

Dear All,

It's unusual for me to not quite know how to begin this weekly newsletter, but I seem to have lost my 'Voice'! Maybe it's just the fruit of these strange days...but have no fear, I will find my voice again!

So let me begin with two other voices who contributed to our prayer last Sunday, our Harmony and our Symphony. In her prayer, Harmony



invited us to live the day showing the Lord's love with a smile, while Symphony led us in the prayer that unites all Christians. You may know



that with their parents they arrived in this country as refugees from Syria and are surely proving themselves a gift to Australia and certainly to us. The deeply distressing scenes of families from another part of the Middle East trying to flee the land they love for fear are shocking and saddening. They surely call us to prayer for Afghanistan and its people, and to a generosity of spirit toward those who find themselves in need of safe lodging.

Speaking for myself, it has brought in me a new checking of complaint about my own small inconveniences in the 'strange days' I've already referred to.

Thank you so much' says our Javi....

Javi Soler has asked me to offer his heartfelt thanks to all those who made a contribution to his surprise leaving gift, which totalled well over \$2000. This shows remarkable generosity as well as of course reflecting how much we have appreciated his presence, much of it behind a camera and at the editor's desk during lockdown.

He will use the money to sustain him as he searches for a new job and settles down again in his homeland. He was sad to go, but so looking forward to seeing his family again. His parents have no idea that he will be turning up to his own birthday party which they are expecting to hold on zoom! Heart attacks and tears all around I reckon...

In typical Javi fashion he left quite a lot of clothes behind because his two suitcases were stuffed full of gifts for loved ones and friends, including 30 or more packets of Tim-Tams, for which Australia is apparently well known in Colombia...When I relayed this to Deacon Jack he said that there are worse things to be known for...there may also be better! Well I reckon Aus. will also be known for the generosity of a little parish in Brunswick!

I add my thanks to Javi's own.

Well, if I was feeling a little sad this morning after his departure yesterday, there was no time to dwell on it! After prayers this morning, media man Curtis Reeder arrived to interview and film me about the developments in the parish and especially 'The Lamb and Flag'. A couple of years ago the parish appeared in a video made by Curtis for the diocesan Church planting and renewal group, and this a follow up. Truth is,

though you may find it hard to believe I don't like appearing on camera, but it was very good to have the opportunity to reflect with him about the reasons behind what we are doing, and our hopes for the future. Also about how far we have come in the midst of the constraints of the past year, though there is of course a way to go! I'm certainly hoping that we will be back to a measure of normality for services by September 26th when the Archbishop is due to make his visit and bless the endeavour!



Looks pretty professional I reckon...Curtis loved the vibe of 'The Lamb' and I'm trying to convince him he would make a very good volunteer barista and evangelist....

Out of camera shot Anthony Vlk is meanwhile getting on with the painting of the frontage, another gift of time and talent to the cause!

And another milestone....

The first cup of coffee in 'The Lamb and Flag' was served



up on Tuesday as the new coffee machine was installed. It looks the real deal! So many thanks to the parishioner who bought it as her contribution to this new work. It won't be long until Albert Young can start training up a few baristas!

(lockdowns permitting!)

Online again....

Last Sunday, Deacon Russell preached a fine sermon on discipleship and it's available to watch as a separate video on our website and on Youtube.

This Sunday, the Parish Mass will again be on line from 10 am. A copy of the service paper will be available on the website to download. And if you would like a copy of the music file from Stephen Baldwin, just send him an email. (baldwinse@hotmail.com)

You can collect the reserved Sacrament from the vicarage as you go about your shopping or your exercise between 2 pm—5 pm tomorrow (Friday) and from 2 pm—6 pm on Saturday. And if you are passing by, don't forget that the church is open throughout the day for personal prayer....

And finally, we have heard from our architect that we have gone out to tender for the work on the vicarage transforming it into the 'Parish House'. How good it will be to see that work begin!

'Love at a distance' from the Vic....Keep on keeping on...

+Lindsay