

Voice from the Vicarage October 20th 2022

Dear All,

It's always good to be reminded of great insights from the Holy Bible!

Thanks to the joys of WhatsApp, I was in communication this morning with my beloved 'son' Javi. For those who are relatively recent members of our parish community, Javi will be unknown, but he was a much loved resident of the vicarage and did so much for us in the days when we were constrained by Covid and worshipped on Sundays via YouTube.

This morning I told Javi, who now lives in his native Columbia, that I'm not feeling too well. (nothing serious) So he sent me a scriptural reminder displayed on a T shirt I once gave him.



I so admire people who can nap. It's a gift I don't seem to have however tired I am. Albert, another much loved former resident of the vicarage, had a rhythm of life that made much use of napping. I was rather envious of him I must admit, even if I found them inconvenient, generally when I wanted something done at my convenience!

Well, Jesus napped (Mark 4:38) and was no less Lord of heaven and earth as he did so. The psalmist says that 'He (the Lord) comes to his beloved in sleep'.

Quite seriously, the balance of work, prayer and rest is important. In the spiritual Rule of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, not getting enough sleep must be reported during the Chapter of faults. It's often one of mine.

Life on the site....

Well, the 'precinct' is ever living up to its expectations as a building site. I'm sitting in the kitchen and the water is off as they do some of the plumbing for the new loos in the current laundry. We had a site meeting with the architects and builders yesterday. It gave me an insight into the complexities of what at first sight seemed a simple build on comparatively vacant land as well as into the current post Covid challenges of supply and demand in the building industry. Both will affect completion date. I'm reminding myself of paleontologist and Jesuit Teilhard de Chardin, whose dictum I often quote: 'Remember the slow work of God'. Should I expect builders to exceed his speed? It will all happen, and be worth the wait.

Meanwhile I am getting used to the sight of the three storey school demountables on what was the vacant Merri Street land. It was fascinating to watch them crane the pre made bits and then bolt them together!



All a bit nail biting if you ask me, but the builders seemed to take it in their stride!

CAROLS & JAZZ....

I mentioned as a sort of stop press last week that we now have the date for this year's **CAROLS & JAZZ** : Wednesday December 14th. As you will have noticed, our garden, the usual venue, is not quite ready to greet people yet, and won't be by Christmas, so it will take place on the land at 260.

I had a really encouraging meeting with a couple of folk from the Council in 'The Lamb' this week about a more pro active plan to bring musicians and events on to the 260 site. It's clear we need to be the pro active ones! But

that's all good, and the Council are keen to make it easy when the numbers require a permit. They may even supply some fake grass for the Carols to break up the endless concrete!

In the end of course, the hardness of concrete which can so easily lead to a 'hardened' city can be softened by love



and hospitality. Thank you to those who contribute food and work to the THURSDAY LUNCH ministry, bringing a bit of just that softness to our concrete city.. **And thanks to those who make financial contributions to aid this mission.**



Soft ground to soft gurgling

How lovely it was to hear soft gurglings from young Dominik last Sunday morning, as he sat with his parents in the Lady chapel. They are certainly welcome sounds.



So is the sound of chatter after mass in 'The Lamb'! There used to be a porch poster found in some English churches. A bit abrupt, and sounding somewhat severe, there's some wisdom in it.

And after mass, Leanna seems very keen to engage with this little Christian brother...

Talk to God before mass. Talk to each other after mass.

I enjoy that we most often include welcomers *outside* of the church greeting folk as they arrive. I also enjoy the comparative silence *inside* the church as we prepare to encounter the Lord in his Word and Sacrament. And even though I am not myself very good at 'small talk',



I enjoy seeing folk warmly greeting, conversing and even

Olivia, Bella, Aurelia and Mason discuss the finer points of the sermon, or maybe something else in the Lamb on Sunday.....

bantering with each other over refreshments. Happy Church!

And finally, if you're not already on it, don't forget to fill in an electoral roll form in preparation for our annual meeting on November 27th. They are available at the back of the church. And if you'd like to chat about what it means to be on the parish council, ask me, or a member of the current council. It's an important ministry.

Much love. Hope to see you Sunday. +Lindsay