

# Voice from the Vicarage 12th November 2021

Dear All,

I suppose it's the case that for Australians, generally speaking, April 25th is more in our corporate psyche and imagination than yesterday's date.

*11, 11, eleven...*

Nevertheless in many parts of the world, and especially throughout the Commonwealth, Remembrance Day is still of great import as we remember that at 'the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month' the Armistice was signed and the 'Great War' - the 'war to end all wars' was over. As many do here, (including before the Thursday lunch at 264) in the UK as you may know Remembrance is kept with great solemnity and the nation stops and falls silent for two minutes to remember.

In London's Mall, members of the Royal Family, religious leaders of many varieties, leaders of political parties all forget their differences in a common thanksgiving, mingled with regret, that such a stern necessity ever came to pass. And then of course there is the marvellous March Past as here on Anzac Day.

At a Leavers' Service at one of the schools with which I had to do in Sussex, I asked all the 18 year olds about to embark on their futures, with all their hopes and dreams associated with that transition, to turn around and look at the memorial board that hangs over the door at the entrance to their chapel. All those years ago, young people with great hopes as they left school whose lives were cut short....

Can we ever imagine that our future is entirely in our own hands?

On Sunday we will remember the fallen in our intercessions, with thanksgiving and regret..

*Impromptu gathering in the Lamb..*

How nice it was to gather in the Lamb after the 10 am service last Sunday. There was much delight at the photos of Christ Church in earlier days. Yesterday a person came into the Lamb and was much amused and impressed by the photo of the Christ Church Women's Cricket team from around 1910. The first Victorian cricket association for women begun in 1904 ceased in 1916 due to the pressures of the war.



'Our' girls are an impressive and determined looking bunch, but rather overdressed by today's standards perhaps. Sadly, most of their names are now lost, but they are Christ Church, and it's very good to have a reminder that our heritage is not just our beautiful

church building, but a community.

We shall also be including photos of the community in our own day. The Church lives on!

*Opening 'softly'*

And so the 'soft opening' of **The Lamb and Flag** has begun. We are intentionally starting slowly so as not to inappropriately raise expectations we cannot meet, and as we build a team and discern how the Lord wants us to use this opportunity and space, a space



provided for us by our forbears. As the sign says, whatever else is provided we pray 'The Lamb' will be a place of **GREAT BLESSINGS.**

In a recent video about church growth made for the diocese I said I hoped that 'The Lamb' would be a place where questions would arise naturally through our encounters with folk there.....One of the first questions?

**"So what's a BUTTY?"**

Of course I hadn't anticipated such ignorance....

Come and find out!

Talking of questions, our very first customer was a temp working at the dentist next door. She is a Muslim, a young mum and a delight. And she asked the question, "Why the Lamb and Flag?"

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AS I look back on it, the week has been such a mixture. The lovely privilege of sharing in Heather de-Viell Richter's funeral mass on Monday, was full of both sadness and thanksgiving. I think more of the latter, for she had battled on with cancer for so long, and hers was a life well lived, a life of 'Grace and grit' in the midst of considerable adversity.

As I said last week, the return to the public daily prayer rhythm is such a blessing, and of course in these strange days, it's a blessing that there is no distinction in who may come!

*And finally,* some good news just in yesterday. The lease with the Education Department was finally signed and sealed. (As you might imagine this brings a measure of relief to our treasurer... )

Remember, Masses on Sunday @ 8,10 and 12. +✍