

Voice from the Vicarage Thursday 12th May 2022



Dear All,

So it's Thursday morning and I'm sitting in the window of 'The Lamb' waiting for a technician to arrive to fix the grinder and the coffee machine, both of which went a bit crazy yesterday. Of course, my immediate thought was that the problem was the user (i.e. me) and sometimes it is, but on this occasion... And while conversation is of course more important than coffee, you can't really run a café with inconsistent coffee. I'm not one who can accept the idea (a bit prevalent in Melbourne) that a not-so-good coffee is nigh on a tragedy, but respect for our customers means we should be as consistent as we possible can, bearing in mind that our modest claim (based on sound theology) is to serve 'very good' rather than 'awesome' coffee!

Anyway the technician is late, but is no doubt very busy, and I am fortifying myself with a couple of Jo Pope's home made biscuits. Thank you Jo!

Meanwhile as I sit here I am eavesdropping on the post-prayer, pre-lunch meeting of the core team for today's free lunch. I'm impressed. There is discussion about the logistics, but also some discussion about particular partakers of the lunch, many of whom have pastoral needs. The conversation is respectful and realistic.



'The rulers take counsel together...' Psalm 2:2 ?

The Parish Council takes counsel...

Last night, your Parish Council met, and I thought you might be interested in the sorts of things your representatives discuss and decide.

Between meetings of the Council, the day to day decisions that don't need reference to the whole Council are decided by the 'Exec' group—the churchwardens, parish treasurer and myself. Then at the Council meeting, notes from the Exec meetings are presented and discussed. Many of the matters are already on the Council meeting agenda, but having an Exec group between times helps efficiency. The Exec are careful not to over reach their authority, and when necessary contact the Council by email. But, of course, our life is built on a trust that all are working for the common good. I reckon that there is an strong commitment to transparency.

For example, thanks were expressed to Robyn, our Treasurer, for the very clear presentation and explanation of the accounts and our financial situation. Robyn says we are travelling fairly well, not least since we are seeking, within budget as much as we can, not only to fund the day to day, but to catch up on some delayed maintenance — a perennial problem in parishes the world over I find, reliant primarily, as they are, on voluntary contributions and labour. We are lucky in the 'heritage' we have here, and we are being pretty imaginative in the development and usage of our 'precinct'. Certainly the building I sit in now is in good shape and being put to good use for the Gospel. As you know, the Bardin Centre is being transformed by the Education Dept. The architects for that project recently sent me the Dilapidation Report for the building. It's 84 pages long! Inevitable of course, but what good news that the dilapidation of our much loved building will be transformed to a 'state of the art' school, even as we receive rent from the agreed lease that will allow the adaption of the 'new' Parish House and a new vicarage to be built.

Among other items on the agenda, was a discussion about making an application to the Archbishop for what is known as a faculty. If a parish wishes to make alterations to

the church building and worship space. then such permissions, called 'faculties', are required.

The discussion was about making the tabernacle in the Lady Chapel, in which the Reserved Sacrament is currently kept, a permanent feature. Hitherto, the Sacrament has been reserved in an 'aumbry' (cupboard) in the wall of the sanctuary.



A home for the Lord, present under the form of bread, and guarded by angels...

A very lovely discussion ensued and the Council unanimously agreed the change was bringing blessings to our life and that we should apply for the Faculty.

I attach a short paper I prepared for the Council which might be of interest.

Also, concerning the Sacrament, now that we are back to offering the chalice at our masses, I presented a list of lay folk to the Council I want to invite to share in that beautiful ministry. This too requires the Archbishop's permission. The Council deals with matters spiritual as well as temporal! I am so grateful for the Council's evident care and concern for the parish, and for me as your parish priest. The meeting was timed to finish at 8.30 and ended at 8.29...

Looking forward

I'm looking forward to our **Sung Evensong and Philip Harris** memorial lecture in a couple of Sundays' time — the 29th to be exact, at 6 p.m. That will of course replace our usual Lamb B & B. There will be some refreshments afterwards. It will be very good to sit at the feet of Rowan Callick as he speaks to us on **'Discovering Jesus in our world : surprising encounters in the South Pacific'**.

The best way to gather a good crowd would be for you to personally invite someone to come along! In this bumper edition of 'The Voice' I also attach a poster about the event.

And finally, the General Synod of the Australian Church is meeting this week, and among other things is discussing matters relating to what is called these days 'issues in human sexuality'. Mm. Good folk come to different conclusions about what faithfulness to Christ means. All I will say is that whenever we speak about an 'issue', it generally relates to persons, and whenever we speak about persons, we must remember we tread on holy ground, and so should tread lightly! Much love, +Lindsay