

# Voice from the Vicarage June 9th 2022

Dear All,

Unfortunately there are not many 'snaps' from last week's marvellous service for the **Feast of Pentecost**. In any case, I've never believed you can really catch the moment, and sometimes you can be so busy taking the photos that the moment itself passes you by! I console myself with this, not least because there are very few Urwin family photos from our childhood, tho' it was a good and eventful childhood! I counsel wedding couples with the same advice. Professional photographers can sometimes be a real distraction to the 'moment' even as they try to capture the moment, as some I have experienced, all but rampage around the church if not kept in check!

## *The sounds of Africa...*

There have been many, many baptisms in the font at Christ Church over 165 years, but we are not, and I dare suggest never have been an *ululating* congregation. So how marvellous it was to have a little outburst of that wonderful praise sound so usual and expected in African celebrations, from Angie, Thando's mum, following Thando's baptism last Sunday! No dancing, sadly.. Thando is from Kenya.

Our Nick Harman, also from foreign parts (New Zealand) and also baptised and then confirmed, is a lovely sign and gift to us that our Lord Jesus is still touching hearts and calling people to follow him. A sincere act of repentance through the beautiful sacrament of Confession, a sincere declaration of Faith, and three generous scoops of water from the font, so full of cleaning and renewing power as he, with Thando, was gathered into a new relationship with the Lord and called into the community of the Church. Three scoops of water, but by being baptised Nick is swimming against the tide of his generation. And it was so good to have his partner Tess by his side, internally cheering if not ululating! Pray that the Treasure both Nick and Thando have been given, which is 'Grace enough for thousands of new worlds' will be truly evident in their lives. If so, they will become agents of conversion!



*Candidates for baptism are not allowed to stay in church. They must bear the light of Christ that is within them to the world....leading Nick and Thando into the wilds of Brunswick to begin their mission..*

## *..and sounds of the Middle East*

And glory upon glories, how great was it when planned but unannounced to the congregation, our Chaldean friend **Sahir Murad** filled the church with the sounds of the Lord's own language as he chanted, and with such beauty, the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic before we prayed it in our own. Thank you Sahir for sharing in our Mass in this way.



Later in the day, our own **Luke McGorlick**, introduced the Pentecost Ecumenical service with a haunting chant glorying in the Resurrection in Arabic. Pictured here on the left with a few twenty somethings after mass a week or so ago, Luke has spent time in the Middle East and speaks Arabic well. Fr Joe Takchi from the Maronite Catholic Church in Northcote gave us an interesting insight into the history and life of the Church in the Middle East.



**It was a very good Day of Pentecost!**

**To more mundane though not unimportant matters...** the work on making the upstairs of the vicarage more self contained for the parish priest in the short term, until a new vicarage is built, and in the longer term as a potential home for three students/ young people, has been going well. Because the upstairs of the house is quite properly private, you will not have seen it, but here's a flavour of the transformation of what was the front bedroom....I can't tell you how the move from lino to carpet up there has been appreciated! Grateful thanks to all involved in the continuing transformation of the property. All things being equal, the builders are due to start work this week on the extension to make the vicarage the parish house.



*Don't judge me on the size of the telly. Just given Foxtel the heave ho...*

## *Passports in date....pheeew..*

I have to admit that I am not sad that some of the work will take place while I am away. Oh, in case you don't know, I will be away from the parish for six weeks from Monday 20th until the beginning of August. I haven't had many sleeps away from Brunswick in the last three years (like many of you of course). I do need a bit of a rest.

But the parish keeps on, and will be in good and capable ordained and lay hands! More news of arrangements next week.

## *Forced to preach...*

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday which takes us to the very heart of our understanding of God, or perhaps better, who God has revealed Himself to be. In challenging and comforting words, fourth century St Hilary muses....'**We are compelled to attempt what is unattainable, to climb where we cannot go, to speak what we cannot utter. Instead of the bear adoration of faith, we are compelled to entrust the deep things of religion to the perils of human expression..**' Wish me luck!

And finally, my hopes of providing Coronation Chicken in the Lamb have passed me by, but I managed to replace the heavenly Queen with the temporary one in our window!



Love from here..

+ *Lindsay*