

# Voice from the Vicarage 18th March 2021



Dear All,

What a wonderful Sunday we had at Christ Church last week. The addition of some folk who had come to share in Fr Robert and Jennifer's joy as they exchanged their wedding vows made for quite a church full. The Sunday mass is an unusual setting for a wedding, but how natural and right it seemed for two Christian people. And how marvellous to know that they met all those years ago in the Sunday School here!

And thank you so much to Christine Deppeler and Fiona Chesterfield who provided the traditional simnel cake for Mothering Sunday, and then there were the posies. Thanks to Ellen Easton and the team that put those together. With the addition of a bit of bubbly it really did make for a very good 'Refreshment Sunday' as the fourth Sunday in Lent is sometimes termed.

*The Lord has risen indeed!*

You may know that some months ago some unlovely lads climbed over the church walls one night to have a bit of sacrilegious 'fun' knocking the statue of Jesus right off his plinth on to the ground below. I regard it as almost a miracle that it was not broken in two by the fall. It's solid marble and very heavy.



To our rescue came **CAMEO Memorials** in Fawkner. They visited and righted the statue but needed to return with a fork lift type machine to lift it back on to the plinth. This delicate operation happened last Friday, and I was phoned by Cameo on Monday to say that there would be no charge for this work. We owe them a real debt of gratitude. Property churchwarden John Vincent and daughter Meg replaced the canopy to finish the job, and aside from a couple of damaged fingers, the Lord has 'risen' in time for Easter...

The statue is a bit of hidden gem tucked as it is at the end of the path on the Memorial Garden side of the church. But it will come into its own when the wall on to 260 Sydney is lowered and the double gates into the church yard are in place!

Take a look at the wall! It's your last chance. Work begins on Monday! The new wall will look quite similar to the wall with railings on our Glenlyon Road frontage, though without the spikes at the top. That's health and safety for you!



*Not quite Jericho, but the wall will come carefully down...and Christ Church will soon be on Sydney as well as Glenlyon....*

The schedule of work tells me all should be complete by the second week of May, including the new wall along the property at 264 soon to be known as 'The Lamb and Flag'..

Which reminds me, I hope some folk will be able to join me at 264 on Saturday week to give a hot cross bun and an Easter Card to passers by. Will they believe that they are being offered

something for nothing? From my point of view, on occasions giving something away is a good investment!

*This Weekend...*

The Op Shop will course be open on Friday and Saturday. Thanks so much to Donna and the small team that keep that important show on the road. On **Sunday morning** Deacon Russell will be preaching. Last time, if you remember, he preached on a Sunday it was to an empty church. Be good if that didn't happen again!

**ON SUNDAY @ 5** all are welcome to the vicarage for a time of praise and bible study followed by refreshments. This is a very gentle and good time together, and a lovely way to bring the Lord's Day to its end.

*HOLY WEEK approaches....*

The 'Great' week as it is sometimes called is the most important week of the year for Christians, and I commend the services to you as we live in the liturgies the **awesome**, yes awesome events that are at the heart of our faith. It begins on Palm Sunday, the 28th when we shall join with brothers and sisters from other churches in Brunswick and with Francesca the donkey who will help us as we are transported in our worship to Jerusalem....

You will soon receive an email with details of all the opportunities of that week...

**BUT BEFORE THEN** on Thursday is the **feast of the Annunciation**, when we celebrate the real starting point of it all when Mary says 'Yes' to God's will that she be the mother of his Son. **Sung MASS @ 7** followed by a little glass of something...

*And finally*, one of the blessings of having a Columbian in the vicarage is the traditions of piety that comes from that part of the catholic world, household shrines being one of them. No restricting of statues to the church there! In honour of his feast day tomorrow, St Joseph has been placed next to Our Lady of Guadalupe.



I must admit, I do love a good statue or two!

*With love from us all + Lindsay*