

The Chronicle: The March 2016 edition of the Chronicle is available TODAY - lots of interesting reading, information about Parish events, news, stories from parishioners, photos... and more! Please take your copy from the Crossing Table (they are all addressed) – with the recent increase in postage we need to ensure that as many as possible are collected, so that postage costs are minimized! Happy Reading!

UPDATE - G-RAP (FORMERLY GASON): Thank you to Kelvin Dunn for agreeing to be Christ Church's contact person [see flyer in coffee area].

HELP NEEDED WITH DRIVING LESSONS: If anyone has interest or availability in either sponsoring lessons or giving driving lessons to asylum seekers in their own car (at own risk and with own insurance), please let Sue Wong know.

CHURCH OF CHRIST presents 'Noah's Ark' **today Sunday, 6th March at 5.00pm.** Speaker: Rod Marsh (Creation Ministries) – for further details please see flyer!

THE GEELONG CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY presents composer, Elena Kats-Chernin and pianist, Tamara-Anna Cislowska **next Friday, 11th March at 7.30pm,** McAuley Hall, Sacred Heart College (please see flyer in coffee area for further details).

UPDATE - ST MARY'S BASILICA presents *Bach's Mass in B Minor.* Performed by the Australian Chamber Choir at St Paul's, Latrobe Terrace (Director – Douglas Lawrence) with an orchestra of period instruments at **8.00pm on Wednesday, 16th March.** Tickets \$35/\$30 at the door or online at www.trybooking.com/JOXX (Please contact Jeanette at St Mary's on 5223 3554 – see flyer in coffee area)

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH invites you to sing Stainer's well-loved oratorio 'Crucifixion' conducted by Philip Nicholls (St Paul's Cathedral) on **Saturday, 19th March.** Join us for the afternoon: 2pm choir workshop; 4pm performance (please see flyer in coffee area).

THE GEELONG CHORALE – FOR THE JOY OF SINGING THE CLASSICS 2016: The first session is Vivaldi's 'Gloria' conducted by Jodie Townsend (Geelong Grammar School) from 2 to 5pm on **Sunday, 20th March** at St Luke's Uniting Church, Highton. Cost \$12 – music and afternoon tea provided (for further details, please see flyer in coffee area)

We acknowledge the Wathaurong people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its buildings now stand.



Christ Church in 1847 – by R. Meredith

The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



"A community of faith in service to others"

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

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Mission Statement

Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God, providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God's love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT/MOTHERING SUNDAY

6th March 2016

Liturgical Colour: Purple

Holy Eucharist: 8.00am; 9.30am (Sung); 5.15pm

9.30am: Children's & Family Service (CAFS)

Sentence

God has reconciled us to himself through Christ, and given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Prayer of the Day *

*God of compassion,
you are slow to anger, and full of mercy,
welcoming sinners who return to you
with penitent hearts:
receive in your loving embrace
all who come home to you,
and seat them at your bountiful table,
that, with all your children,
they may feast with delight
on all that satisfies the hungry heart.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ
our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen*



* You are invited to join in this Prayer immediately before today's readings

Service Setting: Christ Church Service

Hymns: 9.30am: 230; 145; 474; 168

5.15pm: 145; 168

Gospel Acclamation:



Who - ev - er trusts in the Lord is sur - round - ed by stead - fast love.

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The Vicar Writes



The parable of the prodigal son is often thought of in terms of the Lord's joy at receiving one sinner who repents, but there is another message in there as well. When the wayward brother returned the father was overjoyed, but the older brother was totally disturbed because he calculated his unbroken loyalty against his younger brother's absolute disregard for what his father had given him. The elder brother's calculating devotion was tinged with self-interest and therefore his concern was not with what pleased his father, but with how much he would be getting out of the deal.

In this world people set about their business with profit in mind and that is okay because to survive one has to make a profit. In serving the Lord we often find the same thing. Some people turn to God because they are suffering and when their suffering is removed they abandon their service to the Lord. Others turn to God because they think that God will bless them with wealth. If by a stroke of luck or by some blessing they receive wealth then the Lord is also no further needed except to get more wealth. Other folks turn to God because they are inquisitive about the absolute truth; these people after some time may come to realise God as all in all and surrender to Him without ulterior motives. Devotion without ulterior motives is very pure and always pleasing to God. Such devotion is the mature fruit of spiritual practise and is all auspicious and full of grace.

The older brother remained faithful to his father, but his ulterior motives led him to be jealous of his younger, wayward brother who, in his opinion, didn't deserve a thing. The father corrected the attitude of the loyal brother revealing to him that the right thing to do would be to rejoice that this brother who was lost has been found and has come to his senses. Of course, in ordinary worldly dealings one might be excused for jealousy, but in devotional life this can poison otherwise good service rendered by a devoted servant of the Lord.

We need to cultivate a mood of thankfulness for all mercies, big and small, and be happy when we see others receiving the Lord's grace in any way. We will benefit greatly when we abandon the need to be comparative, judging our own position against that of others. Each person is on an individual journey and only God is the master of that journey. At best, we may be aware of our own journey. A person absorbed in what others are doing is not aware of what they themselves are doing and so they are often blind to the guidance of God, but instead are guided by blind, dogmatic beliefs. Our attitude when performing service to the Lord is very important, and it is up to us to pray and cultivate a mood of humility that will enable us to be effective in our service as well as tolerant, forgiving and appreciative of others.

Those who exalt themselves will be humbled; those who humble themselves will be exalted. Jesus places humility in the forefront of qualities necessary for spiritual advancement to take place, but what is this humility he speaks of? Humility is a positive ornament on the person of the wise, it is not the negative self-absorption of the depressed. A sad saint is a sad saint. Humility is the willingness to rejoice in God and to admit that God is the source of all being.

If we truly understand that God is the other Self of all little selves, we will see that our highest self-interest lies in serving and loving God. God is in everyone and everything and all that exists is in God; therefore, our love for God calls us to be servants of all, in the name of God, who holds everything together was pearls are strung on a thread. Without the thread (God) nothing has any meaning.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

Passing the Peace: This "Greeting" of Peace is not intended as a chatty catch up time, or even to greet everyone here today, but a blessing, originally an acknowledgement of forgiveness to members of the church family before we meet at the Lord's Table. We should all try to take two seconds longer, to look the person in the eye as we pass the peace with them. Perhaps for the rest of Lent we might try to restrict it to just 5-6 people around us, keep it quieter and more prayerful, and not roam the church.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Peace and tolerance in the world; all international aid agencies.

THE CHURCH: Church of England; Diocese of Perth; Firkbank Grammar School; St Andrew's Somerville; National Bishops' Meetings, Adelaide.

THE COMMUNITY: All involved in the medical profession; all hospitals and medical practitioners.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: The recently departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Ruby Withington). We remember with thanks: Sister Emma SSA, superior, Society of the Sacred Advent, Qld, d.1939 (Wednesday).

The Week Ahead		
Tuesday, 8 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
	1.30pm & 3.30m	Bible Explorers in the School Room
Wednesday, 9 th	7.00pm	Meditation in the Chapel
	8.00am	Meditation in the Chapel
	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
	11.00am	Lenten Group in the Church
	7.30pm	Healing Service
Thursday, 10 th	8.00pm	Home Lenten Group
	8.00am	Morning Prayer in the Chapel
	10.00am	Pastoral Care Meeting in the Vicarage
Friday, 11 th	7.30pm	Choir Practice
	8.00pm	Home Lenten Group
Saturday, 12 th	9.00am	Working Bee

NEXT SUNDAY: 13TH MARCH -FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT/PASSION SUNDAY

Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:3-14; John 12:1-8

Fund Raising & Special Events



CHRIST CHURCH SOCIAL CLUB

Visit to Dahlia Farm/Picnic - Winchelsea
Saturday, 2nd April

Bring a plate of food to share/own drinks

A SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION & THE EUCHARIST

Sunday, 3rd April at 9.30am
Celebrant: Bishop Philip Huggins

FILM NIGHT

The Dressmaker - starring Kate Winslet
Monday, 11th April at 7.15pm (7.30pm start)

Come and join us at St Mary's Theatrette
for an enjoyable evening out
- includes supper after the film.

Tickets are \$15 each - available from Jan

UPDATE - WINTER WOOLIES & OTHER WONDERS MARKET

Saturday, 28th May - 10am to 2pm

If you have items to offer, please check with:

Gai or Ruth - Craft; Sue - Cakes; Jan - Food;

Barbara - Preserves; Syama or Laurie - Plants *



* Pots (preferably 125mm) are urgently needed for planting up cuttings - cleaned would help, but not essential

Contact: Laurie 0421 011 279

The major raffle prize is a Quilt generously donated by Anne Howarth.

New feature - pruning demonstrations!

If you have ideas please let us know.

Many jobs on offer as time gets closer!

Contact: Ruth - 0425 785 694