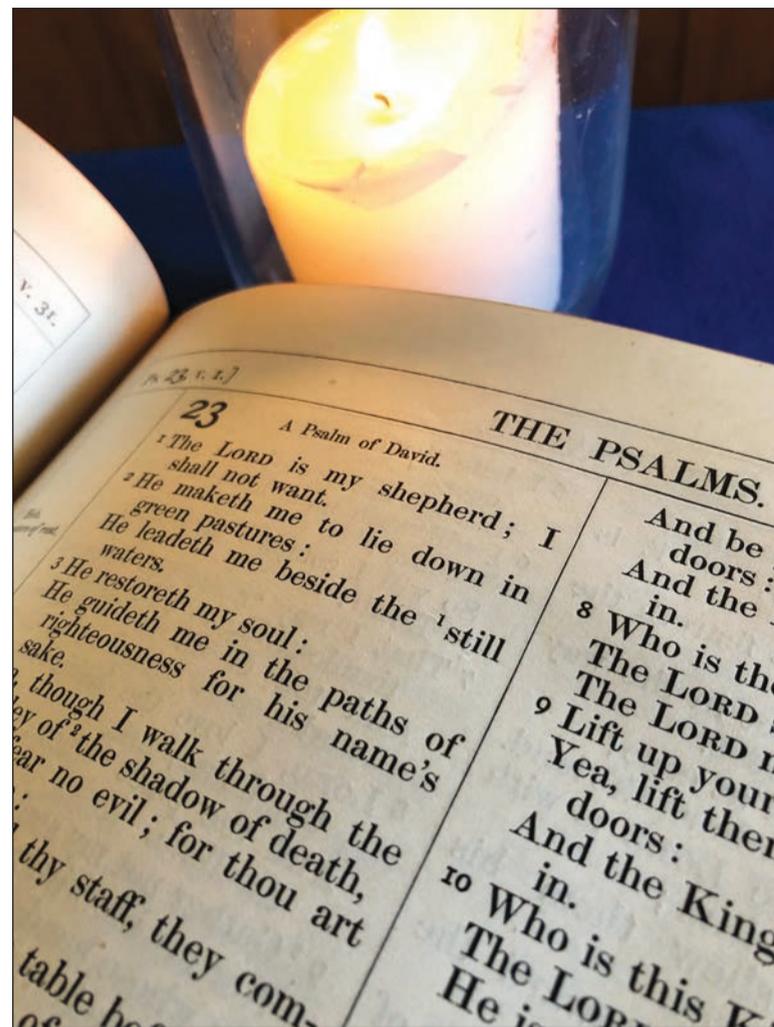
Wangaratta, Melbourne, Bendigo, Ballarat and Gippsland; as well as Lay Representatives of each Diocese including Registrars, Legal representatives and other elected Lay people. The Council meet as a support structure to all the Dioceses in the Province with sharing of ideas, collaborating on ministry issues and supporting each other. The Archbishop of Melbourne (the Right Rev'd Dr Philip Freier), who is the Metropolitan of the Province of Victoria, chaired the meeting, with Bishop Andrew Curnow as the Provincial Executive Officer and Secretary of the Provincial Council. At the meeting in April there were

nine Bishops in attendance, with apologies from the others who were unable to attend. It is highly possible that this was the first time Kilmore had had so many Bishops in the town at the same time!

From a 'catering' perspective – it was a little like the Feeding of the 5000! Not that there were 5000 in attendance, but with the generosity of many parishioners, a plentiful supply of food for morning tea, lunch and afternoon "magically" appeared. The Parish was honoured to be asked to host the meeting and Christ Church Kilmore was transformed into a large meeting space in the main body of the church, as well as an eating area at the back of the church. What a joy to have such a large building to create a 'living space' and the ability to spread out more in keeping with COVID regulations.



The Book of Psalms



BY REV'D CANON SCOTT JESSUP

Whatever the human situation or emotion, it finds its expression in the Book of Psalms. The heights of great jubilation and the depths of sorrow, every facet of human emotion are all offered up to God in the form of poetry. St Athanasius the Great (4th century) described the psalms as a 'garden' containing all kinds of fruits. Some are encouraging, comforting and affirming, whilst others are challenging. Over the centuries they have been the staple diet of worship, both for the Jewish community in which they originated and for the Christian church. They are full of praise. There are also many laments, expressions of grief or sorrow, arising from the experience of desolation and suffering. Yet, even when the psalmist is at their lowest ebb they see their existence inextricably linked to the presence, goodness and faithfulness of God and can express trust in God's intervention. This special covenant relationship between God and God's people is important in understanding the psalms. It is because of this relationship that the psalms take the form of a conversation/dialogue. A conversation/dialogue where both complaint and praise

find a place, it is a dialogue that is not 'sanitised'; God hears what is in our heart and mind. In expressing complaint openly to God the psalmist is set free from their darkness and is able to 're-orientate' their human experience thus enabling a movement in their relationship with God. Suffering shared is suffering that is easier to bear. Often we find it hard to expose our deepest suffering to other people. Our feelings of vulnerability hold us back. Yet, often we are unable fully to acknowledge to ourselves what is going on without the help of someone to share it with us. God may well send us help through our family and friends, but it is also possible to approach God directly and honestly, as the psalmist does in the Psalms.

John Calvin said that the psalms act like a 'mirror' to the soul.

The expression of praise weaves its way in and out of the psalms. The psalms provide direction as to what is possible in our relationship with God, providing guidance for prayer and a model to follow in expressing the full range of human emotions including praise, lament and complaint.

Lester & Son
Funeral Directors
A tradition of personal, professional care since 1907

Andrew Harbick & Darren Eddy

Call now for immediate service or for an appointment to discuss your funeral needs.
02 6056 1700
49 Thomas Mitchell Drive Wodonga
www.lesterandson.com.au
All Hours • All Areas • Pre-planned Funerals Available

Like us on Facebook

Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta

Do you have an Event that you would like to advertise in the Advocate?

Send it to registry@wangeratta-anglican.org.au

WHAT'S INSIDE?

From the Bishop.....	3
Mothers' Union.....	4
Anglicare.....	5
Synod.....	6 - 7
From our Schools.....	8
Looking down the valley.....	9
People & Parishes.....	12

CONTACT US

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

Printed by North East Media, Wangaratta, Victoria

The Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyrighted, 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved

DETAILS

The Advocate Newspaper is published by the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta and is distributed across the Diocese in the middle of every second month.

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

The Diocese is not responsible for the opinions expressed by its contributors. Their views do not necessarily reflect the policy of the paper or the Diocese. Acceptance of advertisements does not necessarily mean endorsement of the product or service.

Contact the Diocese for editorial deadlines. (03) 5721 3484

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.

Front page photo credit - <https://www.istockphoto.com/portfolio/DilokKlaisataporn>

Farewell to the Registrar

BY VEN (Emeritus) ALAN JARRAD

Tim Williams came to our Diocese to take up the position of Bishop's Registrar with a very rich and varied career and personal background. He has served the Church in Papua New Guinea and worked with Aboriginal communities in Queensland and much more. All this on top of a stint as a Public Servant in Sydney following a try at university education. The administrative skills needed to run our Diocesan Registry Office had been accrued over many years.

Tim brought with him a well-grounded approach to his duties, having come from a working-class mining family in Tasmania. His straightforward and, at times, matter of fact approach to his job characterised his time as Registrar with us. There were times when I am sure he ruffled a few feathers but always in the best interest of parishes and diocese. He wasn't a soft touch when important and lasting decisions had to be made. His decision making was at a very practical level, especially when it came to property matters. He soon gained the confidence of the Diocese. His ability to take on board all the new and varied regulations from the wider church as well as governments meant that he always kept his Bishop and the Diocese up to date. Tim is a person who likes to see the bigger picture for the Diocese and the wider church. Even during his leisure time and days off, he was never off the phone answering some request from around the Diocese.

From my personal relationship with Tim, I would describe him as a "frustrated non ordained lay person". He has a deep love of the faith as expressed in the church. His personal spirituality is well grounded in "Holy Mother Church" as he has so often expressed. A worship preference for the Catholic tradition of the church saw him make his weekly commitment wherever he found

himself each week. On a personal level Tim was able to endear himself to people of all backgrounds and never turned down an opportunity for a good meal and a glass of something. Watching Tim eat his rare cooked steaks became an art form.

Tim has been a loyal and faithful servant to this Diocese, even with sometimes difficult decision making. The various committees of the diocese have appreciated his secretarial skills and his wise and considered counsel at times. The registry office was always an accommodating and friendly place to visit for whatever reason.

The Jarrad household, affectionately nick-named "The do duck inn" by a former bishop of the diocese, is going to miss those regular social times too.

Happy retirement Tim. You have given above the call of duty and saw your work as a calling rather than a job.



"Let us prepare for winter ... It is time to go inside" Michael Leunig

Diocesan Quiet Day

Saturday 24th July, 2021



St John's Anglican Church, Mansfield

(Corner of Highett & Victoria Streets)

10:00am – 3:30pm

Leader: **The Venerable (emeritus) Catie Inches-Ogden, CSC**

A day of reflection using the writings of Richard Rohr OFM (American author, spiritual writer, and Franciscan priest). A time to be away from the demands of your usual daily life, to stop, be silent, reflect, and be refreshed.

No charge. Tea/coffee provided. BYO Lunch.

Bookings (by 21st July) and enquiries: Catie – email: anglicanmansfield@gmail.com

Phone: 0417552180

from the Bishop



No Ordinary Time

Having celebrated the fifty days of Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, we are now in Ordinary Time in the Church's Liturgical Calendar. There is, however, nothing ordinary about our situation within Australia and the world as many places and people are still challenged by the reality of Covid-19 in 2021. It was hoped that by now things would have eased, as it indeed did within the Australian context, though I am writing at a time when our seven-day lock down in Victoria has just been extended by another seven days, with easing of restrictions in Regional Victoria.

Depending on case numbers and the number of vaccinations that will be administered, there is a distinct possibility that this 4th lockdown since 2020 could have a devastating effect on our situation and our already under-resourced Churches. I do hope and ask you to continue to pray for the situation in Victoria so that we might overcome this present situation and look forward to the kind of stability for which we all hope.

Synod 2021

How lucky were we to have had an in-person Synod just days before the seven-day lockdown? We could meet, pray, talk and fellowship together as we considered how the 'God of Possibilities' will lead us and guide us within our collaborative ministry arrangements. God willing and Covid permitting, we will continue to engage in our Ministry Action Plan for the Diocese and each Parish, so that we may, by the end of August, present an updated Mission and Ministry Plan which will be simple, realistic and achievable. Please reserve 21 August in your diaries for our possible next Diocesan gathering that will take the form of the first 'Lyall Turley' Memorial Lecture and Ministry Conference entitled 'Being Confident in the Confidence of Christ'. Archbishop Philip Freier will be one of the keynote speakers and others will be announced soon. This will be preceded by the Friends of the Cathedral Dinner on the Friday, so please get in touch with Eunice Cardwell (0428 580 410) should you like to join in the dinner. An abridged version of the Bishop's Synod Charge is printed in the Advocate and a full copy can be found on the website. (www.wangaratta-anglican.org.au)

Season of Creation

This year, the Diocese will join in the Season of Creation, joining Anglicans throughout the world to honour the 5th mark of mission... 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.' Our programme will start on Sunday, 5 September and continue until Sunday, 3 October and we will provide all liturgical resources for this. I ask that each Parish participate in this so that we can make our contribution to the Care of Creation.

Every blessing,

+ Clarence

Diocesan Quiet Days

The Diocese of Wangaratta will be holding a series of Quiet Days.

A Quiet Day is an opportunity for you to step aside from the demands of your usual daily life, to be still and quiet, and to be nourished and refreshed by God.

The quiet days have a theme, with the leader giving a couple of short talks and providing

resources and using scripture, music, poetry, art etc. as a springboard for reflection and prayer.

The Quiet days will be held on the 24th July - Mansfield, 4th September - Wangaratta, 20th November - Yackandandah and Kilmore. For more details and bookings see ads on pages 3 (left), 5 and 10 of this edition of the Advocate.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

JUNE

24th

Clergy Professional Development Day

26th

Bishop in Council

JULY

24th

Diocesan Quiet Day - for more details see ad on this page

AUGUST

21st

Ministry Conference - save the date! - more information to come.

28th

Bishop in Council

SEPTEMBER

5th

Season of Creation - 5th September - 3rd October



News from Mothers' Union

BY MARY MUNTZ

MU branch Members and Lone Members gathered at Purbrick Hall on Monday 2nd of February to participate in a planning day for our activities this year. We thank the Dean, Rev'd Ken Goodger for his participation and final documentation of our strengths and outlining our opportunities for this year.

We found the needs of our own communities were very similar, but also our age and health will have an impact on what we can actively achieve. We agreed we must continue our support to faithful parishioners and welcome newcomers and visitors. There may be young families who need help with babysitting, a meal or just someone to offer support. Mothers' Union plans often include the parish priest for activities such as a Eucharist before meetings or leading Quiet Days. Local media may help when hosting special fundraising events for Overseas and Northern Outreach.

Wangaratta's Mothers' Union history is vastly different from the beginning of Mothers' Union in Egypt in early 2000. "One of the most used churches within the Anglican Communion is All Saints' Cathedral in Cairo. It is a house of prayer for all nations and is located in a strategic and prosperous area not far from under developed areas. Mothers' Union is based at All Saints' Cathedral and was introduced to the congregation by twenty Sudanese members fleeing from Sudan's political turmoil in early 2000." MU members organised a refugee craft shop and café. There are now two branches within the Diocese, the second in Maade. Coping with a difficult political situation and economy, MU Members meet together for prayer, to promote youth and children's ministry, interfaith dialogue, library and ecumenical relationships and ministry. Visits are made to the sick and vulnerable in the community - teaching skills, Aids/ HIV awareness, MULO and their MU choir and support for families affected by all types of domestic violence are all part of their activities. Egypt also has 140 churches and the Alexandria School of Theology.

A Day Out for MU & Craft Group

BY FAY WHITEHEAD

Corryong MU group, as well as Corryong Craft Shop group, enjoyed a wonderful day in Wangaratta recently. We were fed extremely well, craft replacement items were provided as well as retail therapy in Wangaratta central or a visit to Bruck Mill. This has been in the planning since our Bushfire disasters, put off for a while due to COVID. Thanks must go to Jenny Still and all her craft team for their work in applying for Bushfire relief funding to get us all down to Wang. at no cost to us. Thanks must go also to the Ballarat Craft group who delivered boxes of basic essential craft items to Wangaratta for Corryong ladies. Over 30 ladies went home to Corryong after a very satisfying fulfilling day, provided for us all by the generosity of such a well organised group. It is to be hoped that this is the start of exchange visits to each other.

PHOTOS RIGHT: Top; Sylvia Montgomery and Marie Harris. Left; Pat Sheather and Alice Albert



Anglican Mothers' Union Entertain Lakeview Lodge Folk

BY DIANE GRANT

Folk in aged care facilities or nursing homes enjoy singing along to songs they learnt as children or young adults.

Some of the Anglican Parish of Central Goulburn Mothers' Union (MU) members went along to Nagambie Healthcare's Lakeview Lodge hostel dining room and

enjoyed leading the residents in a short program of popular songs, the armchair Hokey Pokey dance, some fun ditties and some readings on Thursday afternoon on 27

May.

The residents and staff were very happy to join together once again with the MU folk for this annual church activity.

At the end of the program the MU visitors, Hostel and Nursing home residents and NHC Staff farewelled NHC activities co-ordinator Tricia Stuart who was retiring after 11 years at the facility.

The MU were planning on enrolling some new members at St Paul's in Avenel on 30 May, but due to the Covid 19 Lockdown that has had to be postponed.

They hope that they will be able to conduct their one and only annual fundraiser on Thursday, June 24, at the Christ Church hall in Seymour. \$10 entry.

It is their Mothers' Union Morning Melodies fundraiser for MU Overseas and Outreach. The Morning Melodies entertainer will be Noel Pearson, who is well known around the circuit for

this particular form of fun.

It is to have a Grandparents theme for those who don't see their grandchildren very much, or at all, or for those who look after them a lot.

Invitations have been sent out to local churches, service clubs and organisations and any interested individual grannies may reply to Di Grant 5794 1720 or Mary Greenshields 5799 0141 to let them know how many need to be catered for on the day for morning tea.

A raffle and lucky door prize draws will be conducted and a trading table.

PHOTO LEFT: Residents, staff and Mothers' Union (MU) Visitors at Nagambie's Lakeview Lodge Hostel



Corryong Deb

The 2020 and 2021 group of Debs were presented to Bishop Clarence Bester and his wife Michelle on Saturday 1st of May. The debs and their partners were trained by the Rev Mitch Porter, Rev Alan Kelb accompanied by Lee were part of the official party also. A wonderful night was had by all. The night saw the retirement of a number of the Deb Ball committee due to health and age. We would like to sincerely thank the following for their work over many years, Sandra Benton, Kim Van Dijke, Fay Whitehead, Josie Miller and wish the new committee and trainer all the best for the 2022 Anglican Deb Ball.





Parish Partnerships

BY CATHY NESBITT

Twelve months on from the excitement of slowly being able to re-open again and move about and here we are with a Snap Lockdown of 7 days.

Be it five days or five weeks, sudden lockdowns can be particularly triggering, causing downturns in people's mental wellbeing.

So how do you manage your emotions? Here are a few tips: If you feel you are experiencing a mental health crisis, please seek professional help. Help yourself at home by: Eating well, Deep Breathing, Regularly exercising, Maintaining a routine - a deep sleep routine or practice a mindfulness activity like tai chi or yoga (lots of Mindfulness information and activities on the internet)

What is happening within Anglicare Victoria? The last six months have seen some significant changes to Anglicare Victoria in our region. Firstly we changed our name from St Luke's Region to North Central Region.

We also welcomed Michael Oerlemans as the new Regional Director for the North Central Region.

In regard to the Wangaratta Anglicare Victoria office, my role now has a new Team Leader, Paul Rankin and Manager, Tracey Grinter. Both Paul and Tracey are based in Bendigo but you will see them in Wangaratta from time to time. Anglicare Victoria also appointed a new Program

Manager for Diocesan and Parish Partnership, Chris de Paiva. Below is a little from each.

In other news

It has been wonderful to slowly get out and about and catch up with people again.

Over the coming months I will be scheduling more trips around the diocese to come and meet you and see what is happening. I will reach out to you all soon, however if you have something that you would like to discuss or show me earlier, please reach out. You can email me at Cathy.Nesbitt@anglicarevic.org.au or call 0409 020 362.

Anglicare Victoria has recently been successful in receiving funding from DSS and The Salvation Army to pilot a new ER program in Alpine Shire. This is in early stages and I will talk more about it next edition.

On a sad note, Tanya Grant will be leaving Anglicare Victoria on the 30th June 2021. Tanya has been an amazing asset to the Anglicare Team here in Wangaratta and has achieved a lot. She will be missed not only by the staff but the volunteers and everyone else she has come across in her time here.

We wish Tanya all the very best with the next chapter of her life and I am sure our paths will cross again.



Chris de Paiva

Hello my name is Chris de Paiva and I have recently been appointed Program Manager of Diocesan and Parish Partnerships for Anglicare Victoria. I have a Social Work background and have worked in faith based organisations for nearly 30 years. I am passionate about community development and empowering the disenfranchised in our community. It was great to have the opportunity to share about Parish Partnerships at Synod last week and hear about some of the wonderful work parishes are doing in the community. I look forward to working with you in the future.



Michael Oerlemans

Michael moved to Bendigo in 1998 after twelve years working in the academic and research sector. Michael came to Anglicare Victoria in 2016 as Manager, Out of Home Care, working with the team to lift residential care performance and support the delivery of kinship and foster care. Michael then moved into the role as Regional Development Manager, where he worked with all of the programs in the North Central region to grow AV's footprint across regional Victoria. In 2020 Michael was successful in being appointed Regional Director North Central.



Tracey Grinter

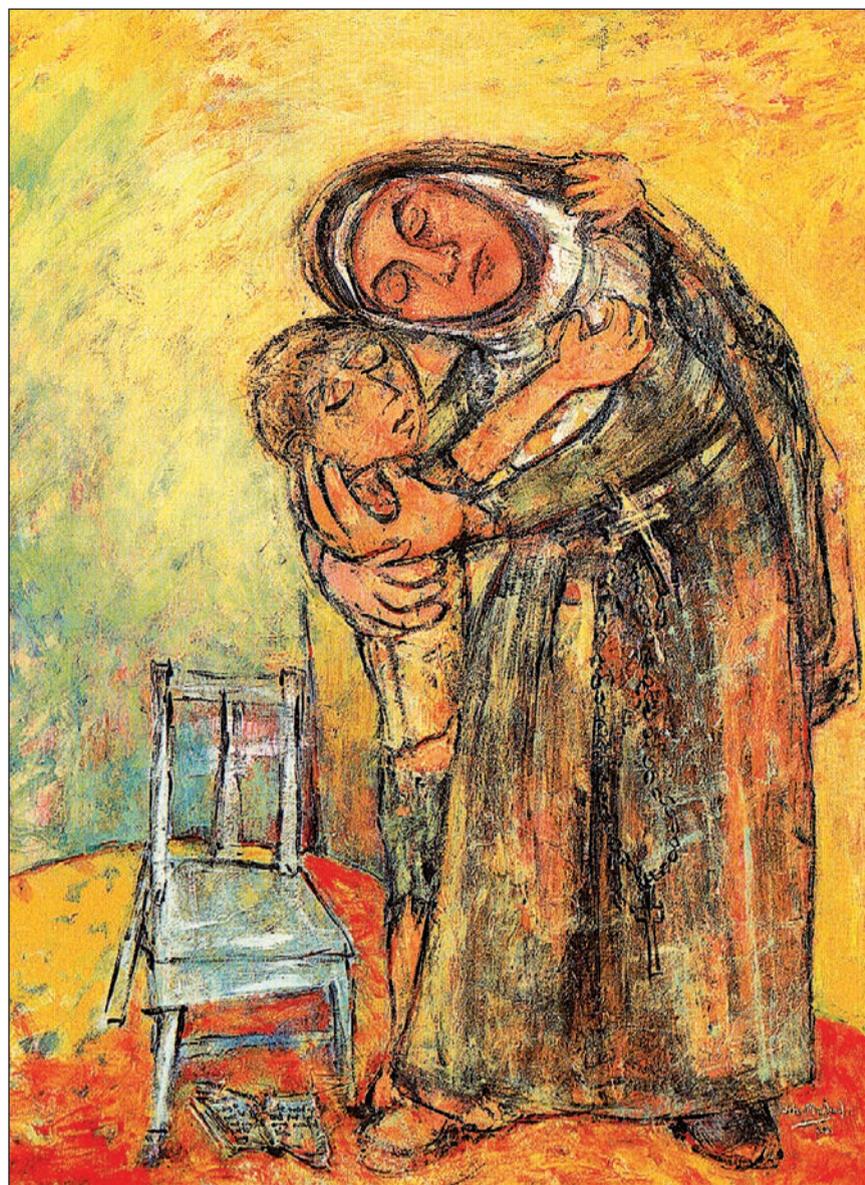
"I've been working at AV for nearly seven years now. I commenced my employment in the Financial Counselling team and have had a few role changes since then. It's a busy role as there are staff spread across the Central, North Central and Northwest regions in Victoria and I spend lots of time travelling between Mildura, Bendigo, Melbourne and Wangaratta. I've always been passionate about Financial Counselling and enjoy being involved in the day to day delivery of the program. I even still see clients when I can!"



Paul Rankin

Paul has been with Anglicare Victoria for 3 years as a Financial Counsellor. Paul comes from many years of experience in the accounting and financial management industry and also a number of years in youth work and chaplaincy fields.

Faith, Hope & Love



Spring Diocesan Quiet Day

Saturday 4th September

10:00am – 2:00pm

Bishop's Lodge, Cusack St, Wangaratta
Tea/coffee and lunch will be provided.

Bookings (by 30th August): Scott 0418254158; email: chaplain@wangaratta-anglican.org.au

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop
Faith, Hope & Love

Leader: The Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup

Using reflections, art, music & silence, I will explore the life and spirituality of the Australian Saint, Mary MacKillop.

One of the appeals that 'saints' have for people in the world today is that they are ordinary people who have looked at life and, in the day to day circumstances in which they lived, succeeded in catching the word of God and living it – living it in various ways.

Mary MacKillop's faith gave her a new vision of the world. She saw people not just with the natural eye as deserving sympathy and a helping hand, but as 'a new creation' in Christ, children of God surpassing in grandeur and dignity anything we can imagine.

'God's love is too deep for words to express', Mary MacKillop, 1870.

Mary was always full of hope and she instilled hope in others. She gave people a sense of their worth so that they were empowered to get up and have a go, just as she did. Hope was how she got through the tough times and the knock-backs and her hope was firmly grounded in her trust in God. She knew, and was convinced, that God would make it right, that God would provide, that the venture, whatever it might have been at the time, would succeed if God wanted it to. She often launched into the deep without the funds and financial backing that we would see as an imperative today, knowing that if God wanted this to happen the money would come or that her Sisters would be looked after in some way. 'Be calm and full of hope', Mary MacKillop, 1871.

Mary was a woman who dared to love. She knew that God loved her and she responded to this love with confidence and courage. Nothing was too small to catch her eye as she looked on the needs of those around her. 'Never see a need without doing something about it', Mary MacKillop.

The Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup

Prior to ordination, Scott was the Manager/Curator of Mary MacKillop Place Museum in North Sydney (the Shrine of Mary of the Cross MacKillop).



SECOND SESSION OF THE FORTIETH SYNOD 2021

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS *Continued from front page*

We are aware that, for the disciples, even though Jesus was still with them, this was difficult to understand - they became concerned about the concept of salvation, to the extent that Peter made quite sure to remind our Lord that they had left everything to follow Jesus. For us too, the comparison may sound ridiculous, because our minds also are not capable of seeing what the God of Possibilities can do.

This does not mean that no effort is required on our part, but creates an understanding that God is with us through all the changing circumstances in life. As people of faith, we can bear testimony to this through our own Christian journey. God does not make empty promises, but is with us, walks alongside us and supports and sustains us.

There is growing concern because of the difficulties that we are facing as a Church including, within our context, the inability to attract clergy to serve in multi-centred and wide geographical areas. This is a difficulty in the Church throughout the world. What makes it especially difficult for us is that we have become too complacent and it would seem as if we are waiting for the final countdown or the sinking of the ship.

We form mission and ministry plans, but still have a greater emphasis on things temporal than spiritual. We are caught up with maintenance and cannot move into a mission and outreach mode. The committee-syndrome is on the increase. Our focus and agenda even in Parish Council meetings have much to do with the day to day running of the church plant and hardly any intentional conversations about the concept of, as the Lambeth theme says, being 'God's Church for God's World'.

Yes, it is good to report on and maintain things temporal, but our business is about God, God's people and God's Church. Who we are is foundational in our calling as the baptised community, whose identity is rooted and grounded in God. Our

task is to bring about the dynamic change that God desires for God's Church. We have no choice but to stick to the agenda of Christ.

This ministry and manner of being Church will need to move beyond the worshipping community on a Sunday. It needs to take into account the challenges that are before us, but also the opportunities. We are exercising a ministry of 'surviving' in waiting for the last one to turn off the lights, instead of allowing the God of Possibilities to move us from surviving to thriving. And yes, this is possible - made possible by the one who calls us and equips us for ministry, who showers us with love and who is the same one who promised to be with us always. Just consider a paraphrase of the way Jesus responds to Peter in verses 29-30: I assure you that anyone who leaves home, partner, siblings, children, parents for the sake of the Kingdom, will receive much more.

In discerning God's will and direction for my future ministry in 2014, I discovered a Diocese called Wangaratta, a place that I now call home. Our visa application was extremely complicated, so that I almost gave up on the process. I failed to see what the God of Possibilities would make possible, or to confidently surrender to God's will for me - and now I serve God and you as God's people within this ministry.

In 2016, at the 3rd session of the 38th Diocesan Synod, there was a sense that we might not continue as a Diocese, but join those with whom we bordered. In my maiden speech at that Synod, I said that nothing ventured, nothing gained and that the small seed we planted that day was merely our activity. What we needed was to water this plant and allow God to do God's part, for growth is not ours, but God's.

We are not saying that it will always be easy, but here is an opportunity to exercise this ministry with hospitality, simplicity, humility and great generosity. We don't need 'rocket-science', we just need to faithfully do what Jesus calls us to do by sticking to the agenda of Jesus.

Spirituality and Prayer

At my ordination as a Priest, the exhortation given to me was a reminder that the task I was about to undertake was a weighty responsibility which can only be undertaken by an ever-deepening practice of prayer. This has sustained me through these 25 years and will continue to sustain me.

This is also true for us as a Church and a Diocese and in whatever ministry action plan we navigate together. We need to be soaked

in prayer and allow our voices to rise like fountains before God, whether corporately or individually. Prayer is central to the Christian faith, as is the concept to love. We are called as God's people to engage in this prayerful relationship with God.

One of those focus areas will be for us as a Diocese to create more opportunities for reflection, meditation and prayer days. I hope that this Diocesan ministry will spill over into each parish, so that we can seek the mind of Christ and create opportunities for spiritual renewal, enrichment and refreshment. A quote from Evelyn Underhill, says that 'Divine renewal can only come through those whose roots are in the world of prayer ...' Our worship services provide us with some opportunity for this kind of renewal, but focused times will further enhance this, showing us the rich experience of praying together.

This is a return to the basics of our Christian experience and is very important, especially when we can lose sight of our call and purpose, our mission and ministry as God's people, especially when the temporal supersedes the spiritual. We need to engage in that kind of ministry where we depend on the strength of Christ through our prayers and spirituality, so that we can visualise what is possible - it becomes possible because we allow ourselves to be directed by God and open ourselves to the God of Possibilities.

Ministry Action Plan

If we fail to plan, we plan to fail. Effective planning helps us to achieve our goals. Having had the conversations with the Leadership Teams, we have some idea of priority areas. This will assist our conversation, but also captures the desires and directions for which we aim. Each Team described what would be important for them, but also suggested directions for our collaborative Diocesan ministry. Continuing these conversations within Deaneries has helped us to a clearer direction and this session of Synod will provide the opportunity to shape together a plan for the Diocese.

Much of what I am sharing here is a direct result of those conversations, but also my own prayer and writing retreat, as I continue to seek the mind of Christ in my role as bishop. I will continue to work, walk and witness alongside all our congregations so that we can remain faithful to our call and the task we are setting for ourselves. I believe that, as a Church, we are not called to be successful, but we are called to be faithful.

As I listened to people across the Diocese, an important priority is for the enrichment of our Spirituality and Prayer life. There are deep expressions of hope that our ministry will build relationships through our interaction with the community, with relevant attention and action to issues of social justice. The concern about the generational gap compels us to revitalise our Parish ministry by being attractive to the 'absent' generation.

This does not in any way mean that we abandon what we are doing, but creatively look at our liturgy, our ministry and our interaction with



others. Great emphasis has also been placed on our Pastoral ministry - to look for opportunities outside our normal Sunday services to be a consistent presence.

Yes, there is a need to ensure the financial viability of our Parishes, but without an intentional discipleship programme we will not be able to reach others and encourage them to become part of who we are. There is also a strong emphasis on collaboration between laity and clergy and the need to provide our laity with the tools to enable them to assist and lead services.

During lockdown in 2020 our clergy excelled in their creativity to enable connection. We used the resources available including morning or evening prayer. Inasmuch as we are a sacramental church, we have discovered how we can be with each other as we share our prayers and praise. When we resumed services in November, many moved back to 'business as usual' with mainly the Eucharist service, which can only be celebrated by a Priest. Once again, we prefer the familiar and the known and often cover huge distances to provide many Eucharistic services on a Sunday.

The financial pressures on our Parishes, especially with the end of Jobkeeper, have constrained us into Parish cooperative ministry arrangements, as we no longer have the financial resources to cover full time clergy in most areas. One such arrangement came into place last November, another will be finalised shortly, with the prospect of one more by September. Hence it will be important for us to develop the skills of our Deacons and Lay People to be able to lead Morning Prayer.

Our Director of Vocations and Training, with a team of Lay Trainers in each Deanery, has outlined a training programme for laity and defined the requirements for different categories of ministry. Later this year we will provide an opportunity for online theological training through the Australis programme hosted by the Diocese of Bendigo (previously known as the Bishop's Certificate).

We will also inaugurate a yearly memorial lecture in honour of the late Canon Lyall Turley who was our Director of Vocations and established many of our processes. This Lecture will be combined with a Diocesan Ministry Conference on

the Saturday following the Friends of the Cathedral Dinner. The theme for this year will be: 'Being confident in the confidence of Christ.' There will also be a great emphasis on our Pastoral networking and training as an identified priority.

In moving towards this collaborative ministry, I need to share my prayerful reflection and deep theological understanding that each order of ministry needs to minister according to that order. In 2019 a regulation was passed at Synod approving a service to be used in Retirement Villages, Nursing Homes, Hospitals and to the Sick at home, enabling the correct use of a service with the reserved sacrament only within those contexts as regulated. It was never intended that this service be used by a Deacon or Lay Minister within a Church during Divine Service on a Sunday or any other time for the gathering of the people of God. I ask kindly that we follow our own rules and give notice that I will not turn a blind eye or give permission for this. Reserved sacrament services on Sundays or other days when people gather have been attributed to financial constraints and that people still need to have communion. Covid and lockdown have shown us something different and I hope we can build on that creativity.

I do hope that our clergy with PTO can assist where possible and that those who feel called to the ordained ministry, as either Deacon or Priest, will follow the process of our Diocese and be discerned for that ministry.

A further development is that the Diocese has returned to the traditional Curacy Model, where trainee deacons and priests will work in a parish under the supervision of a Priest-In-Charge or Incumbent. I again express great gratitude to God for the specialised ministry of service of Deacons and their contribution to God's Church. I am also very open to explore other models regarding Local Shared or Ordained Ministry, but this would need to be developed further and follow a similar discernment process.

I pray that, as we continue to walk, talk, discover and plan together, we may see all things come to fruition and that we will do and become what God wants us to be in our ministry together. This is a process of interaction and continued engagement with one another.

Continued on page 7



The Most Rev'd Geoff Smith



SECOND SESSION OF THE FORTIETH SYNOD 2021

Continued from page 6

Embracing the Future

The 2016-2020 Diocesan Strategic Plan is entitled 'Embracing the Future.' I have already highlighted some of the difficulties that we face, but also what can become possible through an applied ministry plan. The mission of the Church is God's mission and we are called to be part of that mission. We must be open to God leading, directing and guiding us.

Last year I described the concept of Parish as the whole of the community served. It is well for us to remind ourselves of what it means to be Church. Through the conversations about our ministry direction, Church for many is all about the building and ensuring that the building remains open. For many it seems as if Church is the place we go to and not always the people we gather with for worship, prayer, praise of the almighty God and the breaking of bread. The Church, it seems, remains the gathered community ensuring that the 'usual things' happen.

Even if congregations are small with no prospect of growth, we find that sentimentality overshadows reality and we are just keeping the building open for the last one to turn off the lights. It takes a building almost to collapse before we can make alternative arrangements for worship. Most of our Pastoral Charges are multi-centered Parishes with Churches in very close proximity. Some even pass a Church to go to another because of their affiliation to that congregation. Sadly, we have become very congregational and parochial and do not see the value in synergising our energies to work collaboratively. When one looks at the number of attendees at some services, it is almost impossible to see how we can cover ministry costs.

Of our 23 Pastoral Charges, (67 Church buildings), only 8 are able to provide a full-time ministry; some

are totally dependent on Op Shops and Rental property. Many of our Parochial Districts have attendees well below 20 on average; 22 of our Churches average between 2 and 10 attendees, with two Churches to be deconsecrated soon. This does not make mathematical or financial sense.

Many of these Churches have Trusts designated for maintenance, but we cannot even use the interest to support the ministry of the congregation or mission in the community. 'Innovative ministry' can allow this money to be used, as well as escaping our obligatory contribution to the Church Extension Fund on redundant land sales, but still means that any church could easily become 'the richest Church in the graveyard'. I am not suggesting that we become complacent when there are these monies available, but that, through our Ministry Action Plan, we re-structure our Parochial boundaries to engage in a model of ministry that serves the purpose and call demanded for our times.

I hope that we will put forward a plan of action by next Synod, as we explore best practice and good governance within existing legislative arrangements and ministry commitments. I am committed to ensure that the way forward for our Diocese will be through collaborative initiatives, intentional and purposeful conversations and consultative and transparent arrangements. I hope that the last few months of my episcopacy have shown you my commitment and intentions for the glory of God, in thanksgiving for God's kindness and generosity and for the well-being of God's people and God's Church. I serve the God of the Church and the Church of God and no other.

Creation Care

I want to emphasise caring for creation, as we are called through the Anglican Communion's five marks of mission to 'strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and

renew the life of the earth.' Even though this is listed as the 5th mark of mission, it is not the least important. I am concerned that, at a discussion with the Lay Leaders of our Diocese, they presented this as the lowest priority, with only one out of 60 people recommending that we use our voice to speak on Environmental issues and four people promoting that we need to lead by example in relation to recycling, solar panels and choice of food in catering.

Interestingly, the first listed mark of mission, 'proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom', was the second lowest priority! Understanding the age profile of attendees, I am not surprised - this presents only one viewpoint, compared to discussions with Parish Leadership Teams and the Clergy.

The priority areas for our clergy include collaborating with and empowering the Laity, using our liturgy creatively, building trust in our church operating systems and having a clearer mission focus through family outreach programmes.

We need to have a ministry action plan and develop sustainable structures and activities to fill the generational gap and provide finance to support our ministry. It is important to look at those things that will hopefully restore the image of our Church through engagement. It will be sad however if we forget about God's great gift to us of creation and the imperative to safeguard it. In the past we earmarked a Sunday in September as Creation Sunday and this year I hope we will focus over 4 weeks on how we can sustain and renew the life of the earth - home to us and to all creatures great and small.

It is almost as if Covid-19 had to occur for creation to breathe, for regeneration and development to happen and for the climate to re-settle. It was also a time for us to give ourselves a break, to enjoy the company of our loved ones and to use

technology to connect and to reduce our carbon footprint. We decreased printing and assisted people to make full use of technology. Within the Diocese, we have reduced the number of meetings and hence travel time and some will be held via zoom. We will be encouraging those who attend to use their devices rather than print. I hope that Parishes will follow suit and work towards reducing, re-using and recycling.

Challenges within the National Church

We need to be aware of challenges within the Anglican Church of Australia.

Two years ago, when some advocated that those who do not agree with others should leave the Anglican Church, I wrote a letter expressing my sincere belief that we can find ways of working, worshipping and serving together. There is no doubt that structures are being set up by the GAFCON movement to look at alternative Episcopal oversight and planting of congregations. Within this Diocese we have made provision for people to exercise their conscience in accordance with the regulations. Schismatic tendencies seem to be a trait of the Church throughout its history, through theological disagreements, interpretation of scripture and personality differences.

Within our context there are those who deem the current issue of debate as a matter of salvation. I believe that all matters are matters of salvation and that our task is to love God and God's people irrespective of person and to try and lead others into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus. More so, I believe in the creative power of God who brings something from nothing and a God who loves all that God has made.

I have always believed in a God who is generous with God's love and that, as one created in the image and likeness of God, I am extremely special and so are all of you. I, and

a few of us, might look different from the rest, but we still believe that we are part of God's divine design.

Please continue to pray for the Anglican church of Australia, for our Primate and all Bishops, Clergy and People that God may sustain us and that we may restore the true image of a loving God.

120th Anniversary for the Diocese

On 13 March 2022, we will celebrate the 120th anniversary of the Enthronement of our first Bishop, Bishop Armstrong. We have seen many changes through the episcopacy of ten bishops of Wangaratta, but also the all-sustaining power of God enabling us now to engage with our Ministry Action Plan with the 11th Bishop of Wangaratta, the Clergy and people. Throughout all this time and the time to come, the Church within this place will continue its work, worship and witness, because we acknowledge Christ as the cornerstone and foundation of Christ's Church. We also acknowledge that the Church was well in existence before our time and will continue long after we have left this transitory life.

I hope that we will have a wonderful programme leading up to this celebration.

Conclusion

I thank God for the privilege of serving you, God's people, within the Diocese. This ministry is my joy and privilege and I undertake it in great humility, simplicity, hospitality and with great generosity.

I express my gratitude to God for giving me the will and the strength to be able to perform this ministry and acknowledge that, without the love and support of Michelle, Kian and Kyle I could not do this work.

The Rt Rev'd Clarence E Bester
Bishop of Wangaratta

MATTHEW MCINNES AWARD RECIPIENTS



Thomas Summerfield - In recognition for his contribution to youth ministry through his music in the Parish of Albury



Grace Hall - In recognition of her leadership within the youth group and pastoral care of youth during COVID lock down, along with her participation in the liturgy of the Parish of Numurkah/Nathalia through the Servers' Guild and music.

ELECTION RESULTS



The Revd Canon Scott Jessup - Clerical Council of the Diocese



The Revd David Still - Clerical Council of the Diocese



Wayne Hart - Lay member of Council of the Diocese

Board of Electors
- no nomination

Diocesan Social Justice Committee Update



BY SUZIE DON LEONARD

World refugee week is coming up in June. Sunday 20 June will see a number of rallies and action being taken. It would be a good opportunity to recognize and advocate for refugees in Australia on that day as a part of our worship. It is concerning that the recent Federal budget has only allocated funds for increased detention and none for support or settlement. Yet refugees are suddenly being released into the community with no preparation or support after 8 years of detention!

Rural Australians for Refugees in partnership with WRAN held the Indi Gathering

A very successful RAR Indi Gathering was held at the Wangaratta Cathedral on April 17-18. It was decided that, after the Covid hiatus, there was a need to update, inform and renew. Close to a hundred people gathered at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Aunt Betty of the Bangerang people gave a moving Welcome to Country and host Reverend Ken Goodger introduced the gathering.

Cathy McGowan read a letter from her successor in Indi, the Independent MP Helen Haines, who was unable to attend. She then introduced a series of speakers:

- Reverend Tim Costello recalled Australia's honourable refugee history. Recent Prime Ministers have clearly forgotten Robert Menzies post-war legacy which claimed a good reputation for Australia "for a sensitive understanding of the problems of people in other lands" Costello observed we choose our values.
- Senator Lidia Thorpe drew parallels between indigenous and refugee experiences:
- A refugee recently released from detention spoke about past experiences and present gratitude for the

freedom to lead a productive life here in Australia.

- Jana Favero from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) spoke about ongoing campaigns and practical individual and group contributions.

After a lovely lunch which met all dietary needs and was catered for by parishioners from Wangaratta West and the Warby's, participants discussed their group's priorities. Common priorities emerged:

- to address immediate issues such as the detention of the Biloela family on Christmas Island, the release of those still in hotel detention and the extension of basic human rights such as Medicare and Job Seeker to refugees.
- to support the work of organizations such as the ASRC and Sanctuary through fund raising, information sharing and advocacy for a Bill of Rights.
- To write letters and use social media to convince political parties of the need for a just, clear and compassionate refugee policy.

Since the Gathering:

- WRAN has met and is working with ASRC to organize a weekend in the country for refugees from Melbourne.
- Letters have been written to politicians expressing concern about the indefinite and ongoing detention of refugees, the lack of support when they are suddenly released without supports and the family, including young children, still being held on Christmas island
- A vigil is held on the 1st Friday of the month outside Helen Haines office and at the last one 290 "honks for refugees" were received from passing motorists.
- The Uniting Church will be holding a Refugee "Feast for Freedom" dinner featuring cuisine from refugee nations on 25 July and funds raised will be donated to ASRC. It would be so good if other churches could do the same.

Prior to the Gathering a group from Indi went to Melbourne to march in a rally aimed to give Refugees in detention a voice. It was so sad to see refugees who had come to Australia for medical aid still languishing in detention in their rooms at the Mantra Hotel. Most have been in detention for around 8 years with no plans for their release!



Christian Purpose Day

BY CATHY GARDEN

Recently, approximately 250 staff and teachers from the three Anglican schools in the Wangaratta Diocese (Cathedral College Wangaratta, Cobram Anglican Grammar School and Trinity Anglican College) gathered for our Christian Purposes Day. This was hosted by Cathedral College Wangaratta. This day is an important opportunity for us to be reminded of the core values of our Christian beliefs and our Anglican identity and how this underpins all that we do at school.

The day began with a Eucharist led by The Right Reverend Clarence Bester. This was followed by an inspirational presentation by the keynote speaker, the Reverend Becca Stevens, from Nashville, Tennessee, entitled "Love Heals". Revd. Becca clearly outlined, with many examples, how showing love, support and understanding can be the catalyst for turning people's lives around. As schools working with young people, staff and teachers are well placed and have many opportunities to

show the love of Jesus to those around us, and how this 'Love Heals' the brokenness in people's lives.

Later in the day, Mr James Laussen, Principal of Overnewton Anglican Community College, Melbourne, joined us and spoke about "Consciously placing students at the beginning and centre of every decision – what does this look like in an Anglican school?"

We were also joined for the day by the Chief Operating Officer of the Anglican Schools Commission, Mr Michael Giles, and the Reverend Peter Laurence OAM, the Chief Executive Officer, both from Perth. They contributed to the day, reminding us of the values that underpin all the Anglican Schools Commission schools in Australia; and the benefits and joys that come by working together and being part of something bigger, within the broader construct of Anglican schooling and the Anglican Church in Australia.

It was a wonderful day.



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd supports the 'In School Volunteer' program which provides assistance to Aboriginal children in schools within the Diocese.

We invite volunteers to assist in this

In-School Programme at

**St Monica's Primary School, Wodonga,
St Augustine's Primary School, and
St Francis of Assisi Primary School, Wodonga.**

Starting in Term 3, 2021.

Hopefully volunteers would have had previous experience and/or interest in the field of education. Adherence to Child Safety Standard Protocols required.

Indications of interest are welcome

For more information

Contact the Project Coordinator: Sr Shirley Garland

Mobile: 0417 674 919

Email: shirleygarland18@gmail.com

Tree Ceremony

BY CAROLINE BURGE

up looking utterly barren.

For almost 100 years 39 cypress trees, having been planted by local citizens, proudly stood in two rows separated by a bridle path on the boundary of the Kilmore Racetrack. The community enjoyed their presence, shade and opportunity to walk among them until March this year when they were suddenly cut down without warning or discussion with the community. The southern edge of Kilmore East Road where the trees stood ended

Parishioners from Christ Church Kilmore and members of the local community, who were saddened and upset by the loss of these trees, decided together with the Kilmore and District Residents and Ratepayers Association to organise a ceremony of mourning and healing to be held on 24th April at the site of the removal of the trees. The meeting was widely advertised in the local press and by distributing flyers to local shops. The organisers

emphasised that their role was not to lay blame, but rather to express their grief and to give thanks to those who planted them in the early days of the town. Revd André, the Vicar of Christ Church led the ceremony with an appropriately inclusive version of the Lord's Prayer while parishioners and other local residents gave speeches. The ceremony concluded with participants holding hands around the front of one of the remaining two stumps. Those who took part believed that was an excellent opportunity for the parish to work for the common good with other members of the community.



Fete a Success in Yarrawonga

BY SUSIE KNIGHT

Knacks too.

Blessed with a clear Autumn morning, the Yarrawonga Anglican Parish Fete on Saturday 24th April 2021 was off to a good start. We had many helpful parishioners work every day for the week preceding the fete with an enormous amount of Trash and Treasure to clear, sort and price due to Covid restrictions cancelling our fete in 2020, hence twice the amount this year to be sorted.

The mainly music and Toy Stalls - including Guess the number of Jelly Beans Competition - were well received and patronised by young and old alike, with the Rector winning one of the jars of Jelly Beans!

year was The Coffee Van and Lazy Harry contributing in their individual ways to a very happy occasion, as was Callum Hicks Master of Ceremonies once again, who was such an asset to the fete's general atmosphere with his patter, weak jokes and spruiking for each stall.

Classics for our Fete are the Moo Poo and Straw Sales which are always much sought after, as is the Trash and Treasure Stall which this year was HUGE, as was the work involved in organising.

It really was a great day for parishioners to pull together and work for our church financially, but socially it was also a great success, with visitors to our fete also commenting on what a happy place the fete was for a catchup with friends, for many the first such occasion since March 2020, the first lockdown. We are most grateful to our Lord for the success of our 2021 fete which raised a total of \$25,284.

We have a team called The Wood Cutters and they easily make the largest contribution to our fete. They start a couple of months before the Fete with working bees to get tonnes of wood cut, sorted and delivered. Adding to the ambience this



Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD



I am sitting writing this column on the afternoon of Pentecost. In our little church service this morning at St Etheldreda's Church at Harrierville we heard the account of the events, early in the morning, of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Jewish festival of Pentecost following the death and resurrection of our Lord. The astonishment of the crowd does not seem to have been at the events of the outpouring of the Spirit, but on the fact that no matter their origins they could all understand what was being said. The miracle was a miracle of understanding.

It is probably the case that most of us do not spend a great deal of time contemplating the Articles of Religion, that are included at the back of all our Prayer Books. One of the Articles, number 24, states that it is repugnant to use "a tongue not understood of the people." The Reformers were having a go at Latin, but I want to suggest that we can go further than not using a foreign or ancient language. What does it mean to be understood? At the very least our language must connect. It is not just that we know, or think that we know, the meaning of the words. The words need to convey an idea with meaning that makes sense. There is something in the words that rings true or is exciting. Good story tellers tell stories that capture our imagination and carry us along. We tend to give up when we find ourselves asking, "What is he going on about?" It is not that the words are not English that is the problem, it is that I cannot make sense of the words or that I just could not care less even if the words do make some sort of sense.

Half a century ago the great mission theologian, Kosuke Koyama, commented that it is often said of the church that we answer questions that nobody is asking. He had been a Japanese Christian missionary in Thailand. He commented that it was not until he understood the water buffaloes and sticky rice that he even began to understand the fundamental questions of the Thai farmers among whom he ministered. Even if he had truly great answers to time honoured questions, if they were not the questions of the Thai farmers then he might as well have been speaking Latin. To be understood by the people he had to be connecting with their real questions.

What are the real questions? Back in the late seventies Douglas Adams wrote a series of six wonderful radio programs that were entitled The Hitchhikers' Guide to the Galaxy. The story is of finding out what is the ultimate answer to life, the universe and everything. We discover that the ultimate answer is 42. Then we discover that the Earth has been built and populated as an experiment to find out the question that leads to the ultimate answer. The problem was that the Earth was demolished to make way for a hyper-space bypass moments before print out. Adams' theological insight is profound for we do know the answer — the justice, love and grace of God, mediated in and through our Lord, Jesus Christ and made a present reality by the action of the Holy Spirit — and we need to work out the question or questions.

We know how some of our ancestors asked and answered the questions in different times and places. Our deepest concerns are profoundly influenced by what is happening to us and around us. I was reminded in late May that it was the eightieth anniversary of the sinking of HMS Hood. The Hood was one of the greatest battleships of the Royal Navy and she engaged the Bismarck in the Denmark Strait between Greenland and Iceland on 24th May 1941. The action did not last long and Hood took a direct hit that caused her to explode. Only three of her crew survived. Why is this important to me? It was the day my father first went to sea, as a nineteen year old, in the Royal Navy. Life, it's meaning and purpose, were profound questions, especially in the Royal Navy, in the dark days of 1941.

In our communities people have a lot of very important concerns — water supply and quality, reliable power and telecommunications, security of employment and income, quality health and education services, and many more. Our concerns are often windows into our hopes, fears and motivations. What do we think is important and why do we think it is important? What is our life for?

The great German-American theologian, Paul Tillich, argued that we are always to ask the questions with a clear eye on the answer. Question and answer need to come together. Our faith is that our fundamental hopes, fears, longings, find their answers and fulfilment in almighty God who is revealed as the Most Holy and Blessed Trinity. It is up to us to do some of the hard work of understanding and articulating the foundations of the hopes, fears and longings of our communities so that the Good News can be understood as on the Day of Pentecost.

Anglican Diocese of Riverina
FOUR RIVERS BOOKSHOP
 Specialising in Anglican Theology
 238 Banna Avenue, Griffith NSW 2680
 Ph: 02 6964 0304 Fax: 02 6964 2257
 Email: helena4rivers@bigpond.com
 Mail Orders Welcome

THE
ADVOCATE
 Support our Diocesan newspaper by sending in articles to
 registry@wanganatta-anglican.org.au

Clergy Retreat

BY REV NEIL HICKS

From Monday afternoon 26th April to mid-morning on Thursday 29th April, the parish Clergy of the Diocese were on Retreat at the Bright Chalet.

Several of us were warned beforehand that it would be cold up there but, apart from one night, it was a very mild and sunny period. We were very well fed for breakfast, lunch and dinner and the bar area was a most convivial place following dinner until Compline when we once again entered Silence.

Our beginning was a session by our Bishop on matters to do with professional conduct. Then we began the Retreat proper with an Address and Compline. Our Conductor was Bishop Garry Weatherill of Ballarat, and he chose as the basis for reflection the stories of Jacob as outlined here:

- Jacob's Dream: bedrock beliefs Genesis 27

- Jacob builds: family and wealth Genesis 29-31
- Wrestling with God Genesis 32
- Back to Bethel Genesis 35
- Going Home: Israel and me

Bishop Garry made it very clear from the outset that it was up to each one of us to make of the Retreat what we wanted to, that the 'success' of the Retreat for ourselves was not dependent on anything he said or didn't say. The way in which Bishop Garry allowed us to see aspects of his life and ministry as he related his story to that of Jacob was humbling, challenging, and inspiring for many of us. He made himself quite vulnerable as he spoke at times of deeply personal events from his own life and pastoral situations and that openness was valued by us and will be carefully treasured for a long time.

Each time we met the following prayer was said by us all together. This is a contemporary

version of the ancient prayer Anima Christi (Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me.) written by David Fleming, S.J.

Gathering Prayer

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.

May your body and blood be my food and drink.

May your passion and death be my strength and life.

Jesus with you at my side enough has been given.

May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.

Let me not run from the love you offer,

but hold me safe from the forces of evil.

On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.

Keep calling to me until that day comes,

when, with all your saints, I may praise you forever.

AMEN



Baptism at St John's Nagambie

BY DI GRANT

Baby George Hancock, son of Lauren and Leigh Hancock of Avenel, was baptised at St John's church in Nagambie on Sunday, 11 April by Rev'd Norm Hart. He was surrounded after his baptism by his Godmothers, parents, grandparents and extended family. His mother and her sister Prue and brother Grant Hateley were baptised at St

Paul's in Avenel many years ago. It was nice that Lauren and Leigh wanted to ensure their baby son was baptised in the same parish. Lauren sent this message to Di Grant a day or so later when she sent this photo over for the Advocate. It meant a lot for all concerned in the special day for George and his family. "Many thanks for the wonderful Baptism for George on Sunday."



New Ministry arrangements for the Parochial District of Tallangatta

A second Cooperative Ministry arrangement has been put in place by the Bishop between the Parish of Wodonga and the Parochial District of Tallangatta. After a few meetings and discussions, the Leadership Group from both Churches welcomed the idea and put plans into action as to how this would work over the next twelve months. The Rev'd Jacques Jefferies will now also serve as the Priest-In-Charge of the Parochial District of Tallangatta and organize all

arrangements for ministry and activities within the Parish. Bishop Clarence made it quite clear that this was in no way a take-over or amalgamation but a cooperative arrangement that will allow more time for the re-development, re-definition and restructuring of ministry within the area. Tallangatta was also previously connected to the Church in Corryong and, until recently, with the Church in Yackandandah under the Pastoral oversight of The Rev'd Canon Alan Kelb.

Diocesan Advent Quiet Day

Saturday 20th November, 2021



A time to be away from the demands of your usual daily life, to stop, be silent, reflect, and be refreshed.

10:00am – 2:00pm

No charge. Tea/coffee provided. BYO lunch.

Two Locations:

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Yackandandah (8 Church St)

Leader: The Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup
Bookings (by 15 November): Scott 0418254158; email: chaplain@wangeratta-anglican.org.au

Christ Church, Kilmore (9 Union St)

Leader: The Rev'd Andre Du Plooy
Bookings (by 15 November): Andre 0458155930; email: rector@anglicankilmore.org.au

Photo: Sunset, Rutherglen – Scott Jessup.



FOR SALE

Blashki white cope for sale. Hardly used and as new. With hanger and cover. Length 135cm. Best offer over \$500. Contact 0427 424 582.

St Jude's Sesquicentenary Weekend

BY GILL BAKER

A pleasant sunny weekend, the smell of barbecuing sausages and glorious views across autumn colours to the Eldorado hills helped to encourage a steady stream of visitors to St Jude's church on the Open Weekend. Some spent hours on the Saturday looking through archives for their family connections, others enjoyed the ambience of the old church with sacred music playing in the background while they reminisced about weddings, baptisms, and maybe funerals. Others were just happy to sit and chat with friends and neighbours.

On the Sunday we were privileged to have Bishop Clarence celebrate the Eucharist

with us and give an inspiring sermon to a full congregation. Lastly, afternoon tea gave us a chance to meet and welcome Revd Gunnar Rippon, Beechworth Parish's new incumbent, together with Margaret and Minty.

St Jude's was completed in 1870 by builders Nicol Turner and James Scott. A descendant of Nicol Turner, also Nicol Turner has visited the church, and although not able to come to the Open Weekend sent this message "We think it is wonderful that St Judes remains a valued place of worship after 150 years and we wish you and the parish all the very best for the coming years".

PHOTO BELOW: Eunice Eiseman, Jenny Anderson, Rayma Bowen and Kel Richards enjoy a chat in the sun.



Good Friday Appeal

BY CAROLINE BURGE

A number of years ago while the Parish of Kilmore was discussing different ways to fundraise, or make a difference, one parishioner suggested that we all start saving loose change to go to mission or other worthy causes. A large jar was placed at the back of Christ Church and donations of gold coins or just loose change was asked. It was an easy way to save and everyone enjoyed watching the coins in the jar grow.

In the course of the year the jar reached the top by Palm Sunday with hundreds of dollars worth of coins. With no specific cause or mission planned, it was agreed that the money would be donated each year to the Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Appeal.

In Kilmore, the local Fire Brigade drive through the streets calling on locals for donations. Being Good Friday, many parishioners miss out on this as they are at church for the Good Friday services, but



this year, the timing was great. Parishioners at Christ Church were leaving the church following the Good Friday Liturgy, when the local Fire Truck arrived at the church.

The bible tells us that thirty pieces of silver was the price for which Judas Iscariot

betrayed Jesus. How blessed are we to hand over so much more than 30 pieces of silver to such a worthy cause.



Donate before June 30 for GREATER impact!

The pandemic has put children in danger in a variety of ways. Help us keep them safe. Donate today to protect innocent children.

1800 249 880 | www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au

Protecting the innocent
END OF FINANCIAL YEAR APPEAL

ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID
ANGLICORD

People and Parishes



Members of the Provincial Council at their meeting in Kilmore



Bishop Clarence with the newly married couple Reverend Richard Pennington and Jen Fitzpatrick. Richard and Jen were married in April.



The Archbishop of Melbourne the Right Revd Dr Philip Freier, Revd André Du Plooy and Bishop Clarence Bester at the provincial council meeting in Kilmore



Bishop Clarence Bester presenting these very special certificates to Joyce Thompson and Lorna Crawford for many years of service to MU Corryong. Jan Craig is president of Corryong Mothers' Union Australia



Diocesan legal team at Synod - Bishop Clarence Bester, Rachel Ellyard, Tim Williams, Hon Justice Clyde Croft and Stuart Bett.