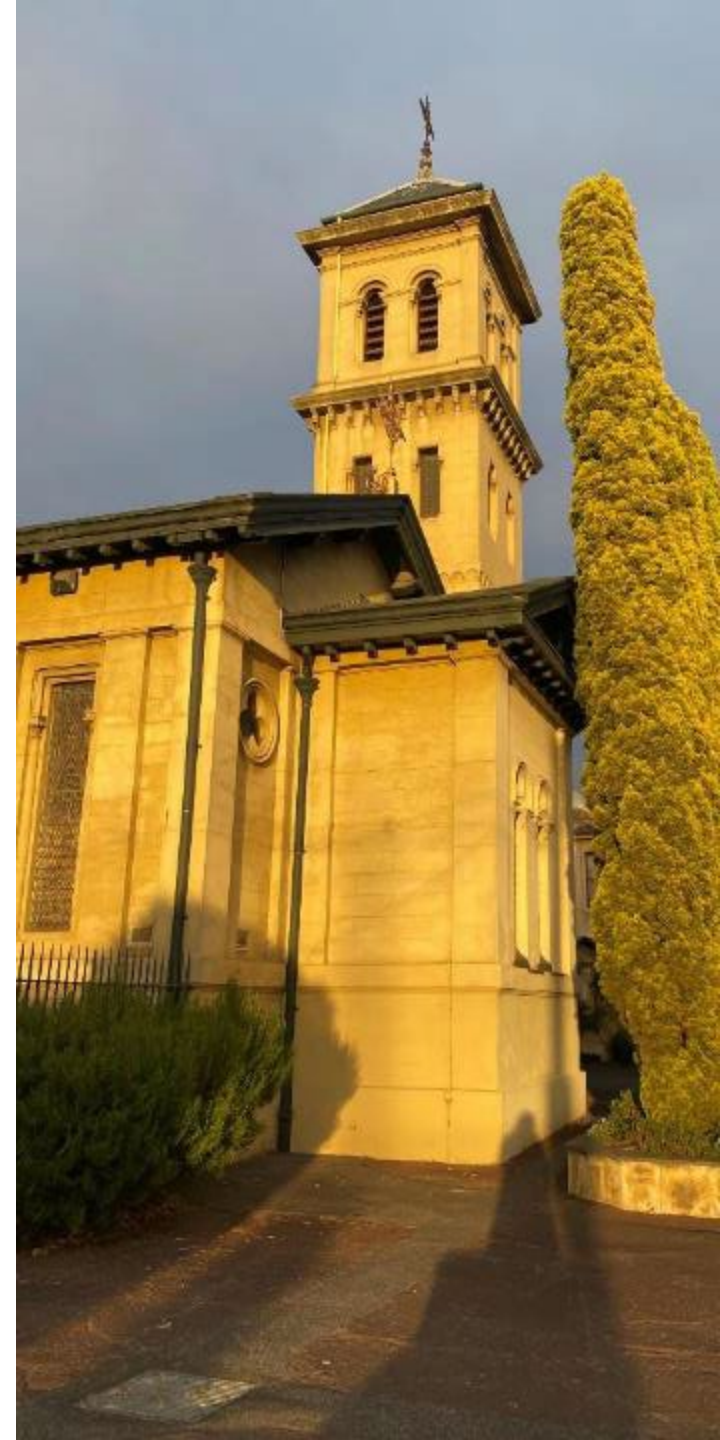




INTRODUCTION

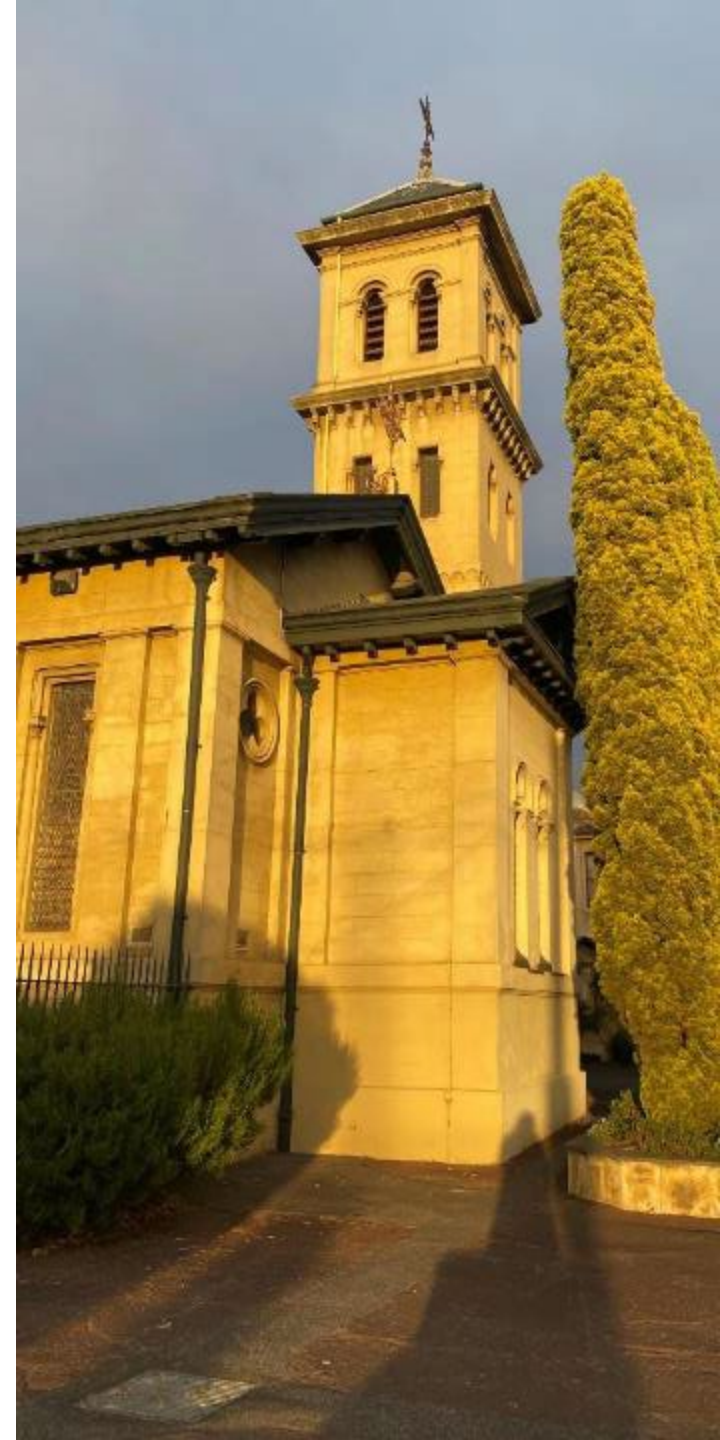
Christ Church is a thriving Anglo-Catholic parish located in the vibrant, inner-northern Melbourne suburb of Brunswick, which is known for its arts and music scene and has a high student population. Melbourne University is a 5 minute tram ride away, while locally there is Brunswick Secondary College and several primary schools. The parish also has a relationship with Sydney Rd Community School located next door to the church.





INTRODUCTION

Originally populated by Greek and Italian migrants, Brunswick has become gentrified in recent decades and is a genuine melting pot of people from across the cultural and socio-economic spectrum.





INTRODUCTION

Set in the busy town centre, Christ Church is a lively, mostly traditional Anglo-Catholic community attracting people of all ages from diverse backgrounds, at various stages of their faith journey and with different ways of engaging with church life.





INTRODUCTION

The parish has experienced very pleasing growth over the last several years and currently attracts 70-80 people to its main Sunday service. Vital to the strength of our life together is the daily rhythm of worship and prayer, led by a combination of laity and clergy.





INTRODUCTION

The church is open daily, a fact that is deeply important to the congregation and much appreciated by the local community as evidenced by the daily visitors, prayer requests left and comments of gratitude in our visitors' book.





INTRODUCTION

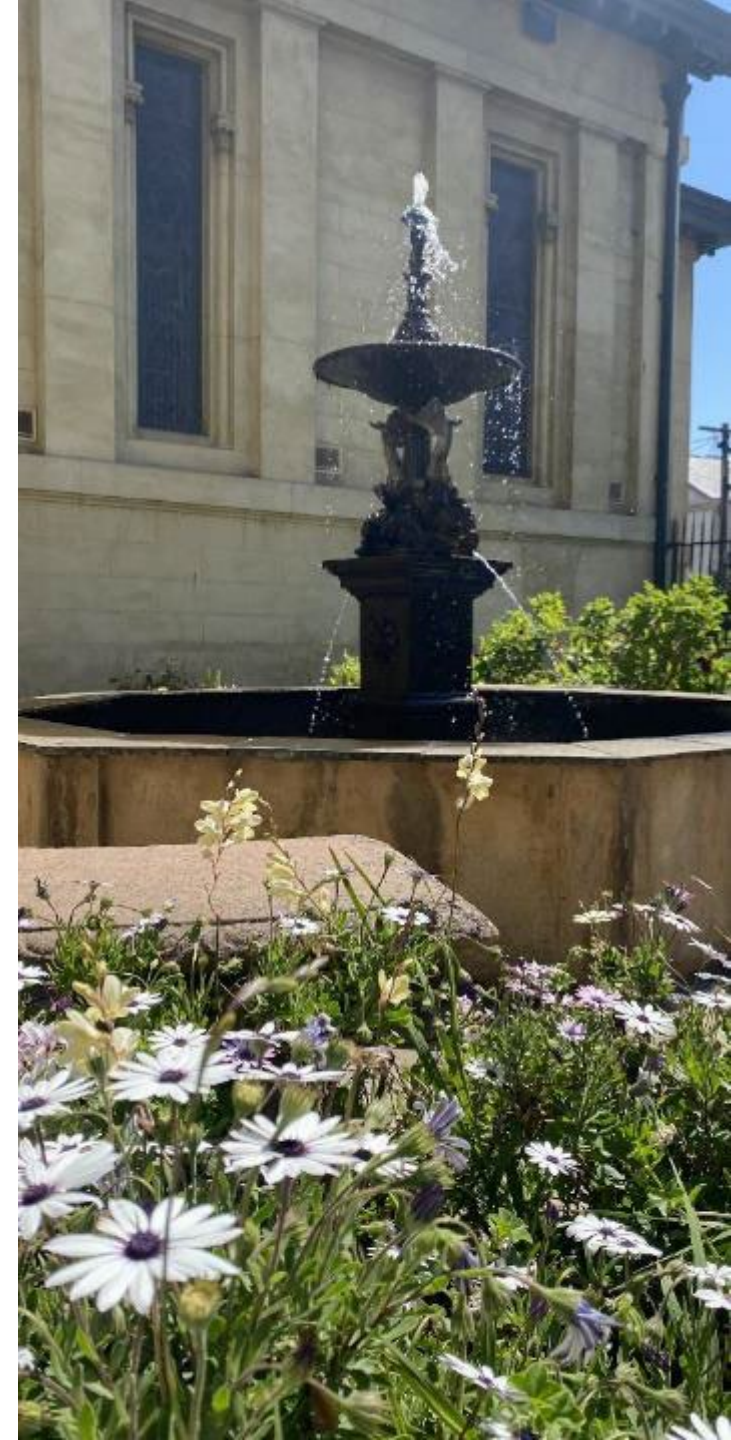
An important part of our parish life is The Lamb and Flag Café, a social enterprise that faces the busy Sydney Rd providing an outreach that could take various forms. Currently staffed by parish volunteers, this provides an important 'soft entrance' and connection to the church for the people of Brunswick and is an important meeting point between church and community.





OUR PRECINCT

Our precinct of buildings centres around the structurally sound heritage-listed church (with new slate roof and recently underpinned foundations) and gardens both of which are open to the public from 7 am–7 pm. Without many green spaces in Brunswick, the fountain garden of Christ Church is a regularly frequented oasis to many in the local community.



OUR PRECINCT

Central to our mission of being an outward facing community is The Lamb Café. This building is adjacent to the church and also has fully renovated accommodation upstairs for a student or curate. The café also has an easement for outdoor tables and chairs and a 'hatch' opening onto the land next door, which is to become an Urban Park.





OUR PRECINCT

While the front entrance of the church is on Glenlyon Road, there are now double pedestrian gates from the church precinct onto the new public Urban Park on Sydney Road. Already the café enjoys the amenity of the park, and this will be even more enhanced through greening works planned by the local Council in early 2024.

There's a lot happening... which all adds to the opportunities to be a welcoming Christian presence in our local community.

OUR PRECINCT

There are three properties within the parish precinct under secure commercial leases:

❖ 12-14 Glenlyon Road

The old parish hall (12-14 Glenlyon Road) and land on the east side of the vicarage (17 Merri Street) is now home to the Sydney Road Community School. The properties were recently developed and are now maintained by the Education Department for the Sydney Road Community School with whom the parish has a happy relationship, not least because of the café.



OUR PRECINCT

❖ 5-15 Merri Street

A 1980s partnership development of seven small single dwellings behind the vicarage and garden on a 50 year lease to the Department of Housing for a nominal rent. They return to the parish in 2038. The parish has the first right of allocating houses to eligible persons, who are on the public housing list. The Department renovates a cottage before a new tenant takes up occupancy. A least three of the residents are part of the Christ Church worshipping community.

❖ 266 Sydney Road

A dentist surgery next to the parish café.





OUR PRECINCT

Many renovation works have been undertaken in recent years, with only the painting of the interior of the church and external Vicarage windows remaining, for which funds are available in the parish's trust fund with the National Trust of Victoria. Other sources of funds available to the parish for major works on the church are Heritage Victoria and the Smith Trust.



OUR PRECINCT

The Vicarage... changes afoot

The current old vicarage has been fully renovated and is sometimes referred to as the Parish House. Upstairs is a private, fully self-contained, 3 bedroom residence. Downstairs is a large vicar's study (which will remain as the vicar's primary study once the new vicarage has been built.) There is also a private sitting room which will remain for the exclusive use of the vicarage family until the new vicarage is available.



OUR PRECINCT

The Vicarage... changes afoot

The parish office is on the ground floor of the current vicarage, as is the main kitchen, large parish meeting room and toilet facilities. Until the new vicarage is available, the parish will only use the vicarage if agreed to by the new vicar. In the meantime, the kitchen facilities will continue to be used for parish functions. Once the new vicarage is available the current vicarage will become known as the Parish House and used freely by the parish.



OUR PRECINCT

The New Vicarage

Planning is underway for a new vicarage to be built behind the church, on 3b Merri Street. It will be a private residence with its own walled garden and separate entrance off Merri Street. For convenience there will be a gateway into the church yard. Building is not anticipated to be completed until the end of 2024, so the new vicar will have an opportunity to participate in selecting its interior finishings.

Living onsite the priest will continue to be part of the Brunswick community.

OUR PEOPLE

THE CONGREGATION

A saying at Christ Church goes, “You’re only new here once!”

This reflects the parish’s strong culture of welcome that genuinely embraces everyone and offers many opportunities for inclusion and participation. People cherish the close-knit community they find at Christ Church, and the caring bonds that exist between parishioners. Whilst there are people who have worshipped at Christ Church for decades, most of the congregation has joined within the last ten years.





attention to detail...toothpicks do the trick
with the tabernacle

OUR PEOPLE THE CONGREGATION

The congregation at Christ Church is a diverse mix of backgrounds and ages and attracts people from a range of spiritual traditions. There is a high level of participation and involvement in parish activities such as volunteering in The Lamb Café and helping with the 'Thursday Lunch' (currently a team of 25)





attention to detail..toothpicks do the trick
with the tabernacle

OUR PEOPLE THE CONGREGATION

The roster for intercessions (written by parishioners) is very healthy, as well as those for reading, flower arranging, cleaning, hospitality and gardening. Plus a very well attended spring-clean on Easter Saturday!





OUR PEOPLE

THE CONGREGATION

There is a growing Sunday School, with two classes; known as 'Lambs' for the younger children and 'Seekers' for the older children. 'Seekers' also meets on Wednesday afternoons in the Vicarage.

Currently there are approximately sixteen children in these two programs.



OUR PEOPLE

THE MINISTRY TEAM

Both Word and Sacrament inform our communal life through a daily rhythm of worship and prayer. The current ministry team comprises: the vicar, three honorary associate clergy, a pastoral assistant (who also acts as the sacristan), a stipendiary organist and a large serving team of men and women and mostly young adults.

The parish is very appreciative of good preaching, which is lectionary based and sets issues and controversy aside. Nightly Evening Prayer is often lay led and includes the reading of the prayer intentions left in the parish prayer box.





WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH

8am

Book of Common Prayer
12-20 people

10am

Celebrated at the nave altar and is the modern rite.

70-80 people

6pm

Informal gathering in the Lamb café currently
known as 'Bible and Beer'... and has the flexibility
to be delivered in other ways.





WORSHIP

WEEKDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Tuesday

8am Low Mass

6pm Evening Prayer

Wednesday

10am Low Mass

6pm Evening Prayer

Thursday

10am Morning Prayer

5pm Exposition of the Sacrament

6pm Evening Prayer

6:30pm Low Mass





WORSHIP

WEEKDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Friday

7am Low Mass

6pm Evening Prayer

Saturday

8am Low Mass followed by breakfast

6pm Evening Prayer





WORSHIP

Worship at Christ Church is in the Anglo-Catholic tradition, with the Eucharist being central to our worship. Daily masses are important to the congregation with the rhythm of daily prayer sustaining and guiding us.

Services are reverent and joyful, with parishioners contributing through welcoming, intercessions, reading, serving and cantoring. Sunday morning services attract 90-100 people.

Integrity of worship is important to the congregation as is the fact that it is well-anchored in the Anglo-Catholic tradition.





WORSHIP

On Friday nights Lectio Divina is included in the Evening Prayer service and on Sunday evenings a 6pm service ('Bible and Beer') is held in the Lamb Café, an informal time of praise singing, teaching, bible study and refreshments.

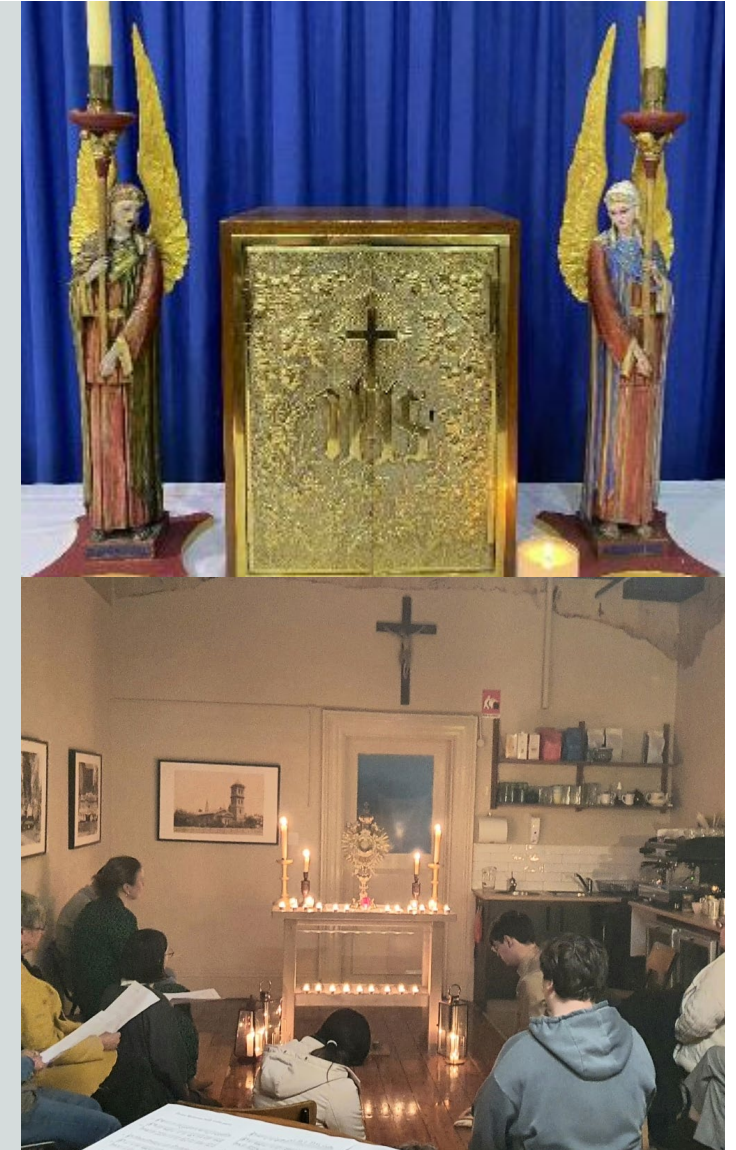
Importantly, this gathering is held in The Lamb Café, where it is visible to passers by and where the life of the church can be seen and entered into.



WORSHIP

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament plays an important part in our life at Christ Church, with weekly Exposition occurring on Thursdays immediately before Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel. Occasionally, this time of reverent adoration takes place in the Lamb Café in public view.

Candles are always available in the church for members of the public to light and spend time in prayer and reflection. People are also welcome to leave prayer intentions in the box which are prayed nightly at Evening Prayer.





WORSHIP

Music has always been important to the parish with a total of five congregationally sung mass settings in regular rotation, supported by cantors. Over the last seven or eight years we have enjoyed a rich mix of traditional hymnody and modern spiritual songs, as well as the occasional inclusion of instrumentalists from the congregation.

The parish also has connections with local musicians who play for regular events such as Carols and Jazz as well as at the The Lamb Café.





PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Christ Church is an outward facing parish, and quite literally so now, with our 'shop front' on Sydney Rd.

Our Lamb Café is a space that is currently open as a café four days a week, serves 50+ people at our free community 'Thursday lunch' as well as hosting 'Bible and Beer' on Sunday nights and morning tea after Sunday Mass.





PART OF THE COMMUNITY

Christ Church hosts an annual Carols and Jazz evening in our gardens, which is well attended by parishioners and Brunswick locals of all ages.

We also play an important role in the Ecumenical Palm Sunday procession around the streets of Brunswick, attended by over two hundred people from the churches of Brunswick.



LINKING UP

Christ Church is part of the Archdeaconry of Essendon, within the Marningatha Episcopate, led by Bishop Genieve Blackwell.

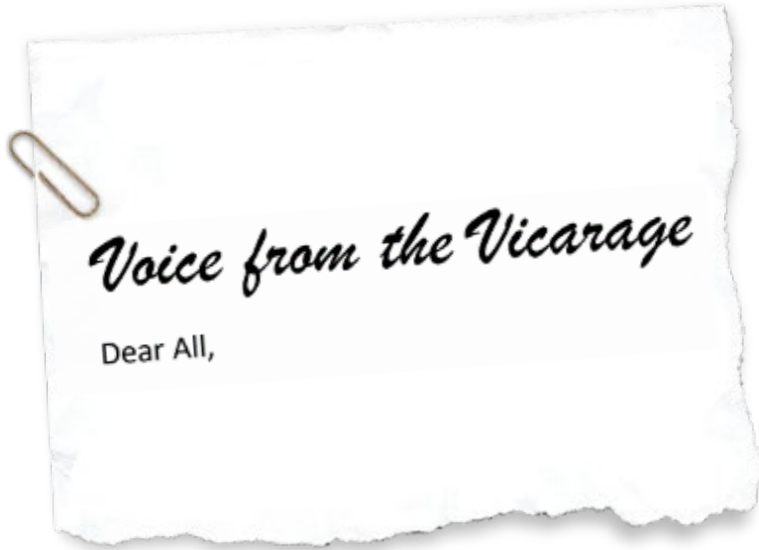
Christ Church enjoys collegial relationships with other local churches as a member of the Churches Working Together group with whom the annual Palm Sunday procession is organised.

The parish also has a fruitful relationship with the nearby Trinity College Theological School.



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DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE





LINKING UP

Parishioners at Christ Church are kept up to date with the 'Voice from the Vicarage', a weekly newsletter offering a mix of spiritual reflections and the news around the parish. This reaches a weekly email list of over 300, including friends of Christ Church near and far.





GOVERNANCE

The Parish Executive

Comprises the Vicar, three church wardens and Treasurer and meet every second month.

The Parish Council

Comprises twelve members plus three church wardens and meet every second month.



FINANCES

The parish came out of Covid in a strong financial position after a general shift to online giving.

Christ Church is not a wealthy parish as such and relies on 'live giving' rather than endowments. The

Executive aim to ensure that the parish is in a position to respond to opportunities for ministry and outreach as well as plan for the future.

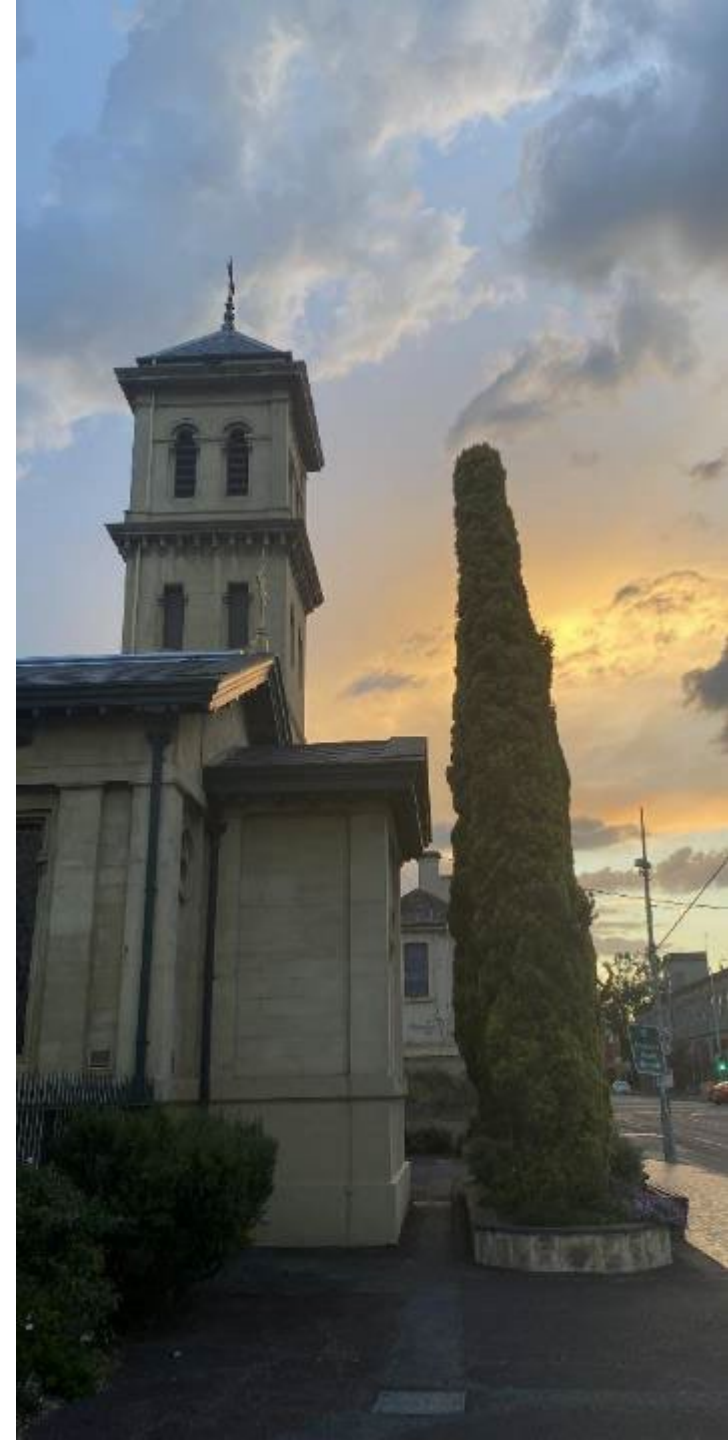
The Executive engage in sound projections and financial modelling including making provision for the remaining building works. The parish is currently in a healthy financial position.



HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The following are important to the people of Christ Church:

- ❖ To maintain the strongly Eucharistic focus to our worship, that is characterised by a “warm and living” catholic liturgical style.

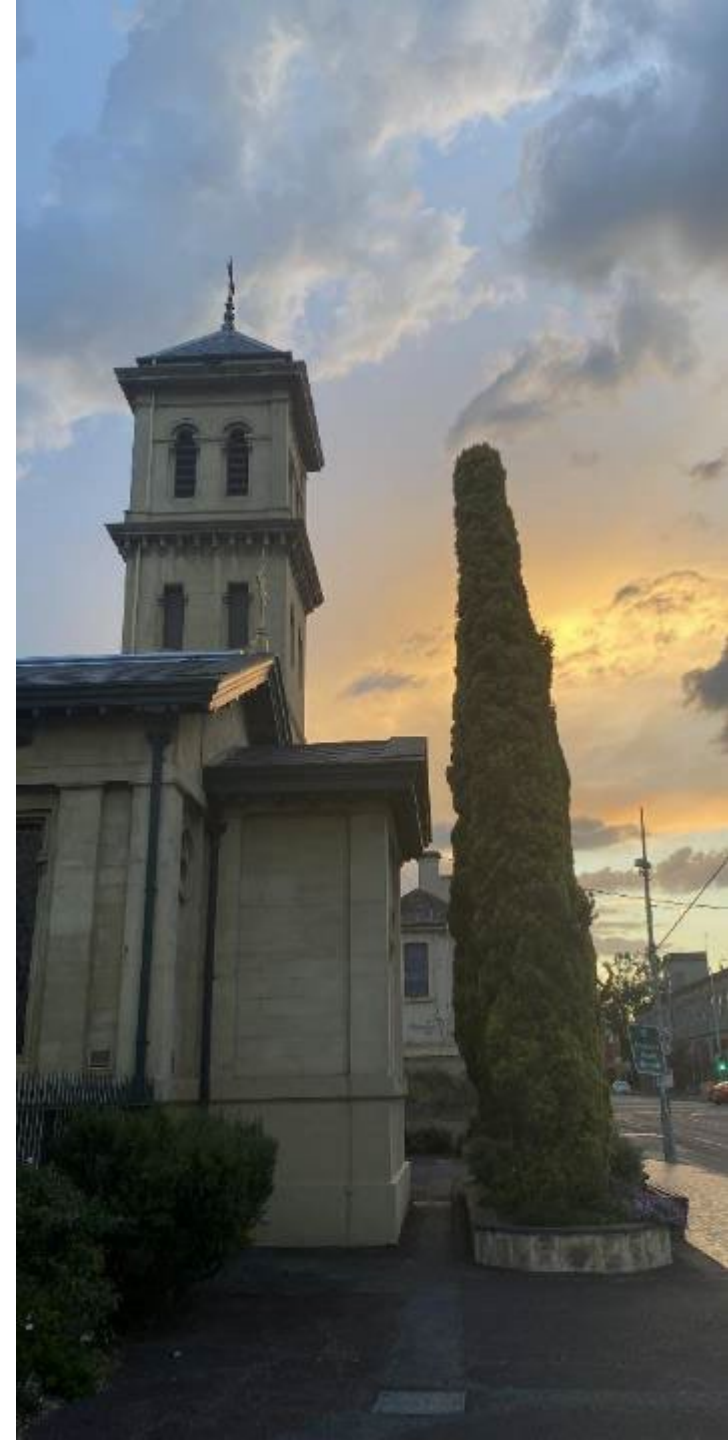




HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The following are important to the people of Christ Church:

- ❖ Maintaining the daily rhythm of prayer and worship.

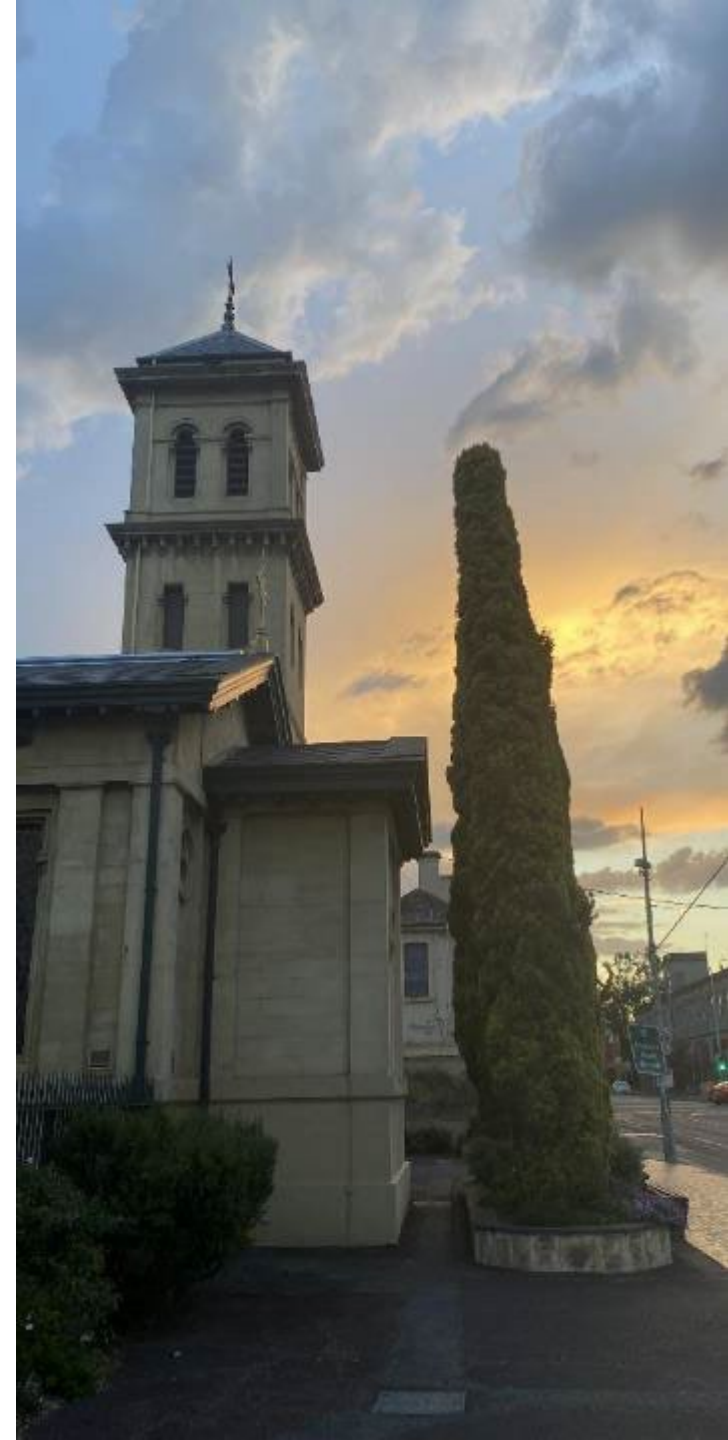




HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The following are important to the people of Christ Church:

- ❖ Keeping the church door open all day, every day and providing a welcome to all.

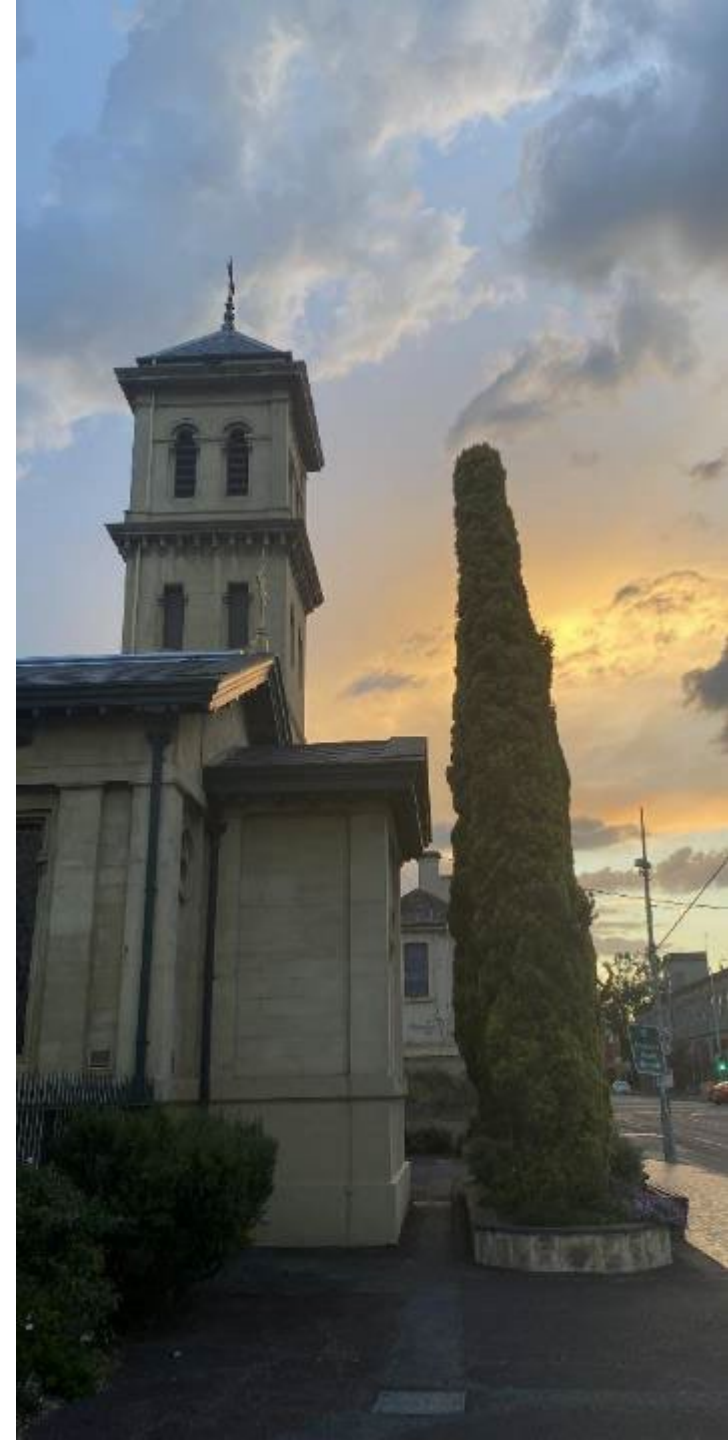




HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The following are important to the people of Christ Church:

- ❖ Remaining a community that is at once prayerful and outward looking, maintaining opportunities to serve the local community.

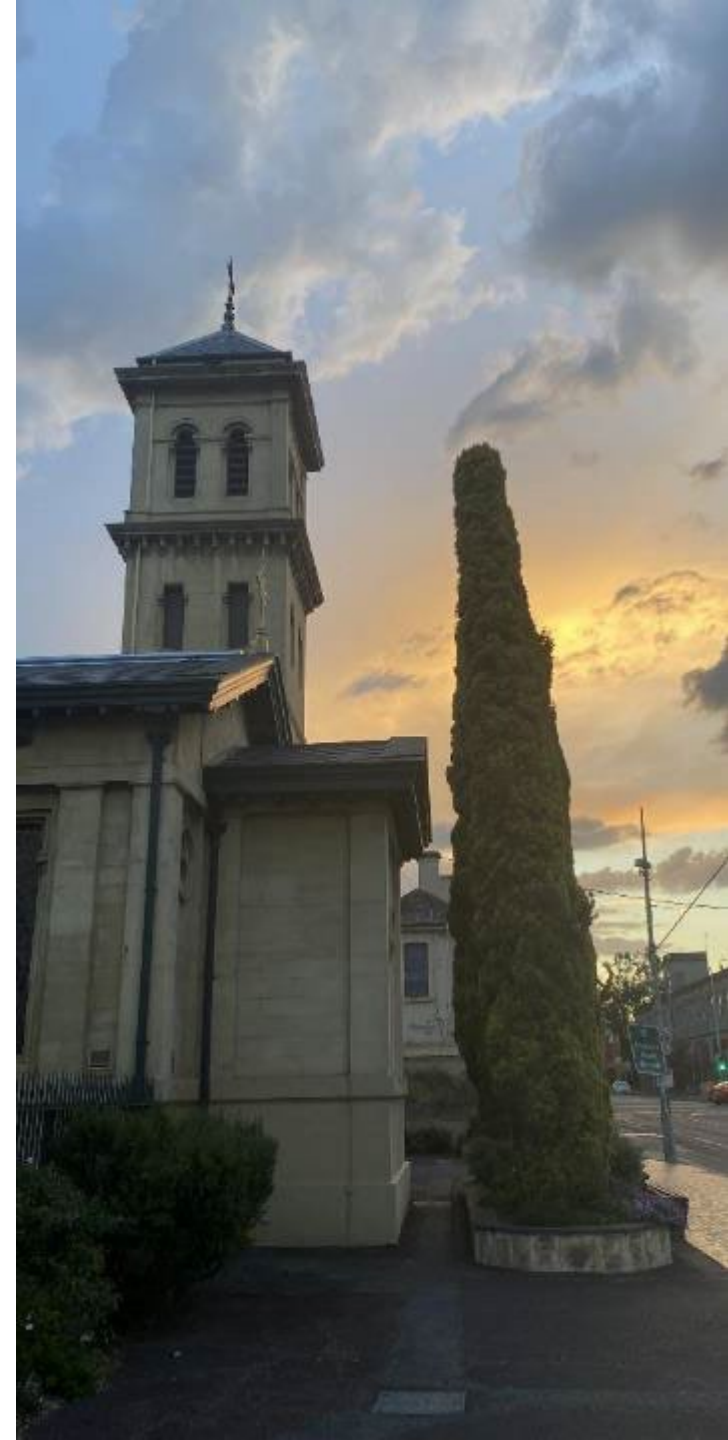




HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The following are important to the people of Christ Church:

- ❖ Fostering ministry to children and young people.

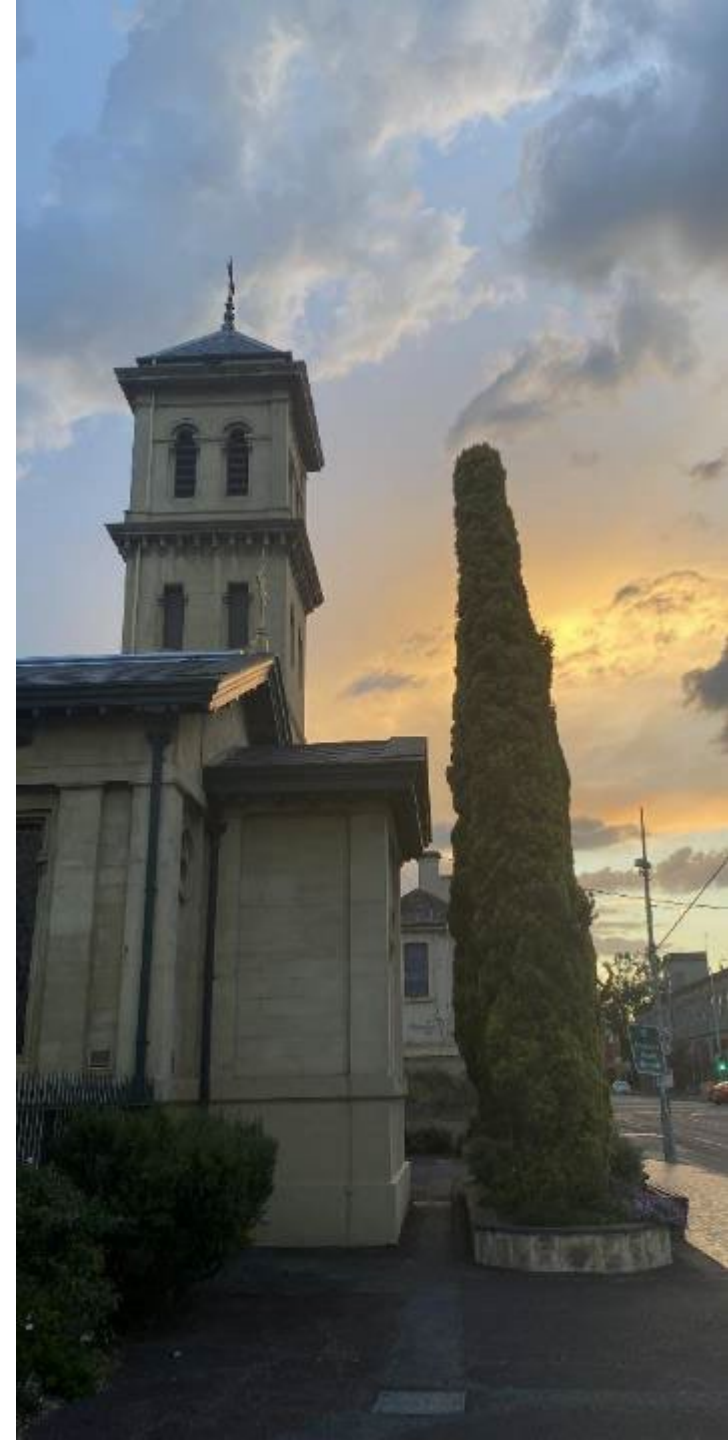




HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The following are important to the people of Christ Church:

- ❖ To be led by a priest with a deep, authentic spiritual life who has warmth, energy and a love of welcoming people to God's church.

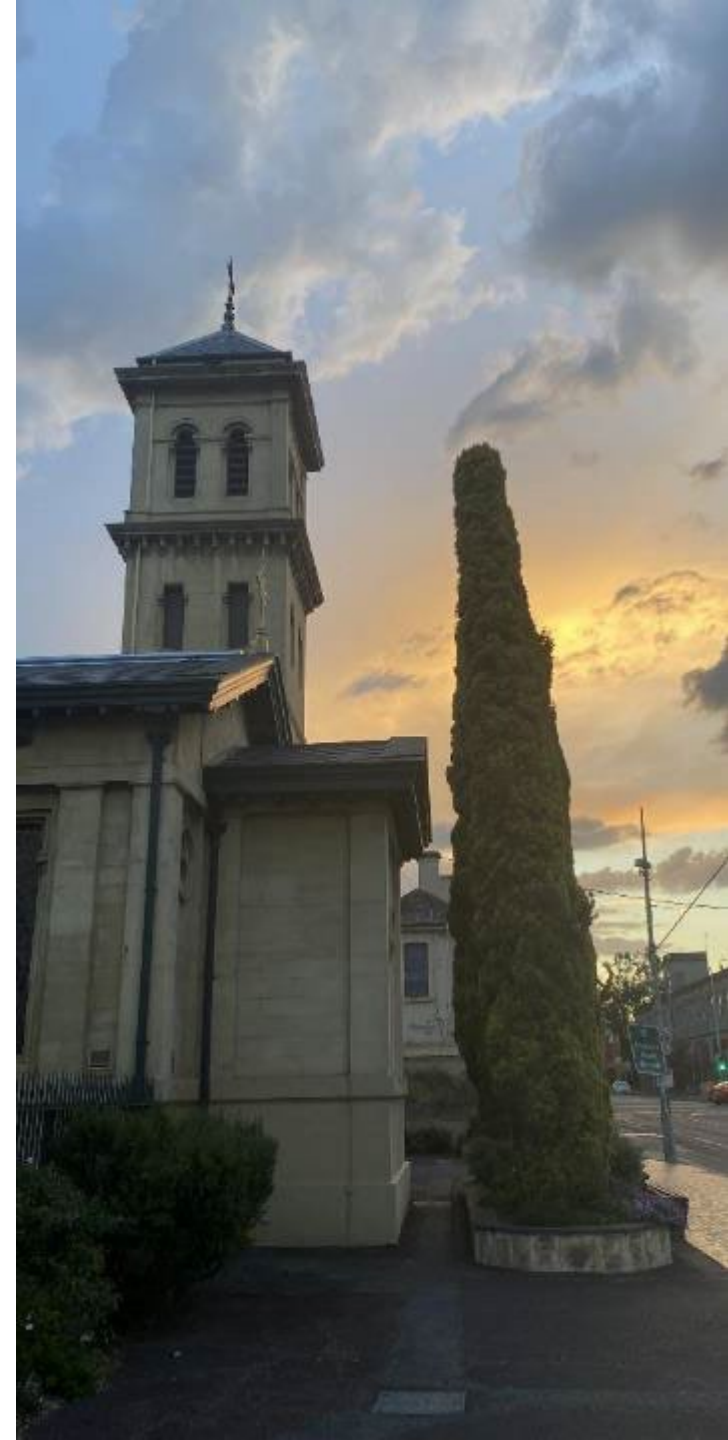




HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The following are important to the people of Christ Church:

- ❖ Someone who loves being a priest, loves the people entrusted to them and loves Jesus. And who will not rest content until more people come to know and love Him.



VOICES OF CHRIST CHURCH

Why do you like
come to
Christ Church?



SNAPSHOTS OF WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

