

# Voice from the Vicarage July 1st 2021

Dear All,

## A 'Yack' for a week...

A few days break does us all good, and the inside of a week away in the wilds of Yackandandah was something of a tonic, as the daily rhythm shifted from public prayer (I continued the private) to a daily rhythm of visits to vineyards!

As I listened to various vintners it was interesting to note that the art of cultivating vines and the making of wine is a slow work, not unlike, it seems to me, the work of God himself, who is still creating billions of years later, and took a good measure of time before entering into our world in the flesh. And certainly the 'work' of sanctification of our own soul is a slow process, little by little advancing in godliness. The Jesuit paleontologist, Teilhard de Chardin, who presumably knew all about God's slow work in creation, used to say that we are often more impatient than God when it comes to our advancement in the way of discipleship.

### Be patient with yourself! But keep on..

At one very small vineyard, I remarked that in the Bible, wine is often associated with joy, and that somehow it seemed to me that the work of the vine grower had something godly about it. Not sure the very interesting owner was quite willing to accept the idea....My cause might have been enhanced had we bought some of his wine...

## Thank you...

Bread and Wine and Joy seemed very much together on Tuesday evening, the Feast of St Peter and St Paul. Thank you so much to those of you able to be present as during the mass I gave thanks for 40 years as a priest in the Church of God. I'm sure it's quite wrong to suggest that one mass is more beautiful than any other, but it was a treat to have four of the Divisi singers who gave their time and talent, have Sam on the trumpet, and Fr Ron Noone, one of my oldest friends, as preacher. It was an excellent sermon. And the congregational singing was worthy of a 'Songs of Praise'!

I want especially to thank our Cecilia Fairlie who did so much to prepare for the follow on nibbles—much more than nibbles actually, and for the generous donation of the wine. And, with the help of our Jesse Lattarulo, Cecilia stole some of my old photos to put together a slide presentation as well as some little video clips from



Thanks to Neicia Shaw who made another of her wonderful cakes. Note the coat of arms for the diocese of Southwark where I was ordained...

folk from far away, including former pastoral assistants, Mason Morgan and Peter Cotterill; the beloved Frank family from Switzerland: from Germany, Daniel, Charlotte and lovely baby Emmi; Fr Patrick in Sweden and one of my oldest friends, Jonathan Prichard.

As I said at the time, Christ Church has quite a 'diaspora'! A number receive 'The Voice' week by week. It means a lot. By the way, I want to thank the kind but surely insincere parishioner who remarked that I look better now than I did 40 years ago! Should have gone to Spec Savers perhaps?

In a sermon some time ago I lamented that the church where I was baptised did not have a 'blue plaque' immortalising that momentous occasion....

Bruce Munroe has redeemed the loss with this very suitable alternative which should surely hang in the kitchen of the new 'Parish House'?



### Getting back to a bit normal...

We have heard today that the State government has relaxed the rules for churches somewhat and we can now comfortably fit our regular congregation in the church when you take into account that households may sit together. Masks should be worn. Remember that you can sit in the Lady chapel if you would prefer.

### So this Sunday...

**8 a.m. Book of Common Prayer**

**10 a.m. Sung Mass and 'Lambs'**

## Say some prayers for Jack

Our new curate to be, **Jack Lindsay**, will be 'made' a deacon (I'll be talking about 'making' in my sermon on Sunday) at **CHRIST CHURCH SOUTH YARRA** in three weeks time on Friday 23rd July at 7.30 p.m. Covid permitting, anyone will be welcome at the Service.



I reckon Jack is over 6' tall...so it seems I'm destined to be towered over by the two curates! Still, as my first grade teacher used to say, "Good things come in small packages..." Or maybe I'll get a box to stand on...



## 'Enter His gates with thanksgiving.....'

So the long awaited gates are now in position, and we look for the day when folk begin to make the little

journey down into the churchyard. At the bottom of the steps they will read the

invitation to **'Enter His gates with thanksgiving..'**

The Council will be doing some more work on their land next week and are due to have what they call a 'soft opening' next Friday...Meanwhile the rather complicated applications for food and drink licences continue. You'd be amazed what must be gone through to put up an umbrella these days!

*And finally...* I learnt something new today from a couple who came to talk about the baptism of son Dominik. Aldi diapers are the cheapest and best! Just saying. Hope to see you soon! **+Lindsay**

