

Voice from the Vicarage 2nd March 2023

Dear All,

As you may know I needed to be away last week. I must say it was a very strange feeling to be sharing in the Ash Wednesday liturgy away from my parish community. I hear all went very well here and I'm grateful to the team who offered the liturgies while I was away.

A 'little' asking...

Even if the coffee at a little café up the road doesn't compare with another establishment I know nearer by, it was lovely to hear from Cara at our regular meeting this morning that young and old received the ashes, the youngest being our Dominic Drobik. As surely as the sign of the Cross marked his forehead with oil at his holy baptism, so was he presented to be marked with the same sign in ashes.

Infancy has a measure of innocence about it of course, but is no more free of sin and the need of redemption than adolescence or adulthood, even if the opportunities are somewhat more limited! And so it is a very right instinct indeed that he be brought forward to receive the beautiful reminder that we are dust, but that Glory awaits the penitent and praising. Actually I noticed a couple of Sundays ago that Dominic, from his usual position in the Lady Chapel, was sharing in our song in his own way. Praise God for small voices!

In contrast to young Dominic, there may have been some for whom this will be their last Lent. Who can know? It is not ours to know exactly the beginning or the end of the gift which is our mortal life. But even if this is my last Lent, though I hope it isn't either yours or mine, the going will not be a disaster (Wisdom 3:1-9) because *'my hope is rich with immortality'* and *'great will the blessings be'*.

Anyway, until that great and inevitable day, we keep on with Lent!

A work in progress..

And one of the little Lenten sacrifices for long term gain in the vicarage is the continuing decoration of the property as part of its transformation from vicarage into the parish house. As most of you will know, the eventual aim is the building a new, fit for purpose vicarage on the land behind the church, currently a bit of a car park. Once that is built the upstairs of the vicarage can be occupied by students or other suitable occupants sharing in the life of the parish, and the current downstairs living room, in addition to the new extension, will be another useful and rather gracious parish meeting space.

Until the new vicarage is built, the parish and vicar will have to share the space. It shouldn't be too difficult with good will on both sides!

It's quite a time since the last redecoration of the property so the current sprucing up is making quite a difference.

Meanwhile the transformation of the laundry into a couple more toilets and a storage room is just about complete, though once the builders have finished their work we will need to do a bit of painting. Shouldn't be a difficult job, so any volunteers with a paint brush would be welcome... There is a bit of external painting work to be done out the back as well that is not part of the building contract.

A suitable Lenten penance perhaps...



LAMB'S co Ordinator, Cecilia Fairlie sent me this lovely snap of last week's Lambs. It has to be said that our Ekina seems to be the sensible one leading a small group of show offs! Great fun with a serious message. I'm told they are demonstrating the fighting of temptation!



In the Divine Economy, it's always worth it for one, but can I ask you all to pray intentionally that the Lord will lead some children and families to our life together. We are so blessed in so many ways, but how we would love the joy and blessing of more 'lambs'! Let's pray them in with gentle patience, trusting to the Lord who gives the growth.

Sydney Road Street Party Sunday 5 March 2023

First and foremost...getting to Church!

Sydney Road will be blocked off so come to church via Lygon. A stage will be set up near the church on Glenlyon Road so it will be closed off at David Street opposite the vicarage. But it shouldn't be a real problem getting to mass! Those with mobility issues feel free to park in the vicarage carpark.

Thanks to those who have signed up to be around in the café. We will have a bit of a sausage sizzle, sell bacon butties and be open to all comers...If you haven't signed up just call in during the afternoon for a drink! Our milkshakes are voted the best in Melbourne....

And finally, talking of milk shakes, over the last few weeks, it's been very good to welcome members of the Community School, staff and pupils, to sample our milkshakes and other delights, and to welcome student, River, doing some work experience with us on Wednesday's. We hope she is the first of many.

Keep on with Lent! Much love, +Lindsay