

Dear All,

I have taken to visiting Woolies early in the morning after my prayers to buy the newspapers for 'The Lamb' and any extra bits we need for the 'you have done well in a few things' (Matt 25:21) snacks and light meals we are offering these days. I was amused this morning to see a false, or certainly exaggerated promise lining the pathway in this morning:



The company promising the 'endless joy' has as an apple as its logo. I was immediately reminded of the first ones to take a bite in that bit of fruit, who thought that the joy it offered might surpass keeping company with the Lord who made it!

This Sunday is known as Gaudate (Rejoice) Sunday, so joy was on my mind!

There will be a number of opportunities to keep company with the Lord over the coming couple of weeks, as we turn towards the celebration of the birth of our Saviour. Nothing wrong with celebrating apples by the way, just don't expect them to last forever, unlike the 'everlasting man'. (the arresting title of a marvellous book about Jesus by G.K.Chesterton)



The view from my 'office' table today....

A view from the 'office'



These days my 'office' seems to be in the corner of 'The Lamb'. It works pretty well, and we are not always busy so there's time for attending to messages, making calls, and writing the Voice!

On Thursdays we end the café time at 10 to allow the change of purpose to the free 'take away' lunch. The changeover is a little bit messy and confusing, and there are generally a few stragglers in the café after 10. Others see the setting up taking place from outside, assume we are still open, and come in.

But I think it's not a bad confusion. It gives an opportunity to explain to those 'disappointed' that the café is closed that this is a social enterprise not a money making venture. When we explain about the lunch, their disappointment turns to surprise and appreciation.

And today, for example, a donation!

Too many places that call themselves 'community spaces' are not. They are used by self interest groups who come and go for their own activity, with fisticuffs if there's a clash in booking! 'Wish me luck as you wave me goodbye' is a better approach,

and an expectation of the virtue of forbearance, even a delight in what the other is doing! That's our hope for 'The Lamb'.

Well, today, in the midst of a bit of rain, there is such a warm-hearted atmosphere during the lunch, among the team serving, and the punters. A gentle, pastoral air pervades.

CAROLS & JAZZ

Tuesday Night 6.30

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH

CAROLS & JAZZ



A RELAXED, FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT FEATURING LIVE JAZZ BY THE TALENTED MICHELLE NICOLLE!

AND A SURPRISE VISIT FROM SANTA!!



TUESDAY 14TH | 6.30PM | CHRIST CHURCH GARDEN ON GLENLYON NEAR THE CORNER OF SYDNEY ROAD

Of course it's still Advent but our annual Carols and Jazz is a lovely way to begin Christmas, and a gentle witness in the neighbourhood. Even if you're not too keen on it yourself, it's great if folk from Christ Church can be there to create a bit of a crowd!

Michelle and friends will be with us as usual, and an impressive trio of singers will encourage the more traditional carols...and look for a violin too in the mix.

I'm worried though, as Santa is still perilously thin...

PLEASE REMEMBER, the best invitations are personal invitations..Invite a friend!

ON SUNDAY WEEK (19th) @ 6 pm

FAMILY CAROL SERVICE

Singing carols and a relaxed 'pop up' telling of the story. And we build the Christmas crib. A few costumes will of course be available! Mince pies after.

More news of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day next week but Midnight Mass will start at 11.30 and there will 8,10 and 12 on Christmas Day.

However, before then... Gardening Bee

So on this Saturday morning from 9.30 those who have green fingers and those who just have willing hands will be very welcome for a joy filled tidy up of the church garden. That garden is such a blessing to so many folk, and a lovely part of our offering to the people of Brunswick. A rare bit of green in the midst of the city. Turn up for as long as you are able!

And then on Sunday the preacher at the 10 a.m. mass and at 12 will be Albert Young, who works with us in 'The Lamb' and who will soon be resuming his studies at Ridley College. It will be good to have him share the Good News with us.

And finally, what a joy it's been to have Sister Cara around the place for a couple of weeks. Next week she returns to the convent. When she goes, it will be with our love and prayer.

Hope to see you Sunday...and Tuesday!

+Lindsay