



REACH OUT

SYNOD 2010

In the 2010 Synod charge, Archbishop Philip Freier said, "My vision is 'to make the Word of God fully known', to use the words from Colossians 1:25..."

...Since October last year the consultation journey has been fascinating and rewarding, as I had the privilege of interacting with and seeking opinions from a wide range of people.....

Along the consultations I learned much:

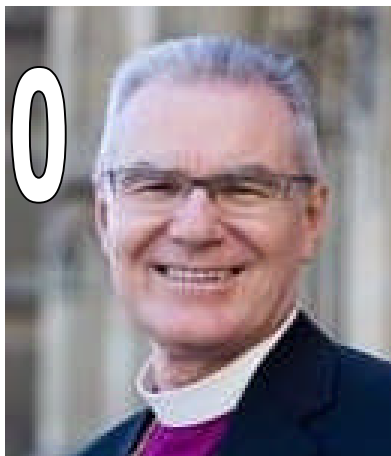
The forceful plea for 'how' do we grow the church? 'Tell us how' was frequently articulated. In 2011 we will begin the 'how'.....

I learned much:

The valuing of our diverse Anglican traditions while celebrating our unity and the wish for there to be more coming together as one in Christ....

Archbishop Philip outlined at Synod 6 Strategic Directions for the Diocese for the next 3 years. They are:

1. We will strive to "make the word of God fully known" in word and action in all parts of the Diocese—urban, developing and rural.
2. We will form an institute to foster the development of effective churches, congregations and ministries throughout the Diocese.
3. We will establish a pilot program to encourage growth in mission within 25 selected parishes over the next 3 years realising that congregations are key to the effective ministry and mission of the Church throughout the Diocese.



4. We will stewardship our inherited property assets in the service of mission in all the parishes of the Diocese.
5. We will steward our monetary wealth so as to enable future mission.
6. We will monitor and report our progress in the implementation of the Vision and Strategic Directions.



If you would like to read Archbishop Philip's Synod charge or learn more about the Archbishop's Vision and Strategic Directions

please talk to Fr John.

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

Vicar: Fr John Mathes

Telephone: 0417 407 768 or 9379 2770



FJ's reflection

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

PILGRIMAGE to CAMPERDOWN ABBEY

The early Church often went on Spiritual pilgrimages to explore their faith and to pray. A small group of Parishioners had a great time at the Camperdown Benedictine Abbey on Saturday 30th October.

ARCHIVES

Two blue cupboards have been placed in the Parish Centre and many records have been brought down from the tower and relocated in them. If you have at home any parish minute books or documents of groups of the church, we can now store them for you and would welcome their return. We are also looking for old photos of parish events which we might copy and return to you. Please see the Vicar if you have documents or photos.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be on Sunday 14th November starting with a 9.00 am Eucharist followed by a 10.00 am Cuppa and a 10.45 am meeting. All should be finished around 12 noon. I encourage all to get a copy of the Annual report when it is published and to read it.

EssACC

At the last meeting of EssACC—dates were planned for next year and are published in Reach Out. Please put these dates in your diary.

CHRISTMAS & END OF YEAR BREAK UP

Instead of all the groups in the Church having Christmas break ups—it is planned to have one Christmas End of Year Break-up on Sunday 12th December @ 12 noon at Essendon Football Club. All Parishioners are welcome. Please put your name on the sheet in the narthex if coming...

The Lord be with you...

Your Vicar

Fr John

ADVENT: WHAT'S AN ANGLICAN TO DO?

Advent is a season of expectation, of a waiting that is both joyous and solemn. Even as we rejoice in the memory of the first coming, we are preparing for Christmas as an event in the immediate future. Even as we prepare for a present Christmas, we are reminded that we stand in the shadow of eternity, and we turn our thoughts to the awful last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell, to the triumphant vindication of God's righteousness when God and the Son Incarnate shall come again in the glory of His divinity and His humanity to judge both the quick and the dead.

It is not easy to be mindful of the solemnity of Advent when we are surrounded by decorations of "Yuletide" and people frantically engaged in promulgating the spirit of a Christmas which has little to do with the birth of the only-begotten Son of God. Yet perhaps the thing to do is not so much to fight the commercialism of the season as to permeate it. We can go out from the purple-decked altar to the tinselled shops and the carol-deafened streets carrying with us the knowledge of Him who has come, and will come, and who comes in the mystery of His sacramental presence here and now. When we realise with dismay that we have only so many shopping days before Christmas, we can rejoice that we still have an Advent full of praying days before Christmas. We can keep our Advent as a season of joyful penitence, of solemn rejoicing: "Our King and Saviour draweth nigh; O come let us adore Him".

*Messenger, Church of the Resurrection,
New York City.*

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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

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**

THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING



Sunday 21st November

**9.30 am Solemn Eucharist
&
Commissioning of the new vestry**

Guest Preacher: to be confirmed

Following the service there will be a
Special Luncheon in the Parish Centre.

RSVP by putting your name on the list in the narthex

BYO drinks.



November saint: St Elizabeth of Hungary



Daughter of the Hungarian king, Elizabeth of Hungary was promised in marriage to Hermann, son of Hermann II of Thuringia. After Hermann died, she was married at fourteen to his brother, Ludwig.

Ludwig was often away, serving as a diplomat and soldier in the service of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II. Despite mistreatment and scorn by her mother-in-law, Elizabeth was heavily involved in charity work among the poor. She became associated with the Franciscans, founding a monastery in 1225.

In 1226, when her husband was in Italy, Elizabeth responded to floods and pestilence by selling all her jewellery and opening the royal granaries to feed the hungry. She came under the mentorship of the strict Conrad of Marburg, the first papal inquisitor in Germany, and a supporter of crusades.

A bundle of roses in the saint's apron refers to when the saint was accused of clandestinely taking bread to the poor, a task normally reserved for men. The bread turned into roses when she was accused.

After her husband succumbed in 1227 to illness while on Crusade, Elizabeth went to her aunt Matilda, an abbess, perhaps pushed out by in-laws. Her uncle tried to arrange a new marriage for his royal niece, but she announced a vow not to remarry. Conrad persuaded her to give up her children but not her dower rights, and she negotiated a financial settlement with her in-laws. Elizabeth became more involved with the Franciscans, and became a lay associate in 1228. She used her own funds to build a hospital, and worked there herself caring for the sick.



After Elizabeth died in 1231, she was canonized in 1235.

Reflections on the Eucharist

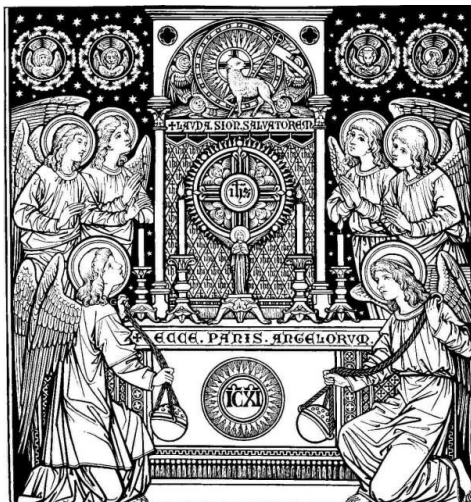
This is a series of reflections on what we do each Sunday at the Eucharist so as to help us understand more what we do and why.

PART 13 INTERCESSIONS OR PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

At the conclusion of the liturgy of the word, in a spirit of 'deep solidarity with the human race and its history', we present our general intercessions to the Father, through Christ our Lord.

Here, the people, exercising their priestly function, intercede for all humanity. We should stand as we are all celebrants offering prayers for the church, for civil authorities, for the oppressed and needy, for the poor, for the sick, for the dead and for the salvation of the world.

We respond to each petition with words like "hear our prayer" - agreeing with the sediment of the prayer and joining our prayers to the communal prayer to God.



PART 14 THE SIGN OF PEACE

The sign of peace is derived from the "holy kiss" which the early Christians were encouraged to exchange among themselves.

Often the sign of peace is found after the Intercessions and before the presentation of gifts, in keeping with our Lord's injunction that we should be reconciled with one another before bringing our gifts to the altar.

Sometimes the sign of peace is found just before receiving Christ's body and blood in holy communion.

Although the practice was to pass a kiss, we now simply shake hands with a few around us saying "peace be with you." To do more often makes others uncomfortable and may be inappropriate for that person.

When we give the sign of peace, we pray that the person will enjoy harmony in their relationships. It is the peace that was Jesus' special gift to his own at the last supper.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 14th November

9.00 am Sung Eucharist

10 am Cuppa in Parish Centre

10.45 am in the Parish Centre.

Nominations for the positions of
2 Churchwardens,
2 Parochial Nominators, (Incumbency Committee)
and up to 4 vestry members
need to be with Fr John no later than 11.00 am on **Sunday 7th November**



The annual parochial church meeting was
straight after the ten-o'clock service

New Strength

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31

At times you may feel so worn out and stressed that you are not sure you can take another step. You may seem to spend all your time running from crisis to crisis and to be constantly giving your time and energy to others. Your Lord wants to renew your strength and enable you to enjoy the abundant life He intends for you. The key is to *wait* upon Him to do so.

Our generation does not enjoy waiting. We are harried by all the commitments we have made and the many responsibilities we hold. We rush through our lives without stopping to evaluate our activities. Sometimes in our haste to get on with our work, we race ahead of God. Part of God's restorative process is to slow us down and make us listen to Him. As we wait on Him, God will remind us of our utter dependence upon His strength. When we slow down and seek His will, He will reveal *His* plans.

Biblically, waiting on the Lord is never passive; it is always active. Waiting requires us to cease our own pursuits and give God our complete attention. We may have to give up some of the activities we have allowed to inundate our lives. We may need to take an entire day to sit quietly before the Lord. If we ask Him, God will show us the resources He has provided to help with the work we have been attempting on our own. God may address feelings of guilt that have motivated us to do things that He has not asked us to do.

Jesus carried more responsibility than you do. More people needed Him than will ever need you. Yet He was never overwhelmed or inadequate for the task. Now Christ offers to guide you so that you will fulfil your heavenly Father's will and gain the strength necessary for each day.

Experiencing God day by day, Blackaby & Blackaby, 1998

Contributed by Gail

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world - stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death - and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem two thousand years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

Henry van Dyke

It is a pity that the "optimistic humanism" which people so quickly display one day is so quickly forgotten the rest of the year. Christmas cards too often are full of more genuine spirit than their senders.

Ken Ripley



The best neighbours I know anything about are my two hands. They have lived on opposite sides of the street for many years, and they have never had a row. If my left hand is hurt, my right hand immediately drops all other business and rushes across the way to comfort it, and help it out of its trouble. If one happens to hurt the other, the (one that is) hurt doesn't get in a huff and say, "Here, I will not stand for that; you can't treat me that way," and get in a fight. No, no, no. They are good neighbours. My two hands are members of one another. And Christians should be like that, they are members of Christ's body. they should be as loving, as forbearing, as sympathetic and helpful toward each other as are my two hands.

Samuel Brengle

BE AT PEACE

Be at peace. Do not look forward in fear to the changes of life; rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from out of them. He has kept you hitherto, and He will lead you safely through all things; and when you cannot stand it, God will bury you in His arms. Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

St Francis

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Reverse Christmas Tree

On Advent Sunday, 28th November, our empty Christmas Tree will be placed in the Church. We will decorate the tree with our gifts for underprivileged children, which will then be then distributed by *Anglicare* Broadmeadows Family Services within the Western Region.

Names and ages of 50 children **will be available shortly** — if you are able, please take a tag and buy a gift to help decorate our tree. If you would like to donate gifts but are unable to pick up a tag, please call Margaret Elsey on 9390 9234 and she will organise someone to pick up your gift. Buying for older children is always difficult, but gift vouchers are a great idea.

Anglicare will be collecting the gifts on 13th December to distribute to the children at their Christmas Party.

The Sacraments – Part 1 - An Introduction.

The churches of the catholic and orthodox traditions focus on the word and sacraments as being equally important, whilst the reformed protestant churches and their offshoots called the free church, such as Baptist and Church of Christ for example, focus on the word, and don't place any importance upon sacramental ministry. It should be noted that the Church of England was never part of the protestant reformation, and has always focused on the word and sacraments as being equally important. The main reforms the Church of England made were the abolishment of superstitious and false beliefs and practices which had no basis in scripture. The history of the Church of England is inextricably linked with the history of Great Britain. What gave rise to the split with Rome was political, that is, England was in the grip of a theocracy which compelled England to pay taxes to the Vatican, and had jurisdiction over civil affairs. Indeed, the Pope had more power than the reigning monarch, until King Henry VIII put a stop to it. From that time, and for evermore, the reigning monarch is the defender of our faith.

There are seven sacraments in all, which are: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, Confession, Anointing the sick, Holy Matrimony and Ordination. This discussion of the sacraments will be in the format of an 8 part series. What is a Sacrament then? At the outset, it would be helpful to define what a sacrament is not. A sacrament is not magic, nor are such things as holy water, consecrated bread and wine, or holy oil magic potions. In short, they have no magical properties

whatsoever. Indeed, to believe them to be so is just superstition, bordering on idolatry, and contrary to the word of God. therefore, we cannot look towards Harry Potter and his chums for an explanation. The word of God has two forms: the written word which is scripture, and the living word where God speaks to us in our hearts. The sacraments are a very important part of the living word. Sacraments have their roots firmly planted in scripture, and are in fact the living out of this scripture. In other words, they are scripture in action, working in our lives.

Our Lord Jesus Christ bestowed upon his 12 disciples the power to preach, teach and minister in his name. This authority has been passed on through the laying on of hands in the sacrament of ordination, which is continuous. Bishops and priests have the authority to administer all the sacraments, however priests cannot administer ordination, whilst deacons have the authority to only administer some of them. Deacons cannot celebrate Holy Communion, pronounce absolution, or give the blessing. The authority of all three was instituted by Christ himself however and his authority is continuous through his ordained ministers.

Unfortunately throughout history, and up to the present day, there have been a very small minority of clergy who are downright sinners. Although I've never encountered any myself, they do exist. All sacraments are given to us by Christ himself, nothing can alter that, and indeed, neither the personality nor the worthiness of Christ's clergy have any bearing on this whatsoever. Indeed, the Church of England abides by the 39 articles of true religion which were approved in London in 1562, and are laid down for us in the latest edition of the Book of Common Prayer (1662). The 39 buttons on a cassock represent these 39 articles. Indeed, article 26 clearly states that the sacraments are of Christ and always valid, and don't depend upon the worthiness or otherwise of the clergy who administer them. Christ has given us an ironclad guarantee that all the faithful can trust in and rely upon.

All sacraments have two parts: the first part is what we do, and the second part is what God does. That is, we offer ourselves, our prayers, and our earthly gifts such as water, bread and wine etc. to God who accepts them. God blesses them, fills them with his grace, and gives them back to us as heavenly gifts. they have been transformed for us by God. Many people erroneously believe that the sacraments are merely symbolic, however nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed they are not! Although sacraments are rich in symbolism, they are truly gifts from God. They are what we term the Holy Mysteries because we cannot really understand them this side of heaven. God does however, and we just need to accept them in faith. This is why Christ exhorted us to accept his kingdom as a child would. Christ was saying that as children, we accepted and had faith in what our parents taught us, and as adults we need to accept and have faith in what our heavenly Father teaches us in a like manner.

Christine L. Robins B.Theol.



The much loved and highly sought after Australian Anglican Church Calendar is now available to buy in its 2011 edition.

The Australian Anglican Church Calendar is unique: there is nothing like it anywhere else in the global Anglican Communion.

Now in its seventeenth year, this wonderful publication demonstrates the great diversity of Anglican Churches across Australia: large, small, urban and rural.

The Primate of Australia, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, reminded Anglicans that the calendar also raises funds for the work of AngliCORD, an Anglican overseas relief and development agency.

"Every calendar you buy goes to help people in the developing world through AngliCORD," Archbishop Aspinall said.

This year production of the calendar passed from St Augustine's parish in Mentone Victoria, to AngliCORD which is committed to maintaining both its quality and character.

Individual copies of the 2011 calendar cost just \$14 each (including postage and packaging).

Calendars are available for order now - order form can be found on the notice board in the narthex, or just call Margaret Elsey on 9390 9234 and she will add your name to the form. Cost is \$14 per calendar. Money would be appreciated when ordering.

These calendars make a great gift, are ideal for us as well so we can keep abreast of special church days, and they also support the work of both Christ Church and AngliCORD.



Pilgrims from Essendon gather around Abbott Michael King in Camperdown

Happiness

True happiness is always linked with deep, inner harmony. It therefore always implies an acceptance of one's age; the acceptance of no longer being a child when one has reached the age of adulthood, and the giving up on the goals of active life when one is advanced in years. This is the age of retirement, which for some men can be a meaningful experience, while for others it is a cruel trial. Why such differences? Partly, undoubtedly, this comes from differences in temperament. Yet more so from something else. Those who complain about their retirement are usually the same ones as those who used to complain about their work and longed to be set free from it!

INTERESTING WEB PAGES

<http://www.bushchurchaid.com.au>

The Blues and Jazz fundraiser for BCA was a fantastic night. On the Bush Church Aid website you can find newsletters and prayer points for the staff in the field around Australia. Check out the multimedia photos, video and audio.

Contemplation

by Father Bill Modystack

Lord, help me to prepare for your coming this Christmas.
 Help me to repent.
 Give me the courage to look into my life with honesty.
 Help me to remove the faults I find.
 Give me the patience with self when I fail you.
 Give me generosity so I can rise again to serve you.
 You came into this world for me.
 This Christmas, will I make a new effort to live in your world for you?

EssACC 2011 DATES

COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed 23rd Feb 7.30 pm Essendon

BBQ

Sun 6th March 11.30 am Aberfeldie
Bring salad & drink. Meat provided

COMBINED SERVICE

Easter 5 Sun 29th May
9.30 am at St Andrew's Aberfeldie

INDOOR BOWLS NIGHT

Date to be confirmed in June/July
Organised by Strathmore

EssACC DINNER

Date to be confirmed in August
Organised by Strathmore

COMBINED SERVICE

Michaelmass Sun 25th Sept
9.30 am at Christ Church Essendon

Other committee meeting dates to be determined at February meeting
Chairman for 2011 Fr Kenneth Lay
Secretary—to be appointed from Essendon

COMING EVENTS ...

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 14th November
9.00 am Eucharist
10.00 am Cuppa
10.45 am Meeting
(Reports need to be with
Fr John by Sunday 31st October 2010)

LADIES LUNCH GROUP

Sun 14th Nov
12 noon Watergardens Hotel

FEAST of CHRIST the KING

(Church Festival Day)
Sunday 21st November
8.00 am & 9.30 am Eucharist
Followed by casserole luncheon in hall

MEN'S DINNER GROUP

TUESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER
7.00 pm @ Essendon Football Club

CHRISTMAS & END OF YEAR BREAK UP

Sunday 12th December
12 noon at Essendon Football Club
for all Parishioners



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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.



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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From the Registers



Holy Baptism:

Sienna Jean Bailey
17th October 2010



When an elderly man was told that he needed an operation, he insisted that his son-in-law, a famous surgeon, perform the operation.

On the operating table in the hospital, before he was given anaesthesia, the old man asked to speak to his son-in-law.

“Doctor,” he told his son-in-law, “I have complete confidence in you. Don’t be nervous, do your best, and just remember, if it doesn’t go well, if something happens to me ... your mother-in-law is going to come and live with you and your wife ...”

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE
LATEST ON OUR
WEB PAGE — CHECK OUT
www.essendonanglican.org.au**

PARISH DIARY



November 2010

SUNDAY 7th – OS 32

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Monday 8th

Vicar's day off

Tuesday 9th

9.30 am Craft
11.00am Myki demonstration

Wednesday 10th

10.00 am Eucharist
7.00 pm Bible Study

SUNDAY 14th – OS 33

9.00 am Sung Eucharist
followed by morning tea
10.45 am Annual General Meeting
12 Noon Ladies Lunch

Monday 15th

Vicar's day off
9.30 am Op Shop Committee

Tuesday 16th

9.30 am Craft

Wednesday 17th

10.00 am Eucharist
11.00 am Bible Study

SUNDAY 21st Christ the King

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist
followed by Luncheon

Monday 22nd

Vicar's day off

Tuesday 23rd

9.30 am Craft
11.00 am Deanery Chapter
7.00 pm Men's Dinner

Wednesday 24th

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

Thursday 25th

1.30 pm Home Communion

Friday 26th

3.00 pm Lionsville service

SUNDAY 28th – Advent Sunday

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Monday 29th

Vicar's day off

Tuesday 30th – St Andrew

9.30 pm Craft

Wednesday 1st December

10.00 am Eucharist
11.00 am Bible Study

SUNDAY 5th – Advent 2

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Please see weekly pew sheet for any changes in parish diary.

