

# Voice from the vicarage January 22nd 2022

Dear All,

## *Some Comings and Goings....*

Years ago when I left my parish in South London earlier than the bishops hoped, the diocesan bishop wrote to me lamenting that another bishop had 'poached' me, and gently suggesting that my departure was untimely. My spiritual director had said the same thing. Yet, with the wisdom of a good number of years as a leader, my bishop also wrote something that I have often quoted to others myself. "However sad I am at your leaving, comings and goings are just part of our way in the Church. Thank you for all you have done. Godspeed, and don't forget us!"

Every community, every parish, every diocese needs both the stability that comes with the long stayers and the freshness of comings and goings. As I have said before, Brunswick is now a place with more of the latter than the former, and the days of long-staying parishioners and eclectic congregations is probably over. So the constancy of the daily rhythm of prayer, and the constant emphasising of that life as the source of energy for local outreach, and indeed as the gift and life we have to offer, becomes all the more important. The community itself will, and should, be changing, bringing energy, if also some fragility. And we have to learn to love each other quickly rather than over time!



Enjoying a glass of wine at a parish 'do'

Anyway, we have some comings and goings just now...

Our **Judith Harbour** is leaving this weekend on a contract to teach among the Wurrumiyanga community in the Tiwi islands at the 'top end'. She flies to Darwin on Saturday. She will be teaching ESL and mentoring indigenous teaching assistants. What a worthwhile adventure! Some will remember that she spent some time working in a remote part of South Australia a couple of years ago. Judith is nothing if not intrepid!

She is retaining her apartment nearby and will be coming and going during holidays, so we are certainly not 'losing' her, but we shall miss her very much. We will sustain a prayer partnership with her of course and look forward to hearing of what island life is like.

In a spooky coincidence yesterday, a young chap called Will came into The Lamb for coffee, and in chatting told me that on Sunday he is flying to Darwin to take up a teaching position at a school in the same Tiwi islands! I of course told him about Judith and hope they meet.

If you'd like to send Judith a message of encouragement, her email is [judidoha@yahoo.com](mailto:judidoha@yahoo.com).

**Albert Young**, who has been in and around the parish in various ways for a number of years and has recently been very much at the heart of the designing, planning and opening of 'The Lamb' has decided it is time for him to step back from working there 'full time'. We have been in discussion about this for a little while now, and while his going will feel disappointing, that emotion itself reflects the good and generous contribution he has made over the years to our life, and to vicarage life,



With Lukas, Albert puts up the first sign...

and indeed to my life. Recently, I have learnt a lot from him about managing the coffee 'beast', and while I am a bit nervous about losing his expertise and staffing, I trust to God's provision, and the patience of our patrons!

While this is not the only reason for his decision, Albert needs to generate more income to pay for his studies for the ministry at Ridley College, which resume at the end of February. He is not an Australian citizen so is not eligible for student loans. He took a considerable loss in income by coming back to us and serving at The Lamb. We are in his debt. While I must admit I wish he wasn't leaving, but in the words of that bishop, "**comings and goings....**" I suspect and hope we will see more of him, but for now we must wish him well and say '*Godspeed, and don't forget us!*'

If you would like to send him a message of encouragement, his email is [albertdavidyoung@gmail.com](mailto:albertdavidyoung@gmail.com).

## *And a coming home!*

But here's some good news! **Sister Cara, known to most of the readers of 'The Voice' is to spend the next twelve months of her noviciate at Christ Church as a pastoral assistant.**

In a really imaginative move, the Community at Ty Mawr has agreed a year of what is known as 'exclaustration' for theological study (a time of continuing discernment outside of the monastery while remaining a novice).

Sister Cara will be bound by the Rule and Constitutions of the Community, adapted appropriately to circumstances here. She will study at Trinity College, reside in the first instance alongside Deacon Jack in the apartment above The Lamb, and live and work and worship with us. At the request of the Community, she will be under my spiritual direction.

She arrives on the 6th February! I reckon this is exciting news. We shall have, as it were, a 'Parish Sister' as one of the ministry team, living the contemplative life here in active way... What a Blessing! God is good!

*HARDLY ANY ROOM* left to say mass is on Sunday at 8 & 10. Please remember to wear a mask, but if you forget there are some at the back of the church. You will be *politely* and *gently* reminded of this constraint laid upon us as you arrive. Please don't take offence. All are welcome.

*And finally.* The Lamb will be closed on Wednesday, Australia Day. But you can take a seat at other times at our new '*common table*' designed and built by our own Jesse Lattarulo. It is beautifully made!

Come and see.. Much love,



+ *Lindsay*