

Voice from the Vicarage 18th November 2021

Dear All,

When does a person become an expert? Not when they receive their certificate! On Monday, after five hours of arduous training, I earned no less than two, declaring me to be ready to be unleashed into the world of barista-ing.....



Be impressed...but not very impressed!

I decided not to tell our expert barista, Albert who works with us at The Lamb in the hope of astounding him with my skills come Tuesday...but to no avail. My crema went wrong, or there was too much froth, or not enough, and my ability to top your latte with a recognisable arty design an abject failure.. So my certificate is not enough to guarantee my abilities, but I'm hoping that practice will! But hey, my bacon butties are the talk of Brunswick.



My first latte 'design'...can you guess what it is yet?

'A thoughtful place....'

The 'soft opening' has continued this week, and it's been enjoyable. Some interesting folk have come in and there have been some good conversations, not least about the photos on the wall. Folk are curious. Of course over time the great thing will be to discern how we make The Lamb a *different* sort of place, known not just for its good coffee. (though there's a lot to commend a good cup of coffee!) Thursdays are already a case in point as the café closes early and with a smooth transition we offer the free lunch to all comers.

To that end, this week I had a meeting over good 'Albertine' coffee with Ronny Ferella of 'Small Space Music'. Some of you will remember we worked together before Covid on a series of concerts in the vicarage. Now we have begun to reflect about how we might encourage young musicians to play at 'The Lamb' during next year, and of generating relaxed discussion evenings on various themes over a glass of wine, perhaps under the banner: *'The Lamb : a thoughtful place'*. And then today I met with the folk who are managing 260 for the next 12 months to see how we might collaborate.

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Our Vy, with a stash of prizes...

Well, if my certificate may not be up to too much, that can't be said about our **Vy Dan Vu** who I hear swept the board with awards at the Brunswick Secondary College Year 12 awards evening last night! Vy is a member of our serving team, and our Lambs team. With her mother and two brothers she arrived from Vietnam some years ago to join father, Thai, who was already here and part of our parish community. Congratulations Vy. We are proud of you. And congrats to all the Yr 12 students we've been praying for who have been through such tough and uncertain times this year.

(including Aurelia and Jake and Joshua)



And talking of talent, Alan Griffiths, who was confirmed here during the lockdowns is a composer. He's just heard that Paul Whelan, one of the great baritone/bases of our times is going to perform a piece he recently wrote. Inspired by the 'White Rose' Christian students who carried out a non violent resistance to

Nazism in the early 1940's, it will be premiered in Dunedin next September with Australian virtuoso pianist Nicholas Young. So many congratulations to Alan too!

A life changing day....

Next Saturday, our Deacon, Russell Goulbourne will be ordained to the sacred priesthood in the Cathedral at 10.30 am. Unfortunately seating is very restricted so most of us will have to be content to be present the next day, **Advent Sunday**, when Fr Russell will preside at the Eucharist for the first time at the 10 am mass. That will be a real joy.

We have the double joy of knowing that our former parish deacon, Katie Bellhouse will be ordained at the same service. She will preside at the Eucharist that afternoon. Pray for them both. They will not be the same again.. *Christ has claimed them, and he will not easily withdraw his claim...*

A hurdle overcome...

You will know I think that as part of our Mission Action plan we want to extend and refurbish the vicarage, now also the Parish House, necessary due to the lease of the Bardin Centre to the Education Department. We will also need accommodation for the parish priest, and that will require a new build on our precinct so the vicar can live on site.

Well, we heard on Wednesday that after a long period of negotiation and re-negotiation, the committee of the diocese concerned with such matters has agreed to recommend to the Archbishop in Council that the parish be given a loan for both purposes. There was a collective sign of relief from your executive group at our long meeting last night!

As I write this, word has come from the diocese that due to the reaching of such a high level of vaccinated people in Victoria, attendance limits for gatherings of vaccinated people have been lifted, while the permitted size of a congregation of those of unknown status has increased to 50.

The arrangements of Sunday services (8,10 &12) as we have them at present remain for this and next week, save that those who are in the church for the 10 am mass are not required to wear masks. Reflection about the ongoing pattern for worship at Christ Church will be a matter for considerable further discussion.

And finally, our little Sunday School, LAMBS will start again this Sunday! Should be fun and learn-ed!

I so hope to see you. God is good! much love, +L