

Voice from the Vicarage Maundy Thursday

Dear All,



Anne & John (8 o'clock-ers) catch up with Francesca and friend.. Busy day for Anne, whose son Matthew was married at St Carthage's, Parkville that afternoon!

What a week it is! And what a good weekend last weekend was! We managed to give away nigh on 150 hot cross buns and Easter cards in front of 264 Sydney Road on Saturday. Turns out we have some good evangelists around the place! And then, how very good be get together with other Christians to begin Holy Week. Francesca was of course a great hit even managing to make some donkey noises off stage for the 8 o'clockers at the end of their celebration... Well, we wouldn't want the early risers to miss out.



Jesse and others make it clear that anybody can be a Christian!

Tonight at 8 we remember the first celebration of the Eucharist in the Upper Room and wash feet during the liturgy before then holding a vigil of prayer until midnight.

The Vigil is a come and go thing.

It will conclude with Compline which will be sung at 11.40.

TOMORROW the GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY is at 10 a.m.

Of course some folk are required to work on Good Friday so cannot attend, but most are lucky enough to have the day off.. The traditional time for the Good Friday liturgy is the afternoon, but here at Christ Church we deliberately time our service for the morning to allow as many folk as possible to fulfil their obligation to worship, leaving the afternoon free for whatever activities seem appropriate.

SATURDAY EVENING @ 8.30 marks the beginning of our celebration of the Resurrection with the Lighting of the New Fire, the singing of the Easter proclamation, bible readings, renewal of baptismal promises and the first mass of Easter. There will be glass of something afterwards in the vicarage.



'pool boys' Ron and Andrew collect and deliver the pool in readiness for Sunday's washing...

In readiness for Anita's baptism on Sunday at the **10 a.m. Easter Day Celebration** the baptismal pool arrived today, on loan from the Baptist Church in South Yarra. If you have never experienced baptism by full immersion, now is your opportunity.

Eggs and lunch... And there will be an Easter Egg hunt after mass, and for those who can stay, lunch together in the vicarage and garden. During the lunch we will give thanks for Deacon Katie's ministry among us as she prepares to move to Altona for her 'second' curacy. What a blessing she has been to us. She will be with us the following Sunday and will preach that day, but this Sunday will be the opportunity for a few words to be said...

In the midst of life...

Yesterday, requiem mass was offered for **Graham Barrett** who found his way to Christ Church at the end of 2019. Graham made the decision to return to the practice of his faith when he was diagnosed with cancer. It was a genuine privilege to walk with him and pray with him through this journey, a journey he faced with extraordinary and quiet strength in the midst of its disappointments and pain. Pray for him, and for Lana and Veronika. Graham's ashes will be placed in our memorial garden at some time in the future.

Yesterday morning the long awaited gate for the memorial garden arrived.



With the new entrance to Sydney Road opening up that part of our property, it's important to signify the set apartness of the place where the mortal remains of loved ones are placed. On Tuesday next at 11.30 we shall inter the ashes of Pat and Kevin Gartside in the garden near the ashes of their son Gary.

Such sacred rituals are so important, and at the heart of the life and ministry of the Church.

Never forget that daily prayer is the life blood of the Church. Your prayer at home and the public offering of worship at Christ Church....

Christ Church is almost on Sydney!

The wall is well on its way down and we are getting a flavour of the blessing it will be to the Sydney Road



Church and State face each other! The gate opening from the churchyard...



The wall is almost down...

The workers are moving at a cracking place and are proving a friendly and cooperative bunch...

And finally, THE WORD ON THE STREET is

that the government are intending a bit of a crackdown on COVID compliance and will be making spot checks on businesses and community gathering places over the next few weeks.

PLEASE ENSURE that you either use the QR code check in procedure or sign in with your details on the forms provided at the front door of the church. You don't want an on the spot fine and we don't want one either!

It's not a difficult procedure and if you're a bit confused ask for a bit of help. It will be offered gladly... Thanks for your cooperation.

Meanwhile, I hope very much to see a bit of you over the next few days...

+Lindsay