

# Voice from the vicarage 15th December 2021

Dear All,

Well what a lovely evening Tuesday's Carols and Jazz was! First of all, thank you to the mighty team who assisted in the preparation, welcoming and serving, and cleaning up. And all done with good humour.

There was a good mix of folk, and it was of course very good to welcome jazz musician Michelle Nicoll and her colleagues. And more than that, there was a lovely surprise when we were treated to our own Deacon Jack on his violin, accompanying Marjorie Butcher (one of our lockdown cantors) and then 'jamming' with the band during 'We wish you a merry Christmas'.



And talking of Christmas, the 'Father' of that name did his stuff, though some poor misguided children thought he might be someone they know! Their doubts didn't stop them getting through all the lollies though....

*Double Blessing this weekend!*

**Next Sunday will have a double blessing!**

**It has been announced by the government** that there need be no distinction between vaccinated and unvaccinated persons at church services. Readers of the Voice will perhaps know I had and have strong feelings about the segregation of people—though of course I accept and respect that there are folk who feel as strongly about its necessity. But I have to admit I am delighted that it will no longer be necessary for 'status unknown' persons to come to mass at 8 or 12, or at 10 be in the Parish House to participate by livestream and have the Sacrament-brought to them there. It pained me to require folk to separate in such a way, and my only consolation was that our provision compared favourably with many other parishes, some of which excluded unvaccinated people completely.

Anyway, with regard to worship, though I know some folk have concerns about the relaxation of rules, I hope everyone will feel able to rejoice in the renewed opportunity to be together for worship which health officials now regard to be of acceptable risk to both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

There may be some, either vaccinated or unvaccinated, who might find the proximity to one another at the 10 somewhat disconcerting. If so, remember the 8 am mass where there is plenty of room to spread out, as with the daily services. And at 10 feel free to sit in the Lady chapel. People should also make their choice about wearing masks. On or off are both acceptable!

For the time being, the Sacrament will continue to be offered in one kind. There will be no common cup.

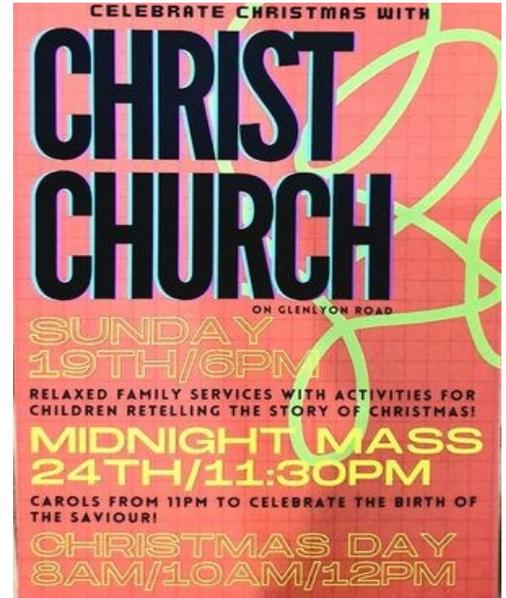
A great thing this is, in time for the Great Feast!

*'Popping up' this Christmas!*

And the **second blessing** will happen at 6 p.m. when all are invited to share in our **Family Carol Service**. There will be plenty of well known carols and we will have our popular 'pop up' nativity tableau from among the children and congregation who attend. There will be a mince pie or two and a drink afterwards. *Why not invite a friend?*



Angels in fixed amazement...



We were blessed to have **Albert Young** preaching last Sunday. No one could have been in any doubt about the theme. Joy and Peace! I was particularly helped by his reflection on the Hebrew idea of 'Shalom'. The sermon is still up on the website. We look forward to **Deacon Jack's** sermon on Sunday!

*CHRISTMAS DAY* Looking ahead a week or so, my family has its Christmas 'do' on Boxing Day this year, so if there are any folk who would like to have a simple lunch together at the 'Vic' on Christmas day, you'd be welcome. Just let me know....but before Christmas Eve!

Meanwhile today is the day that **Year 12 students** receive their results. I reckon students have had a rough ride over the time of the pandemic, probably kept away from school for longer than necessary. So I say congratulations to them all for ploughing on, especially for our Jake, Aurelia and Josh for whom we've been praying.

However, mention must be made of **our Vy**, whose ATAR score was 99.90 among the top in the State. What a journey she has been on since arriving from Vietnam! She was interviewed by Channel 7 this morning, and has been offered University scholarships already. We love her and are so proud of her!



*Vy typically getting on with no fuss at the gardening bee last Saturday. On Sunday she shepherded the Lambs and of course she is part of our serving team.*

*And finally,* this little child has been attending Mass with her parents lately. Pray for Lukas and Liviane and for this precious one.... +L



MANY THANKS to the GARDENERS who did such a great job at the 'Bee' last Saturday and to Ron who mows the lawns...