

# Voice from the Vicarage November 10th 2022

Dear All,

## *Stairway to heaven...*

Amy Gullickson sent me this wonderful photo that she took from her apartment, catching the arrival of a new stairway for the school development on our land. I for one am thankful for the care and accuracy of the crane driver! Talking to Thomas the excellent site manager, they are racing against time to get all things ready for the new academic year. We ourselves know something of delays that can happen, and we are experiencing some of them. We are fortunate that we have 'The Lamb' as part of our precinct and can meet there.



The Lamb will be used for example, on Tuesday, as a place for folk to gather after dear Mary Hillman's funeral mass. It will be a privilege to do this last thing for her (aside from our ongoing prayers for her soul) in a place that was a consistent 'home' for her throughout her life. She entered the Christian life at the font here, was fortified for her life with the Holy Sacrament here, and she will be commended and entrusted to the Lord after a mass here on Tuesday. Then, a little later, at her request, her ashes will be interred in our memorial garden, along with those of her husband Henry. This is what she wanted.



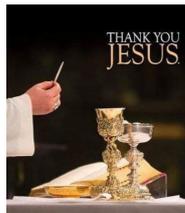
It is in no way morbid for me to take the opportunity to encourage you to reflect about what you would like to happen on your death. The Oratory, my religious order, requires brothers to make clear what their wishes are to those who will have the responsibility. This is especially important for those whose families or executors are not of the household of Faith. There is a sadness about death, of course, but over my years as a priest there have been occasions when the privileges and joys of a Christian burial that I know a person would have wanted — a funeral in church, a mass of requiem, hymns etc. haven't happened, for ignorance about the person's wishes or lack of understanding. This adds to the sadness.

People sometimes suggest that a funeral is more for the mourners than the person who has died. It is true that the funeral is essential to the grieving process and our remembering is important, but in *our* tradition the funeral mass is offered above all *for* the person who has died. I have often quoted the request of St Monica to her son St Augustine as she approached her death:

***"Remember me at the Altar."***

It is first of all for Mary that we will gather on Tuesday, then for ourselves. Her funeral Mass will be on Tuesday at 10 am.

And if what I have written prompts you to think about your own arrangements and it would help to talk about it, please do speak with one of the clergy.



## *Partnership in community...*

In a conversation with regular at The Lamb café, Luke Randles, about our free lunch programme, he offered to enter into a partnership with us by sponsoring a Thursday gathering. Luke, whose office is on Sydney Road, is Director of SDA Australia (Specialist Disability Accommodation), a company committed to the provision of suitable housing for people with disabilities.



*Luke meets James a regular at the luncheon.*

Sponsorship involves a donation of \$100 towards the cost of the meal, and in Luke's case, coming along to say hello and serve up a lunch or two!

If you know of local businesses that might want to share in our life in this way, encourage them!

## *A partner in mission...*

And how good it was on Sunday to listen to **Dianne de Vos** as she spoke simply and movingly about her call to live and witness among the slum dwellers of Bangkok. We have committed to be a prayer partner, and have begun to gather her up into our 6 pm intercessions each day. Some folk are committing to particular prayer for her. **Before she returns to Thailand, Dianne is having an Open House on Sunday 4th Dec from 2—5 pm. Anyone is very welcome, just let her know. ddevos44@gmail.com.**



***Don't forget!* The Annual General Meeting of parishioners is on Sunday November 27th after the 10 am mass.**

Come if you can, to hear about our life together over the past year and ponder a bit about the next year.

Nominations for churchwardens (2), parish council members (up to 9) and members of the Incumbency Committee (2) are now open. **Forms are available at the back of church and I attach one so you know what is required.**

Have a think and pray about whether you want to nominate someone or be nominated! These are important ministries in our life together as we seek to be faithful to our mission.

*And finally,* how we love our cantors! This Sunday @ 10 our cantor will be **Vy Dan Vu**. Vy, a much loved member of our parish family. Already she assists with 'Lambs', serves at the altar, and is a Minister of Communion. And she has exams this week! Now she joins our musos!

Hope to see you soon! Much love, + *Lindsay*