



91 Carroll Crescent (PO Box 193)
Glen Iris Victoria 3146

No. 59 **Harbinger** **June 2016**

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting of the parish took place immediately following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday 24th April. The usual annual reports were presented and the Vestry elected. The new Vestry is as follows:

Libby Shade Secretary
Blanche White Treasurer
Russell Cole People's Warden & Property Manager
Alan Davis
Margaret Engel
The Vicar is *ex-officio* Chairman.

The Annual General Meeting of the LCC (Vic.) Holding, commonly known as the Trust, followed that of the parish AGM. The reports from the President, Treasurer and Secretary were presented. The Directors elected are:

Blanche White President
Libby Shade Treasurer
Russell Cole Secretary & Public Officer
Alan Davis Director

A special "thank you" to our Directors and members of Vestry for continuing their work for the parish.

Vestments

On Sunday 13th March, the vicar blessed the newly acquired vestments for use in festivals of Our Lady. They are beautifully made (from Poland) and everyone looks forward to seeing them used at the next Marian Festival.

Church Maintenance

The church has had visits from plumbers, carpenters, electricians and arborists to attend to the old kitchen roof (100 years old!), the drains, front and back doors, the internal and external lighting, also the removal of a huge cyprus pine on the corner of the social room, which was dead and also clogged up the drainage beneath it. What a list!

We have also have a new footpath and drive installed, courtesy of the road engineers, who had redesigned the whole street to cater for the new railway line (closer to the church) and the new station.

We have also had professional cleaners to clean all interior surfaces, including the carpets, in order to remove the concrete dust that all buildings in the street were subjected to by the constructions over the past six months. The interior is now back to its former splendour.

All of this was supervised by our Property Manager Russell Cole – a huge undertaking. Many thanks Russell!

Baptism

On Sunday 15th May, after the Eucharist service, the Vicar baptised Corey Lee Scott-Bogdal, the grandson of deacon Alan Davis, in the presence of members of the family and congregation. Alan assisted in the service with deaconess Marion Gilchrist delivering the scripture reading. Corey is 5½ years old, full of vitality and full of questions. Corey gave the vicar a 'high-five' at the conclusion of the ceremony, much to the delight of the congregation!

A New Bishop

On Sunday 29th May (Corpus Christi) Fr Richard Taylor, Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels, Southport, was elevated to the episcopate at St. Alban's in Brisbane. The chief consecrator was our Archbishop Primate (new title for the office of Presiding Bishop) Graham Wale, assisted by Bishops Graham Preston (now known as the Archbishop), James White and Allan Bradley. There were 16 members in the sanctuary

team, with Blanche White and Russell Cole acting as Crozier Bearers and Fr Fred Shade as Master of Ceremonies, all carrying out the most sublime and complex ancient liturgy of the church.

It was a truly wonderful experience, and we all wish Bishop Richard good health as he begins a new and exciting chapter in his life.

Dedication

May the door of my heart
be ever on the latch
for Thee, my Master,
and the house of my
soul be ever prepared
to receive Thee into
any room which
Thou wouldst enter.

(Written inside a liturgy belonging to D. Hollandal dated 13.8.1961.)

Religious Tradition

While every religious tradition has both external and inner aspects, the aim of each is the transformation of the whole being. The insights and understandings that ring true and carry the vibration of an inner meaning can provide guidance and support for our quest, but a mere mechanical repetition of forms which were once charged with great energy can take us away from the heart of the teaching. Every tradition must change and evolve; it has to be reinterpreted and reunderstood by successive generations in order to maintain its relevance and application.

Ravi Ravindra

Annual General Meeting Sunday 24th April 2016

Vicar's Report

The work of the parish continues, as it has done for 100 years. Much of our work is carried out behind the scenes and their effects are not always discernible. Yet we continue to do the Lord's work, to pray, and to work together as a parish.

The Holy Eucharist has been conducted nearly every Sunday and I am very fortunate to have such a wonderful sacramental team. We certainly have the largest team in this province! Apart from myself, we have two deacons (Russell Cole, Alan Davis), two deaconesses (Marion Gilchrist, Margaret Engel), two assistant ministers (Blanche White, Nicole Zabantu), two servers (Daniel Ngansele, Katie Blakely) and two organists (Marion Gilchrist, Ron Arnot).

Special services such as at Easter and Christmas were celebrated, as well as celebrating the Centenary of the Liberal Catholic Church in February. On that occasion we were honoured with the presence of Fr Ian Hunter, who launched a new parish publication in the Social Room. It should be noted that parish work in Melbourne really commenced in 1916, and later in the year we will remember the first priest of Melbourne, John Beatty McConkey.

Pastoral care is carried out by our ministers, but it should also be said that we are all involved in this work. The wedding two weeks ago was a highlight as we had standing-room only in the church. Our church seats about 100, but we had 182 in attendance! Surely a record for the church. Funerals for young and old were conducted during the year, and they are a reminder of how precious life is, how precious relationships are, and that we are to labour while it is yet day.

On the more mundane side of things, we have had a lot of maintenance carried out during this past 12 months – trees removed, gardens developed and replanted, plumbing, cleaning, a new driveway and even a new railway station!

Katie and Libby have established a facebook page for the parish, a marvellous innovation. And we have had a wonderful vestry working behind the scenes and ensuring that everything is attended to and also keeping the vicar in line.

Thank you all for your work for the parish; thank you also for your support to me as your vicar.

Fred Shade

OFFICERS OF THE PARISH

| | | |
|---------------------|--|------------------|
| Priest | V. Rev. Fred Shade | 9459 2670 |
| Deacons | Rev. Alan Davis | 9509 1791 |
| | Rev. Russell Cole | (M) 0407 348 229 |
| Assistant Ministers | Mrs Blanche White | 9803 0703 |
| | Mrs Nicole Zabantu | |
| Deaconesses | Mrs Marion Gilchrist | 9511 4845 |
| | Mrs Margaret Engel | 9744 2248 |
| Property Manager | Rev. Russell Cole | (M) 0407 348 229 |
| Parish Secretary | Mrs Libby Shade | 9459 2670 |
| | Email: libby@shade.id.au | |
| Provincial website | www.liberalcatholicchurch.org.au | |
| Facebook | liberal catholic church Melbourne | |

The service of **Holy Eucharist** is conducted at St. John The Beloved every Sunday at 10.30 am. The sacrament of **Healing** is also available to everyone upon request, either at church or by private visit to their home. Please contact the Vicar.

QUOTES

From the (Roman Catholic) Church of St. Francis, Melbourne, newsletter, reflecting on the U.S. elections and the extremism that is evident:

“Grounded in something deeper than the flux of public opinion and the insidious insinuation of suspicion, the Christian who has learnt the New Testament virtue of endurance can contribute balance and sanity. Such a person is capable of resisting the stampede of the herd, determined to renounce the perilous lure of scapegoating and can see through the shallow quick-fix proposals of opportunism. Such a dispassionate willingness to live in the complexities of the real world, to understand and to act with measure and integrity, will indeed save our souls in this troubled time.”

Fr Tony McSweeney SSS

This is the day which the Lord has made:
We will rejoice and be glad in it.
For God, who commanded the light
to shine out of darkness, has shined in our hearts,
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Christ our Lord.

We may gain a new vision of the indestructible nature of Catholic Christianity. However strange and disordered the world may be, God reigns; the angels guard; the saints watch and pray; and the loving condescension of our Redeemer at Bethlehem and in every Eucharist is an abiding consolation ever available to the simplest Christian at the altar of every church.

C.H.J. Morrell, *The Heart of a Priest*

The Torah

The Bible (Torah) is the people's distinctive record of its search for God. It attempts to record the meeting of the human and the Divine, the great moments of encounter. Therefore, the text is often touched by the ineffable Presence.

God is not the author of the text, the people of God are; but God's voice may be heard through theirs if we listen with open minds.

The Torah is open-ended, it raises issues without providing single answers.

(from the Commentator's introduction to the Torah)

Church and Liturgy

There are many practical questions that churches have to face as they head into the future. While there are no easy answers to the challenges they face, there are some basic tools to assist them: giving attention to the core mystery that marks ecclesial existence and the consequent mission that characterises church life; actively remembering the Christian story and being ready to purify that memory as needed; being accountable to God and to each other; and being attentive to what we can learn from each other.

Gerard Kelly

Excerpt from article "Ecclesiological Reflections on Small Congregations", *Australian Journal of Liturgy* 2011 Vol. 12.No. 3.

CHURCH CALENDAR

June

Sunday 5th Second Sunday after Trinity
Intent: God as Light

Sunday 12th Third Sunday after Trinity
Intent: God as Ruler of Angels

Sunday 19th Fourth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: God as Love

Sunday 26th Feast of St. Alban, Martyr (octave)
Patron Saint of the Liberal Catholic Church

July

Sunday 3rd Sixth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Steadfast Service

Sunday 10th Seventh Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Purity:
day of devotion to the Holy Spirit

Sunday 17th Eighth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Wisdom

Sunday 24th Ninth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Confidence

Sunday 31st Tenth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Devotion

August

Sunday 11th Eleventh Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Discernment

Sunday 18th Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Self-dedication

Sunday 21st Assumption of Our Lady (octave)

Sunday 28th Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Renewal of Heart

September

Sunday 4th Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Reality of Things Eternal

Sunday 11th Nativity of Our Lady (octave)

Sunday 18th Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Spiritual Progress

(A full Ecclesiastical Calendar is displayed in the foyer at church.)