



THE PILOT

Newsletter of
Holy Trinity
Wiliamstown

April & May 2017

From the Vicar

BEING FRIENDS

Beloved I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained. Philippians 3:13-16

On Sunday, in the wake of the Anglican Church's response to the Royal Commission into institutional child sexual abuse, I spoke to our congregation hoping to clarify the issue that the Anglicans received the most strident criticism for and for which our Primate and Archbishop had expressed our sense of shame.

Essentially our Church was criticized because while we can reach agreement on our failures and what needs to be done to move forward, the twenty-three Dioceses of the Province of Australia cannot agree upon the actual process of making those decisions and instituting change in our church. We know what we have to do, but cannot agree on how to do it.

After I made this short address encouraging people to read and listen to the reporting and statements coming from the Royal Commission, several people expressed their concern about the Anglican position. They expressed the view that God, not Church hierarchies or officers, govern the Church. I believe this is an overly simplistic way of viewing the situation. The Church is the worldly gathering of Christians who believe in what God has revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

Having heard Jesus speak to us, having accepted and come to believe in his teaching, we then begin the journey, sometimes even the struggle, to live lives that accord with that belief. We do this because Jesus has shown us that every such effort will bring us closer to God and to the Kingdom prepared for us beyond this life. Jesus showed us on the cross the lengths to which God was ready to go to bring us home. Knowing all this does not make us perfect: it shows that God's perfection has been placed within our reach. That it is the hope that can encourage and guide us in this life. But once again, it does not make us perfect. Read John 8:2-12 to get Jesus' view on people who consider themselves so righteous that they have the right to sit in judgment on others.

The Church is the worldly gathering of Christians - just that. It is the people in this dark and sinful world who have seen the light and are struggling towards it. For many in our world that struggle is a difficult and painful one. In the balance of things, Australian Christians have got it pretty easy. We can choose from churches to suit every taste or aesthetic desire. Why are there so many different denominations of God's people? Because humanity cannot even make how you believe in God a thing that unites us.

Human nature makes us want to stand up and say "If you don't see it the way I see it – you must be wrong and I reject you!" It amuses me a little to see that those who condemn the church for not being able to agree are themselves

not agreeing! That we as humans never seem able to agree, to find harmony with each other is what I define as the source of human sin. The fuel that powers it is self-importance, self-centredness and self-satisfaction. As I have often commented in sermons and elsewhere, note the prefix of all those words.

Yes, I agree that it is a sin that our Anglican Dioceses cannot find a way to agree on how to implement the rules, strategies and actions to achieve that which we all agree must be achieved. But it is a human sin, one that permeates every part of human society. It is the same sin that nurtures sexism, racism, ageism and all the isms that blight human society.

But pointing fingers never changed anything for the better. Our dwindling church congregations throughout the world, or more particularly the developed world, are the result of the church being seen to be critical rather than constructive, condemning rather caring. Nobody wants that, and I have never heard God saying it was part of the deal. The deal is *“Love one another as I have loved you.”* God is aware that the more you really try to live up to that, the harder you realize it is to achieve. But I have nearly always found that the greater the effort, then ultimately, the greater the prize.

Our Curates: Valentina's Story

There is a story of miracles and blessing surrounding the journey of our Curates Valentina and Joseph from Islam to Christianity and from Iran to Williamstown.

It is a tale of searching for personal peace, struggling against traditional religious and family bonds and of the great love and blessing offered by our God to them as they found each other and as they found Him. God provided Christian people in Ireland, Italy and Malaysia who showed them His love, taught them about Christianity, led them to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God and brought them to Melbourne to study, worship and to bless us through their ministry.



Here is just a little of Valentina's story:

“I grew up in a family where my grandmother was a great influence. She was very committed to her Muslim faith and taught me of a God who loved me. By contrast, my father was not interested in my religion and made fun of my commitment to it. This background left me conflicted and I tried many ‘spiritual’ paths to fill the growing emptiness I felt.

After completing secondary school I decided to study Law at Tehran University. While I was able to successfully pursue my studies in many areas, studying Muslim Law highlighted how unfair it was to women and children and how little it had to do with the loving God my grandmother had taught me about.

I travelled to Ireland to learn English. While studying there I was still sure about my Islamic faith and found myself called upon to defend it. By the time I returned to Iran and later travelled to Italy, I knew that my belief in Islam was gone, but God still had a plan for me. He led me to return to Iran despite the concerns of my family. Here I met Joseph, a legal scholar, and together we debated the law and the Islamic faith. Our love grew, we married and together we escaped Iran, guided by God and inspired by a series of miracles in our lives.

It was during our time in Malaysia that we truly came to faith in Jesus as the Son of God. For Joseph this was the result of much research and study. While my faith grew with the support of a Christian community and through reading and studying, my final step to acknowledge Jesus came through God's loving kindness – as He revealed to me in the quietness of my own room that Jesus truly is the Son of God. It was a time of great joy and celebration that I was able to share with Joseph and my mother.

There is much more to my story and I'd be happy to discuss it with members of the congregation, but the most important thing is that I know God has graciously guided me and led me to Himself and I want others to know the joy I have found through Him.”

The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. (1 John 1:2)

Parish Centre works now well underway



After a delay in proceedings, following the laying of the concrete slab, the framing and wall building stages of the construction of our new Parish Centre are well underway. The floor for the mezzanine level has been installed, and considerable progress is being made in building the rear wall. Our aim is to have the building completed to lock up stage before the winter rains set in so that the internal fittings work can be conducted during the wetter months ahead.

God willing, by the end of this year, we should have a functioning Parish Centre, as a new platform for fellowship and mission engagement with our wider community.

Scott Phillips, Vicar's Warden

A Great Day: The Women's Retreat



On Saturday 25 March a group of women from Holy Trinity gathered together for the Women's Retreat. The Retreat, held at St Joseph's Convent in Williamstown, involved us spending the afternoon in silence with only the facilitator Elizabeth Delbridge, guiding our thoughts.

There were 3 sessions during the afternoon. After each session we either spent time in the garden overlooking the water laying on the ground to be connected to the wonder of nature and contemplating what we read, or spent time in the lovely peaceful house.

We used the following verse as part of our contemplation and to assist us in preparing ourselves for the season of Easter that will soon to be upon us.

Prayer for Lent

"Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return" Genesis 3.19

Janice Schmidt, Parish Secretary

From Parish Council



Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Please collect and read a copy of the Child Protection Statement available at the back of the Church. This document sets out our commitment to ensuring that children, young people and the vulnerable are kept safe within our community.

This document is accompanied by advice on the process the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne has in place should you or someone you know wish to make a complaint. This complaint should be directed to the Professional Standards Committee on 1800 135 246. All information provided to this authority is strictly confidential.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 9 April

Palm Sunday

8.00am Eucharist

10.00am Liturgy of the Palms

Monday 10 - Wednesday 12 April (each evening)

7.00pm Eucharist of Holy Week

Thursday 13 April

Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Foot Washing

Friday 14 April

Good Friday

9.00am Good Friday Extended Eucharist

Sunday 16 April

Easter Day

6.00am Lighting of the New Fire

10.00am Easter Eucharist



April

- 2 Daylight Saving ends
- 7 Men's Pub Gathering
- 8 Men's Breakfast
Parish Working Bee, 9.00am-12 noon
- 9 Palm Sunday
- 10-13 Holy Week
- 14 Good Friday
- 16 Easter Sunday
- 19 Little Theatre Show Albert Street
Williamstown, \$26. Includes 1 glass of wine.
Nibbles and supper afterwards with cast.
- 20 Wardens meeting in Vicarage
Parish Council meeting in Vicarage
- 25 ANZAC Day.

May

- 5 Men's Pub Night
- 11 Ladies Get Together
- 13-14 Wedding Dress Expo
- 27 Hyde Street Youth Band



Holy Trinity Church, Williamstown

WILLIAMSTOWN LITTLE THEATRE NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL

7.30 pm for drinks prior to the play

Tickets \$25.00

Available in church on Sunday mornings
or from the Parish Office
on Wednesdays & Fridays

E: office@htw.org.au T: 9397 5330

Shrove Tuesday at Holy Trinity

On Shrove Tuesday, 28 February, we gathered at the front of the Church for an open air pancake session. As usual, our Vicar, Ven Bill Beagley, flipped a great number of savoury and plain pancakes for folks to enjoy. And, as usual, everyone happily consumed them!

It was a wonderful time of fellowship, hospitality and conversation for members of the Holy Trinity Williamstown community. We enjoyed seeing some fresh faces from the wider community as well – a young couple who are seeking out a new church community, some friends of regular churchgoers and a resident of the Nelson Place flats who has come along to some services and the Community Lunches. We will follow up these new contacts to build people's sense of belonging to Holy Trinity.



So, we are continuing to carry forward a convivial tradition that enables us to begin the Lenten season in a joyful and engaging manner. It allows us time to pause and appreciate each other's company as followers in Jesus' way of loving one another. And it lets us share our parish life with people in the wider community.

Scott Phillips, Vicar's Warden

Parish Rosters for April & May

MONTH	DAY	TIME	INTER - CESSION	EUCH ASSIST	READERS	SIDES PERSON	WELCOME	FLOWERS	TEA & COFFEE
APRIL LENT 5	2	8 am 10am	REV JOSEPH SCOTT P	TOM V	JUDY W LEANNE B CAROL H	SUE S DAVID B	BRYAN M WILMA R	LEONIE DOBINSON	
PALM SUNDAY	9	8 am 10am	WILMA R ANNE M	PAT D	WILMA R M. SWANE J SCHMIDT	JAMES M	BRYAN M ANNE M	JUDY WHELAN	BARB H
EASTER DAY	16	8 am 10am	VEN BILL REV'D VALENTINA	WARREN	MARIE C. WARREN M PAT D.	WARREN	BRYAN M JEANNINE	LAURIE ENGLISH	CAROL WILLIS
EASTER 2	23	8 am 10am	VEN BILL JOAN H	JAMES	VAL D JAMES M L GRAY	WILMA R L. GRAY	BRYAN M JAMES M	SUE SEARLS	P McF
EASTER 3	30	8 am 10am	REV JOSEPH VEN BILL		C HURWOOD S THOMPSON A BRIDESON	5TH SUNDAY - ALL HELP	5TH SUNDAY - ALL HELP	WILMA ROBARTS	SELF SERVE
MAY EASTER 4	7	8 am 10am	SCOTT P	TOM V	I STEWART T VERGHESE R MURPHY	SUE S DAVID B	BRYAN M WILMA R	PAMELA MCFAYDEN	DIANE R
EASTER 5	14	8 am 10am	WILMA R ANNE M	PAT D	WILMA R M. SWANE CHRIS R	JAMES M	BRYAN M ANNE M	HOLLY HSER	JUDY
EASTER 6	21	8 am 10am	VEN BILL	WARREN	MARIE C WARREN A BRIDESON	WARREN	BRYAN M JEANNINE	LEONIE DOBINSON	CAROL WILLIS
EASTER 7	28	8 am 10am	M SWANE	JAMES	VAL D L. GRAY JAMES M	WILMA R L. GRAY	BRYAN M JAMES	JUDY WHELAN	P McF

Open Williamstown Wedding Dress Retrospective

presented by OPEN WILLIAMSTOWN



2.00pm - 5.00pm daily

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 May

Adults: \$20.00 Concession :\$15.00 Children: Free

Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Nelson Place, Williamstown

Ada Cambridge Book Club

On the third Wednesday of each month the ten members of the Ada Cambridge Book Club meet to discuss books initially chosen by us from the Maribyrnong Library.

We submit a rather long list from the books available to us with the hope that one of them will be available. Maribyrnong Library has many book groups availing themselves of their service so we don't always know what we will receive!

Reactions to each book can be very varied but we appreciate the opinions of each person. There is no right or wrong comment, we are interested in each person's response to the book.

This term we have been reading *A Murder is Announced* by Agatha Christie. This was Miss Christie's 50th book, first published in 1950. One person, who shall remain nameless, wished she had just read the summing up of the whole novel that was in the last few pages of the book!

Sometimes we spend considerable time on discussion, other times not. Those latter occasions give us an opportunity to share many other aspects of life. Our time together is valuable.

If you'd like more information about the Ada Cambridge Book Club, please contact Wilma on 9399 9486.

Want to visit a friend?



Betty Hall has recently moved to Marina Aged Care, Blackshaws Road Altona North.

After many years as a member of the Holy Trinity congregation she would love to welcome parishioners to visit her in her new home.

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

Vicar

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

Parish Secretary

Janice Schmidt email 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: comms@htw.org.au