



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

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Welcome to Harvey Town: new cluster inaugurated

Jenny Rainsford

On Monday 27 February, Bishop Andrew Curnow inducted the Revd Brendan McDonald as the new Rector of the Parish of Eaglehawk and the Team Leader of the newly formed Harvey Town Cluster comprising the Parish of Eaglehawk and the Anglican faith community of Common Ground in Maiden Gully.

Why the name 'Harvey Town'? As Bishop Andrew explained, the previous settlement of Harvey Town, more or less forms the borders of both Eaglehawk and Maiden Gully. Harvey Town was once a 3000-strong community during the peak of the gold rush, but its strong cultural and historical identity remains.

Just four of Harvey Town's original homes are left. The church, the general store and other specialty shops of its heyday no longer exist.

Brendan and his wife Virginia and their three children – Bethany, Faith and Daniel uprooted themselves from a Melbourne suburb, arriving in Bendigo in 2012.

They felt called to work alongside the Revd Roger Rich and his wife Regina in what was then a fairly new church plant in Maiden Gully.

Subsequently, following theological study, Brendan was made a deacon, then priested and became the leader of the Maiden Gully faith community and now the Harvey Town Cluster.

The two faith communities look forward to exciting times ahead under the leadership of Brendan.



Welcomed: Brendan and Virginia McDonald with their children at the induction

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The Bishop writes

Of the complaints attributed to Anglican institutions, 1% were attributable to the Diocese of Bendigo. Out of the 23 Anglican dioceses we were the fourth lowest in terms of number and percentage of complaints. However, this should not beguile us into giving ourselves any form of self-congratulations. Indeed it has made me and the diocesan leadership commit to putting in place the best possible standards and programmes across the diocese to make us a safe church!

This has meant the introduction of Safe Church Awareness Workshops across the diocese and I am pleased to report that over 500 members of the diocese have now attended accredited Safe Church training. We have also introduced a Lay Authorisations Policy for recognising everyone across the diocese involved in some form of ministry that they undertake in the name of the church. Again over 500 people have now been authorised and many more are in process.

We have also put in place the Child Safe Standards as required by the State Government for any organisation in Victoria that works with children. As a way of helping parish churchwardens and parish councillors to understand the levels of compliance we are now putting in place, the Registry has recently held two training workshops for churchwardens and parish councillors at Swan Hill and in Bendigo. Both were well attended, so much so that the Registry is taking bookings for a third workshop to be held after Easter.

As a diocese we can put all sorts of arrangements in

place, but in the end it comes down to each and every one of us in our attitudes and our own behaviour to reflect the highest possible practice of behaviour in our churches. Sadly, the public perception of the Church is at an all-time low as the media has given a lot of publicity to the inadequacies of the way the churches have responded in the past. This will take time to address and restore our credibility and we will all have to take responsibility for this.

In the days ahead we will celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus. A common theme of Easter is new life and renewal. As we celebrate Easter 2017 please pray for the renewal of the Anglican Church of Australia to reflect the example of Jesus in its life and ministry.

Blessings,

Dear Friends,

In mid-March the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse conducted a wrap up public hearing into the Anglican Church of Australia and its handling of child sexual abuse in our church.

As Mark Brolly, writing for The Melbourne Anglican, reported:

The Royal Commission has put the Anglican Church in Australia on notice that it is seeking consistency across all 23 dioceses on issues such as child protection, redress for survivors of abuse and professional standards.

As the figures below (supplied by the Royal Commission) show, of all the complaints received by the Commission in relation to child abuse in faith based institutions, 9% were attributed to Anglican based institutions. While this may put matters into perspective, one complaint of sexual abuse of children is too many and totally unacceptable.

Anglican abuse in figures

- Percentage of abuse at faith-based institutions as reported by survivors at private sessions: 60% (Anglican institutions, 9%)
- Alleged incidents of child sexual abuse reported to Anglican dioceses from January 1980 to December 2015: 1115 by 1082 people
- Complainants by gender: 75% male, 25% female
- Number of perpetrators: 569 identified, plus 133 unknown
- Average age of complainants at time of alleged abuse: 11 (boys and girls)
- Complaints by diocese: Brisbane (371, 33% of all complaints, including schools); Adelaide (155, 14%); Melbourne (96); Sydney (89); Newcastle (63); Tasmania (56)
- Total redress payments, nearly \$31 million (average payout \$67,000)
- Religious status of 569 identified alleged perpetrators: clergy (247), laypeople (285), unknown (37)
- Referrals by Royal Commission to police of allegations of child sexual abuse involving Anglican institutions: 84 (23 currently being investigated, eight matters pending)

Source: Opening Address by Counsel Assisting the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Gill Furness SC and Naomi Sharp, to public hearing into Anglican institutions (Case Study 52), Sydney, 17 March 2017.



Table from The Melbourne Anglican

The Spirit

Monthly newsmagazine of the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo

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Photographs should be sent in digital form to the general email address above. Full size, 'raw' files are necessary. Physical photos are normally not returned.

The Anglican Diocese of Bendigo and the Editor are not responsible for opinions expressed by contributors, nor do these necessarily reflect the policy of the diocese.

Contributions for the next issue must be submitted by **Friday 21 April 2017**.

The Parish of Maryborough celebrated Shrove Tuesday with an open invitation to the community with 130 people turning up to taste the parish pancakes. Ronda Gault penned a poem about the successful night...

*They came through the door
with their friends in tow
anxious to find their table,
ready to go.
Expectations were high
of 100 or so
who had booked,
but you know?
Thirty more
came through the door
but the catering folk
had done this before.
And so all were seated
without much fuss,
a welcome, then Grace,
and the place was abuzz.
The meal began,
what a spread prepared
First soup, then pancakes,
savoury, then sweet.
Waiting, chatting,
before getting to their feet.
Then in orderly file came, saw,
filled their plates.
The taste buds were satisfied,
all flavours were great.
At the end of the night
as the last guest had gone home
The workers once more
up to elbows in foam.
Sorting the kitchen
with leftovers and dishes.
A fairy godmother needed
to grant all their wishes.
A miracle clean in no time at all
....but no luck.
Though weary, it's done,
all hands to the bucket.
Then home feeling tired
but happy to know
their efforts and planning
brought success to this show.
Old friends, new friends,
catch up time over pancakes.
Now for next year?
We'll be a year older then??
Over eighty already,
might be a big ask.
I'm sure we'll be ready
and up to the task.*

See a photo on page 6...



Dollars and sense: Scott Pape with Bishop Andrew

Barefoot Investor encourages clergy to tread their own path

Sarah Crutch

Bishop Andrew was privileged to welcome Scott Pape to Bendigo in March to give the clergy some helpful financial advice, particularly in relation to retirement and housing.

Better known as the *Barefoot Investor*, Scott writes a weekly column for *News Limited* newspapers and his most recent book has been the bestselling book for the best part of 2017. He is known for being fiercely independent and giving straightforward common sense advice to everyday Australians to help them be financially secure.

In keeping with his often entertaining approach to giving advice, Scott structured the session around three 'Barefoot Commandments', explaining that managing your money doesn't need to be complicated and that the more control you have over your finances, and therefore your life, the happier you will be.

He gave some simple tips on setting up a low fee superannuation fund and making extra contributions to provide for a secure retirement, as well as outlining strategies to purchase a house in retirement and still live comfortably.

The Barefoot Commandments

1. Safety and security

"Everyone wants to get wealthy, but in the process, some give up their safety and security. Feeling in control of your life - and being in control of your time - is true wealth."

2. Keep it simple

"If you make managing your money too complicated you won't stick with it"

3. No one cares more about your money than you do

"When it comes to your family's financial future - and their safety and security - no one cares more about your money than you do"

He also demonstrated how small changes can make a significant difference over the long term, for example reducing superannuation fees, or adding as little as \$30 a week.

Scott then responded to a variety of questions from the clergy relating to insurance, investment properties, shares and superannuation in what was a very valuable session



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- a) a diverse range of community care services eg aged, palliative and respite care, outreach programs, chaplaincy etc;
- b) seeking out and serving children, young people and adults who are financially, emotionally or socially disadvantaged or marginalised;
- c) establishing and developing charitable work

If your parish or group has a project that meets the above criteria please contact Jackie Mullan on 5443 4711 to discuss your proposal and obtain an application form.

Applications for 2017 are due:

- Monday, 24 April 2017
- Monday, 7 April 2017
- Monday, 23 October 2017



Involved: Participants in the interactive parish leaders workshop

Workshops give support for parishes

Sarah Crutch

In a new initiative, the Registry team has introduced parish leaders workshops across the diocese to assist parish councils and churchwardens understand their roles and give them tools to assist with running parishes.

With increasing compliance requirements in relation to safe church, buildings and insurance, the Registry is working on providing a range of information and tools to make managing parish life easier.

Led by Naomi Fountain, Registrar, and Deb Allan, HR specialist, the first two workshops were held in Swan Hill and Kangaroo Flat during the last week of March. Both were well attended with many parish councils fully represented.

The workshops give participants an opportunity to work with people from other parishes on common problems, learn from one another's experiences and share ideas.

Further workshops will be held in Bendigo and other locations across the diocese. See the notice on the back page of *The Spirit* if you would like to register your interest.

Topics covered

- Diocesan legal structure
- Changing community expectations: child safe, property, financial management
- Understanding roles and responsibilities
- Parish issues and challenges
- Partnerships with the diocese
- Resources available to parishes: forms, templates and policies
- Qualities that make good parish lay leaders
- Gaps in current practices
- Development of an action plan
- Dealing with concerns or issues
- Managing real scenarios
- Where to seek support



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Celebrate: Dean John Roundhill with Pam Fittock leading the Lady Day service

Mothers' Union Lady Day celebrated back in Cathedral

Angela Morrisey

The 25th day of March marks the Feast of the Annunciation, or Lady Day, which this year was back at St Paul's Cathedral after being at Holy Trinity for the past seven years.

The service was conducted by Dean John Roundhill with the Revd Linda Osmond questioning who the Virgin Mary was in her sermon.

Mary, like her husband Joseph, was of the house of David and might have only been twelve or thirteen years old when she became pregnant with Jesus.

In the sixth month of her relative Elizabeth's pregnancy, the angel Gabriel visited her and announced that she would conceive a son through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and asked how it could be possible since she was a virgin. Elizabeth said to her, "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished! (Luke 1:45)."

The Revd Anne Kennedy, MU Australia Provincial President, was the guest speaker for the day. Anne spoke about some of the issues facing MU in the world including Papua New Guinea and Melanesia.

Some of the tough issues faced by people in these places were family violence, gender based violence and government corruption.



Who was Mary: Revd Linda Osmond

St Paul clearly instructs that husbands should love their wives (Eph 5:25) and Jesus taught us to love one another (John 15:12) - this should be regardless of gender or in fact race, status or any other difference.

As for corrupt governments, this has been happening since the time of Pharaoh (Ex 1-14) and all throughout the Bible in Israel and Babylon.

Anne's address encouraged us to be mindful of the plight of others and the difficulties they face in their home countries which gave us much to think about on our way home.

Overall we were glad to be able to celebrate Lady Day back in St Paul's.

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IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT

Please call (free) **1800 135 246**

A phone call to the above number will mean that your complaint will be handled by the Director of Professional Standards.

The Diocese is a full participant in the Victorian Anglican Provincial Abuse and Harassment Protocol.

This is an independent, objective procedure adopted by the Diocese of Bendigo.

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Woodend pleased to hear Young Voices



The people of St Mary's Woodend were joined by the very talented youngsters from the Young Voices of Macedon Ranges Choir on 26 March.

The choir uses the church and hall each week to rehearse, and also visit during the Sunday service at least once a year. The children led the hymns for the morning and sang two beautiful songs during communion.

Not only were they keen to participate in the 'where is Mary' game, where we looked for images of Mary in our stained glass and other artwork in the church, they were also very excited to be with us on the one Sunday in the year when we have Simnel Cake to share.

- Melissa Clark

Sing: The Young Voices of Macedon Ranges Choir

Shrove Tuesday success for community pancake night

The Parish of Maryborough celebrated Shrove Tuesday with an open invitation to the community. 130 people attended with some groups booking their table well ahead, while others arrived on the night.

The hard working ladies in the kitchen began their preparations at around 9.30am to have a range of both sweet and savoury fillings to go with the pancakes, along with some soup for entrée.

The hall was abuzz with chat all evening - a great night. Well done to everyone who contributed to a successful night.

- Ronda Gault



Cooking: Preparing the pancake batter for Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday sees pancakes delivered all about town



Distribution: The packaged pancakes ready for delivery

Shrove Tuesday dawns with a flurry of activity at Cranmer the Martyr, Cohuna with the first pancakes poured onto the grill at around 6.30am in what will be a marathon event. Pancakes are cooked, packed and stacked, ready for delivery with jam and cream to over 100 businesses in town and for over 100 people at morning tea.

This year's profit of \$2,400 will all go to ABM-A mission projects selected by the congregation. 2017 also marked the first Shrove Tuesday event in Leitchville with parishioners cooking pancakes for a sit down morning tea. They were joined by the Leitchville primary, who wowed the crowd with an Easter hat parade.

Although fairly small in number, the congregations accomplish big things. In the kingdom of God size doesn't matter - if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, look out world! What will you do?

- Simon Robinson

Around the Parishes

Breakfast buffet to celebrate Mothering Sunday

This year the ladies of our congregation celebrated Mothering Sunday with a breakfast cooked by Revd Denis, John, Les, and Douglas. Our sumptuous breakfast included cereal toast and pancakes, with yogurt and berries and other toppings.

Charlotte gave a talk on her recent school trip to China which included many marvellous cultural experiences, in schools and communities in Southern China. She shared many photos as well as some short videos of dancing, karaoke and water sports.

In our worship service Revd Denis blessed our traditional Simnel cake cooked by Moira.

It was a wonderfully refreshing Sunday, nourishing us ready to return to our Lenten Studies and disciplines the next day.

- Jan Harper



Relax: The ladies enjoy the Sunday breakfast

Eaglehawk brings Palm Sunday to festival parade



Carnivale: Eaglehawk Anglican Church float at the Festival

Members of the Parish of Eaglehawk were involved in two events as part of the recent Eaglehawk Dahlia and Arts Festival – the Saturday procession and the annual trivia night supporting school chaplaincy.

The theme for this year's festival was 'Carnivale'. The church's float, designed by Barry Rainsford, depicted Palm Sunday with Jesus on a donkey with a nodding head representing peace, the cross for love, and the resurrection representing joy.

A group of parishioners, including Brendan, our new rector, walked alongside the float, handing out encouraging leaflets to the crowds.

- Jenny Rainsford

Fish and chips with a side of palm crosses

On the eve of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Central Highlands Cluster came together for Evensong, Palm Cross making and a yummy dinner of fish and chips.

We made over 150 crosses to be blessed and given out on Palm Sunday in the Parishes of Woodend-Trentham and Kyneton-Malmsbury. The making of crosses, thanks to the excellent instruction of Alison Howarth, was partnered with much laughter as we sang our way through the evening together.

We also managed to raise \$50 for ABM with the change we had left from our shared dinner.

- Melissa Clark



Craft: The parishioners show off their newly made palm crosses

Royal Commission concludes Anglican hearing

Sarah Crutch

The final 'wrap up' hearing of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse in the Anglican Church of Australia highlighted national inconsistency across the 23 dioceses as a major weakness of the Anglican Church.

The public hearing went for four days, with panel members questioned on the structure of the Anglican Church, the training and screening of clergy and church workers, professional standards policy and redress.

"There should not be inconsistency of approach to these issues in one part of Australia different to another. That's as much in the Anglican Church as it is in any other church," Justice McClellan said.

"General Synod law does not take effect in a diocese until the diocese adopts it," explained Archbishop Phillip Aspinall. "So the constitution is structured effectively to leave the power in the hands of the dioceses. So it effectively enshrines diversity,"

Archbishop Philip Freier, Primate, indicated a strong willingness for the Anglican Church to have minimum standards in relation to child protection across all dioceses.

"As Primate I can commit to the Commission that I will expend my best energy between now and the General Synod seeking to gather the support for the proposals which will be about uniform child protection going to the General Synod," he said.

Justice McClellan issued a strong warning to Anglican leaders in regards to dioceses opting into the Commonwealth Redress scheme.

"If, as we are now satisfied will happen, there will be a national scheme, it would be disappointing, to say the least - and I could use a stronger word - if a component of the Anglican Church did not participate and join in that scheme," Justice McClellan said.

"But if any component part of the Anglican Church stands aside from it, I'm not sure our society would approve. Indeed, I think our society would say very strong things to the contrary".

FAITH SEEKING UNDERSTANDING

READING ANCIENT SCRIPTURE FOR CONTEMPORARY LIFE

We welcome you to engage with the richness of the New Testament through a series of evenings run by a team from the Bendigo Diocese. We will follow a set of introductory video lectures which explore the New Testament in its historical, literary and theological contexts, and how these are intertwined. Bring your sense of curiosity and join us for these lectures, guided discussion and more.



Explore: Join the lectures and general discussion on the New Testament

Exploring Scripture: the New Testament

Paul Daniels and Angela Lorrigan

In an exciting venture beginning in May, a team will be launching a series of evenings exploring New Testament Scripture, entitled *Faith Seeking Understanding* at St Paul's Cathedral.

The evenings will be convened by Paul Daniels (a local doctoral student), the Very Revd John Roundhill and the Revd Angela Lorrigan, and promise to re-introduce Scripture through the lens of history and literature. The hope of the team is to do this in a warm, down-to-earth environment, not underestimating the importance of friendship and humour.

"All too often a modern interpretation is imposed on an ancient text and it then seems odd or irrelevant for today's world", says Paul. "*Faith Seeking Understanding* aims to reverse this and let Scripture speak from its own context. We then let this reading challenge the preconceptions we bring to it, as well as let it contribute to our own questions about life today".

Running for an initial period of five weeks from 8 May at St Paul's Cathedral, the *Faith Seeking Understanding* gatherings will use a set of introductory lectures by Professor Dale Martin from Yale University as the basis for discussion. Dale's lectures are exciting and highly accessible, and the atmosphere of

the guided discussion will be social as much as exploratory.

"My recent studies at Trinity College opened my eyes in the sense that I realised how often we miss out on the gems of the Bible because we fail to dig below the surface of our own long-held beliefs and prejudices", says the Revd Lorrigan. "In some ways, it can be a scary thing to launch into something like this but the rewards are massive, especially when done in the good company of other explorers".

As well as Paul, John and Angela, other members of the clergy will help facilitate discussion and answer questions. Any interested clergy are asked to contact Dean John, Angela or Paul to learn how they can get involved.

The team warmly encourages members of the diocese and the wider public to participate. The evenings are free to attend, with an optional donation towards refreshments.

To register your interest or to find out more information, follow *Faith Seeking Understanding* on Facebook or email fsu.newtestament@gmail.com.

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In Loving Memory...

The offertory procession: can it be justified today?

Bishop Jeremy Ashton

In a recent issue of *Theology*, there is an article about the Offertory Procession at the Eucharist from a historical point of view. Canon Paul Bradshaw, argues against Dom Gregory Dix. Dix believed the Offertory Procession went back to the beginning, whereas Bradshaw claims that originally the bread and wine were brought in before the service began. He asks, in that case, can the Procession be justified today?

My answer is firmly affirmative! Certainly the Procession is not necessary for the bread and wine can be taken from the credence table to the altar by the celebrant.

However it seems to have become a fairly general custom to collect monetary offerings during the service (or at its beginning) and to have them accepted by the priest at the time of the Offertory. This is an important part of the service and in my opinion should be marked as such.

When I am relieving in a parish at the Sunday Eucharist, I find that often the Offertory starts while the Peace is still being passed and a hymn is introduced. It is swamped!

In my early days in Papua New Guinea, I noticed the great ceremony which accompanied the bringing in of a pig for a feast. I asked one of the local teachers if something similar might be done at the Eucharist.

He composed a chant to be used as the decorated drummers and dancers led the procession of bread and wine, vegetables and money to the Altar. A Regional Bishop then spread the idea through other parishes of the same culture.

In 1937 W.S. Baker, Vicar of St John's, Newcastle of Tyne, wrote, "Such a procession helps the people to realise the significance of the Offertory, by giving it a visible dramatic form. It restores the act of offering to its true importance and marks it as the foundation of the whole eucharistic action."

At the Eucharist, we make an offering of ourselves to God through Jesus



Christ. Each of us is an individual but we are also part of the Body of Christ as we have just proclaimed at the Peace. The collection is not only our way of supporting the work of the parish, but also a symbol of our acknowledging that all things come from God and that we give back to God what belongs to God.

Therefore there is deep symbolism in there being one ciborium and one cup and one container for the collection, all being brought up together as one Offertory.

So how can we give more honour to the Offertory Procession?

I suggest that following the Peace, people be called to order by the Celebrant who should then say one or more of the sentences from the First Order (page 105 of APBA) either before the collection is begun or, if it is taken as people arrive, before the Procession.

The bread, the wine and the gifts could be brought to the Altar together, led by such as crucifer, servers, verger, deacon, in silence or with music (but not a hymn) and that silence be kept after the Celebrant has blessed the offerings. At this point, the offertory hymn might be sung.

Other ideas that might add to the significance of the Procession would be for the choir also to process singing an anthem, for a brass band to join in, for dancers to take part, a mobility scooter to lead the way, the whole congregation to follow.

Whatever we do, make sure that everyone can grasp through the ceremony the meaning of what we are doing and understand why. We may have to start with refreshed teaching and then agreement among the congregation.

We want to draw attention to the importance of what we are about to do, marking it by a time of silence that sets it apart from what has been happening. There has to be intentionality!

I go further than Dix and maintain that the Offertory Procession is an essential part of the Eucharist. During it we are offering up all that we are and all that we have.

Then, as Augustine of Hippo said, as we partake of Communion we receive back our transformed selves.

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For further information contact

Revd Glyn Rees

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Email: glyn.rees@bigpond.com

Applications close 19 May 2017

Contributed by Brendan McDonald

It seems counterintuitive to be thinking about Pentecost whilst we are all preparing for Easter, except that our eschatological reality includes the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout our Lenten journey.

We can't predict how, when and where the Holy Spirit might work through us.

Some would even say that the Spirit is constantly at work in us and always at work in the world.

Thinking back to those first disciples gathered in the upper room, Luke writes in Acts chapter 2 that "suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,

and it filled the entire house where they were sitting."

Indeed, suddenly Pentecost will come and it's wise for us to be thinking about ways we might share the good news. So what can we do? How can we open our hearts and minds to a fresh and life giving experience this coming Pentecost?

Drama

Why not get together with some people and put together a drama skit. There is a lot of free material online that you could use. You could even step outside the box and go into the street. There is nothing like doing something outdoors and inviting the community into your experience, it is a wonderful opportunity to tell the story and proclaim the good news we have to share.

Music and Dance

For me, nothing fills the senses more than music! The creative ways in which melodies, chord progressions and beats can be altered to stimulate mood and experience, well, it is a powerful medium. You might like to use music and song as a feature of your worship this Pentecost. Use songs that speak of the Holy Spirit and why not even put it out to the congregation to come up with their own songs for the season. You just never know what might happen when you create space for new things. People who have these amazing skills and talents emerge. Dancing is also powerful. If you have a team of people who are willing to choreograph a special piece for the season it could be a wonderful congregational experience. Get the kids involved and make it a fun church building activity!



Prayer Stations

If all that sounds like too much preparation and hard work, you could simply set up four prayer stations around the church that focus people's attention onto symbols that represent the Holy Spirit; water, oil, flame and wind. Be creative with the stations you build. Use textures and colours to amplify the senses. There may be different scriptures on display at each station that highlight the various symbols used and an invitation to hope and encouragement to proclaim the kingdom of God.

Art and Craft

One of the benefits about doing craft is that we can work together to create amazing things and they are not all just for kids! You can break people up into groups and give them the task of making and decorating Pentecost symbols and then use those to build some mobiles to decorate the church with. You could get people to create banners and flags, money boxes for mission giving, holy flame headbands... and the list goes on! The wonderful thing about art and craft is that the only limit is the breadth of your imagination.

Colour

Red is the traditional colour for the day of Pentecost. It is derived from the fiery flames leaping above the heads of the startled disciples. Shades of red and orange can be incorporated by encouraging our congregation to "wear red" on Pentecost Sunday.

You can incorporate light red candles on the alter, decorate the alter in shades of orange, yellow and red. Give people red balloons and red ribbons and make colour a theme of the whole day.

Some might like to roll out a red carpet if your church has an aisle to do so and if multimedia is part of your worship experience you can create a presentation that incorporates the colours and symbols of Pentecost.

Eddie Barkla

I'm not saying that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. (Philippians 3:12-14, The Message)

Starting off anything new in life has a fear element that has to be overcome. We might not all fear the same things, but somewhere there will be a reluctance that makes us fear stepping out into something new.

Taking up cycling is no different. The most common answers to the question of "What do you fear in starting off?" is, "Falling off, and hurting somebody else!" Rest assured: if this is you, then you're in the majority. Cycling is meant to be an experience of freedom, a euphoria that releases stress anxiety and facilitates a pathway towards gaining well-being.

Fear manifests on the bike by gripping the handlebars tightly. Want to find the freedom of cycling? Check out whether you are a white knuckle rider, gripping the handlebars so tight that the blood is not getting through the knuckles. Try letting go and tapping the fingers.

I was once out riding beside the National Road Champion Darren Laphorne, and remarked how relaxed he was. He simply remarked, "I have piano fingers!" The bike is a rigid device and won't wrestle you: it's only when you try to wrestle the bike that your freedom becomes the loser in this fight of fear.

Fear in faith is no different. We have to unlearn our wanting to hold tight to the control in our old, self-focussed life, and trust our Lord Jesus who has given us a new life in God's Spirit. We have to let go of our past fears, believing that these were nailed to the cross. The shame, the guilt and the fear of death no longer has the hold over us.

Christ has reached out to us. Our call is to reach out to him, not out of fear but out of love – perfect loves drives out all fear – running towards the goal God is beckoning us to. Looking forward to seeing you on the road soon God willing.

Dale Barclay | Parish of Sunraysia South

Watching out for a hero

One of my Christian heroes is English preacher John Stott (deceased). I was blessed to be able to hear him on his last visit to Australia in Adelaide.

One of the dangers in having Christian heroes is that we may be tempted to treat them as infallible. We hold on to every word they say rather than putting it through the grid of Scripture to see if it is true. I think this is an increased danger in the time we live in.

There is a never-ending number of books, popular personalities, social media sites and so on. Many claim to be Christians, but often their messages vary widely, opinion is taught as fact, and anything mildly offensive is avoided because they are not prepared to sacrifice their reputation or want to remain as popular as they can be.

Stott talks about the Conservative Radical Christian. He argues from Scripture that this is how Jesus himself lived. He was theologically conservative but radical in his actions. We see the conservative aspect coming out in places like Matthew 5:17 where Jesus states "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law



Easter will soon be here. The usual books, TV shows, and theories about Jesus' death and resurrection will come to the forefront again. Many of these will be theologically radical not conservative.

They will diminish Jesus' deity, diminish sin, diminish belief in the bodily resurrection of Christ, and diminish our confidence in our faith in Jesus Christ. They will fail when put through the grid of Scripture. They will, in the end, lead us away from Jesus' conservative view to scripture.

I love ministering with the people in the church I lead. While we are not perfect, I am encouraged to see us developing into conservative radical Christians.

“We hold on to every word they say rather than putting it through the grid of Scripture to see if it is true”

or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.”

An example of Jesus' radical actions can be found in his interaction with the women at the well in John 4. Jesus is radical as he speaks to a woman, who is a Samaritan and who is a sinner. Jesus radically breaks three social norms that would have risked his reputation.

Stott reflects that often we have it the other way around. We are radical with our theology believing all sorts of things, but conservative with our actions that hold onto social norms and expectations unwilling to be take any risk whatsoever.

God's word read and expounded is valued, with elements of radical actions often being seen. This might be; in our weekly lunch where we seek to display grace no matter who people are; the person who without a second thought volunteered to clean up vomit; relating to people who no one else will listen to; providing emergency food in a non-judgmental way or standing up about social issues even when it may be unpopular to do so.

I give thanks to God for such actions and pray we may continue to develop as conservative radical Christians.

That is my prayer for you too.



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Monday 8 May

Bishop in Council
Tuesday 9 May

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Friday 26 - Saturday 27 May

Got an event coming up?
Send the details to
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Parish Leaders Workshops

Did you miss out on a place?

Don't worry, the Registry team are planning to hold more workshops soon, both in Bendigo and other parts of the diocese, so that everyone who wants to attend can have the opportunity.

If you'd like to register your interest and go on a waiting list for now, email reception@bendigoanglican.org.au. When the workshop dates have been finalised, we'll be in touch so you can be first to book your spot!



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