

Voice from the Vicarage August 11th 2022

Dear All,

It's so very good to be back in Brunswick!

Let me say first of all that I am so grateful to all those who have sustained the life and liturgy of our parish while I've been away. How blessed we are to have a strong ministry team here at present. Thanks to Deacon Jack (whose several 'Voice from the Curatage' I much enjoyed!), Fathers Chris and Russell, and to Sister Cara. Thanks to my dear friend Fr Ron Noone who presided and preached on one of the Sundays. Thanks also to our Exec team, our wardens and treasurer, to the 'backroom workers' of various kinds, and of course to the Thursday lunch team.

Checking the numbers...discreetly

I don't suppose I'm the only parish priest who soon after return from a long break away has a sneaky look at the service registers that list the numbers of folk attending...It's so good to see that the weekly and daily rhythm was kept so strongly, and I hear that the so important daily Evening Prayers and intercessions (not recorded in the book) was very faithfully sustained. As I so often say, there is nothing more important than our faithfulness in worship.

I am particularly grateful that I was 'kept out of the loop' while I was away. It's not that I didn't give Christ Church and all of you a thought as I sauntered the streets of Rome and Assisi, relaxed by the pool in sunny Spain, and revisited old haunts and friends in the U.K., but I had not one moment of anxiety about how things were faring or what might be going wrong! Things do go a bit array at times in the best of families, but I just knew that generally speaking everything would be well handled with grace and generosity of spirit.

But I had to speak...



With Mason outside some church or another in Rome

Of course I just *had* to talk about CCB, not least because I spent time with our two former pastoral assistants, Mason Morgan and Peter Cotterill—forgive me the many folk who receive the Voice who have arrived at Christ Church since their 'day'. Both of them spoke so warmly about the good and continuing



With Peter after a mass together in the Holy House at Walsingham

influence of their time here on their lives, and badgered me with questions about life here now! It was so very good to see them!

I generally have to feign interest in other folk's holiday snaps when they return home, so I wouldn't dream of inflicting you..but I have been pressed to include a few snaps on an additional page.... :)

While I was away I was delighted to hear from former vicarage resident Lucas Smith of the birth of **Anna-Maria** on 25th July. Christ Church is in part responsible since Lucas and Anita met over a crowded pew here! Now based in Inverloch, we look forward to meeting Anna-Maria sometime soon!

The Lamb café reopens...

As you know, it was necessary to close the café aspect of our mission at 264 Sydney Road, while I was away, though as I've already mentioned the other important work, the free Thursday lunch continued apace. The café will reopen on Tuesday. Donna will be back in the kitchen, key to the preparation toasties and our now famous Bacon Butties. Of course before we open I'm going to have to get some practice in on the coffee machine....retaming the beast!



Just to say, that we have a small group of volunteers working in the cafe but we do need more. It can be taxing and demanding because there is a need for a consistency that rises above our own feelings, but it is rewarding, even fun! Why not ask me about it?

The work on Thursdays offering free meals is rarely easy. Today over 60 meals were served. Even though there was a particularly unpleasant, even abusive encounter with a person today, you can see that our Marge and Simon retain their sense of humour and passion for the work. The Saviour above looks on with a protective eye.....

Deacon Jack returns....

from his time at the Lambeth Conference on Saturday. Our beloved organist Stephen is overseas attending a family wedding (he well deserves the break!) so Jack's first task will be at the organ on Sunday morning for the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Like the overshadowing of the Spirit her which brought into being the Christchild within her, Mary's entry into heaven happens in a 'miraculous and mysterious manner' (*words of 17th century Bishop Jeremy Taylor*) And just as like Mary we can be filled with the presence of the Lord, so like Mary we can look forward to heaven as our destiny.

At the end of mass we will gather outside to bless the statue of Mary, currently under my stairs (!) which will sit near the statue of Jesus by the pathway from Glenlyon and now with the new gateway, from Sydney Road running through our garden. A gentle witness to what the love of God can do!

There'll be refreshments in The Lamb afterwards, but no 'B&B Sunday evening. We recommence on the 21st. when Dn Jack will regale us with stories of the Lambeth Conference.

I can't wait to see many of you on Sunday!

Much love,

+Lindsay

A few choice moments and a few choice places in Italy!



If you look carefully you'll see the man in the window waving at me. St Peter's Square is packed with pilgrims from all over the world for the Sunday midday Angelus prayer with the Holy Father.



A negroni in the shadow of the Pantheon, begun in 27BC watching the world go by is one the world's great experiences especially if the person taking the photo has paid for the drinks....



L'eau Vive is a restaurant in Rome by an international community of French speaking nuns who sing each evening at around 9 pm and then invite all the patrons to join in the singing of the Ave.



Parish Mass at the great St Maria in Trastevere

When they discovered it was the anniversary of my ordination and I had been a bishop since 1993 they made an announcement showered me with gifts and sang 'Joyeux anniversaire'. I didn't know how to say, 'But I'm an Anglican' in French...

SAINT IN SNEAKERS

The most moving moment of my six weeks was the surprise discovery in Assisi of the body of the **Blessed Carlo Acutis** in a beautiful small church of St Mary Major. He died aged in 2006 aged 15. His story is both ordinary and remarkable. He is dressed in death as he dressed in life : jeans and sneak-



"The Eucharist is my highway to heaven"

St Maria in Trastevere at night...the Italianate style is not unknown to us....

My favourite church in Rome I preached in this Square at the Pope's world youth day in 2000 when I represented the Archbishop of Canterbury....just saying...



The high altar in the church with the crucifix behind is simple and beautiful. It's a church that brings you to your knees. You want to stay there.....



The **Basilica of St Clare** is another favourite place. In this chapel hangs the famous cross from which the Lord 'spoke' to St Francis in the church of St Damiano, asking him to rebuild the ruins of his Church. Not many folk know that if you are there at 7.15 pm the grill to the right of the altar is opened revealing the stalls where the enclosed sisters sing their daily Office. You cannot see them, but you hear the chanting of Vespers. Some have been nowhere else than this convent for over 60 years. Some are young. The singing is deep.



Well that's a bit of Italy....possibly a bit of Spain next week....