

Voice as at the Vicarage January 19th 2023

Dear All,

Greetings from Cairns!

There was a time when the move from one Christian denomination to another was something rather seismic. These days, and happily so, these comings and goings are no longer trumpeted or preened over, nor is a decision to make such a move counted as a disaster. By and large they are simply regarded as a Christian coming to the conclusion, after prayer and reflection, that they will flourish and so contribute to the life of the Church in a more fruitful way by making such a move.

When, on occasion, a person makes the move out of a disappointment that has led to a bitterness, the bitterness generally travels with them. Sometimes it is borne of a person's lack of realism about the frailty of the Church, and a hope that unadulterated joy will be found in the new place. Then they learn there is no unadulterated joy or perfect Church this side of heaven! Oft-times the move is just the right thing.

At Christ Church we have experienced both a respectful sadness when one or another of our community has moved to another branch of the Church, and we have experienced the blessing of those who have decided to move in an Anglican direction, without in any sense that their experience before is to be forgotten or 'cancelled'. Indeed it is always our hope that the blessings and wisdom of the past comes as a gift. That has of course been so with our beloved Fr Chris, who made the journey from the Uniting Church some years ago. In his case it required a real measure of humility as he submitted to the further gift of episcopal ordination. And what a gift he has been, and is, to us!

A happy welcome..

On this Sunday, at the 10 am mass, we shall welcome Fr Isuru into membership of the Anglican Church in a simple rite that reflects both its importance and its relative small step-ness.

Because our Anglican Church claims a continuity in ordained ministry that precedes the Reformation—for example, the Archbishop of Canterbury is counted as the 105th Archbishop since Augustine, rather than as however many, since the break with Rome—we wholeheartedly accept the orders of the Roman Catholic Church, and so there will be no need for any further laying on of hands in ordination. He is Fr Isuru today and will be Fr Isuru on Sunday.



What is required of him is that he publicly and with a good heart accepts that the Anglican Church is indeed part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and believes that our sacraments convey all the graces that the Lord intends them to convey.

In due time, Fr Isuru will be licensed as an assistant priest in the parish of All Saint's, St Kilda.

Fr Isuru has been a catholic priest for seven years and a member of the religious institute called the Missionaries of the Love of God since 2008. He will bring all of that with him to our Church for which we bless God.

A bit of a lean month...not

January is generally a bit of quiet month church wise as folk go on holiday or simply take a bit of a rest from Church. It's been such a lovely thing that our Sunday congregations have been pretty healthy so far.

And I hope there will be a good congregation ready to welcome Fr Isuru on Sunday!

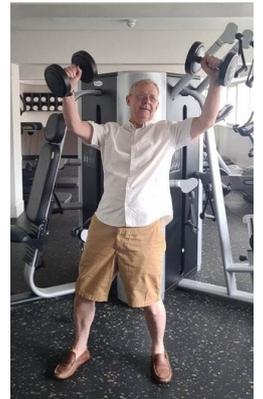
Not so sunny Queensland.

I have been grateful to have a few days away, even if it's the rainy season in Queensland. Everyone of us needs some time to relax, and it is relaxing! I am here with Fr Patrick who is staying with us from Sweden, and with our head server, Roshan. Both are excellent travelling companions, as, you can easily imagine, so am I.



Yesterday, we snorkelled on the Great Barrier Reef. What a marvel of God's creation it is! I'll spare you the holiday snaps, but here are just a couple to encourage your devotions...

There was a rather irritating time in the 90's and beyond when everything in threes was regarded as a reminder of the Blessed Trinity...let this mark the end of it!



And finally, soon Australia Day

will be upon us. I cannot fail to be thankful for those who arrived on that day, without whom many of us could not call ourselves Australian, while at the same time have a sense of the profound cost

Roshan took this snap in the gym without me realising... Suffice to say he was both aghast with a sense of inadequacy and overwhelmed with admiration. Modesty prevents me mentioning the weight of the weights...

to those who were already inhabitants of this 'sunburnt country'. The Colonial period fills me with mixed emotions. So much that in hindsight was so inappropriate and terrible, and yet without it, there would, for example, be no Christianity in so many parts of the world. Let's face it, it is immigrant Christians from those parts of the world that are now saving the tired Anglican Church, certainly in Britain, and as far as I can see, in this country too....They wear their faith on their sleeve while white Australians generally wear it up our sleeves, for which, Lord have mercy. May we learn from these brothers and sisters.

Hope to see you soon. Much love,

+Lindsay