

Voice from the Vicarage October 8th 2021

Dear All,

I've deliberately help back on sending out the 'Voice' until today because something beautiful and I think significant was due to happen this morning, and I wanted to report it.

It is our hope that folk from Brunswick in the midst of all their comings and goings, will make the small but not inconsiderable steps down from the land at 260 Sydney Road, now in process of becoming an 'urban park' into our well established church yard. Lest any be in any doubt of the change of 'air' from secular to sacred, and in the ground under their feet from the often stony terrain of the city to the soft ground of Gospel mercy, today a stone was inset that will provide the clue and we pray set the traveller wondering. It's a stone that issues an invitation which we, as the Lord's people in this place, must make sure is heartfelt, and does not disappoint.



It's a simple text that in fact, churchwarden Cecilia Fairlie suggested and it comes from Psalm 100, verse 4.

We have a long way to go as we continue to make the Christ Church 'precinct' all that we have come to believe the Lord wants it to be. Because we are, I truly believe, seeking to do his will,

there will be disappointments and challenges on the way as well as blessings. Rarely are time frames and budgets exactly as planned, but we keep on! And we must pray for labourers for the harvest in the 'Lamb' as we get what ever we are going to do up and running.

But it seems that after a lot of careful negotiation the lease on the Bardin Centre and Merri Street land is ready for signing, and as a much needed result we will soon receive an 'advance' of our first year's rent! Hats off to our treasurer Robyn White who manages our finances efficiently, and bear considerable anxieties about cash flow with such good grace.

In the midst of those very real financial issues I'm doing my bit. Churchwarden John Vincent reckons I'm the 'Arthur Daly' of Brunswick after a couple of good sales of stuff from the Bardin Centre on Facebook Marketplace over the last weeks as we try to clear the Bardin Centre. Just when I'd given up hope of selling the 'boardroom' tables and blue chairs that have graced the foyer since I don't know when, and resigned myself to the unpalatable conclusion that we'd have to pay someone to take them away, an offer for the full asking price came in! What a joy to see them carted away to I don't know where by a couple of strong lads! May they have equally good use in the future.



Lincoln from Cameo memorials was responsible for the cutting out for the lettering and came today to help set it in place....

We are buying 24 chairs for the 'Lamb' and if you'd like to contribute to that fund, \$50 will do it to ensure someone has a seat at table.... Let +L know or treasurer Robyn White: robynwhite51@iinet.net.au

So what makes one \$20 note any more beautiful than another...

Believe me this is a beautiful \$20!



Last Sunday I was sitting outside the servery hatch to 'The Lamb' after a walk with one of my brothers and his wife having a coffee, when a woman and her husband came up to me.

"Are you anything to do with this place?" she asks, looking in the direction of 264.

"Yes, I'm the parish priest", says I.

"I was walking past here in Thursday while you were offering people a free lunch, and I thought it was so good. I just want to make a little donation. Thank you so much for what the Church is doing.", says she.

"Thank you. Can I ask your name?"

"It's Carol, but that doesn't matter."

And off she went down the Sydney Road.

Not only is this a lovely act of spontaneous generosity, it shows in a small way what the shift in the Sydney Road direction might do for our parish profile in the neighbourhood. I was ridiculously delighted!

And here's another lovely bit of news.

The Archbishop has informed me that he intends to ordain Deacon Russell to the sacred priesthood on November 27th and that he will continue as part of our ministry team here.

It's so important that we surround Russell with our prayer as he prepares for this life transforming gift. Details of timings and who can attend as time goes by.



My fourth grade teacher used to say that good things come in small packages...not such a consoling message for the curates...

And finally,

On Thursday my new mate Mick arrived on Thursday to put in place the Lamb logo on the front door and some new wording on the overhang above. Thanks for the artwork to former churchwarden Keith O'Donnell. His next job is a design for coasters....



Hope to love you from a distance

on line! +L