

# Voice from the Vicarage Thursday 5th May

Dear All,

I hope this finds you well.

Well, of course, every kitchen should have one! This week, in preparation for the work that will soon begin at the back of the vicarage, soon to be 'parish house', the grand piano had to find a new home.... It's all just a part of the little upheavals that will take place over the next nine months or so, as the transformations we have been planning for some time



begin to take shape. Meanwhile the upstairs 'front room' of the vicarage is well on the way to becoming a kitchen/living room. In the longer term this will serve for the students/residents living



in the upstairs of the parish house. And, in the shorter term, for me and my household while we wait for a new vicarage to be built.

*And the back 'shed' is no more.....*

**The demolition crew working for the Education Department have wasted no time!** This is the view from the remaining part of the vicarage garden looking towards the back wall of the Bardin Centre. The corrugated iron back portion known as 'the shed' has gone and what was the Op shop has been stripped of its hidden asbestos. The workers by the way have been wisely directed towards 'The Lamb' and I hear that they are delighted at the prospect of regular Bacon Butties as the project goes forward!

It's going to be really interesting to watch that part of our 'precinct' as it is altered and made ready to welcome the students of the Sydney Road Community School who will arrive at the beginning of 2023.

Be assured you'll be provided with regular updates through this column!

I suppose there's always a little bit of ambiguity about change. We say that 'a change is as good as a rest', but we also say 'there's no place like home.....'

Both are true, but I reckon John Henry Newman gets it about right when he suggests, **'To live is to change, to be perfect is to have changed often..'**

*And talking of changes...or moves,* our Sister Cara is on the move...though not very far. You will perhaps remember that since her arrival here she has been sharing the apartment above 'The Lamb' with Deacon Jack. Truth is, the fairly continuous noise of Sydney Road, and maybe even The Lamb has not proved so conducive to the balance of activity and contemplation that is at the heart of the life she is seeking to live under vows. She needs more solitude and stillness. Grateful thanks to Adrian and Kate Nye who have offered Sister Cara the little cottage at the bottom of their garden in West Brunswick.



*Not sure where the strange shaft of light came from on this photo.....*

Our former curate, Katie Bellhouse, lived there for a time when she first arrived in the parish. Of course getting to the church for Morning Prayer at 6.30 will be a bit more of a challenge than tumbling out of bed next door. (Do nuns tumble out of bed?) Deacon Jack has come to the party with the offer of his motorised bike. I had a go on it myself, but I'd be a menace on the road. I blame my overprotective mother who wouldn't allow us to have two wheeler bikes when we were kids!

## Good Shepherd Sunday

This Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Easter is named after the Good Shepherd. As many of you know, I am a brother in a religious order called 'The Oratory of the Good Shepherd' so it's a title that figures large in my own spiritual life. But it was clearly also in the mind and heart of those responsible for the windows in our sanctuary, installed in the 1870's. The other two windows depict the cross and resurrection of Jesus. The Good Shepherd window is a lovely reminder that the 'action' depicted in the other two flow from the kind, courageous and beautiful heart of the Shepherd who knows and seeks out the lost sheep. Dear reader, you are one such, as am I.



Masses will be offered at 8 & 10 as usual on Sunday. And at 6 pm in **'The Lamb'**, **'Bible & Beer'** continues with our study of the marvellous letter of St Paul to the Christians in Philippi. Beer or wine or hot chocolate or coffee with bread and cheese to follow.

*And finally... Our 'diaspora' grows!*

This week **Dian Dewi** returned to Indonesia having completed her studies at RMIT.



*Coffee then a prayer and blessing in 'The Lamb' on Saturday*

Her two boys who were members of our serving team are now in Malaysia at Uni. We will miss Dian, and not least her Indonesian Rendang produced at our shared lunches! Dian now joins our Christ Church diaspora. And talking of that, Fr Chris and Barbara, currently in Europe, caught up with Daniel and Charlotte and 3 year old Em-mi in Germany.

Daniel and Charlotte worshipped with us during 2016/17 and still hold a place in our hearts as I know we do in theirs!



Hope very much to see you soon!

+ *Lindsay*