



Anglican Diocese  
of Bendigo

# The Spirit

monthly

september 2017

issue 132



**Celebration:** Gordon Hensley (Warden) addresses the crowd gathered at the opening of the new building extensions

## New extensions officially opened at South East Bendigo

**Greg Harris**

Over 250 parishioners, tradespeople and other guests gathered at Holy Trinity, Flora Hill to hear these words read:

*A great church lies in the heart of its people. Its subsequent buildings are merely an expression of their fundamental faith.*

The above quote comes from the service booklet printed for the opening of Holy Trinity Flora Hill on the new site in Keck St on Sunday, 6 August 1972. It was very appropriate to read those words again one week before the 45th anniversary of the move to Keck Street. This time the words were read by Archdeacon

Greg Harris at the opening of the '2010 & Beyond' extensions and upgrades by Bishop Andrew on Sunday 30 July.

Rector's warden Gordon Hensley outlined on the day how the journey to the upgraded Holy Trinity had been a long process spanning more than eight years but God had directed every step.

The most obvious element of God's direction was a last minute entry in the tender process when another builder had to pull out. The contract was awarded to that last minute tender - KBD Constructions - and the quality of their work and the strong relationship that

grew between the contractors and the church was evident to all.

The '2010 & Beyond Project' has included the building of children's rooms and installation of a playground, upgrade of the toilets with two handicapped toilets, new entrances and rooms, upgrade of the carpark, new office space, an expansive new kitchen and a new foyer through the joining of the two buildings across the previous driveway.

The generosity of the parishioners who have donated over \$300,000, combined with available bequests means that the entire project will be debt free by the end of 2017.

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# The Bishop writes

Dear Friends,

**E**arly the other morning I heard on the radio the famous Simon and Garfunkel song, *Bridge over Troubled Waters* and it got me thinking about the vast amount of troubled water we seem to have across the world and in our own nation at the present time.

I don't want to overwhelm you, but to mention a few of the troubled waters:

- the ongoing threat of international terrorism as experienced by the dreadful act recently in Barcelona which hit home to Australians with the awful death of 7 year old Julian Cadman
- the constant threat of nuclear war between the USA and North Korea
- the violent clashes in the USA in mid-August between white supremacists and anti racist groups.

By the time you read this there will be more to add to the list!

In Australia all through August federal politics was dogged by the by the number of parliamentarians with dual citizenship. Every day more and more seemed to be referred to the High Court to determine their eligibility to sit in the federal parliament.

But there were two other issues that kept coming back into the headlines; the plebiscite on marriage equality and the proposed legislation in the Victorian parliament on assisted dying.

As a bishop I have been deluged with mainly email traffic on both matters asking me to line up with Christian

groups wanting me to advocate a 'no' vote on both issues. I have found much of the material vitriolic, highly emotional and practically claiming Armageddon is on the horizon if the 'yes' vote wins. I have also found much of the material claiming unequivocally what the Bible states on both issues both extremely dogmatic in tone and language.

All of this makes me feel very uncomfortable because the assumption behind much of the approach is that Australia is a Christian nation. It is not and has not been for a long time.

It is true that the churches had significant influence a hundred years ago and this continued up until after World War II, but since the 1960's the role of the church has been on the wane. This does not mean that the church cannot contribute to the debate on public issues or that it cannot make a meaningful contribution to the life of the nation and state. But our contribution has to take account of the diversity of our society. We cannot adopt an imperialist attitude!

Many church leaders have come out strongly on both issues mainly advocating for no change to existing legislation. Marriage is between a man and a woman is the traditional Christian point of view, but that does not mean it cannot change. For over seventeen centuries many Christians believed in slavery, but that did not stop William Wilberforce from coming along and pointing out that it was no longer consistent with Christian teaching or practice. It still took a civil war in a Christian country to bring it to an end.

On the issue of assisted dying I do not agree with many Christians that what is being advocated is suicide by another name. I am also glad that the Victorian parliament has agreed to a conscience vote by members on the issue. This seems to me to be acting with integrity and understanding and an attempt by parliament to act responsibly. I have looked at the legislation and do not agree that it

undervalues or reduces the sanctity of life. Modern medicine has brought great benefits to many of us but as it says in the Book of Ecclesiastes, "There is a time to be born, and a time to die".

Ultimately on the issue of marriage equality and assisted dying I would encourage you to vote with your conscience. Try not to be judgemental and bear in mind that our nation is one of the last nations on earth trying to embrace the value and standard of a harmonious safe society.

The wonderful thing about Australia is that we can have a say, and we can express at the ballot box whether we agree or disagree with governments. Never underestimate the value of our liberty and the gift that we have in this country. In fact I believe that liberty is a God given gift to humanity. Treat it wisely and with respect.

Blessings,

**The Spirit**

Monthly newsmagazine  
of the Anglican Diocese  
of Bendigo

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**Advertising rates** are available from the Editor. All advertisements are accepted at the Editor's discretion; acceptance does not imply endorsement of the product or service.

**Contributions are welcome**, and will be edited. Email contributions are preferred. Anonymous articles will not be considered for publication.

**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 September 2017**.



# Bendigo providing new *Australis Certificate of Christian Ministry*

Margaret Wesley

**B**ishop Andrew Curnow is proud to announce that the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo now provides ministry training to support churches throughout Australia and New Zealand.

The *Australis Certificate of Christian Ministry* equips Christian people to reflect on their faith, ministry and discipleship within a learning community and in the context of everyday life.

The course was originally developed by the Board of Ministry of the Diocese of Lichfield in England. Bishop Andrew brought the course to Australia, where it was updated and contextualised by the Rev'd Dr Charles Sherlock and administrated by Trinity College Theological School in Melbourne.

For sixteen years, it was known as the *Trinity Certificate*. The Anglican Diocese of Bendigo is proud to oversee the next phase in its development with the Rev'd Dr Margaret Wesley responsible for administering and updating the newly renamed *Australis Certificate of Christian Ministry*.

Margaret has worked in theological education and ministry formation in Sydney and looks forward to making a contribution toward the formation of Christian people who know their Bibles well, reflect intelligently on their faith, worship God wholeheartedly, serve their communities with humility and hope, and celebrate the diversity of gifts, perspectives and experiences of God's people.

The Rev'd Dr Charles Sherlock, who originally prepared the course material, is delighted to see the course take this new step.



"Trinity College Theological School took an important step by including adult Christian education in its range of offerings - the Trinity Certificate," he said.

"It was both a privilege and fun to prepare its six units, adapting and 'Australianising' material from the Church of England. Bendigo has used the Certificate as the basis for its training programme for ordained local ministers."

"I am delighted that Bendigo Diocese is now making this resource - updated and supported - available for all Australian Anglicans," Charles added.

"Each session actively engages participants in learning from the scriptures, our Christian heritage and life-experience, and takes seriously the world in which we live today."

"I warmly commend the *Australis Certificate of Christian Ministry* to any parish or group that wants to explore their faith, cope with their doubts and flourish as Christians in this post-modern world."

The *Australis Certificate* builds community while educating people in Bible, theology and ministry. This makes it an excellent resource for use within parishes. Talk to your minister about getting a group started, and contact Margaret on [australismc@bendigoanglican.org.au](mailto:australismc@bendigoanglican.org.au) for resources, advice and support, or visit the diocesan web page under *Ministry & Mission - Australis Certificate*.

## General Synod to meet in September

Sarah Crutch

**T**he General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia will meet from Sunday 3 September to Friday 8 September at Maroochydore.

Held every three years, the General Synod gathers clerical and lay representatives of each of the 23 dioceses to collectively consider a range of bills and rules to govern the life of the Anglican Church in Australia. Each diocese is then responsible for taking the endorsed legislation back to their own Synod for adoption for it to take effect in that diocese.

Representing Bendigo will be Bishop Andrew Curnow, John Roundhill (Vicar General), Greg Harris (Archdeacon) along with Naomi Fountain (Registrar) and Ian Dallas (Chancellor).

Among the bills to be considered are a range of canons relating to child protection and ensuring safe ministry to children, which will be considered ahead of the final report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse on 15 December 2017.

The General Synod will also hear of the progress of the Viability and Structures Steering Group (VSSG), chaired by Bishop Andrew Curnow, since the last major report at the previous session of General Synod in 2014.

The VSSG has been considering the current decline of the Anglican Church and what can be done to ensure it is a strong and sustainable church for the future. Bishop Andrew will speak to a 57 page report that outlines the current situation in the Anglican Church of Australia, and what action can be taken to support the Church into the future.

Recommendations include developing and supporting leadership, improving provincial collaboration between dioceses, requesting dioceses to prepare a Mission Action Plan and to have the bishops consider the need for significant change.

A summary of the outcomes from General Synod will be provided in the next issue of *The Spirit*.



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**Evensong:** Archbishop Philip Freier with the choir from Christ Church Castlemaine

## Archbishop visits Castlemaine

Max Lessor

**E**vensong was all about the letter *E.C.* From *carpark to church to celebration*. I was there I was the *camera* I saw it all.

From the moment the *clergy* arrived in their *chariots* there was a spirit of welcome and *connectivity*. I was alone recording the event and believe me the *Christian* spirit was on display right there.

The *citizens* of *Castlemaine* had assembled themselves inside the *church* awaiting the *circumstance*. The visiting *clergy* wives mixed with strangers talking and greeting. I was impressed by this. So I took a few social scene photographs for the local paper, *The Castlemaine Mail*.

A hush descended and the *cross* of *Christ* made its way through the *church* with a *convocation* following behind. All very splendid and visually stirring. The *congregation* was treated to a magnificent evening of *choral* music ably led by the resident *choir* master.

The whole *congregation* was consumed by this auditory sensation and joined in singing the various *choruses*. Even the *candles* joined in, flickering their flames to the rarified air movements. The *congregation* was then treated to a story about a *crafty* character called *Jacob*.

Then as proceedings were coming to a close and gifts were exchanged it happened. A *controversy* erupted engulfing the whole *congregation*. When was the last time an Archbishop of Melbourne visited Castlemaine?

The only person who really knew the answer was Archdeacon Crawford who had been around since 1859 peering through his stained-glass windows.

*Celebrations* then moved to the church hall. *Cheese, crackers* and *conversations* dominated the *convivial* evening bringing the Evensong to a close.



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**Celebrate:** Members of the 5000 Club cheers to their success

## Daylesford's 5000 Club celebrates 6 years and 11,500 meals

From *The Local*

Six years ago, the former Daylesford Anglican Parish priest, Father Andrew Eaton, agreed to help set up a Friday lunch club for the Hepburn Shire residents.

Loretta Little (pictured top row, third from left) gathered a group of volunteers together, and the 5000 Club was born, named by Father Eaton referencing Jesus feeding the 5000. The Anglican Church auspices the club, and under the present priest, Father Jeff O'Hare, provides support and backing.

Since that start, there have been about 11,500 free hot three-course meals prepared and served in a warm welcoming cafe atmosphere every Friday at noon. The venue is the historic Stanbridge Hall adjacent to Christ Church Anglican Church.

Everyone is welcome, and all are treated with respect and consideration. One of the regulars calls it "the happy place", and though people appreciate the meals, the major benefit is the friendship and social interaction difficult to find in this busy world.

The age group is very wide, from three or four years to 96. Many of the attendees have been coming since earliest days as have several of the foundation volunteers including the Pavlova Queen – Dawn Hewitt.

As the kitchen is run by a trained chef and an experienced cook, the food is of a consistently high standard, and the menus are constantly changing,

with vegetarian option always available. The special Christmas lunch each year is a highlight.

The charitable organisation, Second Bite, through Daylesford Coles, supplies fruit, vegetables and bread, to use to cook Friday meals, and to provide the attendees with produce which is available to take away free. Coles has provided approximately 12,800kg of goods for the 5000 Club, a wonderful contribution to a community project.

As the club became recognised as an established part of the area, and open to all, many local businesses and individuals donated goods, services and cash donations so that the club is financially very secure.

Hepburn Shire Council provides an annual grant and other businesses giving generous support are The Daylesford Meat Co, Bakers Delight, Albert Street Butchery, The Farmers Arms, Wombat Hill Nursery, Hepburn Spa Company and The Local.

So many kind and generous local people arrive with donations of goods...anything from potatoes, apples, rhubarb, greens to frozen ducks, chickens, pork...all gratefully received.

There are also donations of hand knitted goods, clothing, books and magazines for people to take with no charge. The community has been so generous in support of the club, which makes the task of the group, and the work of the volunteers who are the heart of the activity, so rewarding.

CALOUNDRA Sunshine Coast Qld.  
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Phone Ray on 0427 990 161 to book.

### Society of the Sacred Mission

*Society Gathering &  
The Inaugural  
Herbert Kelly Lecture*

**Saturday October 7**

St Peter's Eastern Hill, Melb.

11am Sung Eucharist  
followed by Lunch in the Hall  
*after lunch*

### Herbert Kelly Lecture

Dr Keith Mascord

*'Diversity and engagement  
in a changing world'.*

RSVP 29 September

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# Around the Diocese

## Rodger O'Hara commissioned as chaplain



**Caption:** Rob Ferguson, Rodger O'Hara and Brendan McDonald

Rodger O'Hara OAM was commissioned as a Lay Pastoral Chaplain as part of the Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry (ACJM) on Sunday 13 August, at a combined service of the Harvey Town Cluster held at (St Peter's) Eaglehawk Anglican Church.

Brendan McDonald officiated and Rob Ferguson, Senior Chaplain ACJM, gave a short insightful presentation of the chaplain's role within the prison system. This ministry involves over 200 chaplains from the mainstream denominations throughout Victorian prisons bringing the Good News of Christ with its message of hope.

- Jenny Rainsford

## First birthday milestone celebrated by Sunraysia congregation

During August young Octavia celebrated her first birthday on a Saturday afternoon in the church hall. Parents Nathan and Carrie invited their family and friends along with members of the congregation.

It was a great celebration with a unicorn themed based party. As part of the Anglican Parish of Sunraysia South community we recognise and celebrate life events each Sunday which helps develop community. As God is the source of life, it is great to celebrate and thank Him for special life events.

We use a variation of happy birthday which goes "Happy birthday to you, To Jesus be true, God Bless you and keep you, Your whole life through".

- Dale Barclay



**Turning one:** Octavia with her parents Nathan and Carrie

## Marcus Coulthard confirmed in Castlemaine



**Confirmed:** Marcus Coulthard is confirmed by Bishop Andrew

The church rang out with joy when Marcus Coulthard was confirmed on Sunday 20 August. Marcus' three elder brothers came to support him along with his parents and grandmother and other friends. Other members of the younger set were also in attendance and the music group played a special song, *The Summons*, for Marcus.

Three people, Clive and Elizabeth Sharplin and Valerie Andrews, were formally received into communicant membership and warmly welcomed by the congregation.

At the end of the service Revd Anne McKenna made a presentation of an apricot tree to Bishop Andrew and acknowledged the fruit that he has brought to the diocese, and Jan's contribution.

- Anne McKenna



# Around the Parishes

## Gifted photographer shares moving images

St Paul's Kyneton had a special visitor a couple of weeks ago- a young Shia Muslim man named Hassan from Pakistan.

Hassan is a very gifted photographer and an asylum seeker who came to Melbourne four years ago. In his work as an international newspaper photographer in Pakistan he took photos of the aftermath of terrorist bombings in his country.

Hassan spoke to us of his work, as well as showing us more of his photographs. Some of the photos are of children and are very moving. Hassan is currently completing a qualification in photography, and is hoping to find work in Melbourne or surrounding areas. He is pictured with his photograph of a Muslim boy standing in a sea of praying men. A parishioner donated the photograph to St Paul's.

- Ian Howarth



**Display:** Hassan with Ian Howarth

## Trauma Teddies providing comfort for those in need



Bendigo dressmaker Lois Morrissey has knitted a large box of Trauma Teddies to go to people in need of comfort in times of trouble and sickness.

If you would like to become a Trauma Teddy knitter, you must register with a Red Cross Trauma Teddy Coordinator in your local area. For information about your nearest Trauma Teddy Coordinator, contact your Zone Red Cross office and speak to the Membership Officer.

Zone 2 – Loddon

Zone 3 – Mallee

Zone 4 – Grampians

Zone 9 – Hume

Danni Kelly (P: 03 5443 5972, E: [dkelly@redcross.org.au](mailto:dkelly@redcross.org.au))

- Angela Morrissey

## Deans visit Bendigo for annual conference

St Paul's Cathedral was delighted to welcome Deans from Anglican Cathedrals across Australia on the first weekend in August. A special visitor was The Very Rev'd Matthias Der, Dean of St John's Cathedral, Hong Kong. Dean John Roundhill spent time in Hong Kong before coming to Australia from England.

In addition to business sessions, the Deans visited the Central Deborah Mine, the Golden Dragon Museum and the Art Gallery. The partners of the Deans took part in additional visits to Maldon, the Bendigo Pottery and the Bendigo Woollen Mill.

The parishioners of St Paul's catered for a meal at the Deanery and the conference concluded with a dinner catered for by St Mark's, Golden Square.

- Geoff Young



**Fellowship:** The Deans with their partners in St Paul's Cathedral

### Castlemaine Sing Away A Day

Sing with renowned choral conductor Jonathan Grieves-Smith

16 September 2017

Christ Church Castlemaine

Enjoy the fun and challenge of rehearsing and performing a program in one day. Program includes Mozart and Byrd's Ave Verum, Handel's Zadok the Priest and more.

Concert will start at 4.30pm.

Tickets for choral participants and audience members are available at

[www.trybooking.com/QWSC](http://www.trybooking.com/QWSC)

Local contact for further information:

Michael Bottomley

[bottomley@gcom.net.au](mailto:bottomley@gcom.net.au)

### St Martin's Charlton

#### Hymn Sing-a-Long

2.00pm on Sunday 24 September

Entry by donation

afternoon tea to follow

Sing along to your favourite hymns

Enquiries: Beth Crutch - 5492 7541

### Big Birthday Bash in Eaglehawk

St Peter's Eaglehawk will be celebrating 155 years of church life and community service!

Saturday 28 October

1.30pm: Celebrations commence with food, children's activities, historical displays and book launch.

6.00pm: Thanksgiving service

Contact: Brendan McDonald

phone: 0423 700 770

email: [brendan@commongroundlife.com.au](mailto:brendan@commongroundlife.com.au)

### Quiet Day

#### St Mark's, Golden Square

10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Saturday 4 November

A refreshing day of individual and community reflection, prayer and spiritual nourishment.

Led by Rev'd Dr Margaret Wesley, spiritual director and member of the Australian Network of Spiritual Directors (ANSO).

For more information

Margaret: [margaret@wesley.nu](mailto:margaret@wesley.nu)

# CMS Bendigo weekend to share missionaries stories

Stuart Winn

This year the Church Missionary Society's Bendigo weekend has moved to Spring, and will take place at the freshly renovated Holy Trinity Flora Hill on the weekend of 13–15 October.

Young and old alike are warmly invited to come and join us as we think about the mission God has entrusted to us.

Bible Studies on the weekend will be led by CMS Victoria State Director, Rev'd Dr Wei-Han Kuan. Delving into the book of Acts, Wei-Han will draw insights from the early church, and help us to think through what it will take for us to see the mission given to us by the Lord Jesus flourish in our time. Alongside the Bible Studies, the children's program will also draw on Acts to help our kids think about world mission.

As always, we will be blessed with input from CMS missionaries on home assignment. This year we will hear from David & Prue (D R Congo), along with A & H, recently returned from the Middle East and S, preparing for service in South East Asia.

For the first time, the weekend will also incorporate a Bendigo edition of the CMS Spring Dinner, this year the theme being 'Honour and Shame'. This will be a great opportunity to hear from CMS workers first-hand and learn from their experiences of working in honour and shame cultures, under which 65% of the world operates.

The Spring Dinner, held on Saturday evening the 14th, will be a great opportunity not only to hear about



**Guests:** CMS Victoria Director Wei-Han Kuan (main) and missionaries David & Prue (inset).

God's work in other parts of the world, but a chance to be equipped to better understand and engage with those in our own backyard who have come from all corners of the globe.

So, whether for a session or two, a day, or for the whole weekend, we hope that people of all ages and from all parts of our Diocese will be able to join us for the 36th annual Bendigo Weekend. Registration for the sessions is free, however meals do incur a surcharge.

#### To register...

- Visit [www.southeastbendigo.com](http://www.southeastbendigo.com)
- Pick up a registration form from your Mission Secretary or the South East Bendigo parish office (between 9.00 am and 12noon Monday-Friday)
- Telephone 5443 3482

## 36th ANNUAL DIOCESAN CMS WEEKEND

Theme: "What Will It Take?"

Studies in The Acts led by Wei-Han Kuan

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October 2017

at Holy Trinity Flora Hill

Meet two missionary families and share in Spring Dinner  
Registration forms available from your parish or Holy Trinity







**Winter wonderland:** The winter Christmas themed decorations

## Clergy enter land of Narnia to celebrate Christmas in July

**Sarah Crutch**

Clergy and their partners arrived at the new facilities at South East Bendigo to a seemingly blocked off foyer entry, not sure where to find the supposed 'Christmas in July' party. Guests were soon instructed that the way through to the dinner was by walking through a creaky decrepit old wardrobe...

After many comments along the lines of, "The wardrobe, what wardrobe? Are you serious?", guests eventually opened the rickety old wardrobe with intrigue, walking through past the old coats and jackets to step into the recreated land of Narnia, toward the lamppost, just like *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.

The new space at Holy Trinity had been transformed into a winter wonderland, decorated with dozens of Christmas trees, fake snow and falling snowflakes dangling from the

ceiling, with two long tables set up in what was the former driveway in the new facilities.

The food was prepared by Adrian Hensley, a qualified chef and parishioner of South East Bendigo, with a menu designed to capture the essence of a traditional Christmas meal in the winter weather. An entrée of rocket, pear and ham off the bone was followed by a main of roast turkey and vegetables, with the favourite plum pudding and cheesecake for dessert.

All were pleased to be able to enjoy a night to socialise with each other, meet with members from other parts of the diocese and to see the potential in the new space at Holy Trinity South East Bendigo.

Deep thanks and appreciation go to Greg Harris and the team at South East Bendigo for their outstanding hosting of the evening and impressive decorating that astounded and amazed all in attendance.

## Mothers' Union hosts *Touching Lives* themed afternoon

**Linda Osmond**

MU founder, Mary Sumner's life and achievements are particularly remembered each year by its members, friends and supporters all around the world, on a day set apart, Mary Sumner Day, 9 August. MU celebrates how Mary's vision has shaped our organisation today.

The St Paul's Cathedral branch of MU hosted an 'Afternoon Apart' on Thursday 10 August. With the theme 'Touching Lives', our diocesan MU chaplain the Rev'd Linda Osmond led the participants through worship, prayer, music and interactive prayer stations, with a particular focus on Mary Sumner's personal prayer:

*All this day, O Lord,  
let me touch as many lives as possible  
for thee;  
and every life I touch,  
do thou by thy spirit quicken,  
whether through the word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe,  
or the life I live. Amen.*

This is a wonderful, powerful prayer and we were encouraged to write it on our hearts, memorise it and pray it at the beginning of each day.

As we journey through our lives, our paths cross the paths of thousands of other people and, as followers of Christ, we know that he shares our journey with us.

Mary Sumner was aware of the presence of Christ in her life - she knew that he was always close to her and so it became her mission, her objective in life to share the love of God with those whose lives she touched. She did this not in an overt in-your-face way, but quietly, unobtrusively, through prayer, through her spoken word, but most effectively, by the way she lived her life.

MU members continue to strive to live out our faith through action and, following Mary's example, strive to reach out to touch others, that their spirits might, through us, be touched by our Lord. What a wonderful privilege.

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## The blessing of the animals

**T**he Feast of St Francis is celebrated on 4 October and commemorates St Francis, the patron saint of animals and the environment.

Many churches hold a day for the blessing of the animals, inviting everyone to bring their pets to church for a blessing.

The parishes of Woodend, Tatura and Castlemaine have held the blessing

of the pets service in the past, and the spring weather is the perfect opportunity to hold a service outside in a park, public garden or bush to provide space for all the animals.

Here are some suggestions for putting together a service to celebrate the blessing of the animals.

If your parish does hold a service for the blessing of the animals, be sure to send your photos through to *The Spirit* for the next issue!



### What to sing...

Suggested hymns:

- All creatures of our God and King (TIS 100)
- Make me a channel of your peace (TIS 607)
- All things bright and beautiful (TIS 135)
- Made in God's likeness (TIS 671)
- Joyful Joyful (TIS 152)
- Morning has broken (TIS 156)

### What to read...

Biblical references:

- Genesis 1 and 2
- Proverbs 12.10
- Job 39, 40

Readings

- Genesis 1: 24-31
- Genesis 2: 18-25
- Genesis 6: 17-22
- Genesis 9: 9-10
- Psalm 148
- Revelation 5: 11-14
- Matthew 6: 25-33

### The Blessing of Animals

*May you be blessed in the Name of the Holy Trinity.*

*May you be healthy and live in harmony with all God's creatures.*

*Amen.*

### The prayers...

Let us give thanks to God for all God's gifts so freely bestowed upon us....

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

*We thank you, Lord.*

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

*We thank you, Lord.*

For all that is gracious in our lives;

*We thank you, Lord.*

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

*We thank you, Lord.*

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

*We thank you, Lord.*

### Thanksgiving prayer

Thank you, God, for birds and animals, fish and insects, things that slither, glide and scuttle, in all their wonderful diversity.

Thank you for the working animals who share our load, the livestock who help to feed us, and the pets who keep us company.

Thank you for the wildlife of rivers, lakes and oceans, of desert, bush and rainforest.

Show us how to care for their habitat, and teach us to treat all your creatures kindly, for you have made them all. **Amen.**

*© Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. Used by permission.*

### St Francis' prayer

The song *Make Me A Channel of your Peace*, is based on a prayer, traditionally attributed to Saint Francis.

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

**Amen.**



# Spirituality, religion and Martin Luther

Contributed by Brian Stanmore to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

At the end of October we remember the time in 1517 when Martin Luther posted his theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg.

Luther was an earnest young monk who taught theology at the university there, but was plagued with doubts about his standing before God. He practised extreme asceticism, which included flagellation and exposure to the elements. Yet these did not satisfy his need to know that God was well-disposed towards him. The religion he inherited offered forgiveness through extreme observances, but his spirit was not satisfied. He is quoted as saying "If anyone could have earned heaven by the life of a monk, it was I". His spirituality and his religion were contradictory.

The dictionaries describe 'spirituality' as our emotional response (moved in spirit) to either material or non-material things (the Macquarie, the Australian Oxford Dictionary and the Penguin English Dictionary). This may be the sense of awe we experience in a tall forest or cathedral (the numinous), or wonder at the night sky. For some, listening to sublime music is a spiritual experience, for others it is great art, or even a mathematical formulation. These are purely secular encounters, but none-the-less elicit a spiritual response. Spirituality for many involves a supernaturalism which acknowledges that reality includes more than we can see, something 'out there'.

Our spiritual faculties appear to be innate, as we all respond to these kinds of experience, and we arrive at a personal view as to how the world should operate. For example, one often hears expressions like "I don't believe God is like that". Over time our spirituality is developed and refined. Belief in fairness and respect for a common humanity seem to be universal. In that respect spirituality comes before religion, which is learned, although each impacts on the other. Response to religious teaching as one is growing up will be influenced by the pre-existing spiritual orientation of the child.

In contrast, religion is a structured system which revolves around submission to a deity or adherence to a



supernatural system of belief. Its aim is to inform spirituality and to bring order to spiritual experience. It can therefore produce beneficial or harmful effects, depending on content, as Martin Luther discovered. Spirituality and religion need to be in harmony. The two are inter-related and complementary, but are not inter-changeable.

The most religious of the books in the bible are those attributed to Moses, particularly Exodus to Deuteronomy, which regulate the conduct of the people of Israel in all areas of life. The most spiritual book in the Old Testament is the book of The Psalms, which records the feelings of the writers about God and the world, ranging from exultation to anguish.

In the gospels, Jesus is presented not so much as a religious teacher, but more as a spiritual leader, somewhat like the Dalai Lama. He teaches in stories about everyday events, and interacts with the people he encounters by identifying their spiritual condition and needs. He was religious, as he prayed regularly, frequented the synagogue and exhorted people to follow the law. But his religion was tempered by his status - "a greater than Solomon is here", and by his spirituality - "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath". Religion should serve the interests and welfare of mankind, and not vice versa.

He summarises it with two Leviticus passages "Love the Lord with all your heart and mind and strength", and "love your neighbour as yourself", to which he adds "all the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matt 22). As a result, he discarded regulations about food, clothing, race, gender and ritual uncleanness because they do not serve this purpose. Any criticism was directed towards those whose religion was used to bolster self-esteem.

In the New Testament letters, which are dominated by those of St Paul, Jesus is portrayed as having the true balance between spirituality and religion. He is presented as fulfilling the law for Israel, and yet superseding it to bring mankind back to God by means of a personal spiritual connection, which goes beyond religion. Paul, who was originally called Saul, had been a devout Jew - '... circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless' (Phil 3). He even approved of the stoning to death of Stephen, which made his religion resemble that of the Taliban.

Yet Saul's religious complacency was shattered when he encountered Jesus, and the genius of his writings is found in the manner in which he reconciles his Jewish ancestry with God's loving purpose for the whole world. As with Jesus, spirituality now informs religion, and not just the other way around. "The letter kills, but the spirit gives life" (2 Cor 3). For Paul, any religious observance done without love is pointless and futile (1 Cor 13). It is our individual response to the person of Jesus, notably in his death and resurrection, which determines our spiritual standing before God.

Approximately 1500 years later, Martin Luther rediscovered this truth after it had been submerged under a weight of religious dogma and ritual, when he went back to the letters of Paul. "For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'" (Rom 1:17). Faith not only gives direction to the "righteous", it is also the basis on which God's grace is mediated to and claimed by those who search for Him, that is, from first to last.

# Caption this...

Do you have a well-timed snap  
from your parish to share?

Send us your photos to [thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au](mailto:thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au)

From the August issue - what were the ordinands laughing at?  
*The reaction of the other ordinands as Neil says, "I was quite nervous about today, makes going to North Korea next month a walk in the park!"*

- Judi Miles, Malmsbury



## New signpost leads way to Registry Office



If you visit the Registry Office in the future, be sure to notice the newly erected street sign pointing the way to the *Anglican Church*.

The sign was given to Bishop Andrew by the Mayor of the Loddon Shire, where it was previously located out near Eastville, pointing to an Anglican Church that has since been sold.

The sign was recently found hiding at the back of a cupboard in the Registry Office, and Bishop Andrew made it a priority to have it erected in an appropriate place before he retires.

Many thanks to Ian Carmichael and John Martin for efficiently putting the sign up in a matter of minutes!

### General Synod

3 - 8 September, Maroochydore

### Special Meeting - Diocesan Executive

Monday, 11 September

### Induction of Jan Harper

7.30pm, 21 September, St Arnaud

### Diocesan Executive in St Arnaud

Monday 25 September

### Clergy Retreat

9 - 12 October, Rutherford Park

### Bishop in Council

Tuesday 14 November

### Senior Staff

Tuesday 21 November

### Got an event coming up?

Send the details to  
[thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au](mailto:thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au)



Steve Geyer



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June Andrew

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