



REACH OUT

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

DREAMING ABOUT THE IDEAL CHURCH

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

SATURDAY 8th MAY is our planning day in the Parish Centre when we will dream about the church we want in the future.

ALL PARISHIONERS are encouraged to come and share their ideas. These ideas and dreams will be documented and given to the Wardens and Vestry and from them goals and directions as well as priorities will be set for the next few years.

Please come and dream with us of the ideal church. **BYO lunch** to share and we will start at 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. We need your ideas and comments.



A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH ESSENDON
MAY 2010

Vicar: Fr John Mathes

Telephone: 0417 407 768 or 9379 2770



FJ's reflection

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

NEW WEB PAGE

Hopefully in the next edition of Reach Out we will be able to officially announce that we have a new web page. I have commissioned a web page which is being designed at the moment and hopefully will be up and running by the end of May. The web page will give information on church times and contact details as well as information about the parish. After it is up and running there will be an official launch.

NEW LITURGIES

New liturgies and booklets have been prepared to make it easy to follow the Eucharist. It is specially designed for new people coming into our churches as they will not have to juggle prayer books and hymn books etc. The new cards reflect modern liturgy — please read them carefully.

CANDLE STANDS

Two new candle stands to light candles in will be blessed on Trinity Sunday (30th May) at 9.30 am. These two stands are donated by the Vicar and his wife in memory of the Fr John's mother and Carolyn's Father and sister. One stand will be placed at the front of the church replacing the current stand and the other will be placed near the baptism font and available even when security is on in the church.

ARCHIVES

I have asked Jamie Lingard to check what archives we have and to bring a report to the Vestry exploring ways to index and store our archives.

If you have old photos, minute books or other historical documents of the church could you let Jamie know or Fr John and we can either store them or copy them and return. Gail Paxman, who is a librarian, is assisting.

BIBLE STUDIES

If we are to grow in faith it is important that we read our bible and pray. It is also important to study the bible. We are offering 2 bible study groups for people to attend. They will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month at 11.00 am (run by Fr John) and the second group will meet at 7.30 pm (run by Gail Paxman). Both groups will be exploring the same material in LUKE'S Gospel.

The planning day where we are to dream about the church we want is on Saturday 8th May. It will be a long day but hopefully worth it. If Christ Church continues to go along the way it has, it will cease to exist in a few years. Change and a new direction is needed. We need to dream and create a new church. This is an opportunity to have your say. Please come along and dream with us. (see the front page for more details)

The Lord be with you...
Your Vicar
Fr John.

*The Argus (Melbourne, Vic:1848-1954),
Friday 4 February 1898, page 3*

The annual meeting of the parishioners of Christ Church Essendon, was held on January 22, the Rev. J. Good occupying the chair. The balance sheet showed a satisfactory increase in the receipts, and great satisfaction was expressed at the progress made, particularly in connection with the erection of a new Sunday-school, which will be ready for use in a few days. Messrs. D. Mitchell and M. Hunkin were appointed to the board of guardians by the incumbent, and Messrs. Freeman, Moreman, Musgrove, Semple, Street, and Walker by the congregation. Messrs. Oadwallader and Corry were appointed auditors. The meeting was closed under votes of thanks were accorded to the various workers, and to the chairman.

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WHAT PETS WRITE IN THEIR DIARIES

Excerpts from a Dog's Diary

08:00 am: Dog food! My favourite thing!
09:30 am: A car ride! My favourite thing!
09:40 am: A walk in the park! My favourite thing!
10:30 am: Got rubbed and petted! My favourite thing!
12:00 pm: Lunch! My favourite thing!
01:00 pm: Played in the yard! My favourite thing!
03:00 pm: Wagged my tail! My favourite thing!
05:00 pm: Milk Bones! My favourite thing!
07:00 pm: Got to play ball! My favourite thing!
08:00 pm: Wow! Watch TV with the people! My favourite thing!
11:00 pm: Sleeping on the bed! My favourite thing!

Excerpts from a Cat's Daily Diary.

Day 983 of my captivity ...

My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. They dine lavishly on fresh meat, while the other inmates and I are fed hash or some sort of dry nuggets. Although I make my contempt for the rations perfectly clear, nevertheless must eat something in order to keep up my strength.

The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the carpet.

Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped this would strike fear into their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates what I am capable of. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a 'good little hunter' I am. Bastards.

There was some sort of assembly of their accomplices tonight. I was placed in solitary confinement for the duration of the event. However, I could hear the noises and smell the food. I overheard that my confinement was due to the power of 'allergies.' I must learn what this means and how to use it to my advantage.

Today I was almost successful in an attempt to assassinate one of my tormentors by weaving around his feet as he was walking. I must try this again tomorrow – but at the top of the stairs.

I am convinced that the other prisoners here are flunkies and snitches. The dog receives special privileges. He is regularly released – and seems to be more than willing to return. He is obviously retarded.

The bird has got to be an informant. I observe him communicating with the guards regularly. I am certain that he reports my every move. My captors have arranged protective custody for him in an elevated cell, so he is Safe for now



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A PRAYER FOR FAITH

I prayed for Faith, and thought that some day Faith would come down and strike me like lightning. But Faith did not seem to come. One day I read in the tenth chapter of Romans, "Now Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God". I had closed my Bible, and prayed for Faith. I now opened my Bible, and began to study, and Faith has been growing ever since.

Dwight Moody

[Bible Studies now available, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 11.00 am and 7.30 pm.]

PENTECOST SUNDAY

23rd May 2010

Combined EssACC Service

9.30 am

at

Christ Church Essendon

Guest Preacher -

**The Right Reverend Abbot Michael King OSB
of St Mark's Benedictine Abbey, Camperdown**



YOU ARE GOD'S BELOVED

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!
1 John 3:1 (NIV)

There is in every human heart an inextinguishable desire to be someone's prince, someone's princess. We want to be beloved.

The Bible says we are. The writers of Scripture use the most extravagant images available to convince us of this. God's love for us is the love of a friend who would sacrifice his life for the one he loves, the love of a father for a runaway son, the love of a mother that will not allow her to forget her child. God's love for us is more passionate than the heart of the most passionate groom for his bride.

You ARE the beloved of God.

This cry of our heart to be loved is only the faint echo of God's desire to love us. Before you were ever born, you were beloved in the mind of God. This is the deepest secret to your identity. It cannot be earned or won, only gratefully embraced.

"This is the ineffable and infinite mercy of God which the slender capacity of man's heart cannot comprehend and much less utter – the unfathomable depth and burning zeal of God's love toward us."

Martin Luther

From Living the God life: finding God's extraordinary love in your ordinary life, John Ortberg, Inspiro, 2004

Contributed by Gail Paxman



**They had been promised a Celebrity
Guest Preacher**

When it comes to generosity,
some people stop at nothing.

Jesus does not plead with us to be His witnesses. He does not command. He does not threaten. He simply states a promise: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses ...". The church of Christ does not get on the move by pushing itself harder, but only by opening itself up more fully to the Spirit's power.

Alfred Mulder

May Saint - St Augustine of Canterbury



**St. Augustine of Canterbury,
First Archbishop of Canterbury
(Died AD 604)**

Also known as St. Augustine the Less to distinguish him from his illustrious namesake from Hippo. Augustine was chosen by Pope Gregory the Great as leader of the mission sent from Rome for the evangelisation of the English. He landed in the Isle of Thanet in the Spring of AD 597 and, within a year, Aethelbert, King of Kent, was baptised with several thousand of his subjects.

The foundation of Canterbury Cathedral was laid five years later, supposedly, on the site of an old Roman Church. Augustine was consecrated by Vergilius, Archbishop of Arles and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

The alienation between the British

Church and the Italian missionaries might have been averted had Augustine recognised the consideration that was due to the Church which had existed in Britain for three centuries, and had been more tolerant of the diversity between British and Roman usage.

He had laid the foundation stone of the Monastery of St. Peter & St. Paul outside Canterbury, later known as St. Augustine's, in the year of his arrival and here he was buried.

He died on 26th May, traditionally in AD 604, but possibly as late as 609. His feast day is 27th May. He and St George are the patrons of England.

**Collect of the Day: St. Augustine,
First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605**

O Lord our God, by your Son Jesus Christ you called your apostles and sent them forth to preach the Gospel to the nations: We bless your holy name for your servant Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury, whose labours in propagating your Church among the English people we commemorate today; and we pray that all whom you call and send may do your will, and bide your time, and see your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Reflections on the Anglican Eucharist

This is a series of reflections on what we do each Sunday at the Eucharist so as to help us understand more what we do and why.

PART 1 PERSONAL PREPARATION

It is important that we keep our houses tidy, we set the table, and prepare tasty meals. If we go on holidays we prepare by organising things so that everything goes well and there are no problems. A bride getting married does not do nothing. There is much preparation to make sure the day is a great success.

Yet often we come to the Sunday Eucharist Sunday after Sunday without serious preparation.

The task of preparing the sacred space (arranging flowers, setting the table etc) falls to some people. Others practice the hymns while readers study and rehearse the readings of the day. The priest devotes hours preparing the homily.

Our own personal preparation for the Sunday Eucharist is likewise very important and should begin well before we arrive at Church. We might for example look at the readings for next Sunday or pray for the Priest and those who will assist in the worship.

We can also arrive early and spend some time quietly praying or being still before God. If we come with a rush, we often find ourselves preoccupied and distracted from prayer.

PART 2 ENTRANCE PROCESSION & HYMN & WELCOME

The procession helps set the scene for the action to come by highlighting the fact that we are worshipping people, from whose midst some are called and ordained to lead the celebration.



Traditionally the entrance procession was accompanied by the singing of a hymn and/or there is a word of scripture (opening sentence) or antiphon.

The priest kisses the altar as a mark of reverence for our Saviour. The priest and servers will also bow or genuflect. Sometimes on holy feasts the altar is incensed symbolising the cloud wherein God's glory is made manifest to the chosen people. It also suggests purification and of our prayers ascending before the throne of God.

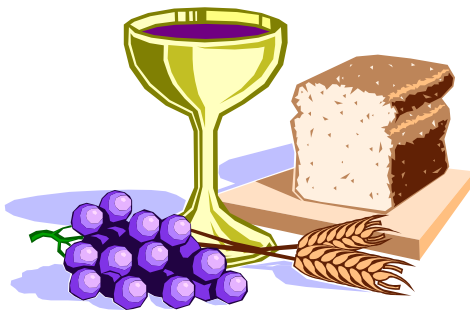
The priest starts the service in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and we make the sign of the cross. The practice of signing oneself with a cross is a very ancient one among Christians. Tertullian in about 211AD observed "at every action of the day we sign our forehead with the sign of the cross."

The priest then says: The Lord be with you. This same dialogue will be repeated during the service at the reading of the gospel, at the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer. It is a welcoming gesture and call to all to be involved in the sacred rites.

The Bread of Life

Part 1 – Our gifts to God

In 1967, Fr Frank Moyle, the parish priest of Christ Church at the time, stood in the pulpit and produced a bread roll and a bottle of wine. He then asked this question. “Why did Christ choose bread and wine to be turned into his body and blood?” He then proceeded to tell the congregation why. 43 years later, and I have not heard a better explanation, hence his sermon forms the backbone of my discussion on the gifts of the people.



We need food and drink in order to sustain life. Cor blimey, talk about stating the obvious! However, bread is a carbohydrate which fuels our organs and keeps them functioning. Our bodies convert carbohydrates into glucose which is absorbed into the cells by the insulin we produce, although some of us require medical aid for this to happen. Wine is also a carbohydrate; how-

ever, it's largely composed of water, and although not a substitute for water, it has some hydrating properties and in ancient times it was helpful in the short term when water was scarce. We can see from this that bread and wine do indeed represent our reliance upon food and drink in order to sustain life. In other words, we are totally dependent upon the fruits of the earth which God provides for us.

There's more to this however, and it begins with the farmer who relies upon an adequate rainfall; too little, and the wheat will die; too much, the crop will also die. The rain and sun must be in the right proportions for a successful crop. This is also true of a grape crop, with the added danger of frosts, which can destroy an entire crop overnight. A successful crop means the farmer and grape grower are able to provide for themselves and their families for the coming year. A failed crop means starvation and hardship not only for the farmers and grape growers, but all those who rely on their produce to make their living.

The miller separates the wheat grains from the husks (chaff) and grinds the wheat into flour. This takes a considerable amount of skill and labour. The winemaker is something of a miller and baker combined; the winemaker has to crush the grapes in the correct manner. This is the milling process. Both are

totally reliant upon the success of the farmer, without whose produce they and their families could not provide for themselves, and starvation would result.

The baker relies upon the flour that the miller has produced; to bake a loaf of bread takes a considerable amount of skill. Indeed, bakers have to work such unfriendly hours, starting work whilst everyone else is still asleep in order to provide bread for us to eat. The work of the winemaker is somewhat similar to the baker; however, it takes time for the wine to mature before it can be bottled and sold. The winemaker's job is a complicated and difficult task. Ironically, both rely on yeast; a baker adds yeast to the dough to cause the bread to rise, whilst the grapes have their own coating of yeast on them. This is the white coating on grapes which is easily rubbed off. Without this, there would be nothing to react with the sugar in the grapes, in order to turn it into alcohol. It would just be grape juice which once exposed to the air would turn mouldy in just a few days. This is a natural process which God invented in order to preserve wine for consumption; alcohol is so important in this preservation process.

Of course there is the retailer who relieves us of our hard earned cash when we require these products for our consumption. However, there's no need to elaborate on this.

A whole chain of people are involved in bringing the bread and wine to our tables: farmers, grape growers, millers, winemakers, bakers and retailers. All of these people are reliant upon each other for their livelihoods; however they all ultimately rely on God, without whom none of this could happen. Indeed, it's ironic, and something of a paradox, that our gifts to God were given to us by God in the first place. Notwithstanding this, we're also offering much of ourselves and our lives to God in this bread and wine. We offer our hopes, our expectations, our disappointments, our triumphs, the sweat of our brows and indeed the work of our hands and brains. We also offer our acknowledgment that we are dependent upon God, and also upon each other for our existence.

Our Lord Jesus Christ who lived and shared our earthly life knew all of these things. Indeed, bread and wine not only represent our need for sustenance, but all of our human endeavours across a broad spectrum, as well as a sense of community, because it requires human cooperation to bring about the finished product. Bread and wine then are a symbolic summary of our earthly lives, and the human condition, which we bring to God at the Eucharist, and this is what Frank Moyle was saying during his sermon.

Christine L. Robins B.Theol.

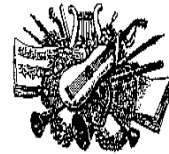
To be continued.

**Christ Church Essendon
Opportunity Shop**

MUSICAL LUNCHEON

Featuring

**Lowther Hall Anglican
Grammar School**



**Monday 17th May 2010
1 Marco Polo Street, Essendon
12.00 Noon**

Concert to be held in the Church at 12 noon
Luncheon afterwards in the Parish Hall

Admission - \$10

Trading table
Raffle
Lucky Door Prizes



RSVP: 10th May 2009

Megan Rankin
(Secretary)
47 Richardson Street,
Essendon 3040
93797438

EssACC Events

St Aidan's Strathmore Ladies Guild Annual Corporate Communion & Luncheon

Wednesday 12th May, 11.00 am

Guest Speaker: AnneMarie Ferguson from the Women's Circus.

RSVP by 7th May to Carole 9379 3404



EssACC Fun Night - Carpet Bowls at Strathmore Bowling Club

Loeman Street, Strathmore



Wednesday 19th May
7.00 pm

\$3.00 per head.

Tea and Coffee provided.
Alcoholic beverages at bar prices.
Shoes: flat soles please.



Put your name on the notice in the Parish Centre if you can come, or
RSVP to Fr John or Sue Mac - we need to know numbers coming by 12th
May

Father to Thee I raise my whole being
a vessel emptied of self. Accept, Lord,
this my emptiness and so fill me with
Thyself - Thy Light, Thy Love, Thy Life
that these your precious gifts may
radiate through me and overflow the
chalice of my heart into the hearts
of all with whom I come in
contact this day revealing
unto them the beauty of
Thy joy
and
wholeness
and
the
serenity
of Thy Peace
which nothing can destroy

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Christ Church Op Shop is looking
for volunteers to assist in its
program. If you have time
available and are interested,
please contact Barbara Szczurko
Ph 9379 8965

INTERESTING WEB PAGES

The Holy Sepulchre Virtual Tour

[http://www.360tr.com/kudus/
kiyamet_eng/index.html](http://www.360tr.com/kudus/kiyamet_eng/index.html)

Visit the church in Jerusalem where
Jesus was laid in the tomb after his
death on the cross. On the site of the
sepulchre a church has been built.

After you are viewing you can take
your curser and look up down
anywhere as if you were standing
there. There are nine pictured 3D
areas that you can access. The last
one is inside the Crypt, where Jesus
was believed to be buried. It is a
beautiful presentation. Makes you
feel like you are right there! Click on
one of the pictures and use the curser
to scroll up and around each picture.
You can see all the way around each
room, plus from floor to ceiling.

Contributed by Gail Paxman

FOR YOUR DIARY



PARISH PLANNING DAY

'Dreaming of the Ideal Church'

SATURDAY 8th MAY 2010

10-4 pm

Parish Centre

Come with all your ideas and dreams

Bring lunch to share

See FJ for more info...

Parish Information:

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Items for inclusion in Reach Out need to be with the Editor *no later* than last Sunday in the month.

Opinions expressed in the ReachOut belong entirely to the person writing the article, and not necessarily to the parish, vicar, editor or parish representatives.

Out of the mouths of God's Kids

Some answers given by Sunday School children to the following questions:

Q. Why did God make mothers?

A. To help us out when we were getting born.

Q. How did God make mothers?

A. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.

Q. What did mum need to know about dad before she married him?

A. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?

Q. Why did your mum marry your dad?

A. My grandma says that mum didn't have her thinking cap on.

CHRIST CHURCH OP SHOP

Come and check out the gold mine of items available in the CHRIST CHURCH OP SHOP

Tuesday to Friday 10 am-4 pm
Saturday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

Some More Bad Puns

1. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
2. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
3. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
4. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab centre said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
5. A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
6. Don't join dangerous cults: Practice safe sects!

Children's Letters to God

Dear God,
I would like to live
900 years like the
guy in the Bible



Love,
Chris

PARISH DIARY



May 2010

SUNDAY 2nd May– Easter 5

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist
followed by morning tea
- 11.30 am Warden's Meeting

Monday 3rd

- 10.00 am Op Shop Committee

Tuesday 4th

- 9.30 am Craft
- 12 noon Tues Ladies Fellowship Lunch
& Blumes fashion parade

Wednesday 5th

- 10.00 am Eucharist
- 12 noon St Andrew's Parish Luncheon

Saturday 8th May

10-4 pm Parish Planning Day

SUNDAY 9th – Easter 6

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist
followed by morning tea
- 11.30 am Vestry meeting

Monday 10th

Vicar's day off

Tuesday 11th

- 9.30 am Craft
- 1.30 pm Tuesday Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 12th

- 10.00 am Eucharist
- 11.00 am Bible Study
- 11.00 am St Aidan's Annual Luncheon
- 7.30 pm Bible Study

SUNDAY 16th Ascension Day

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Monday 17th

- 12 noon Musical Luncheon

Tuesday 18th

- 9.30 am Craft

Wednesday 19th - Dunstan

- 10.00 am Eucharist
- 7.30 pm EssACC Bowling Night

SUNDAY 23rd – PENTECOST

- No Eucharist at 8.00 am
- 9.30 am EssACC Combined Solemn Eucharist
followed by morning tea

Monday 24th – John & Charles Wesley

Vicar's day off

Tuesday - 25th - Bede

- 9.30 am Craft

Wednesday - 26th -Augustine

- 10.00 am Eucharist
- 11.00 am Bible Study
- 1.30 pm Essendon Nursing Home
- 2.00 pm Trevi Court
- 7.30 pm Bible Study

SUNDAY 30th – TRINITY SUNDAY

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Solemn Eucharist
followed by morning tea

Monday 31st

- 10.00 am Op Shop Committee

Tuesday 1st June - Justin

- 9.30 am Craft

Wednesday 2nd

- 10.00 am Eucharist

SUNDAY 6th – Corpus Christi

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Solemn Eucharist
followed by morning tea
- 11.30 am Warden's Meeting

