

Voice from the Vicarage 19th August 2021

Dear All,

So many lovely things happen by surprise. Today I was talking to one of the folk who join us for lunch on Thursday. I suppose she is in her twenties, maybe early thirties. She was telling me that every day at the moment she comes into the church garden to pray at the statue of Jesus. It was a reminder to me that there are likely many secret prayers being offered in Brunswick 'without benefit of clergy' even without benefit of the Church, though of course without the Church in this case, the prompting statue of Jesus would not be there. Oh, and just to say, we have been praying for her at Evening Prayer recently. Is there a connection? Lord knows!



Change, but not decay in all around...



No idea who these two are, but delighted they feel at home on the porch....

And talking of places, I'm always delighted when folk feel free to sit on the vicarage porch as if it's a public and welcoming place. Of course it won't be too long before that porch becomes the way in to the parish office which will relocate from the Bardin Centre by the 1st October when

the Department of Education take over the halls and land. There was a time when 1/10 seemed a way a way, but it is fast approaching.

J.H.Newman wrote somehow that to live is to

change, and to be perfect is to have changed often. I'm going to try and bear that in mind as change comes our way, and in particular life in the vicarage changes over the coming months! The 'big' room will become a parish meeting place, though hopefully as the weather warms up we will be able to use the garden for refreshments too. The vicarage kitchen will become parish space and the largest bedroom upstairs will become a kitchen for me and any vicarage residents.

Talking of residents, as you know our Javi returns to Colombia next Wednesday. Now that's a change that I don't want to happen, though I know it's the right thing for him. What a pity that lockdown means we can't give him a proper farewell. And then Lucas will move out too when he gets married to Anita on the 25th September. Only I am left! Well, that's not true because Albert Young is returning to live in the vicarage in the next month or so, which of course I'm delighted about. Albert's barista skills and his knowledge of café culture and management will be a gift in 'The Lamb', more so will be his love for Jesus.

Talking of 'The Lamb', thanks so much to **Anthony Vlk** whose son Dominik was baptised at Christ Church just a few weeks ago. He has been putting his painting skills to work and the front of the building is now on its way to being 'Brunswick Green'...He and a mate will be putting up our sign in the next week or so. I went with Anthony to the Coburg Bunning's to get some necessities early this week but of course it's only open for 'tradies'. Can you believe they wouldn't let me in 'cos they didn't believe I was a bona fide 'tradie's apprentice'! Anthony said it was my outfit that gave it away...

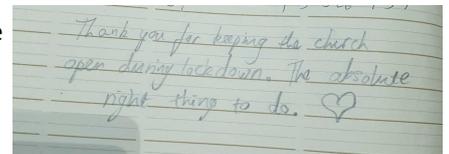


If you walk along Sydney Road you might have noticed that the Council have put a bit of greenery at the entrance to 260 Sydney Road. It's going to take time for the site to be transformed into a recognisable park, but it will happen, and this is a good beginning! And it's just become just a part of our 'opening up' routine each morning to include the gates on to the land...and to close them after prayers each night.



And talking of opening up, it was a joy to read this in the visitors book in

the church....the young woman who wrote this has been coming



into the church most days....We are not free at the moment to offer public services, but I see no reason why folk can't come into the church for reflection and prayer, and they do...and so can you, if you are passing by.

There has been a good response to last Sunday's service 'on line' with over two hundred 'views' and we have now begun to put up the sermon as a separate upload. This will become a normal pattern. Thank you to Jesse who was editing the service last week until very late...and also spliced the sermon. It's all very worth it. Thank you, by the way, to those who have commented about my sermon about the Assumption of Mary, a teaching, which as most of you will know is very dear to my heart. I am determined that one year, we will have fireworks!

As is the custom, the Reserved Sacrament can be collected from the vicarage tomorrow (Friday) between 2—5, and then on Saturday between 2—6.

Mass online...again!

Obviously mass will be online @ 10 am and then available on the parish website or our Youtube channel or via the parish Facebook page. Each week the service paper can be downloaded from the website, and it includes some daily Bible readings. If you want the music file, just email Stephen our organist and he will let you have it. (baldwinse@hotmail.com)

And finally, how we need to pray for the people of Afghanistan! It puts our own predicaments, painful as they are, into a different perspective....

Love from the 'Vic'....

+Lindsay