

PARISH ELECTORAL ROLL: The AGM will take place on **Sunday, 15th November**, following the 9.30am service. The Electoral Roll of the Parish is on the crossing table. To make sure you vote at the AGM your name must be listed on the Electoral Roll (please note this is not the normal mailing list). Please check whether your name is recorded; if you want your name included, please fill in one of the green application forms.

THE 'CHRONICLE' - the final edition of the *Chronicle* for 2015 will be available for parishioners on the first Sunday in December – so **now** is the time to start working on your contributions!... and, by the way, the *Chronicle* is now available on the Parish Web Page (just follow the prompts from the main web page menu) – so if you prefer to read it electronically and DO NOT want a printed version, please let us know (email to spswain@westnet.com.au)

COMING EVENTS/FUND RAISING

FOUNDATION DAY

Next Sunday, 11th October

Celebrating the 172nd Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone at Christ Church, Geelong

ALL SAINTS/ALL SOULS

Sunday, 1st November

'SATURDAY CLUB' – LUNCH AT CLYDE PARK

Saturday, 7th November at 12 Noon

Vineyard & winery at 2490 Midland Hwy, Bannockburn

CHRIST CHURCH HAS GOT TALENT

Sunday, 22nd November at 9.30am

To celebrate the Festival of Christ the King, there will be one service only at 9.30am, and then after morning tea we plan to have a variety concert. If you or your friends are able to contribute an entertaining item or two, please speak to Sue Wong (0410 159690)

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday, 12 December at 2.30pm in the School Room

Come for a social time of fellowship – more information closer to the date!

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.



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.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/SAINT FRANCIS

4th October 2015

Liturgical Colour: Green

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

9.15am: Blessing of Pets

9.30am: Children's & Family Service (CAFS) in the Church Hall

Sentence

Francis, a man of God, left his home and gave away his wealth to become poor and in need. But the Lord cared for him.

Prayer of the Day *

Father,
you helped Saint Francis to reflect
the image of Christ
through a life of poverty and humility.
May we follow your Son
by walking in the footsteps of
Francis of Assisi,
and by imitating his joyful love. Amen.



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

Service Setting: 'The Christ Church Service'

Hymns: 9.30am: 227; 477(2); 511; 531 5.15pm: 477; 531

Psalm Response:



Your stead-fast love is be-fore my eyes and I walk in the way of your faith-ful-ness.

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The Vicar Writes



On this day of our blessing of the animals, we reflect on the creation of the Lord in all its wonder and consider the role of humanity in relation to the rest of creation. In our pristine state we are united with God as co-workers and are seeking to do God's will in all things, acting as stewards of creation in a mood of service to the Lord. Instead, we find ourselves struggling to survive in a world full of dualities and put our own interest ahead of others and of creation itself.

This is illustrated in the story of Job where God asks Satan, where do you come from? Satan answers, I have come from going to and fro on the earth and walking up and down on it. In other words, the soul who is a part of God's Spirit, a very small part wanders through material life collecting baggage in the form of conditioning, forgetting its godliness and simply struggling to exist. As Satan then says, "all that people have they will give to save their lives." Our own survival and struggle to be on top of the heap leads us to forsake the simple condition of peace and love. This is Satan or the mind conditioned by ego.

Paul observes that humans are a little less than angels who have all creation subject to them, and yet we see that in all time humans have failed to put everything under them or subject to them. This is because humans without their connection to God are impotent and are unable to win the true victory. All the people of the world struggle through great effort and technology to put nature under its control and fails, and will always fail until they surrender to the Lord of the heart who alone is the Supreme controller of nature.

There needs to be a return to simplicity, the kind of simplicity we see in the life of Saint Francis who saw the wonder and beauty of God in all that exists. People will be victorious when they realise that they are not the controllers and are not required to subdue nature or each other. There is no need to bring the environment under our control. Nature is the consort of God, the energy of God and it does not exist for us to exploit. Rather it exists for us to serve and to use in the service of the Lord. When we stop trying to be supreme and accept that God and God's energy are superior to ourself, that we are part of everything and we only need to play our part with humility, then we will be peaceful. Not because we have conquered, but because we have surrendered, let go of our need to control and embraced the love that pervades all existence.

That is why Jesus said we must receive the Kingdom of God like a child. We have to honour the fact that everything is created male and female after the image of God. When we live in gratitude, humility and love, immersed in the glory of the Lord revealed in all creation, we find that we have become one with it. One flesh, joined to existence as part of the energy of God and live as a consort to God in harmony with the rest of nature. This is our goal and our birthright, the purpose of our journey in this world.

Jesus is the perfect image of God to which we must aspire. He is the reflection of God's glory, the imprint of God's very being, and by imbibing his words and learning from his beautiful deeds we shall join with him in perfect peace, love and harmony.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Peace and stability in the world, including Syria, Yemen; those suffering the aftermath of the typhoon in Taiwan.

THE CHURCH: Diocese of Sunyani; Diocese of Riverina; AIDS Ministry; St Stephen's Bayswater; Deniliquin; St Faith's Burwood (Patronal Festival); St Michael and St Luke's Dandenong.

THE COMMUNITY: Our Blessing Pets service today; our Children's & Family Service.

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

THE DEPARTED: Our own dear departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time.

The Week Ahead

Tuesday, 6 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	11.00am	Holy Eucharist at Brentwood
	2.30pm & 3.30pm	Bible Explorers in the School Room
	7.00pm	Meditation in the Chapel
Wednesday, 7 th	8.00am	Holy Eucharist
	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
Thursday, 8 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Pastoral Care Meeting in the Vicarage
	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Saturday, 10 th	9.00am	Christ Church Working Bee

NEXT SUNDAY: 11TH OCTOBER - FOUNDATION DAY

Readings: Job 23.1-9 & 16-17; Psalm 11.1-15; Hebrews 4.12-16;

Gospel: Mark 10.17-31

ECUMENICAL WORKING B: Please note the Working B next Saturday, 10th October has been **cancelled**. The next scheduled date will be advised shortly!

BIBLE EXPLORERS: Discussion groups re-commence on **Tuesday, 6th October at 2.30pm & 3.30pm**, in the School Room– please collect your papers from the crossing table. New members welcome! Enquiries to Fr Barry on 0409 409 473.

THE PLAN FOR CHANGE: Time to welcome refugees/how you can get involved – this event will be held **next Saturday, 10th October from 3-6pm** in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne CBD – please see flyers in foyer & coffee area!

ST LUKE'S UNITING CHURCH presents Haydn's 'Mass in Time of War' **next Sunday, 11th October** from 2-5pm – further details on flyer in coffee area.

FREE HIGH CHAIR: Any grandparent or soon to be grandparent that would like a good high chair (going for free), please contact Shirley or Don Patterson on 5243 2656).

TREKKING FOR MENTAL HEALTH: Rosemary Maries is trekking in Nepal from **17th-30th October** to raise funds for the Swanston Centre Acute Psychiatric Unit – if you would like to sponsor Rosemary, please see flyer in coffee area!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: It's time to start organising our Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes – Brochures now available!!

