

The farewell issue...



Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

The Spirit

monthly

december 2017

issue 134



"Well done, good and faithful servant"

**Service of celebration
for Bishop Andrew**
page 3

Farewell photos
pages 4 - 7

**Four ordained on
Remembrance Day**
page 11

**A chaplain dances
towards Christmas**
page 15



The Bishop writes

Dear Friends,

My last column to you in *The Spirit* as bishop, and by the time you read this article I will have formally finished my public role as Bishop of Bendigo.

I want to begin by saying a **big thank you** to all who have helped, encouraged and enabled me in the role over the past nearly fifteen years.

This starts with Jan who has been my companion, mentor, driver and so much more! And then there are the Registry staff and especially my PA Sarah who does so much to support me day in day out, and the other staff without whom I just couldn't undertake the role of bishop.

There are the clergy and parishioners of the diocese who I have come to know and appreciate with their faith, dedication and commitment. Please accept my deep appreciation and gratitude. As you will see in *The Spirit* from donations received the diocese has presented Jan and me with a magnificent ride-on mower which will go into service immediately! Again thank you for your generosity.

As I look back over my years in the diocese I have had the unique privilege of serving as bishop in a diocese in which I was born, baptised, confirmed, deaconed and priested. I think this has given me a very special attachment to the diocese and its people. It's been a place, a country where I feel I belong and I very much feel that this is where God has called me to be!

I hope and pray that my time as bishop has served to strengthen the Church, the Body of Christ in this tiny part of

the world and given the diocese hope and sustainability.

The Church is experiencing challenging times, but should we expect anything less? The history of Christian communities from the beginning has been turbulent and the Book of Acts reveals the testing times the early church confronted.

Over time, and particularly in western societies, the Church has begun to suffer from complacency and even worse, pomposity. We have made the mistake in Australia that we believed it was a Christian country, but it never was and this is very much a post white settlement view of this land.

Although Christian values may have contributed to much of the institutional base and development of Australia since 1788, the Anglican Church, except for a time after the two world wars, has never enjoyed large numbers in the pews. Indeed in most rural areas of Australia, the Anglican Church has had a struggle from the beginning.

As many churches across this diocese celebrate anniversaries of 150 years it is interesting to read their history. For most, except where some parishioners were obviously very wealthy from the new found gold deposits, striving to fund new churches and sustain ministry was an enormous challenge.

On the positive side let me say it is remarkable how well Christianity has survived and I take my hat off to the many congregations in the diocese who, over the past 150 years, have been faithful, generous and caring, and making a difference to people's lives.

Australian writer Tim Winton (who worships as an Anglican and lives in the country) in an interview earlier this year on ABC Compass said of Christians in Australia:

I think we have to own up to our shallowness. I think we need to reflect and to be brave enough, in the same way that the nation's slowly been opening up to

the sins of the past in terms of what colonisation has cost first peoples. And we didn't personally do it ourselves, but we've inherited the benefits of terrible acts in the past. And I'm not an optimistic person by nature. I adopt optimism as a discipline... And people who are living in much more troubled circumstances than us know this more deeply than any of us know it. But I think there is hope, and where there's not hope, we have to make hope possible for our children. We need to step out into the sunlight!

That sunlight, that ray of hope comes from God, through Jesus Christ and the blessing of the Holy Spirit. For that we give thanks and look to the future with hope for our own lives, communities, country and the Church.

With every blessing,

The Spirit

Monthly newsmagazine
of the Anglican Diocese
of Bendigo

Address: The Spirit, PO Box 2, Bendigo 3552
Member, Australian Religious Press Association
Telephone: 03 5443 4711

General: thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au

Publishing Editor: Sarah Crutch

Consultant: The Revd Dr Charles Sherlock

The Spirit is published in the first week of the month (excluding January).

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, 19 January 2018**.

Farewell Bishop Andrew & Jan



Laying up of the staff: Bishop Andrew Curnow led his final service in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, 2 December 2017

Bishop Andrew farewelled with service of celebration

Sarah Crutch

Bishop Andrew Curnow's remarkable tenure as Bishop of Bendigo concluded as he laid his pastoral staff, mitre and cope on the altar of St Paul's Cathedral before processing out with his wife Jan to 'Oh When the Saints' to cheerful applause in celebration of his extraordinary ministry.

Over 300 representatives from across the diocese and the wider Anglican Church, along with close family and friends, filled the cathedral to acknowledge Bishop Andrew's life-long ministry both locally and abroad, which began with his ordination in the very same building of St Paul's, Bendigo at age 22.

"It's in fact nearly 45 years ago on the second of February in 1973, so just two months short, indeed only three metres from where I stand, that my journey began in the ordained life."

The congregation couldn't help but tap their feet and joyously move to a diversity of music played by the Cathedral choir, pianist Revd Neale Sommersby from the Diocese of Riverina and Greg and Karen Harris.

In delivering his final sermon as Bishop of Bendigo, Bishop Andrew reflected on his encounters in England when he was first learning to be a bishop.

"I have tried to be a generous bishop, a bishop of smoking flax, a bishop that does try to be inclusive, a bishop that does try to see that we enjoy being Church," he said.

"We will miss the parishes, the visits, the people, the places, the communities and what, as most of you are aware, I regard as an absolutely God given piece of this universe," he added.

Words of appreciation were given by Damien Wells, board member of St Luke's Anglicare and Anglicare Victoria, who acknowledged Bishop Andrew's contributions to the welfare sector.

"When I think of the man, the word that comes to mind is integrity," he said. "He advocates for those that don't have a voice."

Ian Dallas, Chancellor of the diocese since 2004, acknowledged the gifts Bishop Andrew has brought to the diocese, primarily his networking skills and his reading and learning of new ideas.

"Most importantly he knows and loves this diocese, its roads, rivers, farms and towns – and of course its people," he added.

"When Google Maps update their data for this part of the world, word has it they ring Bishop Andrew first."

Archdeacon Anne McKenna likened Bishop Andrew to three things; a Rottweiler, a Jack Russel Terrier and a Border Collie.

"A Rottweiler whose stance is strong, and in whom we recognise authority as he guards and protects his people; a Jack Russell Terrier, yapping unceasingly and relentlessly at our ankles; most of all you have been a Border Collie for the diocese - rounding us up, gathering us together, all the time looking lovingly over us."

"You have led by example, feeding our minds with your learning and knowledge, feeding our souls with your insight and wisdom, and feeding our hearts with your care," she continued.

"Above all, you have been a bishop in place, present in our diocese and present in our lives."

Farewell Bishop Andrew & Jan



What's in the box?: Bishop Andrew with Sarah Crutch and Greg Harris



Celebrate: Guests celebrated Bishop Andrew's various achievements



Gift: Bishop Andrew & Jan's new mower



Appreciation: Bishop Andrew and Jan were presented with a new ride-on lawn mower as a farewell gift from the diocese

Farewell Bishop Andrew & Jan



Surprise: Balloons with photos were scattered through the office for Bishop Andrew's final day



Celebrate: Elements of the diocesan crest featured on the table centre for a lunch with the Registry Office staff on Bishop Andrew's final day in the office



Gift: Bishop Andrew was given a map of Victoria from 1854 from the Registry staff



Registry: The Registry team enjoyed a final lunch with Bishop Andrew and Jan on his last day in the office

Farewell Bishop Andrew & Jan



Welcome: Bishop Andrew Curnow led his final service at St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo on Saturday, 2 December 2017



Guests: Visiting bishops and ecumenical guests attended the service



Quack: The bishop's rubber duck



Heartfelt: Words of appreciation



Farewell: Bishop Andrew and Jan as they processed out of the Cathedral

Farewell Bishop Andrew & Jan



Gathered: The clergy, guests, bishops and visitors gathered on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral following the service



Pray: Archbishop Philip Freier



Go in peace: Bishop Andrew laid up his staff, cope and mitre to conclude the service



Blessing: Bishop Andrew gives a final blessing



Complete: Bishop Andrew's staff, cope and mitre on the altar

Around the Diocese

St Mary's Woodend re-opens with new floor



Gathered: The congregation at the re-opening

On 12 November, amidst joyful cheers, St Mary's Woodend was re-opened after six months of restoration works, 153 years and 4 days after it was originally opened on 8 November 1864.

Bishop Andrew blessed the new floor, three new altar frontal pieces that were hand embroidered by parishioners Sue Gillis and Beth Davis, and unveiled a commemorative plaque. During his sermon Bishop Andrew reflected on the historic architecture of the building, and spoke about the importance of having a place where the community could come together both in celebration, and in difficult times.

St Mary's is open, once again, every day of the year for prayer and reflection.

- Melissa Clark

Wedding gowns through the ages and high tea

Approximately 65 guests from the parish and the community of Castlemaine attended a lavish afternoon tea and parade of wedding gowns organised by the Castlemaine parish.

Models paraded in gowns representing bridal fashion over 130 years from 1879 until 2008. Guests delighted in admiring the evolving fashion trends, beautiful silks and lace fabrics and the interesting and quirky stories told to accompany each gown as they were modelled, original wedding photos were screened along with the gowns as they appeared.

A sumptuous afternoon tea was served on vintage china by a small but very hard-working band of helpers and guests were enthusiastic in their praise of the event and look forward to the next occasion.

- Christine Steiner



Model: A wedding gown on show

REDEEMING INNOCENTS

2017 CHRISTMAS APPEAL



Photo: IOCC/Paul Jeffrey. Used with permission of IOCC.

After the revelation of Jesus to the Wise Men, Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt with Jesus, to avoid the 'Massacre of the Innocents'.

Today, facing similar crises, many parents do the same, fleeing danger in places such as Syria (see photo), Myanmar and South Sudan. In other circumstances, there is no option to flee, and parents have to protect their children in different ways.

This Christmas, we invite you to support our partners as they help to protect vulnerable children.

DONATE: 1800 249 880 or
anglicanoverseasaid.org.au

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible
Anglicord: ABN 39 116 072 050

Anglican Overseas Aid is a member of
actalliance



ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID
ANGLICORD

Around the Parishes

Travelling Executive Committee takes business out in the field

Over the second half of 2017 the Diocesan Executive Committee have been holding their meetings at local parishes to be able to see first-hand the buildings and properties that make up the various parish sites, especially in the context of redevelopments and capital works.

The August meeting was in Castlemaine to allow a look at the retaining wall, followed by visits to Maryborough, St Arnaud and Inglewood. The visits have been extremely helpful and the Executive are appreciative of the parish representatives for their time and hospitality on these visits.

The Executive intend to continue conducting on site visits to parishes throughout 2018 where property and building works are key issues for certain parishes.

- Sarah Crutch



Business: The Executive Committee with the Parish of Inglewood

Holy Trinity Wedderburn restored



Re-opened: Hilary MacKay, Geoff Burnside, Judi Bird, Heather Marten & Bishop Andrew

The church in Wedderburn is over 150 years old, originally built by gold miners and the plaster interior walls had been cracking and the outer stone's mortar was crumbling. The interior has now been replastered by Andrew Elliot, a local tradesman with exceptional patience and skill. He worked single handedly to renew the plaster throughout the church over several months. The end result is spectacular and the walls will be painted after the summer.

Our small congregation was greatly buoyed by the help of many members of our fellow parish congregations, parish council, the bishop and the Registry to ensure the preservation of our beautiful church. The non-Anglican population of the town has also shown appreciation for the work completed on one of our town's treasures.

- Hilary MacKay

Healing painting gifted to Parish of Wallsend

On a recent visit to the Parish of Wallsend in the Diocese of Newcastle by the invitation of Bishop Peter Stuart and Revd Andrew Eaton, Robyn Davis and Ed King presented the parish with a special healing painting.

The painting was blessed by Bishop Stuart during the morning service, which celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Parish of Wallsend.

Robyn and Ed enjoyed catching up with Andrew and his family while in Wallsend, and hope the painting will be treasured by the parish for a long time to come.

- Robyn Davis



Art: Bishop Peter Stuart, Robyn Davis and Andrew Eaton



**HELP FIND A SAFE
AND LOVING FOSTER
HOME FOR CHILDREN
LIKE JACK.**

Please donate today.

Albury. Bendigo.
Deniliquin. Echuca.
Kyneton. Maryborough.
Mildura. Swan Hill.
Wangaratta.

1800 809 722
anglicarevic.org.au

**BETTER
TOMORROWS**

The Spirit online!

Like an email?

If you'd like a full colour pdf of 'The Spirit' emailed to you each month, let us know!

Just email thespirit@bendigoanglican.org.au and we'll add you to our e-mailing list!

Read online

You can also read 'The Spirit' and other diocesan publications on issuu.com.

Just search for 'Anglican Diocese of Bendigo'.



Opened: Bob Cameron, Chair of Bendigo Health Board of Directors

New 'Sacred Space' officially opened at Bendigo Hospital

Geoff Chittenden

As part of its Community Links and Pastoral Care area, the new Bendigo hospital includes a beautiful 'Sacred Space' for multi-faith services, prayer and meditation as well as providing a good variety of spiritual worship resources.

While it has been in use for most of the year the Sacred Space area was not officially opened until Monday 23 October 2017 marking the first day of 'Pastoral Care week.'

The ceremony was conducted by Karen Lunney, the Manager of Pastoral Care for the Bendigo Health Care Group, with Bob Cameron (Chair of the Bendigo Health Board of Directors) providing a welcome and Maree Edwards MP (Member for Bendigo West) formally opening the facility and unveiling a special commemorative plaque.

This was followed by a time of prayer especially for patients, staff, families and friends, the pastoral care team and reflection on what has become known as the 'Golden Rule' – Jesus' exhortation to "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Luke 6:31).

The Dean of our Cathedral, John Roundhill, along with representatives from several other faiths also read similar texts from these various traditions in acknowledgement and celebration of this universal wisdom and our shared humanity.

To conclude the ceremony Karen invited each guest to come forward and 'sign' a pictorial 'Prayer Tree' with their thumb/finger print thereby collectively providing green leaves to the bare branches of the tree as an expression of our prayers, hopes and dreams for the flourishing and blessing of this 'Sacred Space'. As each person 'signed' the tree, they then shared in a symbolic washing of each other's hands reinforcing the message of unity and service.

One of the new benefits of the 'Sacred Space' is its multi-media capacity to record services and other events held there and to make these available to patients electronically through their bedside TV consoles.

The first of these Anglican services (a service of Holy Communion in the IONA tradition) was conducted by Terry and I, together with Karen Lunney. It is proposed to build up a bank of such recorded services, along with prayers and readings, as a ready resource which, hopefully, will prove to be a blessing to patients and indeed to all who care to access it, at their convenience.

We ask for your on-going prayers for the good and effective use of the 'Sacred Space', for chaplaincy and the pastoral care ministry team, that we may continue to be a blessing to others and to make a real and valued contribution to the ministry of care and healing our wonderful new hospital.



Ordained: Judi Bird, Suzannah Daniels, Margaret Wesley and Andrew Gall

Ordination a day to remember

Sarah Crutch

A sunny Remembrance Day morning welcomed visitors and parishioners to Bendigo for the ordination of four candidates in St Paul's Cathedral.

Bishop Andrew Curnow, in carrying out his final ordination as bishop, priested the Revds Suzannah Daniels, Margaret Wesley and Andrew Gall, and ordained Judi Bird to the diaconate.

"Ordinations are the most fulfilling thing I do as a bishop," he said. "These are the four most outstanding candidates I've seen in my time as bishop".

Having been deaconed in June of this year, Suzannah Daniels, Margaret Wesley and Andrew Gall will continue in ministry placements throughout the diocese.

Suzannah is responsible for the Parish of Bendigo North, while Andrew Gall

and his family have made their home in Mildura in the Parish of Northern Mallee alongside Archdeacon Michael Hopkins.

Margaret Wesley has accepted an appointment at the Parish of Heathcote and will also continue her work in the Ministry Development Office overseeing the new Australis Certificate of Ministry.

Judi Bird is an Ordained Local Minister who will take responsibility for the Parish of Charlton-Donald, having grown up and been a part of the Charlton community her entire life.

There were many smiles, hugs and blessings shared on the steps of St Paul's as members of parishes congratulated the new ordinands. This is sure to remain a day to remember for each of them.

ABM service recognised

At a recent ABM Auxiliary meeting in Cohuna, Myrtle Shay was presented with the 'Coaldrake Award' for faithful service to ABM, which included 28 years as secretary of the Diocesan Auxiliary. The 'Coaldrake Award' is named in memory of the Revd Frank Coaldrake, a former missionary and chair of the Australian Board of Mission.

Congratulations Myrtle!

- Diana Smith



Awards: Myrtle Shay

Respect • Faith • Trust



We are available to assist you anywhere in the Diocese of Bendigo and beyond.

**Brian and Lyn Leidle
Ron Stone**

A small and personal funeral company.

**mount
alexander
FUNERALS**

195 High Street, Kangaroo Flat
12 Campbell Street, Castlemaine

Phone: 5447 0927

Visit us at
www.mountalexanderfunerals.com

**THE OFFICE OF
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

Kooyoora Ltd.

**If you have a
complaint**

1800 135 246

(free call)

Kooyoora Ltd. is an independent professional standards organisation

CALOUNDRA Sunshine Coast QLD
Beachfront holiday units available
from \$400 per week
Phone Ray: 0427 990 161 to book



Amana Living Incorporated
Subiaco, Western Australia

Amana Living, the principal aged care agency of the Anglican Diocese of Perth, invites applications from suitably qualified and experienced candidates for the position of:

SENIOR CHAPLAIN

Amana Living is one of Western Australia's largest not-for-profit providers of care, accommodation and support for older people and has been serving the community since 1962.

Reporting to the Chief Executive Officer, the Senior Chaplain is the most senior clergy person within Amana Living and the leader of the Chaplaincy Team which delivers pastoral care services to Amana Living clients and their families, employees and volunteers.

Position description and process for application are available via
<https://www.livehire.com/job/amanaliving/HMNQQ/>

Please direct queries to Kristy McKay on (08) 9424 6301 or
kmckay@amanaliving.com.au

Applications are to be received no later than Wednesday, 10 January 2017 at 5pm AWST.



THE JOAN ADAMS SCHOLARSHIPS

Trinity College Theological School offers three scholarships of up to \$35,000 per annum to study theology full-time in Melbourne.

These generous scholarships will provide assistance with living and other costs for:

- outstanding applicants with ability to provide academic and personal leadership
- undergraduate, postgraduate or research degrees
- study at Trinity for University of Divinity courses
- residence at Trinity College (one scholarship).

Information and application forms are available from:

<http://bit.ly/2zHj2VT>

APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON
5 JANUARY 2018



Cook: Participants learn their way around the kitchen during the cooking classes

Cooking classes a success at Saltworks

Sue Stewart, Saltworks Coordinator

In September, 2017 we asked for expressions of interest from people interested in learning to cook simple meals. We received interest from over 100 people, so in early October we organised four classes per week for six weeks.

There were two classes on Wednesday and two classes on Thursday, and each with ten people. We used food we received from Foodshare, and showed people how to use the ingredients we received in different dishes, and how to cook items they weren't sure how to use.

Most of our recipes were dishes that could be cooked in one pot or in a frypan. Some of the people attending

the Thursday night class also brought their children along to learn simple cooking skills.

All the meals cooked were taken home by the participants, and they usually took home a soup, two main meals, and occasionally a sweet. Many of our participants hadn't cooked before, and were surprised at how easy it could be.

As the participants were enjoying the classes - the cooking as well as meeting new people - we are continuing to run the classes after the initial six week period, but we will only have two classes a week - one on Wednesday afternoon, and one on Thursday afternoon from 3.30 to 5.30pm.



Recognition: Bishop Andrew with Ed King and Robyn Davis

NATSIAC Life members

The Revd Robyn Davis and Ed King were recently made life members of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council (NATSIAC).

Robyn and Ed have worked in Koori Ministry for the Diocese of Bendigo for some years, conducting their Walkabout Ministry throughout the dioceses of both Bendigo and Riverina.

Congratulations to Robyn and Ed on this well deserved recognition.



Excited: The Revd Tracey Wolsley is excited to commence at Kangaroo Flat

Kangaroo Flat welcomes new priest

Sarah Crutch

The Parish of Kangaroo Flat was filled with joy as they welcomed Tracey Wolsley to be their priest at her induction service on Thursday 23 November.

A beaming smile was fixed on Tracey's face as she introduced herself to the congregation and looked forward to being a part of the Kangaroo Flat community.

"I am just so excited," she said.

In his address, Bishop Andrew noted the shared history of fire between both Tracey and the parish, with the former St Mary's building being burnt down in 2008, and Tracey being a

bushfire relief chaplain in the wake of Black Saturday in 2009.

"Fire brings out of people strength and resilience – it's brought strength and resilience out of Tracey and out of the parish" he said.

Tracey has held several roles within the diocese, most recently overseeing the parishes of Heathcote and Elmore, but is now looking forward to reducing the travel to spend time with the people of Kangaroo Flat.

The parish has been without a priest for almost two years, and are pleased to have found a person with Tracey's gifts to bring to the parish.

MU meets with Mayor

The Mothers Union of the Diocese of Bendigo had their AGM on Friday, 27 October with guest speaker Mayor Margaret O'Rourke. Cr O'Rourke gave members an insight into her interesting life having been born and grown up in Bendigo and therefore her understanding of the unique needs of the Bendigo people.



Team: MU Members at the AGM

Leitchville mural brings community together

Contributed

Students from the Leitchville Primary School, with the guidance and help from the artist Revd Robyn Davis, planned the mural featuring the river ways, swamps, and native animal life within the district.

The morning was spent learning the ways of the Aboriginals that owned this land and of their culture and customs. After a BBQ lunch it was time to draw and paint. Community members of all ages were encouraged to participate by placing their handprint and name on the wall further supporting the past, present and future of the community.

This work of love is another celebration of culture, art and community spirit being available to future generations for years to come. Our deepest heartfelt thank you to Robyn whose vision and passion have inspired these works, the children and the wider community.

This mural has reminded us that even in this small community when we work together we can do great things.

The community weekend featured a Gannawarra cluster dinner in Leitchville on Friday evening, followed by a combined service on Sunday morning. It was a wonderful weekend of community coming together.



Paint: Revd Simon Robinson helps the children paint the mural



**first
national**
REAL ESTATE

Tweed Sutherland
Residential, Commercial & Property Management

for personal and active real estate

52 Mitchell St, Bendigo

Ph: (03) 5440 9500

www.tsfn.com.au

Des Benfield celebrates 50 years as a priest

Extract from an address given by Revd Des Benfield on Sunday 26 November at Christ Church, South Yarra

I was ordained priest on 25 November 1967 by Bishop Allen Winter of St Arnaud – St Catherine of Alexandria's feast day. I completed a Curacy at Swan Hill (my home parish), then seven years at Robinvale-Manangatang, then onto Eaglehawk, Holy Advent Malvern, St Eanswythe's Altona and then Christ Church South Yarra, and finally St Paul's Bakery Hill in the Diocese of Ballarat.

However, priests never seem to retire - there are always vacancies, a consultation here or there and so vocational life continues. God still calls and challenges. I would put it even stronger – God calls and asks me to respond generously with my life. The call to priestly life has been with me since I was about 17 years old, that's 58 years. Sometimes I wish God would leave me be!

Looking back over 50 years of priestly ministry, there have been three things that have been constants despite a changing world around us all:

- 1. The worship of God. This has been central to my ministry, indeed as it is for all Christian people. It arises from the love of God towards us and our response to his generous love.*
- 2. The Church and her ministry to all regardless of race or gender or position in society. Of course, by the Church I mean each one of us by virtue of our baptism, being little incarnations of the love of God in works of mercy, justice and peace.*
- 3. Our mission, of course, or outreach to others with the good news of the Gospel of Jesus and of the Kingdom of God which has eternal yet an urgent quality about it.*

Over the years much has changed in the world. I have always tried to adapt to those changes whilst at the same time hanging on to those three tenets – worship, ministry and mission.



Priested: Des Benfield (far right)

Will versus must: a response

George Thomas

A friend of mine recently wrote, "Children must choose to love their parents if it is to be true love". I felt the need to offer a suggestion in response to their comment, and replied as follows...

There is no doubt in my mind that what you have said is the truth, my suggestion comes as possibly a better way to express one part of it. It is in the fifth line where you rightly talk about us choosing to love. It has struck me for some time that when we stress the importance of loving freely from the heart, we often use the word 'must'.

I think that when we do so we unconsciously and unintentionally put ourselves on the way back to being under the law (see Galatians chapter three). So, my suggestion is to replace the word 'must' with the word 'will'. The sentence would then read: "Children will choose to love their parents if it is to be true love."

steadfast faith. Above all they *must* give thanks to God for his love towards us in Christ Jesus."

I think that would go better as;

"But those who would eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord *will* examine themselves, and amend their lives. They *will* come with a penitent heart and steadfast faith. Above all they *will* give thanks to God for his love towards us in Christ Jesus."

The sense in which I use 'will' in those places is to convey the natural, joyful willingness of a redeemed person who is inspired and enabled by the Holy Spirit living within to follow the way of God. I believe this is the way

I don't have to do this or that, but I will because I want to, knowing it to be God's will for me as his redeemed child

I see a similar thing in Morning and Evening Prayer in *A Prayer Book for Australia* (APBA), on page 20 in the last paragraph of item four, which reads;

"As we do so, we *must* confess our sins," I think that would go better as, "As we do so, we *will* confess our sins".

And again, from *APBA First Order Holy Communion* in the last paragraph of that wonderful and important second exhortation on page 108;

"But those who would eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord *must* examine themselves, and amend their lives. They *must* come with a penitent heart and

our Lord Jesus lived in the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:8). This was how Jesus is the only person who always said 'yes' to the Father.

As I hear the above words in our liturgy telling me that I *must* do this or that, I respond in my mind with the words: "I don't *have* to do this or that, but I *will* because I *want* to, knowing it to be God's will for me as his redeemed child."

What I have said in no way ignores how essential repentance is for each of us to be at one with the Lord. As I read the Scriptures I find that, "Repentance is not an obligation or onerous duty, it is a gracious opportunity." (E.Horne 19-09-2015).

Mulqueen family

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Bridge St. Bendigo - 5443 4455

www.mulqueen.com.au



In Loving Memory...



Peace in God's breathing

Eddie Barkla

Do not be anxious or worried about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. And the peace of God that passes all understanding will stand guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

When cycling, breath is something we constantly inhale and expel. Prayer can be thought of as the 'breath of God'. Without the breath of God, we don't live. We can all breathe, so we all can pray.

When our praying is like our breathing, we receive (ask) and give out (offer thanks) we are inspired (in-breathed) by the spirit or breath of God. Which is why Paul encourages us to be unceasing and persistent in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

For a bit of fun and a change of scenery, I recently transitioned from bitumen to gravel, from a road bike to a mountain bike: this meant a change from higher speed with less resistance, to lower speed due to greater resistance.

The change brought to mind the importance of staying in the peace and will of God while making a transition in life's routines. When I became anxious, I lost my peace; when I lost my peace my breathing was dramatically affected; when my breathing was under stress, my ability to sustain the tempo of cycling was reduced. Once I had regained my composure of mind and heart, my breathing was again sustained and effective - unceasing and persistent.

Prayer and peace: they go hand in hand when we pray with God's breath. Jesus on the cross overcame death, so that we can face any circumstance or situation knowing we are saved for God's new creation - eternity.

Looking forward to seeing you on the road soon, God willing.

clergy contemplations

The Revd Terry Templer | Hospital Chaplain

A chaplain dances towards Christmas

I love dance, watching people dance and dance music. Dancing can be energy filled and liberating, evocative and mood setting - a coming together in a moment in time, with such moments to be treasured. I can't dance - my body refuses to respond to where my heart and the rhythm want to take me.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, is like a dance - a dance of love. Each separate yet moving rhythmically together, connected as One. God exists as a community, fully invested in relationships. Our existence, like that of the relational trinity, is to be inter-dependent, not independent.

God's love overflows in creative energy. The Holy Spirit is seeking to draw everyone and everything into the healing and transforming dance of love. We learn the dance steps by following Jesus, and, through the grace of God and the patient nurturing of the Spirit, we grow into the unique dancers we are called to be; and through our dancing others may come, see, and take to the dance floor to discover the dance or dances our Lord may have in store for them.

So, in fact, through my faith, I have been dancing every day and learning the new steps of the dance my Lord has chosen for me at that time. God hasn't been put off by my non-responsive physical body; God, in Christ Jesus, is the master teacher and I am learning the steps of the Hospital Chaplain quickstep, and a more intimate, graceful waltz for aged care. We do indeed have a patient, persevering God!

A characteristic of my approach to chaplaincy is to 'dance with intent'. I have become aware of the need for a repertoire of dances. I dance amongst the community at Bendigo Health; visible and accessible, always at the ready to accompany those who ask to dance, and to be intuitive of those who want to dance but need to be invited.

I dance in places where grief, stress, confusion or hopelessness are apparent,

at the ready to provide whatever comfort or advocacy might be invited. I dance where death is near or has just occurred. I dance in the debriefing of staff or with a family confronting the loss or impending loss of a loved one. I dance in celebration when someone goes home healed and a whole family and surrounding communities are refreshed in spirit and hope.

As an Anglican Chaplain I proclaim the Gospel and strive to be Christ-like, a presence that shines a light of hope and possibility where before there was none. In Advent, as we look towards Christmas, we watch and ready ourselves for the birth of Jesus. Christmas is a time of thanksgiving for what is to come through the life, death and resurrection of that little one, our Emmanuel - 'God with us'.

To many patients in the hospital, Christmas is an event that marks a year coming to an end, and fuels the anticipation of a new year. Looking back and looking forward opens all possibilities and emotions.

Some will focus on what they have lost and look with despair at what awaits them. Some will see it as a test of their resolve to persevere and look forward with hope. Some will have the chance to go home and enjoy the love of family. Some will enjoy the quieter rhythm of holiday period, whilst some will feel very much alone, isolated and frustrated because the everyday routine will have slowed.

A chaplain needs the dance repertoire to be at the ready and to dance in tune with those they will accompany in response to the heightened emotions and responses that manifest themselves at Christmas. A dance may simply be at a bedside, with the offer of a blessing reassuring God's love for them and their loved ones.

During Advent and at Christmas please pray for all patients and those who work in and minister within Bendigo Health, St John of God and their associated aged care and specialist facilities.

May God's dance of love be within you and with those you love this Christmas.

A Christmas message...



Dear Friends,

Jan and I would like to extend to you our heartfelt thanks for all your good wishes, prayers and gifts received upon our retirement. It has been a privilege to serve you and get to know so many of you across the length and breadth of the diocese. Each of you has contributed in your own special way to the life and health of the diocese, making it one we can all be proud of.

As you all know life has its challenges, just as the bumpy roads of the diocese can be. But stay strong as you also find the road can be smooth and the journey goes on.

A special thank you to the clergy who, across the diocese, pastor through the good and difficult times. You are a great team. You will remain in our prayers as you work with your new bishop to be the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Bendigo.

With every blessing for Christmas, health and happiness.

Onwards and upwards!

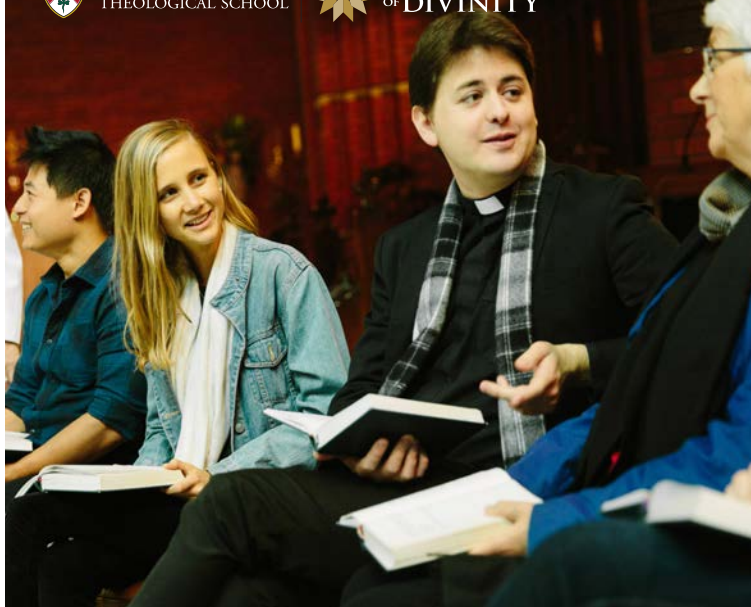
+Andrew & Jan



TRINITY COLLEGE
THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY



TRINITY COLLEGE THEOLOGY SCHOOL
FORMING GOD'S PEOPLE

STUDY ONLINE OR ON CAMPUS

- Be inspired by Scripture and Christian tradition.
- Learn from international faculty who encourage questions and debate.
- Be supported in your faith in an inclusive, welcoming community.

We are a Melbourne-based Anglican college, offering world-class courses at all levels, including an online Diploma.

CONTACT US TODAY ABOUT ENROLLING.

T: +61 3 9348 7127 | **E:** tcts@trinity.edu.au | **W:** trinity.edu.au/theology



Steve Geyer



Napier Park Funerals, Bendigo

Dignity and respect, when it matters most

Conducting funerals locally, across Victoria and Interstate

Web: www.napierpark.com.au Phone: **5441 4800** Email: office@napierpark.com.au



June Andrew

Caring at a time of need



**WILLIAM
FARMER**

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

151 McCrae Street Bendigo
12 Victoria Street Eaglehawk

P. 5441 5577

www.williamfarmer.com.au

A tradition that continues...



**You can help every child have
a Merry Christmas this year by
donating non-perishable food and
new toys to Anglicare Victoria's
Toy and Food Appeal.**

1800 809 722 | anglicarevic.org.au

