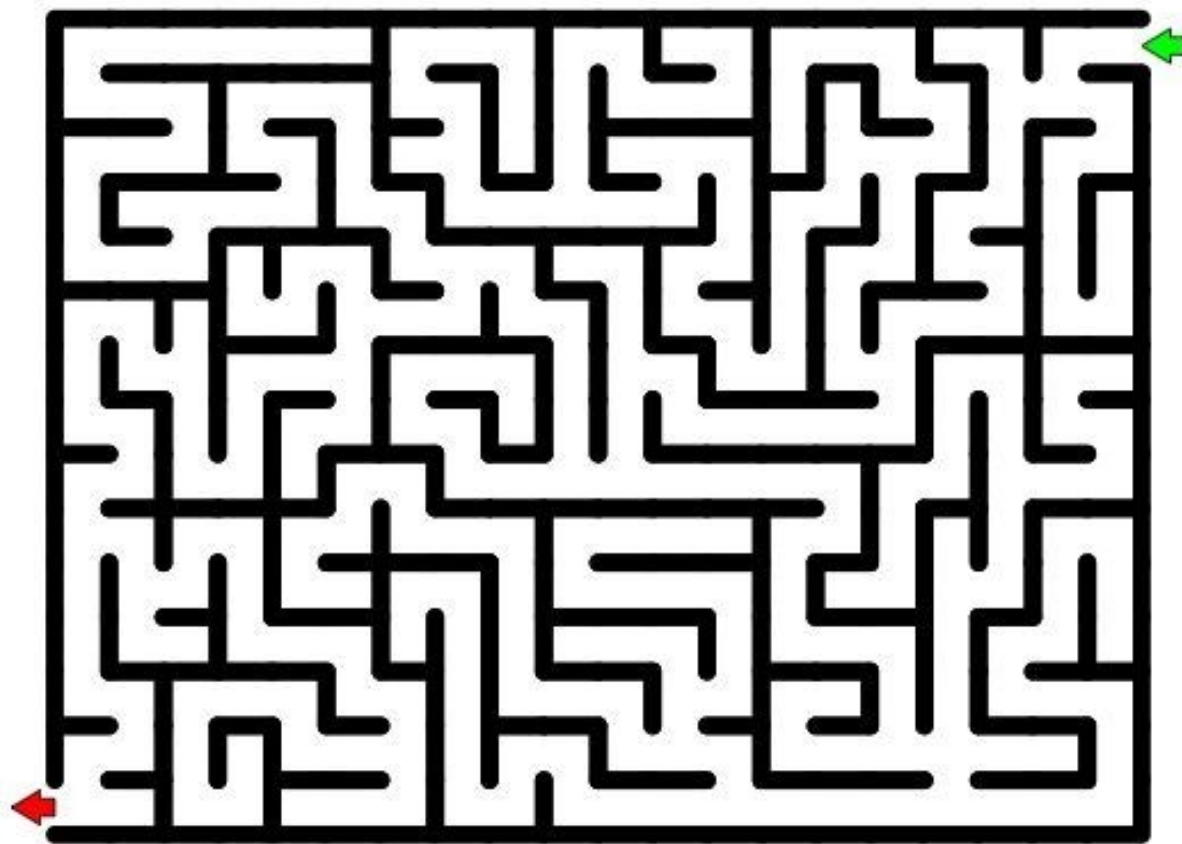
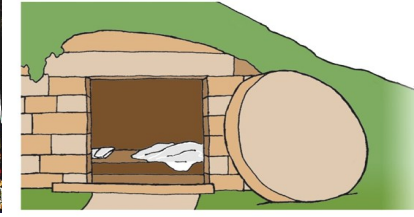
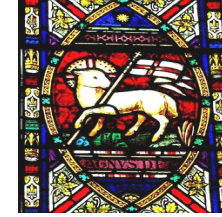


Colour me !!



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 world in which we live



The Chronicle March
NO. 69 2024



Christ Church and its congregation acknowledge the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its buildings now stand

From the Parish Registers

ADULT BAPTISMS

Ben Hogan - 10th January 2024

Angus Matthews - 4th February 2024

(see pix of the Baptisms on the photo pages!)

MARRIAGES

13 Jan 2024 - Stephanie WARNCRE and Liam HANNIS (the Marriage Celebrant was Fr Andrew)

FUNERALS & MEMORIAL

SERVICES ACROSS THE PARISH

Ron DIX - much loved husband of parishioner Judy Dix, Ron was born in Liverpool, UK in February 1936, and died on 10th December 2023, aged 87 years. His funeral was held at Tuckers Funeral Services on 12th December.

Joy FREIJAH died aged 86 years, on 7th Jan 2023 - the loved wife of Roy (dec.), with her daughter Yvette and son-in law Frank, and granddaughter Julia, Joy was for many years a much loved parishioner at Christ Church. Her funeral was held at the church on 15 December 2024.



Esme THEYS - born in June 1931, Esme died on 26th December 2023. She was a regular member of the Wednesday congregation for many years. Her funeral was held at St Paul's Anglican Church on 5th January 2024.

Merle Hamilton - born in March 1925, Merle died on 14th February 2024, just short of her 99th birthday. Her funeral was at Christ Church on 26th February. A dedicated member of the congregation, Merle was a skilled needlewoman and it was Merle who designed and made our Altar Frontal.



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SAVE THE DATE
JUNE 1 - 2024 - 9:30AM - 1:00PM
Christ Church Geelong
10th ANNIVERSARY
WINTER WOOLLIES MARKET
AND OTHER WONDERS
WOOLLENS
WEARABLE ITEMS CAKES
PRESERVES SMILES BOTTLE STALL
COLLECTABLES PLANTS BOOKS
RAFFLES BRIC A BRAC MORE
You will find many Woolly Wonders at the Christ Church Geelong Annual Winter Woollies and Other Wonders Market. Home Made, Hand Knitted and Many Other Items. Plants, Foods, Coffee, Books, Bottles, Bargains and more. Come along Saturday June 1st. It's a great day!
CORNER MOORABOOL & MCKILLOP STREETS GEELONG

Mouse Makes

"I am the **resurrection** and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die."
John 1:25

READ the Bible passages to find the answers to the crossword clues

Matthew 21:1-11
1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?

Matthew 26:17-29
15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?

Matthew 26:36-75
6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?

Matthew 26:14-16
8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?

Matthew 27:27-61
17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?

Matthew 28:1-10
5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?

Mar24 © deborah noble • parishpump.co.uk

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF CHRIST



*Makay Thaba
Parish Office
Administrator*

Postal address -
57 McKillop St
Geelong 3220

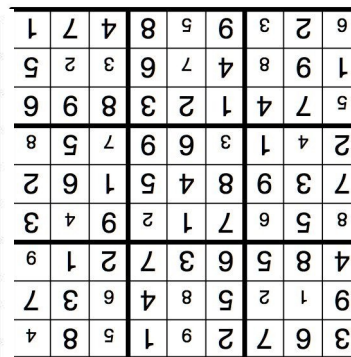
Office - Cnr. Moorabool & Lt
Myers Streets, Geelong
Ph 5221 8055

Office hours -
Thurs 9-12 noon

Email -
Enquiries@ChristChurchGeelong.org
Vicar - contact Parish Office

Puzzle Solutions

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



YOUR 2023-24 PARISH COUNCIL

Your Wardens 2023-24

(from L) Susan Murrant,
Don Paterson & Judy Munro



Parish Council Members 2023-24

(from above L)

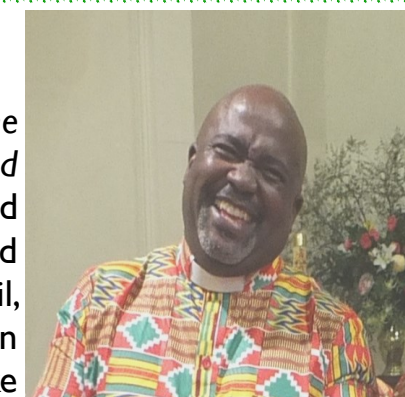
Wayne Bickerdike, Suzanne Dextersmith, Heather
Game, Judy Goy, Bill Johnsen, Jan McGowan &
Bruce Twaddell

Our Vicar - Fr Lankiri Thaba

Assisting Clergy at Christ Church - Fr Barry Smith, Fr John Howells,
Fr Andrew Constance, and Rev. Jen Dunn

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Fr Lankiri's Easter message



At the conclusion of the creation, "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day" (Genesis 1:31). All that God declared good, included humankind as part of the created order. All went well at the Garden of Eden until the devil, represented by the serpent, showed up and turned human beings against God. The deception from the serpent broke God's heart so much that God felt as the author of Genesis has recorded it: "And the LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, 'I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created — people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'" (Genesis 6:6-7).

But all this sad feeling did not change the love God has for humanity. And God thought ...maybe if I become like them, if I speak their language and share in their culture they will turn away from their evil ways and return to me. "And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). Then Jesus was born. And St Paul echoed the words of St John when he said "Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, taking the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of humanity" (Philippians 2:6,7).

With this background in mind we can then argue that human beings, as part of God's creation, are very close to God's heart and that God would stop at nothing to win us back to Him. To demonstrate this deep love God has for us, God did what nobody can ever do – dying to save us. St John in his Gospel affirms this "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). This is demonstrated by Jesus dying on the cross and rising again to have all of us saved and reconciled with God, and almost taking things back to where they were at the creation when those beautiful words were uttered: "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good." Differently put, Easter reminds us of the new beginnings, new life, starting afresh by God to demonstrate the love God has for us.

As we approach Easter and journeying through this Season of Lent, the beautiful relations we have amongst our families, churches, work place, are going to collapse or be broken. This is all due to the evil that we see at the Garden of Eden and that deceived Adam and Eve and turned them against God, and continues to bring the same divisions between family members, between lovers, between worshippers, between fellow colleagues, between Denominations etc. And since "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life" (Jn 3:16), it is incumbent upon each and every one of us to maintain healthy relations with one another: family, friend, husband, wife, colleague, parents and children, nation with nation. May the spirit of Easter compel us to reconcile one with another, and nation with nation.

May Jesus the Christ die with our brokenness on Good Friday and rise with our new intentions & hopes to rebuild our relations with one another, nation with nation, humanity with God. I wish you all a fulfilling and spiritually safe Lenten Season with the joys of the resurrected Lord on Easter Sunday. *The Rev. Lankiri Thaba, Vicar*

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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER, 2024

PALM SUNDAY (24th March)

8am Eucharist, with blessing of palms

10am Eucharist, with blessings of palms

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK (25th March)

7am Eucharist

7pm The Stations of the Cross

TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK (26th March)

7am and 7pm Eucharist

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK (27th March)

10am and 7pm Eucharist

MAUNDY THURSDAY (28th March)

7pm Commemoration of the Last Supper, Stripping of the Altar, Tenebrae, followed by a short Prayer Vigil.

GOOD FRIDAY (29th March)

All gather at 10:30am for **Good Friday – the Way of the Cross at St Mary’s Basilica.**

This procession through Geelong will start at 10:45am leaving from St Mary’s Basilica on Myers Street, and finish at the Market Square Mall (Moorabool Street in Geelong,) and it should end at about 11:45am. We then come to Christ Church to continue with our Service for the day!

12:00pm **At the Foot of the Cross** (Short Address, silence, prayer and veneration of the Cross)

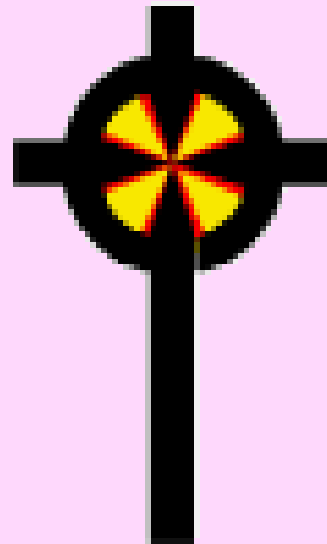
SATURDAY IN HOLY WEEK (EASTER EVE) 30th March

7pm Service of the New Fire, Easter Vigil, Renewal of Baptismal Promises.

EASTER DAY

8am Eucharist

10am Sung Eucharist with Easter Procession

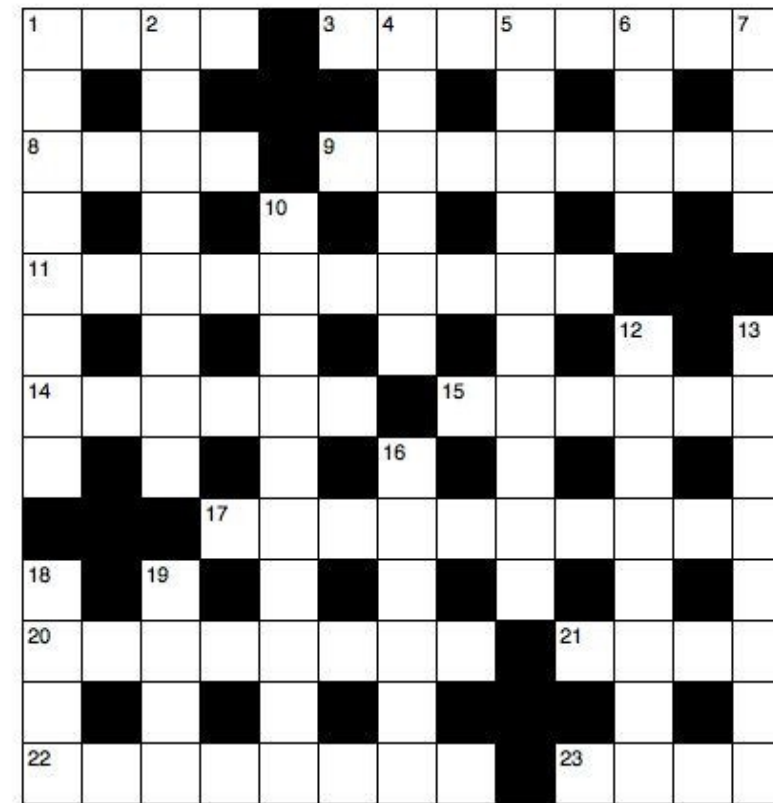


MISSION AT CHRIST CHURCH

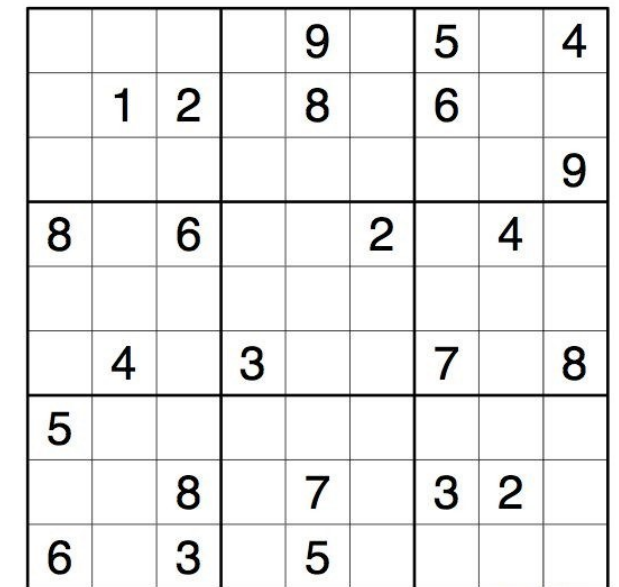
Towards the end of 2023 Parish Council approved funds to support a post graduate year for **Daffield Labbosiri**, the theological student we have been supporting at Newton College in Papua New Guinea (see also the article on p.6 of the *Chronicle in September 2023*). This extra year of study will provide a fuller theological qualification for Daffield who can commence work in 2025 with a fuller academic training experience. Daffield has demonstrated great aptitude for ministry and studies, so it is great that we can support this post graduate qualification. Both Newton College and Daffield have been very appreciative of Christ Church' contributions.



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PUZ?LES



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Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12–13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4)
- 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)

23 Eye sore (4)

Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

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God in the Sciences

This article is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

What will March bring? Mental health ideas for uncertain times

We may all have rather mixed feelings on reaching March this year. On the one hand, it is lovely to see the onset of another season, but the wars in Ukraine and Israel-Gaza grind on, as does the cost-of-living crisis. We may need to find new ways to keep going, so here are some suggestions that draw on both science and Christian theology.

♦ Getting outside

Time outdoors in a natural environment is very good for you – and you can't argue with the happy hormones produced by exercise. Attending to the details of nature can also inspire awe, which has been linked to positive mood, and increased life satisfaction. Enjoying Creation can also help us connect with God.

♦ Looking outside

If you are truly stuck indoors, try putting bird feeders outside your window so creation comes to you. This is also an act of kindness (see below)!

♦ Lament and praise

The Psalms are a rich resource to help us express both our grief and our thanks to God. Try reading one or two each day.

♦ Journaling

Keep a journal of thoughts, experiences or practices you have engaged with during the day. Constructing a personal narrative or story is now recognised as a very powerful psychological and spiritual tool for building resilience. It is also a vital learning tool that we can go back to when tough times return in the future.

♦ Acts of kindness

Helping or encouraging someone else is obviously a good thing to do in itself, but it also has a very positive effect on the giver - spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and even physically. Whichever way you look at it, finding new ways to show kindness to others can be a very effective way to help ourselves feel better too.

♦ Gratitude

Gratitude is another natural drug – in a sense – that can help us feel better. Try keeping a grateful diary, adding a few things each day.

♦ Laugh, sing, make music, dance

All of these activities are deeply rooted in our physical and mental makeup. You may have forgotten how great they feel, especially in times of sadness, but we can learn from children who do them very naturally.

I hope these ideas may help bring us closer to God, each other, and His creation.



Along with Fr Lankiri, Parish Council held a successful **Planning Day** during early February, to consider directions for the coming year. Amongst many items, discussion took place around tidying up the Morning Tea area inside the church, to improve the look and feel of this important space.

The possibility of having concerts in the Church will also be explored as a means of fundraising.

Media - the Parish is now working with *HM Media Productions* on the sound system, and recent upgrades have improved the audio in the church, with further upgrades to be rolled out in the coming months. This should help future proof the Parish for the digital age. A review of information technology is underway with the parish possibly participating in a centralised email/storage system for parish officer holders. The broader technology needs of the parish are also being reviewed, and further news will be provided as the year progresses.

Please speak to one of the Council members (listed on **p.16**) if you have any questions about the Planning Day.

The Parish has been awarded a **\$10,000 Grant** from the *City of Greater Geelong* towards the cost of getting reports into the condition of the stonework/structure of our parish church. Although this grant will only pay for part of the cost, the Parish can also draw upon amounts received from leased car parking, all of which must go towards the upkeep of our heritage buildings - so we hope to see people taking photographs (continued R)

Fundraising Update

This year the Fundraising Committee will be reviewing our regular activities to determine the most effective ways of raising funds and supporting Christ Church.

Thank you to all who contributed to the **Christmas Market**. A final tally of over **\$5770.00** was raised - our best result yet for the Christmas Market. The proceeds were shared between Christ Church and the *Christ Church Meals Program*.



Keep your eyes open for the upcoming Easter Raffle with some suitably themed Easter prizes. It is planned to re-start **movie nights** in the coming months, so please monitor the Parish Weekly Announcements for updates.

Now is the time to start thinking about your contribution to the 10th anniversary of **the Winter Woolies** (the flyer is on p.2) which is on **1st June** this year, just three months away! Start thinking about how you can contribute to this important fundraiser.

All ideas considered - so please let the *Fundraising Committee* (Sue Murrant, Jan McGowan, Heather Game and Ruth Christian) know of any ideas or suggestions.

(Ruth, Jan, Heather & Sue)

(from L) and measurements soon to give them the information they need to make the report to the Parish.

Council is also investigating the feasibility and cost of installing signage on the Moorabool/McKillop Street corner - watch this space (sorry!... awful pun) for news about this!



MEALS PROGRAM NEWS

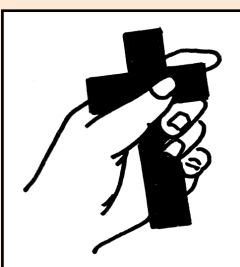
Thank you to all who contributed to the December 'Reverse Advent Calendar' appeal. The items donated were a great help and left the shelves quickly, as record numbers were registered throughout the holiday period. This was evident in the January spend of \$872 by the Program, where usually it is around \$600. (This was in addition to the monthly support from the *St John of God Foundation* that matches the normal spend).

It was a great pleasure to receive support for the first time from staff at *Community Care Chemist at Bellarine Village* who chose to donate to us instead of exchanging Christmas gifts. Once again *Bernard Shiu and his team* provided a delicious Christmas lunch, for over 100 guests this year. So many people work before, during and after this annual event to make it such a success. We thank them one and all.

The *Rotary Club of Bayside* continue to support us by providing gift bags to be distributed in the week prior to Christmas, and this is always so well received by our guests. More recently we have received the bounty from *St John's Lutheran Church Harvest Festival* which included many items to support the Food Cupboard, and \$475 in cash. Their support for the Meals Program goes back many years. We continue to receive support from several *Rotary and Lions Clubs and Kiwanis*; daily support from *Brumbys East Geelong* helps provide sliced bread for breakfasts; *Rolling Pin* and *Routleys* continue to supply a generous amount of baked goods.

Geelong Food Relief delivers every Wednesday and have listened to our requests about the provision of eggs, bacon and cheese. We were delighted to be able to provide a letter of support to be included in their recent application for a grant from *Geelong Community Foundation*, and wish them well, as we benefit greatly from their assistance.

The numbers of those attending the *Meals Program* services have increased dramatically over recent months. This, sadly, seems a reflection of the times we are in, and means we have new faces appearing all the time, but the overall need of food security is being met by our tireless volunteers to whom we express our heartfelt thanks. (Jan McGowan)



An Easter Prayer for 2024

Almighty, God,
You hold all things in Your hands. You make sense of everything!
So often we only see where we are now, what we feel now, in this moment - but You know the end from the beginning. In all our troubles, our assurance is in Your sovereignty, in Your mighty act of salvation.

Thank you that, just as after summer comes autumn and after night comes morning so, most gloriously, after death on Good Friday, comes resurrection on Easter Day!

Christ is Risen - and we can know, by the indwelling of his Holy Spirit, that **He is risen indeed!** We can know, in our real and every-day lives, where our help comes from.

Hallelujah! Thank you, living Lord, In Jesus name. **Amen.**

(by Daphne Kitching, Parish Pump, UK)

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Bits 'n Pieces !!



HELPING WITH FLOWERS

If you'd like to help with flowers for church, why not

- ♦ join the Flower Roster;
- ♦ Offer flowers from your garden;

♦ make a donation to buy flowers.... see **Jan McGowan** for more details!

Volunteers still needed !!

There are **always volunteer things** you can do at Christ Church, such as -

- ♦ **Church sitting** - weekdays 12-2pm
- ♦ **Sunday sides persons/welcomers,**
- ♦ **Servers, Readers & Intercessors** for Sunday & weekday services
- ♦ **flower arranging** in Church
- ♦ help with **monthly working bees**
- ♦ collating the weekly **Parish Press**

...talk to a Council Member if you're interested! Don't leave it for someone else!

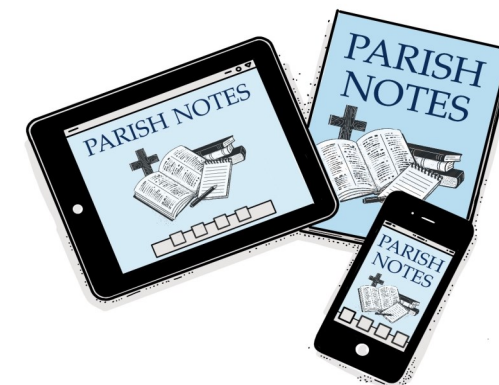


Church Working Bees

WBs are held on the **2nd SATURDAY** from 9am each month (or when needed)... Put the coming dates in your diaries! There are **ALWAYS jobs to do.... Come along and lend a hand! ... yummy morning tea AND it's fun as well!**

Planned Giving Envelopes...

If you are now using ADF for giving and no longer use the weekly envelopes, please let Fr Lankiri, one of the Ministry Team or Jan McGowan (0409 176 409) know ... so we only print those that are needed !!



KEEP ON SAVING THOSE -

- * **STAMPS** - for ABM
- * **CORKS and GLASSES**
- * **SHOE BOX GIFTS** - for Operation Christmas Child & Missions without Borders (baskets are @ the church entry)

CHURCH SITTERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED!!!!

Even though in 2024 things are back to being more like "normal", volunteer tasks are **STILL** necessary. It's great to share our church with Geelong people & visitors to the city...but not all parishioners have returned since lockdowns, and we need volunteers to keep the church open on weekdays from 12-2pm. What about you? R U interested?

Talk to Jan McGowan — 0409 176 409

Supporting the Anglican Church in the NT



The 5c Collection allows us to get rid of loose change (those pesky 5c pieces!) and is sent to the Anglican Board of Missions, for use as ABM sees fit. The last sum forwarded was over \$550, and this year the Parish will ask that the collection be used in the Anglican Diocese of the NT.

If you'd like to contribute to this, please see Jan or Ruth.

(a.k.a. The Counting Elves)

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Social Updates

Thank you to all who participated in the **Men's Lunches** and **After Six Dinners** over 2023. These events have been a great success and they are continuing throughout 2024.

The next **After Six Dinner** will be 21st March 2024 at 6.30 pm at *El Toro*, 245 Moorabool Street, Geelong.

Future dates are -

Thursday 18th April

Thursday 16th May

Thursday 20th June

... usually the 3rd Thursday
of each month

Women's Lunches are about to begin for 2024 - the first will be on **Saturday 13th April 2024** from 12 noon... meeting at the *Groove Train* in Waurm Ponds Shopping Centre, Cnr Colac & Pioneer Roads, Waurm Ponds. ... a time to catch up and reflect on the recent holidays and Christmas Season. Do come along!! Contact Sue Murrant or Heather Game for more details.



Men's Lunches are also continuing in 2024, usually on the *second Monday of each month*, from 12 noon at the RSL in Belmont.

Future dates are -

Monday 8th April

Monday 13th May

Monday 10th June



The Men's Lunch plans for 2024 include a "Christmas in July Lunch" at our July gathering when again partners will be invited to come along, as was done successfully in December 2023; and to have occasional guest speakers for around 20 min, though anyone who has not yet given a talk on their past activities will be welcome to tell us about themselves!

(from p.11) be brought before they can climb out. If only you would remove your chairs and substitute benches without backs, turn off all heating and replace carpets with slate slabs, I am sure your congregation's religious zeal would soar.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

CATERING ASSISTANT(S) WANTED !!

At Christ Church we love to get together for eating and socializing, after Sunday Eucharist and at other times. Apart from Sundays we also do catering for events like Morning Teas and Parish Lunches, and for selected special occasions such as the funerals of parishioners. At the end of these events you will find one person always working - Jan McGowan loves this involvement but should not be shouldering the burden alone.

We need more helpers for Sunday morning teas, but also would like to have occasional volunteers who can assist Jan on these special occasions. These would not involve bringing a plate, but maybe setting up and particularly cleaning up. You'll need to use a tea towel, and a walking frame probably precludes you.... but everyone else is welcome! If you can help with any of these occasions, please sign up with name and phone details. *(Judy Munro)*



PAGE 12

CLAIMED AND CALLED - LETTING GOD HELP US WITH DECISION MAKING

Source/Reference - Youtube. *Ascension Presents: Four Helpful Rules for Discernment* and Youtube *Ascension Presents: The Only Kind of Life Worth Living* - both presented by Father Mike Schmitz

We have just been through the beginning of the church and calendar new year. This can be a time of renewal, perspective taking and fresh starts.... although often our good intentions can fade as we start to journey through January and get back into things as the work/school years get underway in February.

Recently I came across some helpful guidance on Youtube from Fr Mike Schmitz of *Ascension Presents*. There are actually two versions of this talk - *4 Helpful Rules for Discernment* - if you prefer the shorter version at approximately six minutes, or *The Only Kind of Life Worth Living (Claimed and Called)* which comes in around 24 minutes.

Essentially Fr Mike proposes that to live a fulfilling life we need to remember that God has both a claim on our life and a call on our life. So God has a care and loving interest in us and a plan or calling for us to live by. However for many of us it can be difficult to discern what it is that God wants us to do, so what to do? For the majority of us the call is not always obvious, and can lead to feelings that we are not doing what God wants us to do or be.

It is helpful to remember that God is always with us and that he gives us the gift of free will, and it is ok for us to use our intellect and choice to guide our decision making. There is no perfect plan and plans are made to be adjusted, and we need to step out in faith with God and allow Him to meet us where we are and to equip us with what we need at the time. We see this time and again in the Bible - with Moses, Jonah, Mary and Peter all being examples of people being equipped for tasks that they were not necessarily expecting or having a natural aptitude for.

At times when we feel God's path for us may be unclear it can be good to ask ourselves four key questions -

- ♦ **Is this a good door?** In answering this question we are guided by our values and ethics, though some things are a bit more distinct. For example, it is largely irrefutable that it is not a good idea to steal money from your workplace! In a similar vein it is unlikely to be a good idea to drink and drive. We need to look at this question from the perspective of is it a good possibility or at least a neutral one? We don't want to go through any bad doors.
- ♦ **Is this an open door?** This one is quite straightforward, although it can also be a time waster in second guessing or being unrealistic about our possibilities. According to Fr Mike the NBA (National Basketball Association) is a closed door and not an option for him! Similarly my aspirations to be the next Nadia Comaneci and win an Olympic gold for gymnastics or alternatively to have a successful singing career, are closed doors for me. Whilst there are some who may say if you can dream it you can do it, certain options are clearly either not ordained or not realistic for us, and we should not spend too much time on them, and rather focus on more realistic possibilities.
- ♦ **Is this a wise door?** Having ascertained that the door is good, and open, we need to discern if this is a wise door - and this is where we need to

(continued p.8)

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(from p.7) activate our God-given gifts of free will, intellect and choice. We may need to do more analysis here, exploring the pros/cons of the choice before us. For example, knowing what I know about myself will this decision enhance or harm me? What will be my strengths and struggles in this decision?

- ◊ **Do I want to go through this door?** Finally we need to consider - do I actually want to do this task/make this decision? Do I have what's needed for this choice? An example here might be a course of study; it may be a good option to study medicine, you may be able to qualify for the course and it may suit your intellect, but if you do not want to deal with sick patients each day then this may not be a viable decision.

Perhaps next time you are facing a decision or choice, remember God allows us the freedom to decide things for ourselves and to make decisions of our own. Then try these four doors to help you with the process. Remember too there is no perfect plan; God is always with us and meets us where we are, and equips us with what we need through knowing and loving us.

Submitted by - Susan Murrant

PEACE ON EARTH

Footy parking 2024 GO CATS!!!!!!!!!!!!

As reported at the recent Parish AGM, Footy Parking continues to be a significant source of funds for the Parish. In 2024 the mighty Cats will have NINE HOME GAMES

Round	Date/time	against
1	Saturday 16th March @ 7.30pm	St Kilda
5	Sunday 14th April @ 1pm	North Melbourne
9	Friday 10th May @ 7.10pm	Post Adelaide
11	Saturday 25th May @ 4.35pm	GWSydney
12	Saturday 1st June @ 7.30pm	Richmond
17	From Friday July 5th *	Hawthorn
19	From Friday July 19th *	Western Bulldogs
21	From Friday August 2nd *	Adelaide
24	From Friday August 23rd *	West Coast Eagles



* day of the week and time yet to be announced by the AFL

The Footy Parking team can always use extra volunteers – all that is required for two (2) hours before each home game is a willingness to help the fans park, a sense of humour, and the ability to console disheartened fans when their teams get done by the Cats!!

Put these dates in your diaries – for more details contact Phillip on 0448118302.

St James the Least of All

Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness (Parish Pump, UK) continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace', the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar in St James-the-Least Parish, to his nephew Darren, a recently ordained curate.....

On why pews SHOULD be uncomfortable

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren,

Visits from your parishioners to our church are always welcome. But I did not expect them to return to you complaining because our pews are uncomfortable.

Pews are meant to be uncomfortable. The unshakeable belief of our congregation is that the more uncomfortable the pew, the holier the worship must be. By the same token, an 8am Service is more fervent than one at 10am, since it is much more socially inconvenient. If you add on enduring freezing temperatures and damp in winter, then sainthood clearly beckons. Your people may be used to lolling in upholstered chairs in tropical temperatures, but I am sure such comfort places their souls in grave peril.

Our pews were built many, many years ago, when people were several inches shorter and many pounds lighter, and so could accommodate themselves on them perfectly adequately. The fact that a twenty-first century body is in constant danger of sliding off the seat and requires knees to be folded somewhere near the ears at least helps to keep minds focussed - apart from Colonel Wainwright, who still manages to sleep peacefully throughout the service every Sunday. I could point out that your chairs make kneeling almost impossible - although I suspect that posture is not encouraged in your church, as people would then be unable to read the words on your overhead projector or wave their arms about quite as easily during the hymns. While the majority of our congregation find the Anglican crouch perfectly adequate, you can see those who flop to their knees on hearing "let us pray" from the clouds of dust sent up from suddenly compressed hassocks, which were purchased to commemorate Queen Victoria's Accession.

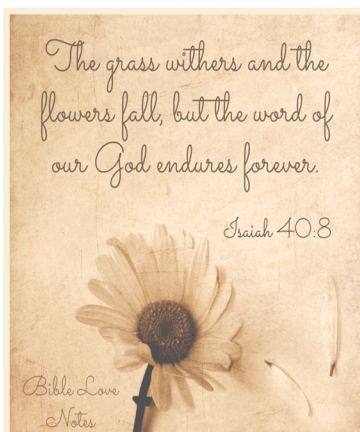
I may also point out that our box pews are very useful for modern times. Once a family is seated, with the door firmly shut, then any toddler is penned in and unable to use the aisles as a racing circuit. Medieval carpenters were clearly forward-thinking people. Admittedly, box pew doors do tend to stick, and few manage to look dignified while they wait for step ladders to



...how often have you looked
at the parish web page?

at <https://christchurchgeelong.com.au>

If you can't get to church, or prefer to worship at home, our Parish Web Page has many resources... including the weekly *Parish Announcements*; the *Chronicle*; recent recorded *services and sermons* and some previous special services (eg. from *Holy Week 2022*); daily *scripture readings*; monthly *Holy Days*; ...and news about the Parish course!! **and lots more too!!!**



**2024 dates for
your diaries!!!**



**Palm Sunday &
Holy Week } service details on p 4**

**Winter Woollies Market - June 1st,
9.30am - 1pm - see more details on p.12**

After Six Dinners (3rd Thursday each
month, from 6.30pm – at El Toro Restaurant
in Moorabool Street) - more details on p.12

Women's Lunches see details on p.12

Men's Lunches (2nd Monday each month
from 12 noon, at Belmont RSL)
see more details on p.12

Working Bees - are from 9am on the
2nd Saturday every month!

God and the scientist.....

God is sitting in Heaven when a scientist says to him, "Lord, we don't need you anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing.... in other words, we can now do what you did 'in the Beginning'."

"Oh, is that so?" Tell me..." replies God.

"Well," Says the scientist, "we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of you and breathe life into it, thus creating man."

"Well, that's interesting. Show me."

The scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil.

"Oh no, no," interrupts God, "...get your own dirt...."

Home Communion

The Clergy team are always happy to take Communion to those who cannot come to church for any reason. Please speak to Fr Lankiri or one of the **Ministry team** to arrange this....



Fr Barry was the Celebrant at the Wednesday Eucharist on **21st February 2024**, the **60th Anniversary** of Fr Barry's First Ordination (as Deacon) - Congratulations, Fr Barry, and long may your ministry amongst us continue!!!



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...Parish Pix !!

Barry and Glenys
Cashmore
60th Wedding
Anniversary
25 Jan 2014



**Baptism - Ben Hogan 10th
December 2023** (photos by Linda
Bickerdike)



**Baptism of Angus Matthews - 4th
February 2024** (photos by Anthony Perry)



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