

Dear friends in Christ,

it is a great joy and privilege to be with you and be able to live through another Advent wherein we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. We prepare our hearts by always remembering the Lord and never forgetting Him, by spending time alone with the Lord and by attending regular worship to remain enthused in our devotional lives. It is the Lord alone who can make our hearts simple and pure like the humble stable in Bethlehem where the Lord advented more than 2000 years ago. If we journey close to the Lord in Advent we may have the best chance to rejoice in Spirit at Christmas and celebrate the infinite gift of God that Christmas represents, the gift of God's Self.

Christmas is a holy time and God's blessing goes out to all but is especially appreciated by those who have responded to God and seek to live in His love. For those who seek God in their daily lives yearn to see others experience the same joy they do in loving God. God is the source of all joy and love; God is infinite love and joy; everything we seek in life exists in God. The people of this world suffer from the dualities of life as long as we don't shelter from God. As Christians we really celebrate the birth of Christ every day, so much of our purpose in life is shaped by the

(Continued on page 2)

Christmas at Christ Church

**Sunday 15th
December**

7pm - *Service of Nine
Lessons and Carols*

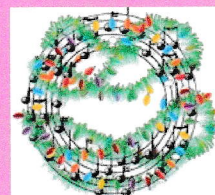


**Christmas Eve
Tuesday 24th December**

5pm *Families and Children's Service*
10.30 pm *Midnight Mass*

**Christmas Day
Wednesday 25th
December**

8 & 9.30am *Eucharist*



Post Christmas Festivals

Thursday 26th December -

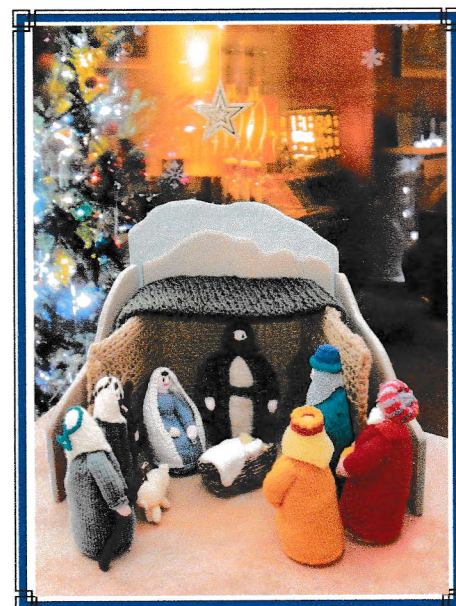
St Stephen's Day

Sunday 29th December - Holy

Innocents

*Sunday 5th January - the Feast of
the Epiphany*

*Sunday 2nd February - the Presenta-
tion of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)*



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grace that has come to us in the birth of our Saviour. When we come to the Eucharist we celebrate the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is the centre of our lives and the one whom we serve.

Helping others to remember God and be awake to His presence will give them a feeling of great security in knowing that God had come to us to guide us and deliver us from the sufferings that go with being in the temporary material world. By His grace Christ takes us by the hand and leads us safely to eternal life, the life that never ends. The birth of the most kind deliverer is what we celebrate at Christmas, the advent of He who has come from the heavenly world to share in our common life that we might share in His infinite life. We are all destined to become pillars of immortality in the temple of God's eternal existence.

By God's grace we may play our part well in this drama of life. We are fortunate to have like-minded people of faith to journey with, a community of people who have accepted themselves as children of God and seek to do God's will. Think back on what we have done since last Christmas. Have we come closer to God in our lives? Have our lives reflected the love of God in our dealings with others? Advent offers us the opportunity to again refine and increase our devotion, to prepare the way of the Lord into our hearts and lives. Our study groups and worship give each of us the opportunity to be encouraged and strengthened in our faith.

I pray that we all have a fruitful Advent and a happy Christmas. May the Lord protect us and our families through the festival season and above all may we grow in the Lord's love and become better instruments of God's peace. The Lord be with you!

Fr Russell

... an early date for your diaries!!!!

The **2020 WINTER WOOLIES
& OTHER WONDERS MAR-
KET** is on

**SATURDAY 6TH JUNE from
9:30 AM – 1:30PM**

**... and please put this date in your
diaries NOW!!!**

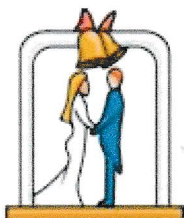
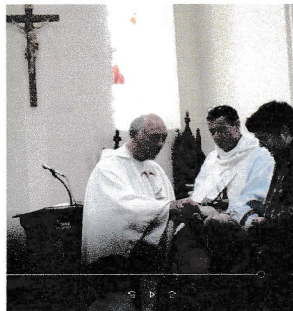
from the Parish Registers...
September to November 2019

Baptisms

6th October 2019 -

Alexander Nam

Swain-Tran - son of Mai
and Chris Swain-Tran
(the Godparents were
Sally & Philip Jones)



Marriages

Nov 2 - Luke & Kerrie **PAVIS**

Nov 30 - Patrick & Megan

MITHEN

Funerals across the Christ Church Community

September 5 - Nancy **FLEET**

William (Bill) NELSON - husband of Janet - passed away 14 September at Grange in Grovedale. Fr Russell and Fr John conducted the private funeral service on 19th September.



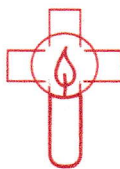
Sally THOMPSON - a long-standing parishioner and member of the 8am congregation, Sally died at the age of 87 on 8th October, after several months of illness. A private funeral, led by Fr Russell and Fr John, was held at Christ Church on **14th October**.

and on 15th October **Marion HARWOOD**, also a long time parishioner and part of the 8am congregation, died at the age of 97 years. Marion's funeral was held at Christ Church on **24th October**.



(L) The funeral
flowers for Marion

Dates for your diary!



Post Christmas & New Year Arrangements

Sunday 29th December - Holy

Innocents

Sunday 2nd February - Start Up Sunday

- following this Sunday, CAFS and other Sunday and Weekday services resume, and the Choir resumes after its Summer break.

Sunday 15th February - Darwin
Defenders Service

Friday 10th April - Good Friday

Sunday 12th April - Easter Day

Saturday 6th June - the **2020 Winter Woolies Market** (see p2 and keep watching for more details!!!!)

**MARK THESE IMPORTANT DATES
IN YOUR DIARIES NOW!**



AT CHRISTMAS...

God of Jesus, on this Eve of our Lord's Nativity we praise you for the extraordinary depth of your love for us. When all the lights had gone out in the world, when the hopes and dreams of your people had come to nothing, you sent your

Son to be the light of the world. In his light despair could hold sway no longer. In his light the poor and the dispossessed found firm grounds for hope. In his light our sins were driven away. In his light that forgotten future of peace with justice became possible again.

And so we pray for the church and the world, that all may be bathed in the transfiguring peace of the Christ-child;

God of Emmanuel, Light from Light,
Come set your people free.

(Garry Worete Deverall, *Gondwana Theology - a Trawlool-way man reflects on Christian Faith*, Morning Star Publishing, 2018 at p.117)

FILM NIGHT

After the great 2019 season, keep watching the Parish Press for details of the films to be scheduled for the **Film Nites in 2020**. Films are shown on the **SECOND MONDAY** of each Month commencing at 7.30pm from February until November, in the St Mary's Theatrette,. Tickets are just **\$15 pp** and this includes a yummy supper afterwards!



The vicar's attempts to increase the number of children attending services were becoming less and less subtle...

Regular Services at Christ Church

Eucharist - Sundays at 8am, 9.30 am (sung) & 5.15pm
and during the week- **Eucharist** on **Wednesdays at 10am.**

Meditation every Tuesday from 7-8 pm and Wednesday at 8am (in the Side Chapel) **

Morning Prayer - Tuesday mornings at 8.30am and Thursday mornings at 8am **

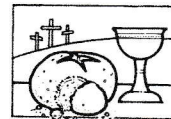
Healing Services - 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month, at 7.30pm **

Children's & Families Service (CAFS) - EVERY Sunday at 9.30am, except during January. ** February to December



Home Communion

The Parish Clergy are always very happy to bring Holy Communion at home to those unable to come to church for services. **Please speak with Fr Russell or one of the Clergy team** to arrange this....



Childlike in simplicity

Forgive us, Lord, that as we grow to maturity, our faith is blighted with doubts, withered with worry, tainted with sophistication. We pray that you will make us like children again in faith - not childish, but childlike in the simplicity of a faith that is willing to trust you even though we cannot see what tomorrow will bring.

(Peter Marshall)

Situations

Vacant

There are always volunteer opportunities around our church

- **Church sitting** - weekdays 12-2pm
- **Sides persons & welcomers** for services
- ***Servers, Readers & Intercessors***
- Assisting with **flower arranging** in our Church
- help with **maintenance & working bees.**
- collating the weekly **Parish Press**
- **Help the Community Meals Program** (see the news on p.11)
- **Assistance with Footy Parking** (see p11)

..talk to the Parish Clergy or a Council member if any of the above interest you...



Morning tea!!

After every 9.30am Sunday Service there is morning tea in the North Transept Coffee area...

Come and catch up with parishioners from across the Sunday services!



FORGIVENESS

In our Christian faith forgiveness is central as we consider the forgiveness that God has given us in Christ. By the grace of God we may go about our duties in life offering all we do to God and assured that God loves us, accepts us and accepts whatever offering we make to the Lord with love. It is important to know that forgiveness is made up of two aspects reconciliation and restoration. Understanding these two principles of forgiveness will help us to live more peaceful lives and move forward in our faith without too many obstacles.

The concept of reconciliation from a gospel perspective is based on the notion of a wealthy person releasing a poor person from debt. In the case of God, Jesus releases us from our debt of sin that we may be presented spotless before the throne of God. Restoration is the re-establishment of our lost relationship with God. This comes about through our personal communion with God, our meditation, prayer, worship, in other words our walk with the Lord. Through our spiritual practice we grow in intimacy with God and become familiar with the presence of the Lord in our lives. God releases us from the debt of sin and encourages us to grow in divine communion. We engage in spiritual life that we may grow in intimacy with God, making the Lord more central to our lives.

In our own lives forgiveness will be lived out in our relationships with others. Sometimes we may feel we have been wronged by someone and find it hard to forgive them. This forms a barrier between us and the other party. We must first understand that reconciliation or forgiveness is not to condone the wrong action of another. We may remember the wrong action of another and accept that the action was wrong. We may also be able to see how our actions may have contributed to the person's wrong doing. Forgiveness occurs when we release the

person from their debt to us. We hand the matter over to God and release the other person from any debt. We have not condoned their wrong action but have released them and in so doing release ourselves from being chained to the bitterness that has evolved from being wronged.

Restoration will occur when we work to re-establish ourselves in relationship with the person with whom we have experienced difficulty. This will require being humble and keeping the lines of communication open. Repentance will be important if we come to see we have offended someone, there may be need of an apology and an attempt to restore trust. It is in our own interest to work through disagreements because it will help us to grow and will enable our hearts to be peaceful. Without peace we cannot be happy. Jesus urges us to be reconciled to each other that we may come before the altar of God with a clear conscience. So reconciliation and restoration are very important for our mental and spiritual well being. The Lord be with you. **Fr Russell**



Congratulations!

On Sunday 17th November **Kathy Tierney** celebrated a special birthday (one of the 'zero' ones!) - congratulations Kathy and may the next decade be as much fun as the last!

- & on 13th November **Mandy and Andre Tannouri** celebrated their **20th Wedding Anniversary**



...whilst on 19th December 2019 **Athena and Don Clarke** (above) will celebrate their **60th Wedding Anniversary** !! Congratulations Mandy & Andre, and Athena & Don - and may there be many more anniversaries to come!



Christmas Day



Merry Christmas!

Sunday and her five children live in a harsh desert region of South Sudan, where there has been little access to clean water. During the worst seasons of drought, they often had no choice but to drink polluted water, which regularly made her children sick.

This Christmas, you can shine Christ's light by bringing safe, life-giving water to families like Sunday's in South Sudan. Please give today.



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

CHRISTMAS BOWL 2019

“Love Your Neighbour as Yourself” Mark 12:31

The tradition of the Christmas Bowl is incredibly important. It is about family and friends coming together, pausing to be grateful for what we have, and thoughtful about how we can share this with others. This year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Christmas Bowl amongst our churches and our church community. Seventy years ago, millions of refugees were starving in war-ravaged Europe. In 1954 as Reverend Frank Byatt looked at his heavily-laden Christmas dinner table, the contrast between abundance and the needs of others around the world was stark. He suggested to his congregation that they put a bowl on the Christmas dinner table and everybody around the table make a gift for hungry children in other lands.

The world needs God's love now, more than ever. We need to share our abundance. In

South Sudan, brutal conflict has forced more than four million people from their homes. The conflict together with harsh weather makes it impossible for people across the country to access clean water; drinking dirty and polluted water giving them sickness. Waterborne diseases are preventable and can be overcome with our assistance.

Through the Christmas Bowl, we are working with the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus, fulfilling the calling He gave us. Our role is to trust Him, to pray, and to step out with practical acts of support. Put a bowl on your Christmas table to share your abundance with the people of South Sudan this year. Money collected can be put in envelopes available from Sidespersons on Sundays or sent to -

NCCA – Act for Peace
Locked Bag Q199 QUEEN VICTORIA
BUILDING NSW 1230

(Your local representative is Margaret Tembo
Phone 52215130)

Bookings Calendar

The Parish Office has a booking diary for the year covering **ALL** bookings of Parish Facilities (Hall, Schoolroom, grounds, & the Church), for Parish & outside functions. Please check with Fr Russell, the Wardens and Office **when** planning any activities!

BREKKY @ CHURCH

(from Jenny & Les Harrison,
Dawn, & Laurie Christian)

Parishioner breakfasts continue on the third Sunday each month - a chance to enjoy breakfast together after the 8am or before the 9.30am services !!
...it's a great way to catch up with your fellow parishioners!!!



St James the Least of All

Editor: Happily, in the parish of St James-the-Least, the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues writing to Darren, his nephew, a recent-



On the best ways for a vicar to disrupt Christmas...

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren,

I am sorry I was not alive during that wonderful four-year period when Oliver Cromwell abolished Christmas. Just think! No Christmas parties, no carol services, no cards to send, and no frantic last-minute shopping. That man was a hero.

Planning for Christmas at St James' normally starts on 2nd January. By Easter, the flowers for church have been colour coordinated, the seating plans and table decorations for the Christmas party have been allocated (with nominated reserves in case someone should inconveniently die in the intervening eight months). Long before Winter is over, the tree lights have been tested, music for the 9 Lessons and Carols Service has been chosen and the service sheets printed. Way before the summer sets in, car parking attendants will have been found, those who are to light all the candles will have been rehearsed to perfection and the brass lectern has



had its annual polish.

We do not do spontaneity at St James the Least of All. If ever there was a service when time for something unexpected was allowed, its place would be announced in the order of service, how long it would happen unexpectedly would have been decided by a committee and who was to be spontaneous would have been allocated on a roster.

The one person none of these well-meaning, efficient, committed organisers can control is the Vicar. You could call it a staff perk.

Carols will (accidentally, of course) be announced in the wrong order; if verse 3 was to be omitted, I announce it will be verse 4. This keeps the organist on his toes while the choir hovers on the point of a collective nervous breakdown. At the Christmas supper, my introductory welcome speech and extensive grace make those in the kitchen wonder if the vegetables being boiled should better be served as thick soup.

I offer the helpful suggestion that the tree, having been installed and decorated in the

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Mary - the Mother of God

(Continued from page 7)

Christmas is a good opportunity to contemplate Mary the Mother of God; this can help us to further understand the relational nature of God, the Supreme Absolute Truth. God is the source of everything including all relationships. These relationships include friendships, servanthood, neutrality, that of a parent and that of a beloved.

In the case of Mary, she saw herself as the mother of the Lord. God has no other source, God is the source of everyone and everything else, but the Lord enjoys reciprocating with his devotees in any relationship the devotee desires according to their spontaneous love. In this way the Lord was pleased to reciprocate with Mary who had the great fortune, by the supreme grace of God, to be the mother of Christ.

The love of a mother is supreme in the world; it is the purest, most selfless form of love we can experience in this world and it is the closest thing we have to the unalloyed love of God. Mary was the mother of Christ and so her love for Christ is extremely pure and powerful. Mary's love is intense and is her single privilege to actually see the Lord as her son. That is why the church has always held Mary in high esteem, because her love for Christ is so spontaneous and pure. The purity that is only possible for a mother. Christ is the object of that pure love.

At the cross of Christ Mary was present with the Apostle John. The Lord spoke to her and said..."Mother, behold your son", and to John he said, "son, behold your mother". Thus he declared Mary to be the mother of all Christians. After the Lord ascended to heaven Mary stayed with the Apostles. She was present at Pentecost. When she passed away her body

chancel, may perhaps look better in the sanctuary and I turn all the air fans off throughout the season, explaining that it will help the flowers to last. Services will start five minutes early (was my watch rather fast?) so I can look disapprovingly at those still coming in while we are singing the first carol and making it clear that I think they had spent too long in their local pub.

And so we all reach Christmas morning, with 12 months of planning having gone yet again slightly awry, with parishioners exhausted and I exhilarated at the chaos that has been created with such ease.

Mr Cromwell, your spirit lives on.



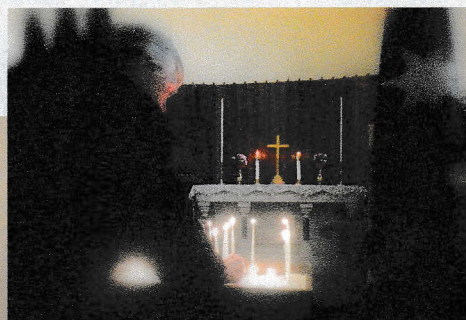
disappeared and lilies appeared at the place where her body was laid.

This Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Christ we may deepen our relationship with Mary the Mother of God, and remember the miracle of her love. - a miracle that is reflected in the love of all mothers. We give thanks for God's love that comes to us through our mother and through the mother of our Lord, Mary.

(Fr Russell)



Remembrance Day -



Sunday 10th
November



Saturday Club - Breakfast at the Peeks



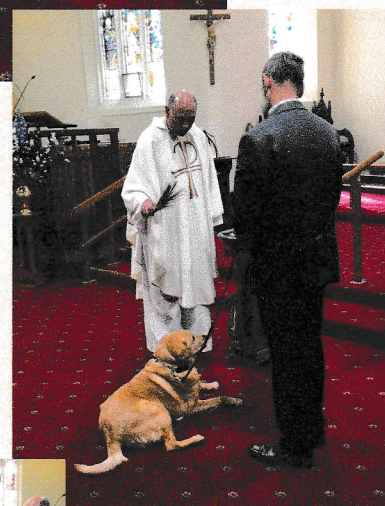
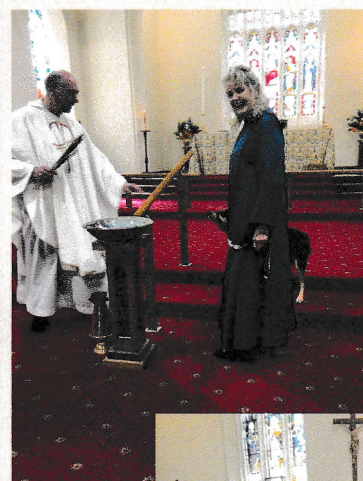
Saturday 5th



October 2019



The Blessing of the Pets



*7th October
2019*



....A New Day

My principal place of residence over a few months has been St. John of God Hospital. The first ray of sunshine seen from my last room fell on the spire of the Roman Catholic Basilica. God's first activity as pointed out in the Book of Genesis was light. Morning is not only sunrise but the miracle of God defeating darkness and the spreading of light. ... the first gift of God for the people of God.

My thoughts on occasion turned to the day ahead. I may have been in hospital but God had given me this day. Is it mine to do with it as I wish? I can waste it or use it for good. What I do with it is important because I am exchanging it for my life. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something I have traded for it. I want it to be a gain and not a loss. Good and not evil. Success and not failure. Above all, that I shall not regret the price of God's precious gift to us all. What did I trade for that day that will never return?

Was the light falling on the Basilica a gift or a sign? A re-assurance of His love and a source of comfort? It is said that God works in a mysterious way his wonders to perform. Too often we look for the big things that happen in our lives, not the small everyday occurrences. The opportunity to converse with fellow patients and visitors. More important, I found, was the opportunity to spend time with the medical staff. I had a deep concern that the nursing staff (God Bless them all) had to cope with life, death, concern, pain and the unknown of life ahead with patients.

To lose a patient on a shift is as deep as a concern for the nursing staff as it is to the family who have lost a loved one. Over three months I was given the opportunity to spend time, both day and night, in some serious discussion about their lives, their

hopes and wishes in the dedication they give to us all in their duty of care.



While we can never give too much to those confined in the wards, I found nursing staff who minister to patients in the most intimate and personal ways without any thought to how much they are really doing for those under their care. They are often the only front line care the patients receive both physically and spiritually. Often their concern is what more can they do or what they could have done more in certain situations.

Often they consider themselves outside of the inner circle of duty of care. Some patients treated them more like servants or waiters than trained professional staff. The days I traded were often just to listen and to be there. Being there so long in a small way I wondered if God had allowed me to trade my days by just being there for those who came to me, rather than my going to them?

God gives us the day to use as we wish. I believe that, along with the day, He often gives us the ways and means to use that time in many special ways by simply just being there.

May God bless us and give us a beautiful day.
Bill Barber



"It's easy to tell when it's Nativity Play time – I can never find a tea-towel!"

Footy parking 2019

A full report on Footy Parking for 2019 was presented to the November Parish AGM.

There were nine Cats home games in 2019, and overall 12 parishioners assisted with Footy Parking, a considerable commitment as about 4 parishioners are needed each match to ensure efficient parking. My particular thanks to **Geoff Matthews, Warwick Romanis and Pat Peacock** who between them covered my absences for some games.

Geelong Cats



The total raised from Footy Parking in Season 2019 was **\$5356.70** with on average \$595 taken and 74 cars parked per home game. This means that, since 2013, a total of **\$29,658** has been raised through Footy Parking. Unfortunately some Cats home games are played on Thursday & Friday evenings and on Sundays (when patron numbers are often down).

In Season 2020 the Cats will have 9 home games again, and we can always use extra helpers - why not join us for Season 2020?

(Phillip Swain)

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE 2019

This year there are six raffles!

FIRST PRIZE IS

a **Christmas Banner** (made and donated by Glenda Murrant) and Tin of Christmas Goodies

And the other prizes are

The Twelve Tins of Christmas, - Six with chocolates, six with homemade biscuits

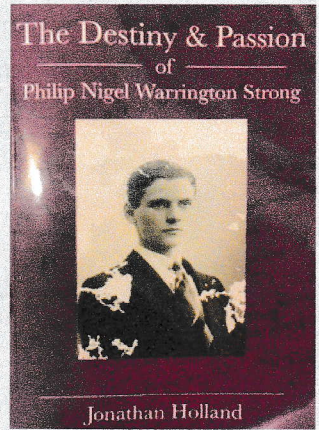
Tickets \$2 each; 3 for \$5; 7 for \$10

Drawn after the Carol Service on 15th December !!



In case you haven't heard ...

Bishop Jonathan Holland's biography of Philip Strong *The Destiny and Passion of Philip Nigel Warriington Strong*. (Lakeside Publishing, Qld, 2019). was launched at Bishopsbourne Brisbane on 20 November, by Dr David Wetherell. Bp Strong was bishop of New Guinea 1936-63, archbishop of Brisbane 1963-70 and Anglican Primate of Australia 1966-70. His Biographer, Bp Holland, is Assistant Bishop of Brisbane, and son of the late Alfred Holland, a former Bishop of Newcastle.



(David Wetherell)



An Update from the Community Meals Program

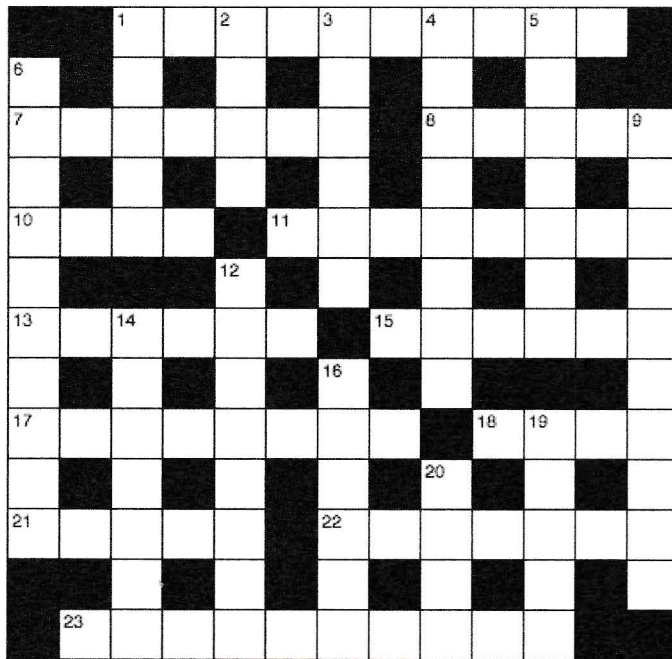
KICKING GOALS! WHAT A WINDFALL!!!

At the end of the 2019 home & away AFL season the GMHBA marketing department (naming sponsor of Kardinia Park) decided to give a



\$500 Woolworth's voucher to a local community group for each final match Geelong played. Due do some great work by **Amy Gillett** - our hardworking friend (pictured above left with Ruth and Jan) - Christ Church Community Meals Program was the fortunate recipient. Geelong played in 3 finals games so the result was a \$1500 donation. We were thrilled to be able to accept and as always it will be carefully spent.

This edition's puzzles !



CROSSWORD CLUES & ANSWERS

Across

- 1 He was replaced as king of Judah by his uncle Mattaniah (2 Kings 24:17) (10)
 7 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus... who for the joy set before him — the cross' (Hebrews 12:2) (7)
 8 Relieved (5)
 10 Impetuous (Acts 19:36) (4)
 11 Surprised and alarmed (Luke 24:37) (8)
 13 'It is — for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25) (6)
 15 Directions for the conduct of a church service (6)
 17 One of the acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19) (8)
 18 and 20 Down 'She began to wet his — with her tears. Then she wiped them with her — ' (Luke 7:38) (4,4)
 21 'We will all be changed, in a flash, in the twinkling of an — , — the last trumpet' (1 Corinthians 15:51-52) (3,2)
 22 'But he replied, "Lord, I am — — go with you to prison and to death"' (Luke 22:33) (5,2)
 23 Third person of the Trinity (2 Corinthians 13:14) (4,6)

Down

- 1 He betrayed Jesus (Matthew 27:3) (5)

			2			1		
7			8		6			
6			9			3		5
9	8					7		
			1				5	9
3		8			1			4
			4		5			1
		9			7			

- 2 Paul's assurance to the Philippian jailer: 'Don't — yourself! We are all here!' (Acts 16:28) (4)
 3 'Fear God and keep his commandments, for this — the whole — of man' (Ecclesiastes 12:13) (2,4)
 4 The sort of giver God loves (2 Corinthians 9:7) (8)
 5 Sun rail (anag.) (7)
 6 Naboth, the ill-fated vineyard owner, was one (1 Kings 21:1) (10)
 9 Paul said of young widows, 'When their sensual desires overcome their — to Christ, they want to marry' (1 Timothy 5:11) (10)
 12 This was how Joseph of Arimathea practised his discipleship 'because he feared the Jews' (John 19:38) (8)
 14 Mop ruse (anag.) (7)
 16 Foment (Philippians 1:17) (4,2)
 19 Where Joseph and Mary escaped to with the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:14) (5)
 20 See 18 Across

Parking at Christ Church

...please remember that most parking spots at Church are leased out during the week..... so although some spaces may be free near the Schoolroom, car spaces are limited, and please display a recent Parish Press or Chronicle in your car.



Coordinators: Jan/Barbara/David

Phone: 5221 4680

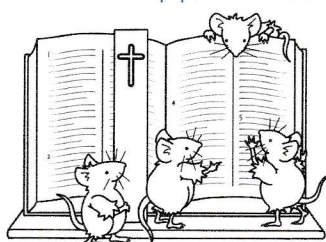
The last get-together of the Saturday Club for 2019 was a **lunch at the Moriac Hotel** in November - the club goes into recess now to cope with the festivities of Christmas and the New Year! The Club meets from February each year, usually on the first Saturday each month, Great activities are planned for 2020...see the first few below but if you have an idea then contact Jan, Barbara or David and watch the Parish Press for details.

date	venue	Meeting arrangements
1st February 2020 @ 7.15pm	Our Stained Glass Windows - With Fr Barry Smith (earlier start to allow great daylight on the windows!)	...afterwards planning for the year will talk place over coffee!
7th March @ 7.30pm	To be announced - so watch this space and the Weekly Parish Press!!	In the SchoolRoom
4th April @ 7.30pm	Walking the Camino Trail in Spain - with Gai Scully	In the SchoolRoom

The CHRIST CHURCH DISCUSSION GROUP

Under the generous hospitality of our Vicar, Fr Russell, this group has now been running for 7 years. We have maintained a membership of 12 people who seek to nurture ourselves and our relationship with God, nurture each other in community, and seek and gain wisdom through the material presented and the sharing of ideas. There are no *right* or *wrong* answers since the sessions are conducted as a Conversation (rather than a Class). Our undergirding principle is one of honouring the concept of *I/Thou* rather than one of *Comparison/Competition*. All parishioners and friends are welcome to join the group.

We meet on the *2nd & 4th Tuesdays* between 2 & 4 p.m. in the Schoolroom. The cost is approximately \$20 per selection per person (\$60 p.a.) We avoid meeting during Advent and Lent to avoid clashing with Parish studies. Over the years, there has been a widely varying selection of materials which are chosen by me in consultation with the group.



2019 began with the BSL's Hope Prize publication – a variety of stories of *Hope* which were awarded to various authors. The next book was *The Gift of Anger*, written by Arun Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Ghandi) offering ten spiritual lessons for the modern world from his grandfather. The current selection is Richard Rohr's *The Universal Christ* – the writer has drawn on Scripture, history and spiritual practise to provide a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world; that Jesus' life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God, except by its own choice.

Next year's selections have not yet been discussed. I'm hoping we may begin with *Sand Talk* by Tyson Yunkaporta – suggesting that Australian indigenous thinking (spirituality) is completely *relational*, versus *competitive*, and may in fact have much to offer the world - in that we may learn about talking to everybody and listening carefully, perhaps finding different ways of looking at the challenging circumstances in which we live in contemporary society. (Revd Jenny Dunn)

News from your Parish Council

The **Parish AGM** was held in the Church after the morning service on 17th November. Reports for consideration were available for parishioners on the Sunday beforehand, and included the *Vicar's 2019 Report*, the *Financial Report* for the Year to Date (Oct 2018 to Sept 2019), *Profit and Loss Statement* and *Balance Sheets*, the *Report of the Church Wardens*, the *Stewardship Report*, and reports on the *Community Meals Program*, *Footy Parking 2019*, and the *Resource Centre*. Copies of all reports, and the Minutes of the 2018 AGM (as tabled), are available through the **Parish Office**.

The AGM acknowledged the contribution of **Pat Peacock, Bruce Twaddell** and **Mandy Tannouri** as retiring members of the Parish Council, and welcomed the 2019-20 Wardens and Council Members - details of Council membership for 2019-20 can be found on **p.15**. There are **THREE** positions on Council (Vicar's Nominations) still available - if serving the Parish in this way might interest **YOU** please talk to Fr Russell!

Important items for noting & general discussion were raised from the floor after completion of other AGM business - including several maintenance items, service arrangements, publicity for CAFS, awareness of the book/discussion groups existing in the Parish, and the need for more readers and servers - for details of any of these please speak with one of the Wardens or Council Members.

a reminder.....

... attendances vary at times through the year due to holidays, illnesses etc.,
..but please ensure that stewardship envelopes stay up to date, even if you're away, as Parish costs continue all year round,!!



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

The Meals Committee were absolutely thrilled with the response to last years' Advent Calendar appeal, and hope you are all similarly inspired this year.

Most food agencies close for an extended period from Christmas through January, so this increases the pressure on the few that remain open. Breakfast and Evening meal programs run as usual throughout this period and the emergency cupboard operates on those weekdays that are not public holidays.

We are hoping you can collect (on a daily basis) non-perishable items suitable for



distribution from the cupboard. Items could include Braised Steak etc (Harvest brand is good), Big Eats, cans of fruit, packets of instant noodles, biscuits, pet food or any items you think would be of use. We will have a box on display in the coffee area of the church.

Please set up your own box and watch the specials!! (The Meals Committee)

VARIOUS COLLECTIONS



Thank you to those who bring along items for various Christ Church collections. Baskets are available for -

- * **STAMPS** - to support ABM;
- * **GLASSES & GLASSES CASES** - which are forwarded for use in Third World countries;
- * **CORKS** - to support research into MS;
- * **SHOE BOX GIFTS** - included in the boxes forwarded to **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD & MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS**

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because, even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'. The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?' The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him.'

(from Michael & Anne-Marie MacRobbie)

IN CASE YOU MISSED THE NEWS

Margaret Rotheram - our dear friend, for many years a member of the 8am congregation, moved in late October to Tasmania (Burnie) where her son and grandchildren live. Margaret was a great supporter of our church activities, including the Meals Program and Church Sitting, often quietly getting things done behind the scenes. Amongst other things, Margaret was part of the Footy Parking Team for some years when Cats parking began, and ALWAYS bought yummy sandwiches and cakes for the whole Footy Parking Team for every Cats home game... just one of her many involvements across the Parish.

...we will miss you Margaret!!!! & visit us whenever you come over from Tassie!!!

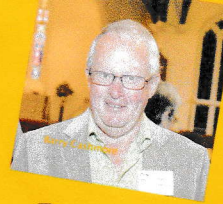
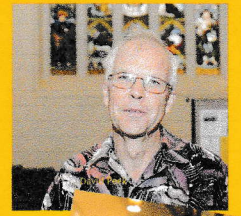
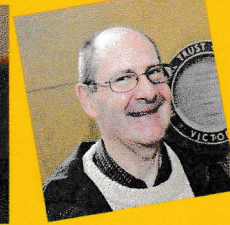
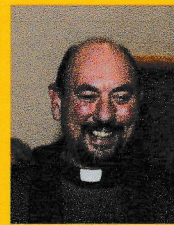


WORKING BEES AT CHRIST CHURCH

....Are held on the **2nd SATURDAY** each month, and again on the **THURSDAY** twelve days later - from 9am on both days..... Come if you can, even if only for an hour or two, or only now and then - there is ALWAYS something to do... and it's fun as well!



YOUR 2019-20 PARISH COUNCIL



Wardens (from above) - Don Patterson, David Peek & Barry Cashmore



Parish Council (from L) Prue Fidge, Jan McGowan, Kathy Tierney, Judy Staples (photo to follow!) - with 3 further Members to be nominated by the Vicar

Assisting Clergy at Christ Church- Fr John Howells, Fr Barry Smith, & Fr Andrew Constance

Parish Incumbency Committee for 2019-20 - Judy Munro and Shurlee Swain (with Don Patterson as Warden)

Synod Lay Representatives 2019-20 - Richard White and John Aldridge (with Don Patterson as back-up)



(left)
The Sanctuary Flowers on 10th November 2019

Helping with flowers

If you would like to help with flowers why not -

- join the Flower Guild Roster;
- Offer flowers from your garden;
- make a donation to purchase flowers for a special occasion, or for a remembrance of a family member or loved one.....see **Jan McGowan** if you need more details!



Trish Cowling
Parish Office
Administrator

Mailing Address
57 McKillop Street
Geelong, VIC 3220
Office - Cnr
Moorabool and Lt Myers Streets, Geelong

Office Phone: 03 5221 8055

E-mail:

Enquiries@ChristChurchGeelong.org

Vicar (Fr Russell TRICKEY) - Mob 0433 933738

Email trickeyrussell13@gmail.com

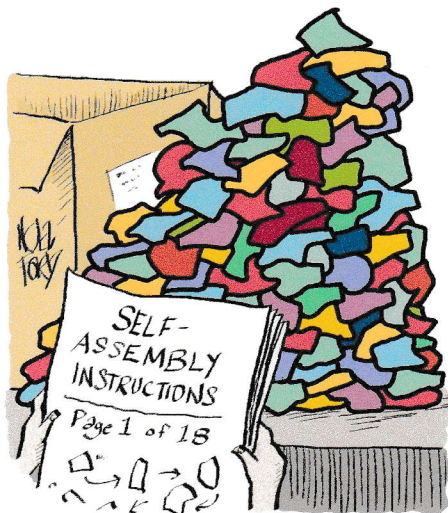


The Parish Web Page
you can find the Parish Web Page at -

<https://christchurchgeelong.org>

...details about what's happening at
Christ Church - celebrations, parish
events, photos... and lots more!

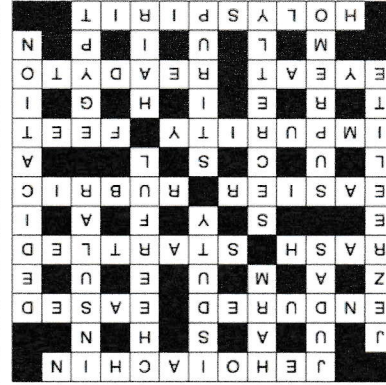
**Do you use email?
We need your e-address
for the parish records!**



The vicar was already regretting ordering
the new stained-glass window from IKEA

Puzzle Solutions

...(but always have a go first!)



6	2	5	7	8	3	9	4	1
2	6	7	4	9	5	8	3	1
3	5	8	6	2	1	9	7	4
4	2	1	7	3	8	6	5	9
5	7	3	1	6	9	2	4	8
9	8	6	5	4	2	7	1	3
6	1	2	9	7	4	3	8	5
7	3	5	8	1	6	4	9	2
8	9	4	2	5	3	1	6	7

THE 5C APPEAL



Keep saving those annoying 5c pieces! The Parish is continuing to collect them to raise money for ABM! Bring your 5c coins along to church - a collection tin is at the main Church entry.

CLIMATE CHANGE PRAYER

The challenge of climate change is huge.... we will all have different ways of responding but one thing we can all do is pray.

Creator God, we praise you for all that is.

You are the nourishment and strength of sunlight, and the loveliness of moonlight on the bay.

Earth yields its blessings, but we have grasped and wasted and hoarded until Creation is stressed and its resilience tried.

Guide us to change our ways, even learning ourselves from those who might teach us and become healing role-models for the rest of our world.

Then with confidence we also might praise you for judging with equity and even be found faithful in all things.

Let the river of the water of life wash over us and the leaves of the tree bring us health.

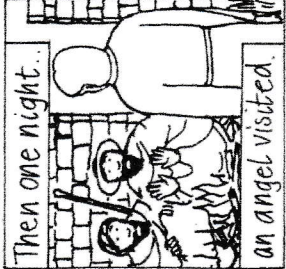
By Charlie West (Source: Eco-congregations)

Bible Bite

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

A short story from the Bible

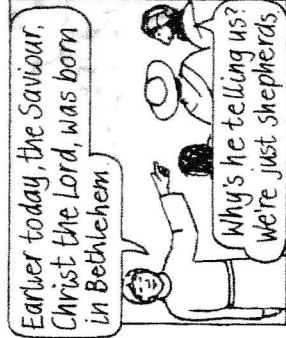
Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough, they were usually avoided, or overlooked.



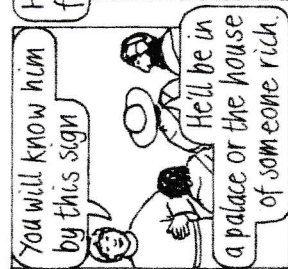
Then one night... an angel visited.



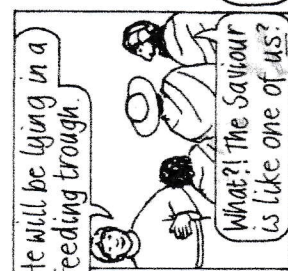
Don't be afraid! I have good news that will be a great joy for everyone!
What?!



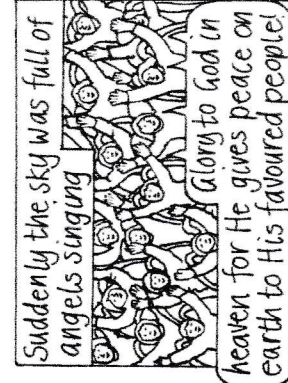
Earlier today, the Saviour, Christ the Lord, was born in Bethlehem.
Why's he telling us? We're just shepherds.



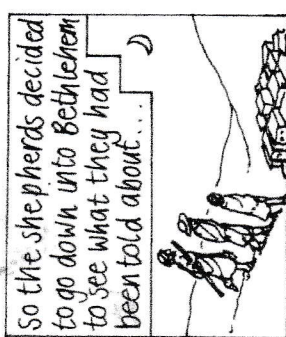
You will know him by this sign: He'll be in a palace or the house of someone rich.



He will be lying in a feeding trough.
What?! The Saviour is like one of us?



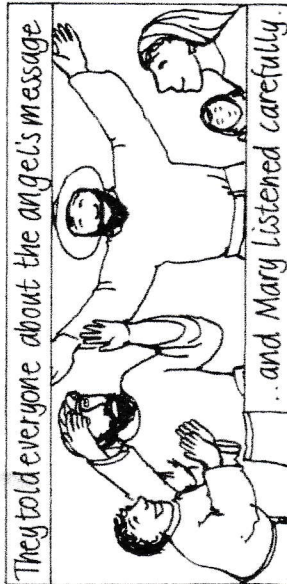
Suddenly the sky was full of angels singing
Glory to God in heaven for He gives peace on earth to His favoured people!



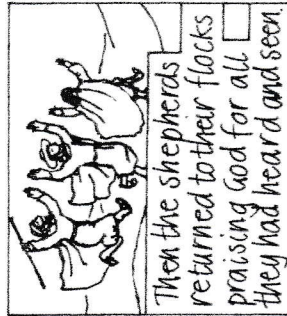
So the shepherds decided to go down into Bethlehem to see what they had been told about...



...and they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby in the manger just as they had been told.
Look, there he is!

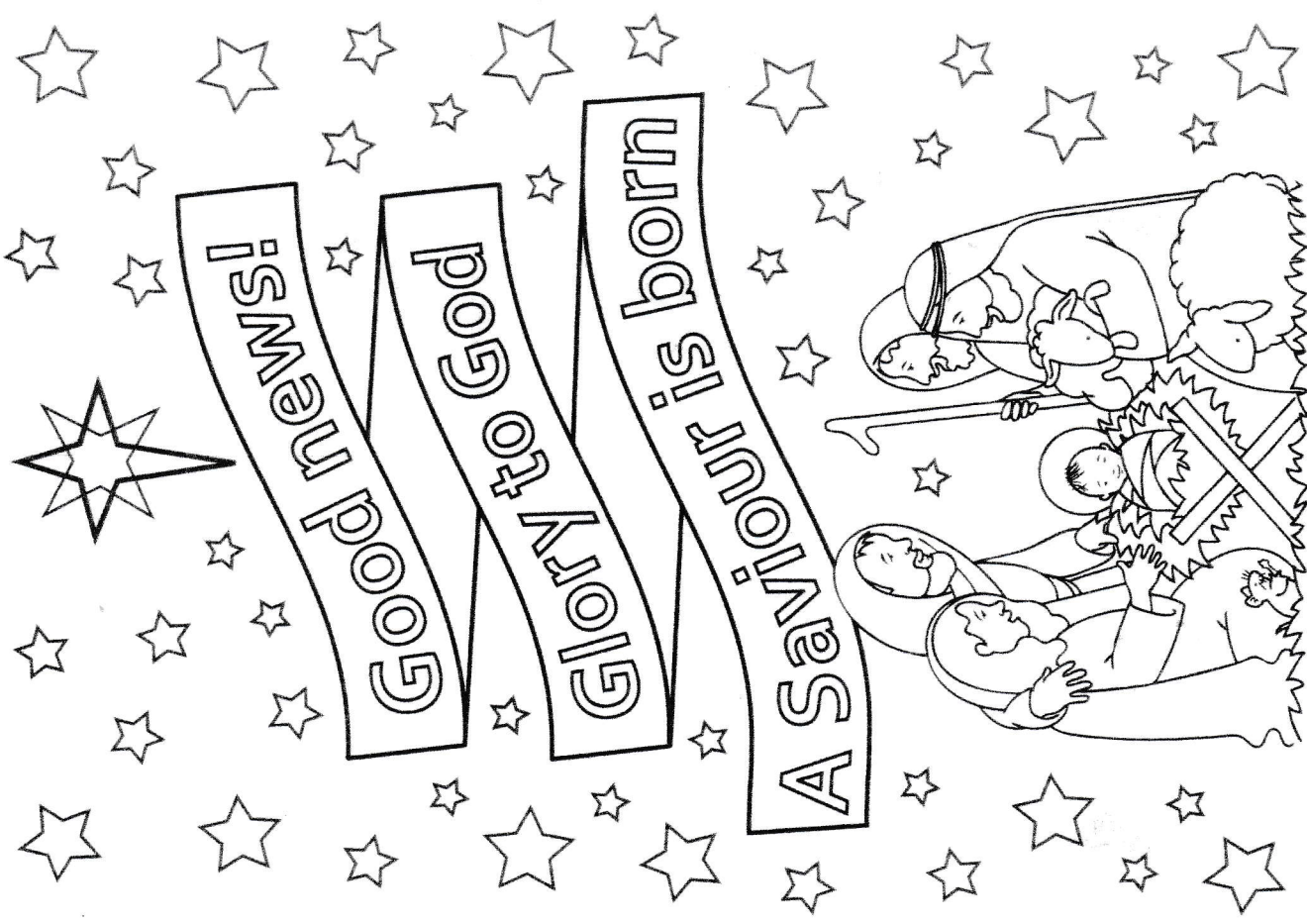


They told everyone about the angel's message... and Mary listened carefully.



Then the shepherds returned to their flocks praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Mouse Makes... & not just for kids!



Good news!
Glory to God
A Saviour is born