



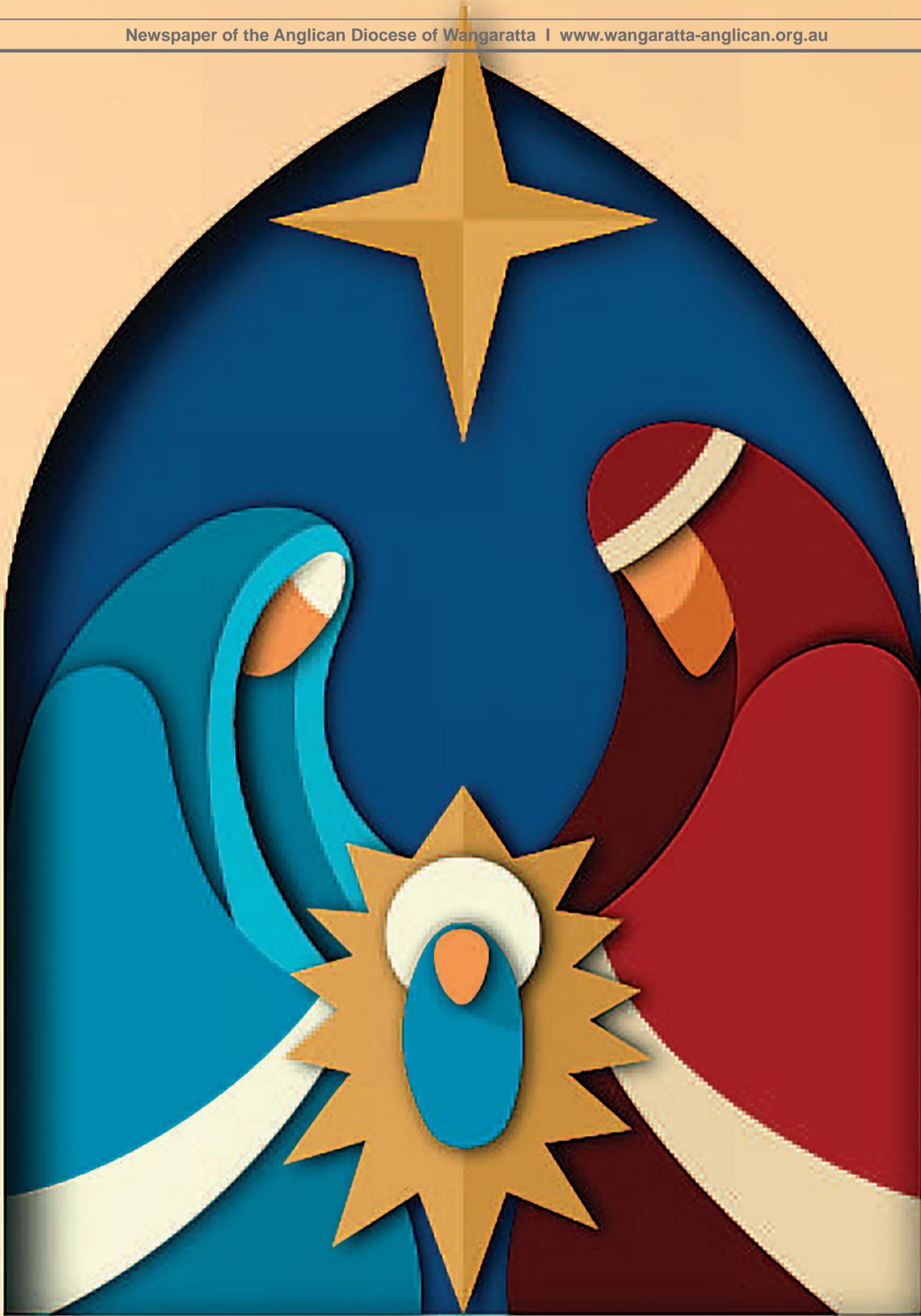
THE ADVOCATE

Our Diocesan Vision is to walk in the way of Christ.

Issue: 104

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SUMMER 2021- 2022



Christmas begins with Christ

Inside the Advocate
this month

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Induction of Rev'd Dino Gabriel at the Parish of Benalla

BY MOLLY CRAIG

On a warm and sunny evening, clergy and parishioners arrived at Holy Trinity Benalla to see Rev'd Dino Gabriel inducted as the Priest in Charge in the Parish of Benalla. The service was joyous and

moving for all present and those watching via the live stream.

The parish is thrilled to have Rev'd Dino here and we look forward to working with him to bring the Good News to our communities and beyond.



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Welcome Rev 'd Dino

Dino is Italian born and comes from a place near Venice. He trained and was ordained as a Dominican Priest within the Roman Catholic Church and, after spending a few years in Italy, he was sent to South Africa to work as a Missionary for the Catholic Church.

Following Bishop Dino's early retirement from the Episcopacy in the See of Natal, The Rev'd Jerome Francis who is well-connected with many Priests and Bishop's in South Africa and around the globe, planted the seed in Bishop Dino's mind about considering a ministry experience within the Australian context which worked well, as Dino also has a sister in Adelaide whom he has not seen for a few years.

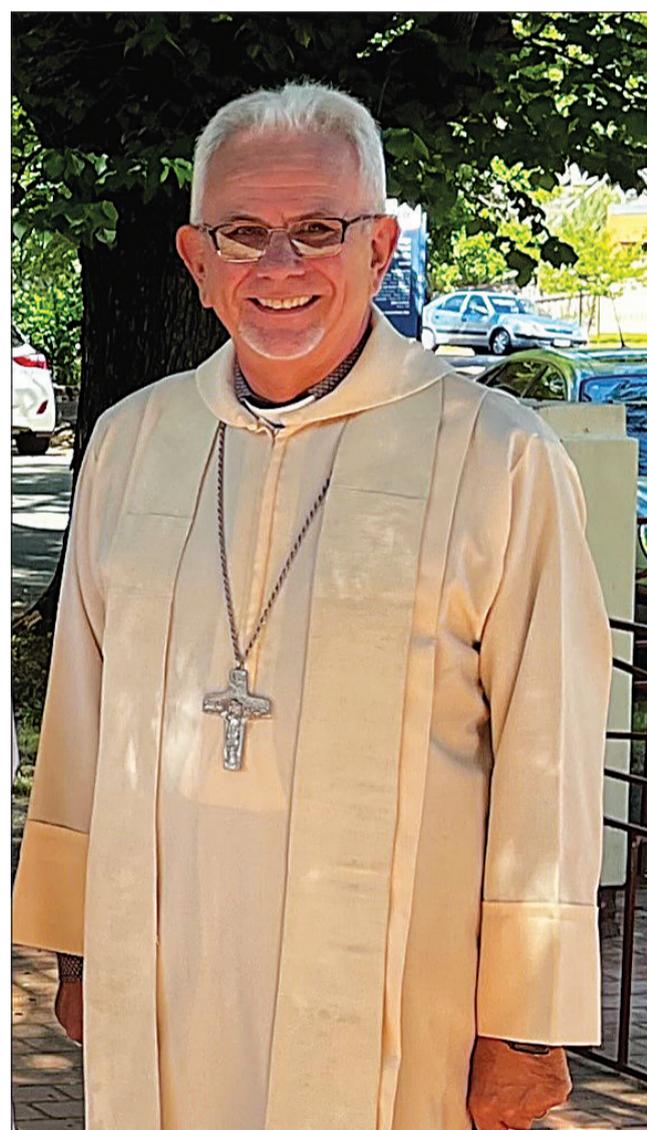
Dino later joined the Anglican Church and served in the Diocese of the Highveld and was also Archdeacon to two former clergy of Wangaratta, then in Johannesburg, The Rev'd Des Potter and Glynn Rees.

Dino is married to Elizabeth who remains in South Africa, but will join him in the next few months for a holiday - Dino also hopes to return home for a holiday a few months later.

Dino later became the Dean and then Bishop of the Diocese of Zululand after which he was elected as Bishop of Natal in 2015. Upon his election, the then Assistant Priest of Shepparton, The Rev'd Clarence Bester sent him a note of congratulations via Facebook messenger which was discovered only in 2021 when Bishop Dino tried to connect with the bishop via this communication mechanism. To the surprise of both of them, Bishop Clarence had already extended an invitation to Bishop Dino to one day visit the Diocese.

The Bishop and the Diocese are extremely grateful to God for Dino and look forward to the sharing of his experience within the context of Benalla and the wider Diocese.

Dino's pleasant personality, humble and gentle-spirited demeanor and as someone who sees himself as a Priest within a Parish context will favorably contribute to the edification of the Church in Benalla and beyond.



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Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta

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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.

Spiritual Direction

BY REV'D HELEN MALCOLM

I have almost finished the first year of a four year course in Spiritual Direction Formation run by the Living Well Centre in Melbourne. Over the four years I and the course leaders will discern if I have the calling and the gifts to be a Spiritual Director. This year we have studied Andrew Mayes' book 'Beyond the Edge - spiritual transitions for adventurous souls' which I found stimulating. I particularly liked his emphasis on 'liminal' spaces or thresholds, where we cross from one 'space' to another, considering what we may encounter and what we may be leaving behind and the courage needed to cross the threshold.

We have also learned about the Desert and Celtic Traditions, St Benedict of Nursia and St. Hildegard of Bingen and how these can help form us as potential Spiritual Directors, or perhaps help us decide that it is not our calling.

In each of the four three-day 'face-to-face' (2 by zoom this year) sessions we also practise directing our fellow seekers and learn about

different prayer practices, which I found helpful for myself, as well as to use with directees. Next year we will be stepping out to gain further experience with 'real' directees (under supervision!) - and studying another book by Andrew Mayes: 'Spirituality of Struggle: pathways to growth'. We write essays after the first three F2F sessions and now I just have one 3,000 word essay to write to finish the year.

The clergy conference in October was very helpful in differentiating spiritual direction and professional supervision - the first being about your relationship with God, the second (for clergy) your relationship with your work and the people to whom you minister.

Many people think that only clergy 'need' spiritual direction, but it is for anyone who would like a companion on their spiritual journey, to walk with them as they explore their journey with God. More information about finding or becoming a spiritual director is available at <http://www.livingwellcentre.org.au/>.

from the Bishop



Dear Clergy, People and Friends of the Diocese.

The Advocate Newspaper

After many attempts to increase the number of relevant and contextual articles to produce the Advocate newspaper, we are now moving to quarterly editions which will highlight the four seasons of the year. To keep this momentum, I would like to encourage each Parish to designate someone who can take pictures and write articles of events so that we can share our stories with the rest of the Diocese. Thank you to all those who faithfully and regularly contribute to writing, especially the Rev'd Dr Ed Byford for his reflections in collaboration with me.

Walk in the Way of Christ

On the Second Sunday of Advent we had our first opportunity to gather as a Diocese (in person and via live stream) for an Advent Carol Service at St Matthew's Albury, the Church which is deemed to be the 'oldest church as per the original dedication stone' within the Diocese. At this service I declared that our vision statement is now taking effect, with the Diocese walking, praying, meeting, worshipping and just being together at different places of worship throughout the Diocese over the next five years.

Following the methodology of the Cursillo movement, all will be invited to join the bishop periodically and to support all our congregations at the smaller and larger Churches. A road map to this will be published in the March to May edition of the Advocate newspaper, but I would like to encourage all to participate in the mission strategy of Worship, Adopt, Liaise and Kindle - the activities described in the August - September Advocate.

Celebrating 120 years

On 13 March 2022, on the anniversary of the Enthronement of the first Bishop of Wangaratta, Bishop Armstrong, we will be celebrating our 120th anniversary as the Diocese of Wangaratta. To mark this occasion I am calling on all our Clergy and Parishioners to join us for a celebratory service on Sunday, 13 March at 2.30pm at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Wangaratta, preceded by a celebratory lunch at Bishop's Lodge from 12.30pm and followed by afternoon tea. I am also calling on all our Parishes to arrange their morning services in such a way as to be available for the 120 years Celebration Service, or to cancel their morning services if necessary. This celebration will be the second step within our 5-year theme 'Walk in the Way of Christ' and I look forward to the Diocese gathering together like we did for the service at my Installation & Enthronement two years ago.

Quiet Moments

Part of the Chaplain's responsibility is to arrange four opportunities per year for our laity to have moments of reflection, contemplation and silence to connect with ourselves, each other and with God. This is one of those areas which is often missing in the operation structure of some institutions, so I really hope that our many Lay Leaders and parishioners will embrace these opportunities which are also provided for Clergy throughout the year. Please familiarize yourself with these dates and events and explore this ever-deepening sense of spirituality that draws us more deeply into ourselves and God.

Lay Ministry

Please remember to register for our Diocesan Conference and the Canon Lyall Turley Memorial Lecture set for 19 February from 10am as advertised. A further opportunity for potential Parish Lay Readers training has been created from March to June, details of which will be sent to all parishes and be shared on 19 February 2022. On 30 July we will have a Lay Invigoration Training Day which will be held in two regions of the Diocese.

Synod 2022

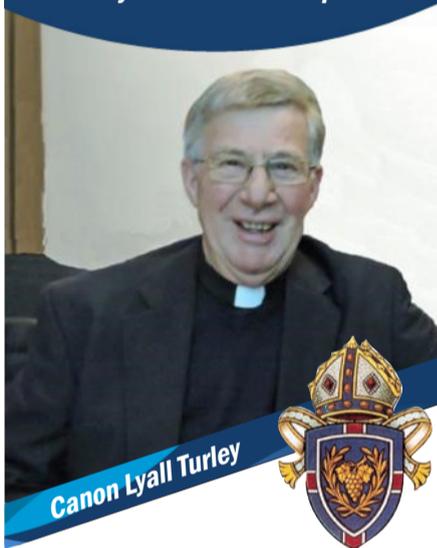
For those involved in Synod, please note that Synod has been set from 3-4 June at the Gateway in Wangaratta. There will also be a Pre-Synod Zoom meeting on Saturday, 14 May.

Christmas and the New Year

As we have experienced the difficulty of lockdowns and separation this past year, I pray that we will be filled with the Christmas spirit of hope, peace, joy and love as we look forward to the year 2022. We might not be certain about what the future holds, but our hope remains in the 'Word made Flesh' who came to live and dwell among us. Michelle, Kian, Kyle and I wish you a blessed and holy Christmas and everything of the best for the new year.

+ Clarence

A Conference for Clergy, Lay people and any other interested persons



Canon Lyall Turley

Canon Lyall Turley Memorial Lecture & Diocesan Ministry Conference

19th February 2022

Venue: Cathedral College, 344 Wangaratta-Whitfield Rd, Wangaratta

Bookings: Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/BSMLY>
or contact Fiona (03) 5721 3484

Cost: \$10.50

PROGRAM

From 9:00am - Tea/Coffee

10:00am - 11:15am
Canon Lyall Turley Memorial Lecture
The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier
Archbishop of Melbourne

11:15am - 12:00pm
Brunch

12.05pm - 12.25pm
Diocesan Ministry Action Plan

12:30pm - 1:00pm
Conference Plenary Session
The Reverend Dr Ed Byford
'Being confident in the confidence of Christ'



The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier



The Right Reverend Lindsay Urwin OGS



Annette Gorham



The Reverend Dr Ed Byford



The Right Reverend Clarence Bester



The Venerable (EM) Catie Inches-Ogden

Parallel Sessions: 1:10pm - 2:10pm & 2:20pm - 3:20pm

- **The Right Reverend Lindsay Urwin OGS** – Re-Kindling the Kindling (Church Re-Potting)
 - **The Right Reverend Clarence Bester** – Re-developing Ministry
- **Annette Gorham** (Pastoral Care) – Sharing St Matthew's Pastoral Care - Caring in Action
- **The Venerable (EM) Catie Inches-Ogden** – Small Church Development & St Columb's Hall

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CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AROUND OUR DIOCESE

The Christening

BY REV'D DAVID JONES

"She (Mary) gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

The story goes of a christening that was to be held many years ago by a very wealthy European family. Many guests were invited to the home for the occasion and it became a very fashionable and social occasion. Their coats and stoles were carried to a

bedroom and laid upon the bed when they arrived. After the usual lot of conversation and commotion, they were ready for the christening ceremony and someone asked, "Where is the baby?" The nurse was sent upstairs to collect the baby but returned in a very distressed



state. The baby was nowhere to be found! After a short search, someone remembered that that child had last been seen lying on one of the beds, and after a frantic search the little child was found under the coats and stoles of the guests. The chief reason why they had come had been forgotten, neglected and nearly destroyed!

With Advent about to start and Christmas not far away, many people will forget, neglect and even destroy the Christ child! He is lost under the tinsel, wrapping paper, ribbon, gifts and parties. Let us all remember not to crowd Christ out this Christmas, as he is the reason for the season.

PHOTO ABOVE: Artwork by Abbie Woodberry, Scarlett Clancy, Grace Loveday Year Two
PHOTO LEFT: Cathedral college students dressed as angels.



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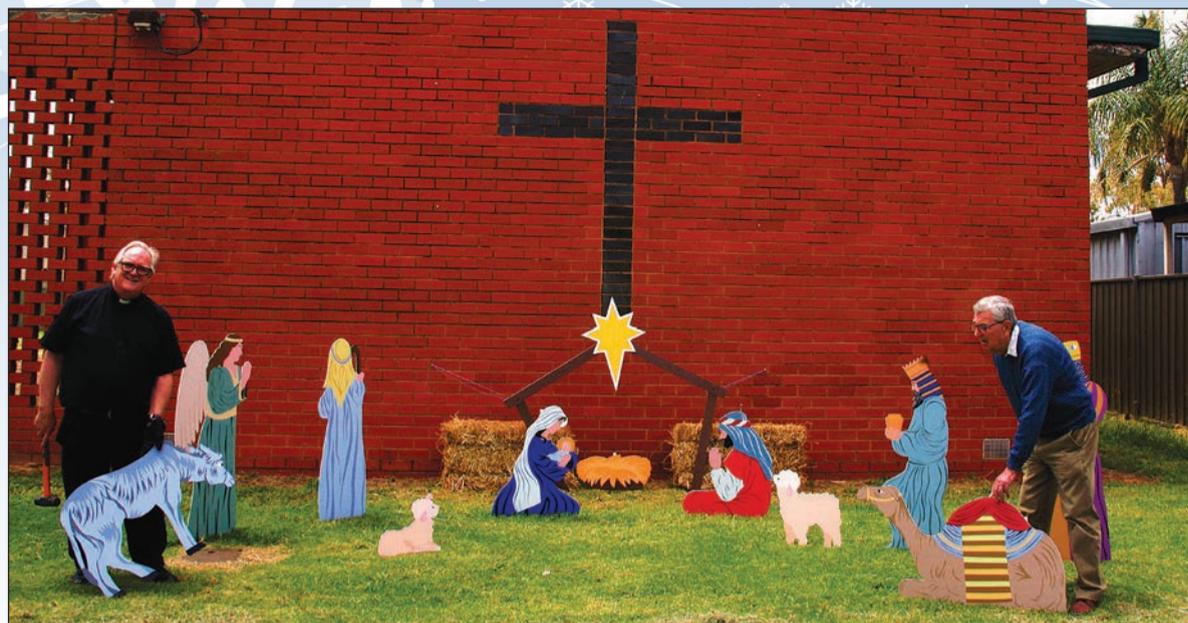
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CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS AROUND OUR DIOCESE



Decorating Nagambie for Christmas

BY DIANE GRANT

Nagambie has some amazing Christmas decorations placed around the town this year.

Thanks to local churches, businesses, schools and organisations sponsorship and the Community Decorations Team led by Yvonne Dacey. Santa's Elves were the hard workers who designed, built and installed the 55 metal Christmas trees. Santa's Angels we're involved in planning, marketing and supervising the decorations.

The Christmas trees were placed on Jacobson's Outlook boardwalk where local church folk and families were invited to decorate a tree each and many turned up on November 27 and 28 to do just that. The sight

is worth seeing now.

Another idea was placing Nativity scenes on St Malachy's and St John's church walls, showing the setting of the first Christmas.

St Malachy's Catholic Church folk were happy to erect their nativity scene at the front of their church building and St John's folk placed their nativity scene in the front of their church hall. Rev Richard Pennington and warden Peter Darbyshire helped Ruth Close to erect the Nativity figures. They would like to thank Ruth Close for sponsoring this nativity setting for the community.

Yvonne Dacey of the group said "It is about getting the community involved. Nagambie needs a lift and we thought this would be a

wonderful way to decorate the town and churches, showing that Nagambie town can be placed on the Christmas decorations map; a place to come and see and celebrate the season."

"The Light Up Nagambie vision is to start a tradition where families, friends and community come together to celebrate what community is really all about" she said.

Rev Richard and Peter Darbyshire were involved in the Nagambie Community Carols program on December 5 and Rev Richard and his fellow Seymour clergy appeared in the Seymour Carols on December 12, as the Pastor Apprentices band, with their guitars, thus spreading some Christmas cheer in both towns for Christmas.

PHOTO ABOVE: Setting up the Nativity scene at St John's hall in Nagambie are Warden Peter Darbyshire and Rev. Richard Pennington.

Cathedral Parish to host Community Christmas Carols

BY MARGARET BRICKHILL

Merry Christmas.

Two of Wangaratta's long established community music groups will help the people of Wangaratta sing carols on Sunday 19 December from 6.30 until 8.00 pm.

Given that it could not present a concert in the Rural City of Wangaratta's Seniors Festival this year, because of covid-19 restriction, Wangaratta Concert Band got the idea to play for Community Christmas Carols instead – since there would be no Carols by Candlelight this year.

Director of the Concert Band, Doug McGregor, asked Sing Australia, for which he provides keyboard accompaniment for the group's rehearsals, to join the initiative.

The two groups will lead us in singing thirteen carols. They include Do you Hear what I Hear, Carol of the Birds, Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, Joy to the World, O Holy Night, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Silent Night, finishing with We Wish You a

Between the carols there will be items from Sing Australia and the Concert Band.

The event will be held outdoors, with Sing Australia and Wangaratta Concert Band on the steps of the cathedral. Those on the lawn need to bring chairs or rugs and keep social distancing as much as possible.

In the event of rain, Community Christmas Carols will move inside the cathedral.

Community Christmas Carols is supported by the Rural City of Wangaratta (promotion) and the Office of Tim McCurdy (printing of booklets with words of all the carols).

COVID REQUIREMENTS: Please carry a mask with you at all times to wear if you cannot socially distance. If the event is moved indoors due to inclement weather, participants will need to show proof of vaccination upon entry.



An Australian & White Christmas

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD

I arrived in England in June 1976 to begin studying at the University of Manchester. It was the famous year of the drought. England had one of its driest summers on record, which was followed by one of the wettest autumns on record. It was cold and wet as Christmas approached. I was attached to the Parish of St Werburgh's, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, and the rector asked me to preach at the midnight celebration of Holy Communion on Christmas Eve. For weeks we had heard "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" with almost monotonous regularity on the radio. The comments of the various announcers (for that is what they were called by the BBC) was

that it would be perfect to have a white Christmas. I remember describing to an almost disbelieving congregation that a white Christmas would be a nightmare and that the perfect Christmas was 85°F (30°C) in the shade and being able to relax after Christmas dinner in a hammock on the veranda with a cold can of Fosters. The sermon stuck as I was reminded of what I said way back then when I returned to the parish in 2002.

I was somewhat dismissive of White Christmas and its sentimentality. As you will have guessed from my other writings in The Advocate I think that our great celebrations transcend sentimentality. But this sentimentality has real purpose and provides us with real

connection with what it is that we proclaim about Christmas and the encounter of God with all of us.

It was many years later that I learned something of the origins of this world changing song by Irving Berlin. When, exactly, it was written is a matter of conjecture but its first public performance was on the Kraft Music Hall radio show on Christmas Day 1941. It was eighteen days after the bombing of Pearl Harbour. The United States had just experienced death and destruction that had thrown it into a world war. Mainland Australia was soon to have similar experiences for the first time in its history.

Christmas is almost never freezing cold for most Australians yet this song touches us with more than sentimentality as we ponder the miracle of God entering our lives amidst all the turmoil we experience in the changes and chances of this fleeting world.



St John's Wodonga parishioners have been collecting gifts for Upper Murray Family Care, who distribute them to disadvantaged children in the area.



PHOTO ABOVE: The Ven Neil Hicks, Revd David Still, Bishop Clarence, Revd Bill Squire and Revd Scott Jessup at the de-consecration of St Paul's, Goorambat. **PHOTO BELOW:** Processing out with the Bishop are parishioners holding items from the church.



Service of Thanksgiving & De-consecration of St Paul's, Goorambat

BY MOLLY CRAIG

Current and former parishioners of St Paul, joined with Bishop Clarence to celebrate 123 years of worship in the centre. Following this, the church was de-consecrated, with members of St Paul's processing out with

the Bishop, with items from the church. The church carries many memories for the families of the district. We pray for the parishioners in their sadness at the closing and pray for them going into the future as they find new worshipping communities.

The Bishop's Candle

BY VEN NEIL HICKS

For several decades it has been the custom at St Cuthbert's Church (and no doubt many other places too) for an extra candle to be placed on the Altar whenever the Bishop is in attendance and leading worship. At St Cuthbert's there is this holder for the Bishop's Candle, we have been unable to discover where it came from and exactly when it was first used. Our Head Server, Max Grinter tells me that in olden days – before Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp etc. – people found out that the Bishop was visiting their church when they turned up on Sunday and saw the extra candle on the Altar.



News from the Cathedral

BY KEIRAN CRICHTON

Coming Back to the Cathedral

Following a couple of months worshipping in Purbrick Hall, the Cathedral congregation returned to the church building on 7 November. This was enabled by the erection of a large scaffold in the front three bays of the north aisle of the Cathedral. The scaffold is necessary to enable an engineering inspection to be completed following the earthquake in September.

The return to worshipping in the Cathedral building was marked by two important events. Bishop Clarence confirmed three candidates from Cathedral College Wangaratta. It was a joy to welcome Rebecca, Rani, and Beth as they came to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

This day also marked the return of our Cathedral Choristers. Over November they have enjoyed the opportunity to rehearse and become used to being in services again. From Advent Sunday the Choristers have started singing an anthem at communion. It's a real joy to hear young voices, and to see the dedication of our choir as they enrich our worship with their singing.

Lift High the Cross

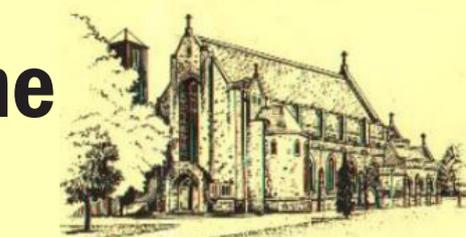
The great brass processional cross has been leading people in and out of the Cathedral for a long time now. If you come to worship you will see a second cross, ably carried by Ian Gillespie, the latest (and youngest!) addition to the Cathedral serving team. Ian began carrying his processional cross during the weeks of worship in Purbrick Hall. After the original wooden cross fell apart mid-procession a beautiful cross was crafted for him by Edwin Savery.

Farewells

The days around Christ The King saw farewells being bidden in different ways.

On Sunday 21 November Bishop Clarence led the final service at Christ Church, Greta. The church was full, the singing hearty, and the afternoon tea laid out in generous proportions. It was a poignant celebration. People stayed a long time to share memories and enjoy each other's company.

Sad news came of the death of Marj



Hoysted, a long-time parishioner of Holy Trinity Cathedral and St Michael's. On 22 November a Requiem Eucharist was lovingly offered by Revd Steven Salmon and Marj's daughter, Deacon Sandra Salmon. The service bore witness to Marj's faith and the loving care shared over a long life with her family and friends.

Choir news

Two choirs are now busy rehearsing. The Cathedral Choristers now comprises seven singers, with hopes that the school year 2022 will bring further growth. The Cathedral Singers began rehearsals at the start of November and has been welcoming newcomers at each rehearsal, bringing numbers up to 14.

Would you like to be part of the music life of the cathedral? To find out more, and to register to join, please visit: <http://wangerattacathedral.org.au/cathedral-choir/>

Community Carols

6.30-8.00pm, Sunday 19 December 2021. Wangaratta Concert Band and Sing Australia present carols on the lawn outside the Cathedral. Entry is free, BYO chairs and rugs, proof of vaccination for people over 12 years and 2 months required. If it rains, carols will be in the Cathedral.

Evensong

5.00pm, Sunday 20 February 2022. The Cathedral Singers will lead our first Evensong for 2022 with music by Edward Bairstow and J.S. Bach. Entry is free, more details about the evening in the New Year.

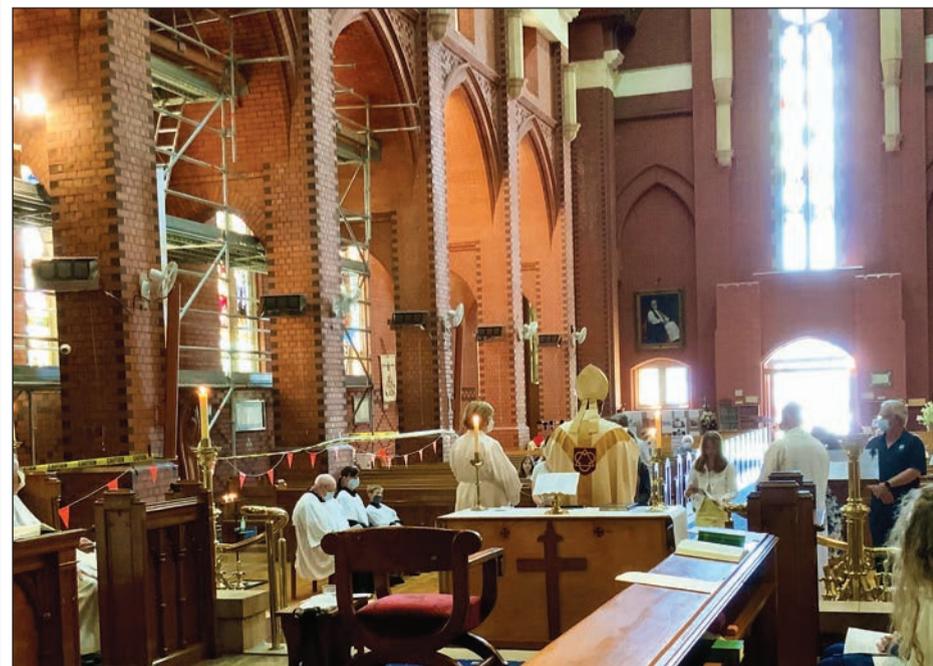
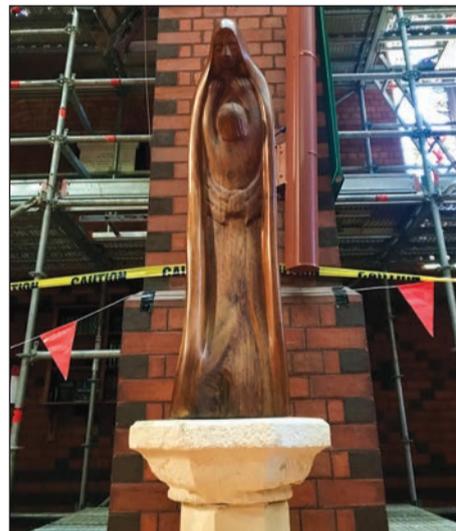


PHOTO ABOVE: Scaffolding in the front three bays of the north aisle of the Cathedral

Simple, Realistic & Achievable:

a report on an innovative approach to achieving compliance with the safe ministry requirements

BY DR JANE FREEMANTLE

The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta, including all ministry units within the Diocese, have zero tolerance for abuse. Our Commitment: 'All people including children and vulnerable adults have the right to be respected and valued and to feel emotionally, physically, and spiritually safe at all times. We are committed to providing a safe, respectful, welcoming and positive environment for children and adults from all backgrounds'.

On the 18th of November, 28 lay members and clergy, representing almost all the Parishes and Parochial Districts of the Wangaratta Diocese, met in Purbrick Hall for a Safe Church Workshop. We were welcomed by our Bishop Clarence and the Diocesan Safe Church Officer, the Reverend David Still. The workshop had two main elements. The first, presented by the Reverend Glenn Wesley, Safe Church Officer, Diocese of Ballarat who introduced a new on-line system that enables Dioceses to begin the digitalisation of the quite complex process of completing, submitting and storing the Safe Church clearances and administrative requirements. The second element was the introduction of the on-line Safe Ministry Training, presented by Peter Barnett, from the Safer Communities organisation.

On-line clearances for ministry: Reverend Glenn offered us a most comprehensive demonstration of the software he has developed to make the required ministry clearance information for both clergy and lay ministry both efficient and effective. Essentially this software makes the collection, submission, validation of information, storage and recall more efficient. The forms also record applicants' agreement to probity checks and provide confirmation of their acceptance of the Diocesan constitution, laws and policies.

The on-line forms can be adapted to support both lay and clergy requirements, to respond to 'first time' applications or renewing their information. They are adaptable to an individuals' specific responses to the questions as the user moves through the various forms. The information

requirements are segmented into different sections (A,B, C,D) according to the lay ministry or clergy activities of an individual. The forms are 'dynamic' and can be adjusted to comply with the specific requirements of each of the 16 Dioceses of the National Anglican Church of Australia. From all accounts this new on-line system is definitely user-friendly, time efficient and provides 'very simple, easy to read, easy to navigate forms'.

Of importance, this system ensures a higher level of document confidentiality and privacy through the information only being viewed by the applicant (or person assisting them in filling out the forms) and the Diocesan Safe Church Officer (or in relevant circumstances, the Director of Professional Standards). The software also enables an automated tracking of currency of an individual's information, for example, currency of safe church awareness training and expiry dates of required screening documents and includes a tool that will send out any reminders to the individual update their information/requirements.

Questions were raised regarding the privacy and protection of information being provided and the protocols for referral of information to the Department of Public Prosecution and the Diocese. Reverend David referred the attendees to the information which is clearly articulated within the Safe Church tab on the Diocesan website and contained in the 'yellow folder'. He informed the attendees that if we move to the on-line system. The specific Diocesan privacy statement and ministry categories as they are today would be incorporated into our on-line version. How the Diocese implements our processes of safe ministry clearances and authorisation will be adapted to suit the on-line version.

Reverend Glenn has been requested by Bishop Clarence to develop a form specific to the policy structure and requirements of the safe church administration for the Diocese of Wangaratta. Bishop Clarence further acknowledged that the proposed on-line system reflected his commitment to ensuring the efficient, effective and, importantly,

private collection and collation of Safe Ministry required information.

On-line Safe Ministry Training: Peter Barnett is currently the Director of Professional Standards for the Anglican Dioceses of Canberra & Goulburn and Bathurst. Peter gave the attendees a most enlivened presentation that described the many changes in the Safe Church journey over the past decades from revelations of child sexual abuse in the 1990s and the reactive raft of child protection legislation, through the years of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse 2012-2017 (and the resulting 400 recommendations), to current day policies, protocols and processes and the responding core concepts that constitute Safe Ministry Training.

Peter provided the context as to why, at a conceptual level and a practical level, the original training for Safe Ministry being offered to the Dioceses had to be modified to ensure its compliance with the changed environment. He explained that, following the Royal Commission, two things had changed: the Burden of Proof for a person seeking damages from an organisation doesn't have to prove that the church was negligent; that the Burden of Proof has been reversed and we must prove that we did everything possible to prevent that abuse from happening. These changes have provided the imperative to ensure that our Safe Ministry protocols, our screening and training, our codes of conduct are fit for purpose to keep our communities safe.

He described the many hats we must wear in ensuring Safe Ministry. These 'hats' included 'Pastoral', what it means to be 'salt and light' to our communities, which is a responsibility that sets the church apart from all other organisations; 'Legal', ensuring our compliance with the myriad of ever changing and growing legal requirements. Currently there are seven different legal obligations that are Safe Ministry related that require compliance, and, in 2022, in Victoria, these will be increased to 11 Child Protection Standards. The 'Diocesan' hat ensures that the specific Diocesan requirements eg Faithfulness in Service

and specific constitutional requirements are fully complied with.

The on-line Safe Ministry Training (Safer Communities) program has been developed to replace the current need for Face to Face workshops. This format can be undertaken by an individual (or indeed a group of individuals) using an online system. It was suggested that training in groups is preferred, as it also enables pastoral care to be provided in case of need during the training. The training itself is aimed at awareness raising of what Safe Ministry is and reflects the four standards: screening, persons of concern, Faithfulness in Service and training (safe ministry accreditation).

The training is via open learning and provided through an on-line training platform. Currently there are two modules, one based on rolling out the legislative and Diocesan requirements

of Safe Ministry based on a duty of care through insuring transparent policy, procedures, and practice. The other module is specifically for those who have roles under the Canon, that specifically include ministry to children and young people. The third module will be available next year and will provide Safe Ministry implementation for Safe Church Officers and senior leaders.

All components of the training, including viewing the videos, will need to be completed and the system will not allow the submission of the workbook until the exercise is completed. Courses will attract a fee and there is a required process to be completed prior to receiving access to the on-line course and advice as to how to log in. There will be 24-hour support available. Training in running the on-line modules will be provided for Safe Church Officers in the new year to assist them in guiding their parish members in undertaking the on-line training.

Essentially the on-line training modules will replace the 'blue book' guided Safe Ministry Training that has been used to date. Reverend David will trial

the process for the on-line training module in December, prior to making it available for general use across the Diocese, possibly in February 2022. He offered his availability to support Parishes as they implement this form of Safe Ministry training in the coming months.

Bishop Clarence reminded us that this initiative reflected the commitment made in his Synod charge that Safe Ministry training would be made 'simple realistic and achievable'. He also noted that there would be greater involvement of the Safe Church Officers Network (SCON) to enable more effective communication between Safe Church Officers across the Diocese. At the conclusion of the workshop, we were invited to the Bishop's Lodge where we shared a delicious lunch beautifully provided by Michele (with the barbeque cooked by the Rev'd. Canon Alan Kelb), all so grateful for the opportunity to be together again after so many months.



Advent Quiet Day

BY GWENDA HOWARD

It could only be called a Day of Beauty—a beautiful garden setting lovingly cared for by Lee Kelb, all shrubs and trees looking glorious in their spring beauty. The delightful setting of Holy Trinity Church Yackandandah could not have been a better setting for the Advent Quiet Day with The Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup presenting.

A beautiful service of Handel's Messiah with appropriate Scriptures, gave time for reflection on our purpose in life, and refreshed our love of God. For the group

attending we could not have asked for a better day, grounds to walk and sit and reflect in, listening to the birds and generally unwinding.

The peace and tranquillity of Father Scott's addresses together with the wonderful music of Handel's Messiah. I could not have experienced a more wonderful and at times emotional day.

Thank you, Holy Trinity Yackandandah, Rev'd Scott and Handel.

I could not have had a better day. A Day of Beauty indeed.



PHOTO ABOVE: Sandra Temple, Anne Baumgarten and Val Edwards at the quiet day in Yackandandah.
PHOTO BELOW: Inside Holy Trinity, Yackandandah on Advent quiet day.

The Anglican Board of Missions - Australia

BY REV NORM HART

ABM-A is the official mission arm of the church, charged with mission and ministry within communities of Aboriginal and Islander peoples and beyond our shores in PNG, Pacific nations, in Asia, Africa and among the Palestinian people.

Ministries include Christian education and theological studies as well as meeting practical needs of people with health care, building projects, supply of clean water. ABM supports local churches to execute their plans, sometimes this means sending suitably qualified experts, doctors, engineers, teachers, clergy. Other times ABM supports the local church to fulfil their potential by supplying the funding needed.

You can support ABM-A by remembering their work in your prayers. You can give money to ABM.

I support ABM by gathering and selling used stamps to dealers in the USA and in the UK. Australian stamps are very popular overseas. In an average year we are able to raise about \$600 however these last two years there has been a reduced flow of stamps. If you want to help, you can save the stamps off all your mail and pass it along to your local church, or to the diocesan offices or direct to me in Euroa. I am also able to sell postcards, and coins.

I am always happy to help anyone interested in collecting stamps or coins and am happy to help to identify and value your collection.

There are other mission agencies in the church CMS, BCA, SAMS, AAA, which offer support and ministry to communities around the world, they all need our prayers. Thank God for those men and women who serve the church far from the support of family and friends, may God use them as a blessing to the world.



MU Members come together for Annual Meeting & Plan of Action

BY DIANE GRANT

Through rain, hail or shine members from the Diocese

of Wangaratta Mother's Union branches and lone members travelled long distances to attend their 2021 annual meeting.

Following morning tea they held their annual presentation of Executive committee reports and individual branch reports.



They were then very pleased to have Bishop Clarence Bester as guest speaker on the day.

He spoke of how MU could reach out to new folk to encourage them to join this worldwide church welfare organisation that helps millions across the world; how women and men, young and older can be involved within the Wangaratta Diocese's eight branches of the Mother's Union that still work and meet in the Diocese.

He spoke on changes that would be fruitful to inspire new folk to come along and join the ranks of this worthwhile organisation and be able to support marriage and family life, such as changes to old habits that branches have held onto for decades in some instances; changes that would not cause pain, confusion or frustrations to anyone but bond people together to serve Christ through the MU

He emphasised that in 2022 the MU branches should choose a good leader who can lead them into the future. It is vital to have a stable, faithful and reliable leader in any organisation.

He gave an example of the Ministry Action Plan (MAP) based on these 5 R's principles.

1. Redefining,
2. Re-establishing
3. Redesigning
4. Redeveloping
5. Restructuring.

Through this Plan growth can occur with God's power to bring the Christian faith into people's lives and believing in Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

The Eucharist was conducted in the Cathedral by MU Secretary/Treasurer Rev'd David Holloway with the reading by MU Chaplain Rev'd Sue Hall and intercessory prayers by Sue Fyfe.

The members enjoyed some lunch and fellowship before braving the elements to go home after a very satisfying and encouraging get together.

PHOTO LEFT: MU Friends in Christ gather together for their annual meeting on November 15 at Purbrick hall.

Wondrous Occasion at Confirmation Service, Yarrowonga

BY VEN NEIL HICKS

What a wonderful and wondrous occasion the Confirmation Service at St Cuthbert's Yarrowonga on Advent Sunday was. Tom Coffey, Tiffany Thomas and Felicity Thomas were Confirmed by Bishop Clarence in a joyful service which culminated in such a buzz in the Hall at Morning Tea that was simply AMAZING.

Bishop Clarence challenged us all to think about WWW, not the World Wide Web – but Worship, Witness, Works – as being the outcome of Confirmation. We have not

arrived when we are confirmed, just started the next part of our journey as Christians.

It was truly a great thing to be in the midst of such a happy group of people, so excited, so joyful, the liveliest event in the parish in a long time (due to COVID restrictions) Sybil Retallack made a beautiful Cake to help Celebrate the occasion in a customary way. Congratulations Tom, Tiffany and Felicity on your Confirmation.

PHOTO BELOW: Bishop Clarence and Ven Neil Hicks with Felicity, Tom and Tiffany



Diocesan Quiet Days 2022

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



Saturday 12th February

10:00am – 2:00pm

St Stephen's Anglican Church, Rutherglen

Leader: The Rev'd Canon Scott Jessup

Theme: Lent & Easter with Handel's 'Messiah' – music and reflections.

Bookings (by 9th of February 2022):

Scott 0418254158 or email: chaplain@wangeratta-anglican.org.au

No charge. BYO lunch. Tea/coffee provided.

Save the date – Diocesan Quiet Days:

7th May

10:00am – 2:00pm

10th September

Bishop's Lodge

10:00am – 2:00pm

19th November –

10:00am – 2:00pm



Parish Partnerships

BY FIONA SAWYER & DR JANE FREEMANTLE

The Anglicare Victoria Diocese of Wangaratta Parish Partnerships Program is starting to gain momentum despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. While some of our programs are still being limited due to government restrictions, existing emergency relief projects are continuing to operate, albeit in a Covid-altered way. This has been due to the generosity and commitment of our Anglicare family. Existing programs continuing to operate through Parish Partnerships include the emergency relief program in Mt Beauty, as well as Euroa FoodShare. Both programs are run by amazing troops of volunteers who are continuing to provide support for people in need within their local communities. The Mt Beauty Emergency Relief Program was recently successful in obtaining a grant for \$2,000 through the Bendigo Bank, for which we are very grateful. Our volunteers are working towards using these funds to obtain food vouchers and toys to support their local communities during the Christmas season.

The Anglicare Partnerships Steering Group has met twice this year and it is really encouraging to see the enthusiasm and commitment of the members around the table. We are also grateful for the energy and the leadership of, Fiona Sawyer, who continues to settle into her new role as Community Development Coordinator with Anglicare Victoria. Fiona has continued

to seek every opportunity to reach out to parishes, discussing ideas about potential future partnership opportunities. With the lifting of travel restrictions she has finally been able to visit North Albury and Corryong to discuss programs that they are hoping to bring under the banner of Parish Partnerships in the coming year.

The Parish of North Albury already operates a small emergency relief program out of their church. The parish owns a derelict property next door, which they are hoping to demolish and build a purpose-built centre from which to operate. This is an exciting initiative and will give them the opportunity to expand their service in a significant way.

Meanwhile, the Parish of Corryong is looking for ways that they can support their community which is still recovering from the 2020 bushfires as well as the many challenges associated with the Covid-19 pandemic being experienced by their people. One option being considered is the establishment of a Homework Club along the lines of that which has been operating in Eldorado for several years. The program could start by bringing together students to work on their school work while also providing opportunities for parents to come together and connect while their children are doing their homework. Fiona will continue to work with Rev'd. Emily Payne in North Albury and Rev'd. Maryann Leonard in Corryong with a view to further developing

these ideas. We have much confidence that these ideas will come to fruition in 2022 and beyond.

Fiona is actively working with parish representatives across the diocese to consider innovative programs to support the work of the Anglicare Partnerships' program. For example, the parishes of Shepparton, Benalla and Wangaratta West and the Warbys have approached Fiona with ideas for programs that they would like to establish. Mansfield parish has recently joined with St. Vincent de Paul and the other Christian Churches of Mansfield (MECC) in collecting goods to fill hampers for those who would benefit from such contributions at Christmas.

At this time of the year when we are preparing for the birth of the Christ Child, it is important that we remember all those in our parishes and indeed in our communities that need our love, support and care. The Anglican Parish Partnerships program has certainly gathered momentum these past years despite the lockdowns and restrictions. And indeed these challenges have made the work of the program even more important. We are confident that the program will continue to grow and flourish as we move out of the pandemic and begin to settle into whatever our 'new normal' might be in 2022.

Any queries regarding the Parish Partnerships Program can be directed to Fiona Sawyer at Anglicare Victoria Fiona.Sawyer@anglicarevic.org.au.



Don't Give Up - Keep the Faith

BY DIANE GRANT

Global terrorism, crime and violence, war amongst countries, a deadly global pandemic, bushfires, floods, volcanic eruptions, an earthquake and a tornado. What else can we stand?

Well for Christian believers the message is "Don't give up? Keep the faith"

If we don't then the wider community might feel that they have given up hope! We are a community's connection to God and while things are going smoothly, then all is well they think, God is in his heaven and all is well on earth.

Our local churches around Seymour, Avenel and Nagambie are wondering what they can plan for Christmas. The Seymour Ministers Fraternal have not been able to meet and that is not good.

How will these covid restrictions and lockdowns affect the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Our ministers and priests are trying their hardest to communicate with each other and their parishioners by live streaming, YouTube, Facebook, emails and Zoom. They are posting out or delivering their Christian messages and prayers and Bible and Gospel readings to those without computers. But nothing takes the place of face to face worship.

One report says "It's not official unless it is on Facebook." Facebook could be a country with over 200 million users a year. In less than an hour the world knows the news on the Internet. But whatever the news, good or bad, the challenge for all Christians is to monitor one's words and actions. Whether spoken, written or by act and include God in all parts of our lives. In King Solomon's writings in Proverbs from 10 through to 24 it has at least 50 references to the necessity to guarding one's words and actions. When it comes to social media, that advice still stands.

Facebook they say is the way to communicate nowadays. But will it be around in 2000 years like the Christian faith has been? Will it be able to provide people with an ongoing, nourished belief in God or help them keep their faith?

Our district churches have all been heavily affected by the lack of attendance in their churches in the Euroa-Nagambie-Avenel Catholic parish, the Anglican Nagambie, Avenel and Seymour one and the Uniting church group of Seymour and Nagambie-Avenel.

The folk from the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church that is now closed in Nagambie attend services in Seymour or Yea to keep their faith alive.

Pastoral visits and hostel services have ceased in our aged care homes.

The Parish of Central Goulburn's Mothers Union have not been able to meet or conduct their usual activities. But they were appreciative of generous donations for their Overseas and Outreach causes, given because they could not hold their Morning Melodies fundraiser for this effort.

Not being able to have morning tea or lunch has been hard as the fellowship shared this way has also been disallowed or diminished. This has been important for decades in sharing our faith and care and concern for others. Let's hope this does not continue indefinitely.

But we are encouraged to not give up! People of all faiths that could apply to.

In Euroa Rev'd Tony Hill is taking Mass bookings each week for the Euroa Catholic Church.

The Seymour-Nagambie-Avenel Uniting church folk are live streaming or having YouTube services from 10am if they cannot meet physically.

Our Anglican Parish of Central Goulburn was affected by the Mitchell Shire Lockdown also and so our services were affected too.

So from what I hear, our church leaders are saying don't give up on God, and God won't give up on you! Our churches are in the prayer business and they encourage you to join them in this time of need.



PHOTO: Keep the faith! The World Day of prayer Ecumenical service attendees in March 2021 at St John's Nagambie.

St Margaret's, Cobram celebrate patronal thanksgiving

BY ROSS SMITH

Parishioners attending St Margaret's of Cobram to celebrate their patronal thanksgiving eucharist on 14th November.

A Scottish piper, piped the congregation into St Margaret's Church for the celebration of St Margaret of Scotland, and again as

the congregation recessed to our Parish centre following the service. The church was decked with tartan, members of the congregation came dressed in Celtic colours and the hymns were of Celtic origins. Quite a celebration.



Looking Down the Valley

BY REV'D DR EDWIN BYFORD



Preaching was something that attracted me to the sacred ministry. Preaching gave me an audience to hear what I had to say about God, faith, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Church and how all this related to the lives that we live in the communities of which we are part. Dr Paul Dalzell opened a window on the adventure of preaching in the last edition of The Advocate. But there are times when it can be quite difficult to think of what to say in a sermon. It may sound strange, but Christmas is one of those occasions.

Everybody who comes to church at Christmas already knows the story. Everybody is there to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. What else is there to be said? Something awesomely mysterious has happened and we have come to enter into that happening. How do we do this? Over the centuries since the introduction of this feast in the fourth century in Rome (I told that story in the Christmas edition of The Advocate in 2018) we have developed many traditions to bring the mystery into our world of time and space. The most visible of these traditions is the almost universal adoption of setting up nativity scenes that was begun by Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223. Of equal, perhaps even greater, significance is the music and the carols of the season.

It probably sounds silly to say it — the mysterious is mysterious. It is very difficult to describe the mysterious. If we could easily describe it, it would not be mysterious. When we encounter the mysterious we are well aware that something extraordinary has happened and we fish around for words to describe the experience and our own response to whatever it was. Words fail because what we are trying to describe seems outside the scope of any words that we have to use — "It was like ... but it was more than that" Hence, my earlier comment that Christmas is a difficult occasion when it comes to preaching.

In Rome there developed the tradition of three masses for Christmas Day and the Gospel for the third Mass of Christmas has always been the beginning of the Gospel according to Saint John. This Gospel reading was so important that the English Reformers dropped all other readings in its favour from 1552 onwards. The account of the Nativity of our Lord was set for the second lesson at Morning Prayer. Our modern Prayer Books and Lectionary have restored the three sets of proper readings for three separate celebrations of the Holy Communion at Christmas — the Nativity, the visit of the shepherds and the great theological exposition of the Gospel according to Saint John.

We have taken great inspiration from the stories of the birth of our Lord and the visit of the shepherds, but it is to the lofty language of Saint John that we turn when we try to say what all of this means — And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory. Even before this we are awestruck when trying to explain our encounter.

It is not strange that Christians have turned to music to try to give some expression to the awesome reality of the incarnation. In this great south land, where it is not the bleak mid-winter, we have turned to music to lift our minds and spirits to embrace the mystery of God coming among us.

The north wind is tossing the leaves,
the red dust is over the town,
the sparrows are under the eaves
and the grass in the paddocks is brown,
as we lift up our voices and sing
to the Christ-child the heavenly King.

Whether it is the winter or the summer solstice it is time to celebrate the ultimate mystery — that the Lord of all creation became one of us and was born in Bethlehem of Judaea.

Christmas Service Times



HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, WANGARATTA

Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
6.00pm Family Worship	8am Holy Eucharist with Carols
11.30pm Midnight Mass	10am Sung Eucharist with Carols

ALBURY	KILMORE	RUTHERGLEN CHILTERN	WODONGA
<p>19th December 5.00 pm Carols and Lessons Christmas Eve 4:00pm Toddler's Service 6:00pm Family Service 10:30pm Carols 11:00pm Midnight Service with Holy Communion Christmas Day 9:00 am Family Christmas Service with Holy Communion 26th December 9:00am Sunday Service, The Feast of Stephen</p>	<p>19th December Carols and Lessons in Kilmore, 6.00pm (Community Carols) Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Midnight Mass Broadford Christmas Day 9.00am Holy Eucharist – Christ Church, Kilmore 26th December First Sunday after Christmas 10.00am Holy Eucharist – Christ Church, Kilmore, Combined Service Kilmore (one service only)</p>	<p>Christmas Eve 5:00pm - Christ the King, Wahgunyah- Holy Eucharist; 8:00pm - St Paul's, Chiltern - Holy Eucharist; 11:30pm - St Stephen's, Rutherglen- Midnight Mass. Christmas Day 8:00am All Souls', Barnawartha- Holy Eucharist; 9:30am St Stephen's, Rutherglen- Holy Eucharist.</p>	<p>Christmas Eve 7.30pm Holy Eucharist, Emmanuel 11.30pm Midnight Mass, St John's Christmas Day 9.00am Uniting Tradition, Emmanuel 9.30am Christmas Eucharist St John's 26th December 9.30am Holy Eucharist St John's</p>
ALPINE	MANSFIELD	SHEPPARTON	YARRAWONGA
<p>Christmas Eve 5pm Whorouly 6pm Harrietville Christmas Day 9am Myrtleford 9am Bright</p>	<p>19 December 4pm Carol's and Lessons, St John's Mansfield, Open Service, limit 50 with masks Christmas Eve 5pm Ecumenical Service, Bonnie Doon, in the Church grounds, outdoors, bring a chair. 7pm Christmas Eve Holy Communion, St Peter's, Jamieson, Open Service with mask 11pm, St John's Mansfield, Christmas Eve Holy Communion, Open Service, limit 50, with mask Christmas Day 9.30am, St John's, Mansfield, Christmas Day Holy Communion Service, fully vaxed only, no limit.</p>	<p>St Augustines, Shepparton Christmas Eve - for those fully vaccinated 5.30pm Crib Service 11pm Midnight Eucharist Christmas Day - open service, masks required 8:30am Christmas Day Eucharist Christ Church Murchison 9:30am Christmas Day Eucharist <i>Please contact the parish office after 16th Dec. to find out if COVID restrictions have changed.</i> <i>staugustines.shepparton@gmail.com or 58217630 9am – 1pm Mon., Wed. – Fri.</i></p>	<p>7.00pm St Cuthbert's 9.00pm St Thomas's Christmas Day 9.00am St Cuthbert's 26th December 9.00am ONLY at St Cuthbert's</p>
BEECHWORTH	MARYSVILLE	TALLANGATTA	YACKANDANDAH
<p>19th December 7.30pm - Nine Lessons & Carols 21st December 7pm - Blue Christmas Christmas Eve 4pm - Children's Service: The ABC's of Christmas 11.30pm - Midnight Mass Christmas Day 9am - Christmas Day Eucharist 26th December 9am - Sunday Service: Eucharist</p> <p>St Jude's - Eldorado Christmas Eve 6pm - Christmas Eucharist</p>	<p>Christmas Eve 11.00pm Midnight Mass, Christ Church, Marysville Christmas Day 9.30am Christmas Family Eucharist, St Thomas's, Buxton.</p>	<p>Christmas Eve 8.00pm Holy Eucharist Christmas Day No Service Today 26th December 9.00am Morning Prayer</p>	<p>Christmas Eve 5pm Kiewa/Tangambalanga 7pm Dederang Christmas Day 8.45am Allan's Flat 10:30 am Yackandandah 10.00am Tawonga</p>
CENTRAL GOULBURN	MILAWA	WANGARATTA	YEA
<p>Christmas Eve 5.00 pm St Pauls Avenel 7.00 pm St Johns Negambie Christmas Day 9.30 am Christ Church Seymour Boxing Day 10.00 am St Paul's Avenel</p>	<p>Christmas Day 9am. Eucharist with carols. Double vax and QR code please.</p>	<p>King Valley Christmas Day 9.30am Moyhu 11.00am Whitfield</p>	<p>19th December 7pm Lessons & Carols Service Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Midnight Mass, Christmas Day 9.30 am Christmas Service</p>
EUROA	NORTHERN ALBURY		
<p>Christmas Eve Violet Town St Andrew's Uniting Church 33a Tulip St combined service 5:30pm- 9 lessons and carols, covid restrictions apply, all welcome! St Paul's Euroa 11:30pm Midnight Mass Christmas Day 8am St Andrew's Longwood 9:30am St Paul's Euroa 9:00am St Dunstan's Violet Town Rev'd Norm Hart</p>	<p>22nd December 7:00 Quiet evening prayer, St. James' Lavington (for those facing a difficult Christmas) Christmas Eve 6:00: All-ages carols service, St. Mark's North Albury 8:30: Holy Communion, St. James' Lavington Christmas Day 9am Holy Communion, St. Mark's North Albury 26th December Feast of St. John Sunday services as normal</p>		

**If the church you wish to attend is not listed please contact the individual Parish for their service times. **Churches may have limited capacity at services or may require you to be double vaccinated under the COVID restrictions. Please contact the individual Parish for their COVID requirements.*

The Anglican Parish of Beechworth and Eldorado

Blue Christmas

a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God.

Memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming: for some, Christmas day is the most difficult, for others, Christmas Eve, or New Year's Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. In this service, we will have some singing appropriate to the Christmas season, recognising that this is not a season of joy for everyone. We will invite you to reflect on the pain, the loneliness, the sadness you may feel and offer it to the Christ Child. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

7pm, 21st December
Christ Church, Beechworth.

A CHRISTMAS REMINDER

The Diocesan office will close for Christmas on **Friday 24th December 2021** and will reopen on **Tuesday 4th January 2022**

The registry staff would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.



People and Parishes



On 6 December the Parish of Rutherglen and Chilern invited members of the parish and members of the community who volunteer or help at our Rutherglen op shop to a beautiful Christmas lunch at the Vine restaurant at the Rutherglen high school



Rev David Jones, Bishop Clarence and Cathy Carden with confirmees at the Cathedral College Confirmation held at Holy Trnity Cathedral, Wangaratta.



Bishop's Clarence visit to the Parish of Benalla in November.



Hospitality at The Bishop's Lodge following the Safe Church Workshops



Hospitality at The Bishop's Lodge following the Safe Church Workshops



St John's Wodonga is offering its support to victims of domestic violence with 'Escabags' available upon request