

Voice from the Vicarage 30th September

Dear All,

Well, it seems that bishops are like buses! You wait for ages and then they come in a bunch, or perhaps more properly in a 'bench'. Well in this case it's a pair.

How very good it was to have the encouragement of our Archbishop for all we are doing here in his video message last week. I very much appreciated the way he connected the name of our new enterprise 'The Lamb and Flag' with the Lamb of God who is at the heart of our worship. How I look forward to folk walking down the Sydney Road, saying, "Behold the Lamb and Flag!" and of course the opportunity we will have to gently but intentionally witness to *the* Lamb who washed our sins away...



The Archbishop on surely one of the happiest days of his episcopate, just over 6 years ago.....

Of course, it will all take more time that we hoped to get up and running due to Covid, but we will get there, of that I have no doubt, and in the meantime, as you know, we are hosting our Thursday lunches from there. I hear that today, there were a number of new people, who were clearly impressed with the fare and intend to return!

Now, back to bishops!

Our regional bishop, Genieve, will participate in our online service on Sunday. She will gather with our small team on Saturday morning to record the service, and will preach the sermon.

Originally from New South Wales, where she was the first female bishop in that province, she was translated to be regional bishop of the Marningatha episcopal area (our region!) in 2015.



This will be her second visit to the parish. On the last occasion, we shared with her our hope that our church might be re-roofed!

It is +Genieve's practice to meet with the parish council on such occasions. In the current circumstances this will take place at a meeting to be arranged on zoom within the next couple of months.

Dedication Festival

What a lovely Dedication Festival we celebrated last week, and although it was a diminishment that we were unable to be in our beloved church or meet for a meal afterwards as is our custom, I think the team that put the service together did us proud! Thanks very much to them all. Apologies again that due to a gremlin in the works the service was late appearing.

There have been some nice comments expressed about the little group of singers who have to pre-record together before the service proper is filmed to keep to the regulations. The three who joined cantor Anna were all ordained clergymen! And great trumpet at the

end as we sang a couple of verses of 'Crown him'. Thank you Sam.

The service is still up on line if you haven't had a chance to see it. I hope those who have noted the colour co ordination between the flowers (thank you Mary Harris) and the vestments!



Colour co ordination.....

Clear out continues...

Well, a small team has been working really hard continuing the process of emptying the Bardin centre of our stuff in readiness for the handover to the Education Department. The Department has generously agreed to extending the time for us to clear for a few weeks, for which we are grateful. **The office** will move into the vicarage on around the 20th of October, and the entrance will be from the front porch via the fountain garden entrance.



This scruffy bunny is past her prime. It seemed like the perfect playmate for the new deacon but he declined, so there was nothing for it.....the skip it is. He may be sorry on cold winter nights.

This Weekend...

As usual, the Blessed Sacrament can be collected with a copy of Sunday's order of service both tomorrow and on Saturday. Tomorrow from 2—5 p.m. and Saturday from 2—6 p.m.

The service paper can also be accessed from the parish website.

And looking forward.....

We know that at the end of October, all things being equal the State will begin a process of easing restrictions. With regard to church services, these are complicated and begin with outdoor services with segregated congregations. In November congregations can move indoors, though with density quotients and continued segregation.

The bishops have asked that the parish priests of the diocese discuss the matter with their parish councils as to what provision and arrangements are appropriate to their situation. This will happen at our next meeting. Your prayers will be appreciated...More on that as time goes by.

And finally. I want to give a shout out to our Jesse who is doing a fantastic job as our entire tech crew. He's a star!

+*Lindsay*