



# THE PILOT

Newsletter of  
Holy Trinity  
Wiliamstown

August & September 2017

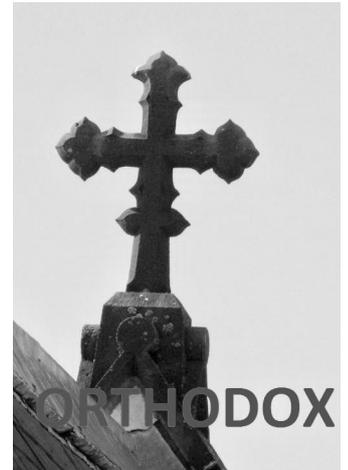
## From the Vicar

### OUR CROSSES: THE MESSAGE OF JESUS PROCLAIMED ON THE ROOF OF OUR CHURCH

*It is a detail I think many people miss, but have you noticed that the four stone crosses that top each gable of our church are uniquely different? I had noticed, but when I recently climbed the scaffolding of the new Parish Centre, I was able to photograph them. It left me wondering why those 18th century builders decided to choose a different cross for each high point of our beautiful church. Perhaps we will never truly know.*

**The Orthodox Cross** appears above the front door. This is a style of cross portrayed by Churches of the Orthodox East, which has two and often three cross bars. All crosses, of course, have the cross bar to which Jesus' hands were nailed. *Orthodox crosses* often add the small crossbar above representing the sign Pilate placed on the Cross, and sometimes also or instead, another below to represent the support for Jesus' feet. Often this lower cross bar is sloped down to the left, and thus up to the right. This represents Jesus' two journeys of descent into hell and ascent into heaven.

The form we see in our cross was adopted in Byzantium, and later by the Russian Orthodox Church and especially popularised in the East Slavic countries.



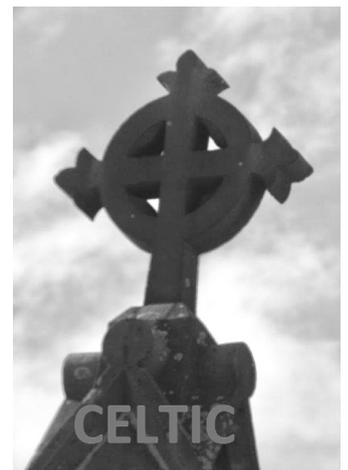
ORTHODOX



ST THOMAS

**The St Thomas' Cross:** The cross above the nave altar, the most central on our roof, appears to be a *St Thomas' Cross*. The arms of the cross have 'shoots' coming out, representing the tree of life with new life growing out from its branches. It is a very ancient style of cross used by the 'Mar Toma' or Saint Thomas Christians, often also known as Syrian Christians or Nasrani. They are centred in Kerala, in India, following the tradition that they were founded by Jesus' disciple Thomas whose apostolic mission took him to India.

**Celtic Cross:** At the end of the roof above the High Altar is a *Celtic Cross*. The Celtic cross features a nimbus or ring around the central point of the cross. It emerged in Ireland and Britain in the early Middle Ages. A nimbus represents a cloud, ring or halo, which in the art of ancient mythologies surrounded the presence or the head of a sacred being. So it is that placing it centrally on a Christian cross represents the divinity of the one who hung upon it.



CELTIC

This style of ringed cross became widespread through its use in the stone high crosses erected across the Celtic British islands, especially in regions evangelised by Irish missionaries, from the 9th through the 12th centuries.

**Lazarus Cross:** The fourth cross, and the only one not mounted in a line running centrally from east to west, is above the Choir Vestry, facing north. It appears to be a Lazarus Cross. At the end of each arm is a trefoil, so this style of cross is sometimes called a 'treffy cross'. Originally a trefoil was a three leaved European pea plant, but in sculpture indicates a three leaved end to an extremity. The use of three rounded or pointed leaves on crosses is a Trinitarian symbol, representing Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The name *Lazarus Cross* comes from the time of the Crusades, when it was combined with a green Maltese cross, to form the insignia of the Order of Saints Maurice and Lazarus. This order began in the 12th century establishing hospitals for lepers in Jerusalem, and later becoming an order of knights fighting for the Church in the Crusades. After the loss of the Crusades, the Order settled in Italy and France, and still exists today.



So our crosses represent the churches of Russia, the Caucasus, Turkey and the Middle East, India, Jerusalem, Italy, France, Britain and Ireland. The thing that immediately strikes me is that Jesus commanded the Apostles *"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation."* (Mark 16:15)

The origin of each cross shows how they obeyed that command. As they took the Word they proclaimed in every direction they travelled out into all the world. Each of the countries mentioned spread out like a great arc around the world – the known world of Jesus' time anyway.

So our crosses sit up there and proclaim Jesus who came for all people in all places around our globe. All should feel welcome here to hear his word and see his love expressed by us, his children. Look up, and let the message carved from stone by those Victorian era stonemasons speak to you and encourage you to take up the task our Lord gave us.

The Venerable Bill Beagley  
Vicar

## Parish Centre Update

The building work on the Parish Centre is progressing apace, and we are on schedule for completion in November.

The external cladding is now complete and the awnings are also nearing completion. Last week all plumbing and gas lines were completed in readiness for installation of toilets, shower, sinks and kitchen appliances as well as air conditioning/heating ducts. These will all be installed in the weeks ahead.

Once the scaffolding has been removed in the next fortnight, glass windows and doors will be fitted into the frames.



Scott Phillips  
Church Warden



## Our Curates: The Greatest Stress Reliever

Dear Friends,

Most of us experience stress as we try to juggle everything in our lives successfully - career, hobbies, spouses, children, finances and various concern about our own future or about those we love and care for. It's no wonder so many of us are stressed to the maximum. But as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we shouldn't be defeated by the power of stress because God our Father has given us an awesome gift by sending the Holy Spirit who is our helper.



In the New Testament, different illustrations have been used to describe the constant presence of God's Spirit in our lives, for example our bodies are described as the temples that host the Spirit of God. These creative metaphors in the New Testament were meant to convey a simple fact: ***God is with us at all times!*** Talking to God as we pray is a real stress reliever for us, but there are times when we do not know how to express the full depth of our desires and feelings nor do we realise what we need.

Sometimes we are so exhausted in spirit, mind and body that we can hardly muster the energy to open our mouths. There are instances when discouragement has taken such a strong hold of our hearts that we cannot imagine a way out of our painful circumstances and all we can ask is for the Father to help us. Have you ever felt this way? Have you ever been so encumbered by troubles that hopelessness takes over? You struggle to find a reason to keep fighting but you are so tired and overwhelmed that you just want to give up?

Dear friends be assured that the Holy Spirit sees the depths of our difficulties, and translates our feelings more accurately than we ourselves can and comforts us with the knowledge that God knows what we need. Even when we think we are failing in our prayers the Holy Spirit reminds us that God is a real stress reliever and truly cares.

A recent article in the Guardian talks about the challenges of our modern digital world in which we are more accessible than ever. The author argues that in the old days, if the phone rang and we were busy, we either didn't answer or we turned the ringer off. When all phones were wired to a wall, there was no expectation of being able to reach us at all times – one might have gone out for a walk or been between places – and so if someone couldn't reach you (or you didn't feel like being reached), it was considered normal. Now more people have mobile phones than have toilets. *This has created an implicit expectation that you should be able to reach someone when it is convenient for you, regardless of whether it is convenient for them.* This expectation is so ingrained that people in meetings routinely answer their mobile phones to say, "I'm sorry, I can't talk now, I'm in a meeting." Just a decade or two ago, those same people would have let a landline on their desk go unanswered during a meeting, so different were the expectations for reachability.

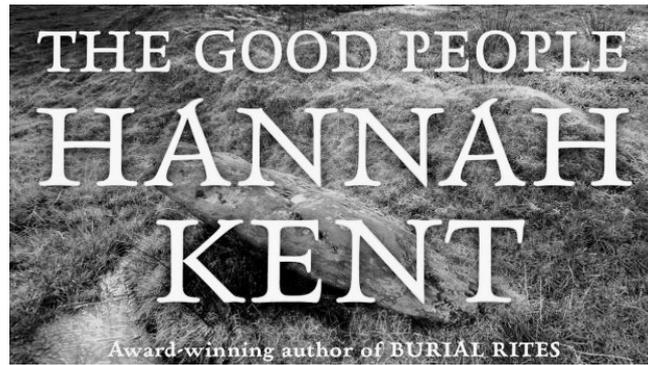
How much more important it is for us as Christians who confess faith in a personal relationship with our God to make ourselves available and reachable to God in order to receive divine guidance, courage, comfort and love. So, dear friends the choice is ours, we have an awesome privilege to have a conversation with our wonderful Father in heaven, we have an awesome helper in the Holy Spirit, who is with us always. The truth is that God knows about all our problems and has a plan for us if we are open minded enough to let Him shine upon our dark moments.

*"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"* Matthew 6:25-26 (NIV)

In the meantime, we can choose to trust God and enjoy our lives while we wait for his guidance, and surely God is with us, even to the end of the world. Amen!

Yours in Christ  
Valentina Emmanuel

## From the Ada Cambridge Book Club



Each month the Ada Cambridge Book Club meet to discuss their Book of the Month. In June, this was the critically acclaimed novel by Hannah Kent, *The Good People*. This book provided much for the group to discuss and consider and comments from two members are included here.

Based in Ireland in the 19th century, *The Good People* relied upon the folk lore of that place and time. The discussion explored the folk lore that had been part of our ancestors' lives and had gradually become part of our own history. We realised how the expression of this can still be used to this day. We recalled sayings such as 'Don't put up your umbrella in the house' or the practice of putting a coin in with the gift of a knife. The latter apparently, a means of avoiding 'a cut in the friendship'.

Wilma Robarts

I thoroughly enjoyed the book. I found it a very atmospheric, brooding read, quite affecting my mood at times. When I considered it in the light of the current global chaos, I began to reflect on the quotation from W B Yeats at the front of the book:

*When all is said and done, how do we know but that own reason may be better than another's truth, for it has been warmed on our hearth and in our souls . . .*

Hannah Kent created the character of Nance, to whom some were drawn, who sought help and comfort in times of physical or emotional distress and who was also viewed by others as an evil force. -- this dichotomy, of course, leading to dire consequences. It seemed that the author prompted the reader to examine their own sense of 'truths' in the world and their ability to remain open to others. This was a very different setting from her first novel *Burial Rites*, but continued to demonstrate her unique storytelling in terms of atmosphere and the human condition.

Jill Ringrose

*'The Good People is, like *Burial Rites*, a thoroughly engrossing entrée into the macabre nature of a vanished society, its virtues and its follies and its lethal impulses.'*

Thomas Keneally,  
author of *Schindler's Ark*  
(winner of the Booker Prize)

*The Good People*  Hannah Kent

OUT NOW



### **August**

- |    |                                    |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 4  | Men's Pub Gathering                |
| 12 | Garden Working Bee, 9.00am-12 noon |
| 13 | Contemplative Eucharist, 5pm       |
| 16 | Ada Cambridge Book Club            |
| 17 | Wardens meeting in Vicarage        |
|    | Parish Council meeting in Vicarage |
|    | Women's Group Meeting              |
| 19 | Men's Breakfast                    |
| 26 | Tapestry Group                     |
| 27 | Contemplative Eucharist, 5pm       |

### **September**

- |    |                                    |
|----|------------------------------------|
| 1  | Men's Pub Night                    |
| 3  | Father's Day                       |
| 9  | Garden Working Bee, 9.00am-12 noon |
| 10 | Contemplative Eucharist            |
| 14 | Women's Group Meeting              |
| 20 | Ada Cambridge Book Club            |
| 21 | Wardens meeting in Vicarage        |
|    | Parish Council meeting in Vicarage |
| 23 | Tapestry Group                     |
| 24 | Contemplative Eucharist            |

*Further details for all these events are available from the Parish Office  
or on the weekly Pew Sheet*

# Holy Trinity Tapestry Group

We have a number of new parishioners and I thought it would be interesting for them to know the origins of the kneelers and cushions that decorate the Communion rail and pews.

I do not know whose idea it was that we have kneelers at the Communion rail but I do remember having a meeting in Wilma Robarts home with a speaker from the Embroiders Guild, a local member Janet Long, who had pictures of kneelers from their collection.

It was decided, with much enthusiasm, to begin this project. Designs were chosen, canvas and wool purchased and we started. The earliest date on the kneelers is 1992 so we must have started in 1990/91. The tapestry beginners were given advise on stitches, colours and any problems they had. We met once a month and stitched and talked and had great fellowship. It was decided that the background colour was maroon to tone in with the carpet, which we hoped would not be changed in the near future.

Rev Philip Huggins was our Vicar 1991-1994 we were sorry and pleased at the same time when he was made Bishop of North Perth and moved at short notice. The Group decided that we would make a kneeler for him as a gift. We jumped in to action a design was chosen materials bought and it was started, doing the rounds of members who had time free a few days here an afternoon there it was finished in record time. A Mitre on the face of the kneeler represented his new position and figures representing a man of the people, three squares The Trinity. The Vicarage cat is seen wearing a scarf in Geelong Football Club colours.

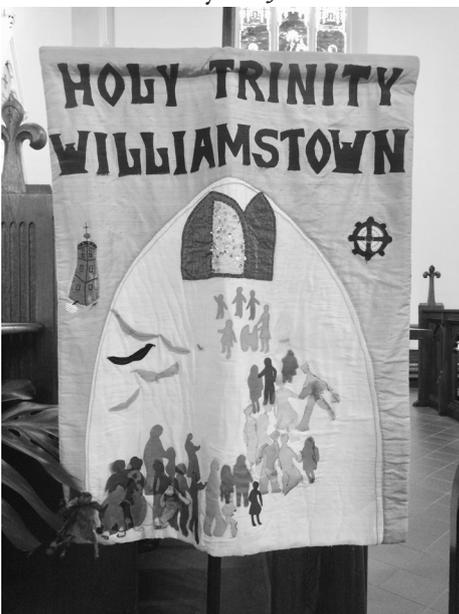
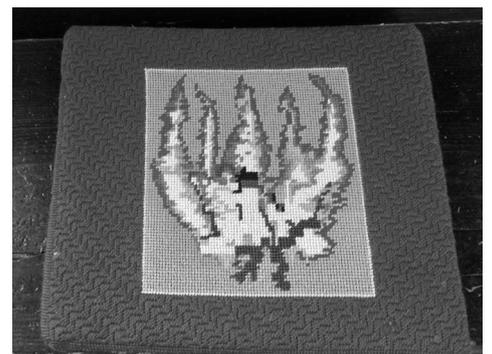
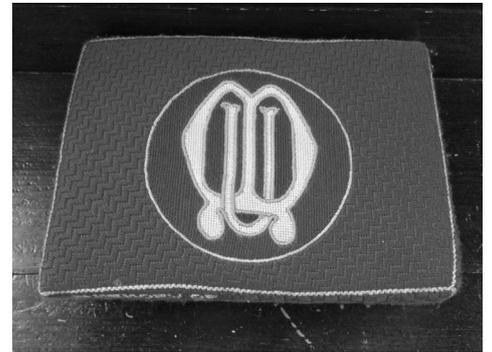
Looking at the names of the stitchers on the kneelers as I sit in church brings back memories of past parishioners. One kneeler has the badge of the Mothers Union in memory of Gladys Halnon and her husband Arthur Halnon used it every Sunday and he would wait for it to be free.

Very soon we had stitched enough kneelers so we turned our efforts to cushions for the pews. Again many beautiful and varied patterns were made. I am sure that our worship services are made much more comfortable sitting on the cushions. We have always concentrated on religious themes but some have reflected the interest of the maker or the person in whose memory they were stitched.

There is one depicting the Burning Bush, which I feel is much warmer to sit on than others. Another project was cushions for the choir with fleur de lis design. One of our group made several and seemed very happy doing them but others found the design most confusing.

Another project was a Banner, which was brought out for the first time in a while on Sunday 11 June 2017 - Trinity Sunday our Patronal Festival. Again this was a joint effort.

We are now working on tapestries of the six days of creation for the new Parish Centre. We have two finished, two nearly finished one waiting for inspiration (maybe this article will be the incentive needed) and one still in the packet. We may have to rewrite the Bible to five days of creation with the sixth being on hold!





We have had Christmas breakup days visiting various exhibitions. At one point we had 2 years bad luck with the weather and we were thinking we would contact a place that needed rain and we would visit.

We have been to the Embroiders Guild to see their beautiful work. Last year the theme was Gardens and the inspiring work and varied ideas was just amazing. Recently we visited their exhibition of a collection of Vestments. The title was Holy Stitches and the beautiful work on Copes, Chasubles and Stoles was just amazing. We all came away stunned.

We still meet once a month on the fourth Saturday and stitch, knit and discuss many and varied topics. If you'd like to learn more about the group please contact me via the Parish Office.

Joan Crook

## Womens Group

The wild and woolly weather didn't deter our Women's Group members from their monthly meeting in July. Thanks to Leanne for a lovely warm room and generous hospitality.

Details for the fast approaching Mary Magdalene Breakfast on the 29 July were finalised. Lovely food, a wonderful speaker and a great opportunity to spend some time with other Christian women in our community make this a wonderful morning so please let me know if you would like to come.

We then read and discussed the gospel for the coming Sunday The Parable of the Sower. I love how this parable speaks to all of us differently.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 17 August 7.30pm at Neralie's home: 14 Cecil St Williamstown. All women of the parish are very welcome.

Liz White

## Upcoming Bible Studies

During August and September two series of Bible Studies will be available for parishioners.

1. Study of John's Gospel based around an excellent movie on this book. These will be conducted by the Curates.
2. A series of studies conducted by the Vicar on Women in the Bible.

Watch out for further details of both of these in upcoming editions of the Pew Sheet.

## Parish Rosters for August & September

MONTH	DAY	TIME	INTER— CESSION	EUCH ASSIST	READERS	SIDES PERSON	WELCOME	FLOW- ERS	TEA & COFFEE
AUGUST TRANSFIGURA- TION	SUN 6	8 am 10am	CURATE SCOTT P	SUE W TOM V	JUDY W LEANNE B TOM V	SUE S DAVID B	BRYAN M WILMA R	WILMA	
P10	13	8 am 10am	WILMA ANNE M	SUE W ANNE M	WILMA R. MARGARET JANICE S	JAMES M	BRYAN M ANNE M	P Mc F	BARB H
P11	20	8 am 10am	VEN BILL	SUE W WARREN	MARIE C. WARREN	WARREN	BRYAN M JEANNINE	HOLLY	CAROL WILLIS
P12	27	8 am 10am	SUE W JOAN H	SUE W JAMES M	VALERIE D LAURENCE JAMES M	WILMA R LAURENCE	BRYAN M JAMES M	LEONIE	P. MC F
SEPTEMBER P13	3	8 am 10am	CURATE SCOTT P	SUE W TOM V	IAN S CAROL H REBECCA	SUE S DAVID B	BRYAN M WILMA R	JUDY	
P14	10	8 am 10am	WILMA R ANNE M	SUE W ANNE M	WILMA R M. SWANE JILL R	JAMES M	BRYAN M ANNE M	LAURIE	JUDY W
SAINT MATTHEW	17	8 am 10am	VEN BILL	SUE W WARREN	MARIE C WARREN PAT D	WARREN	BRYAN M JEANNINE	SUE S	CAROL WILLIS
P16	24	8am 10am	SUE W M. SWANE	SUE W JAMES	VAL D JAMES M LAURENCE	WILMA R. LAURENCE	BRYAN M JAMES	WILMA	P. MC F
OCTOBER ST FRANCIS	1	8 am 10am	WILMA R	SUE W TOM V	IAN S LEANNE B TOM V	DAVID B	BRYAN M WILMA R	P. MC F	

## Contact Holy Trinity Williamstown

### Parish Office

The Parish Office is attended Wednesday and Friday 10-4  
Parish Administrator: Judy Whelan  
Telephone 9397 5330 or email [office@htw.org.au](mailto:office@htw.org.au)

### Vicar

The Vicar, Rev'd Bill Beagley is not available on Mondays  
Telephone 0408 349 315 or email [vicar@htw.org.au](mailto:vicar@htw.org.au)

### Parish Secretary

Janice Schmidt email: [secretary@htw.org.au](mailto:secretary@htw.org.au)

For more information please visit our website: <http://www.htw.org.au>

### The Pilot

To submit information for The Pilot please email the Editor, Judy White: [comms@htw.org.au](mailto:comms@htw.org.au)