

Voice from the Vicarage 11th May 2023

Dear All,

You will perhaps have had experiences that have made you say to yourself, or to others, "That's four hours of my life that I'm not going to get back!" I have felt it today, I must admit.

Time lost? But maybe a good cause...

I was attending what is known as a Compulsory Conference, a required part of the process in a VCAT dispute. As some may know, the Retreat public house across the road from the church applied to Merri Bek Council for a variation to enable them to have live music in the outdoor area. Already the pub, and its existing noise late into the night dominates this neighbourhood, and while I'm a great believer in variety and letting a thousand blossoms bloom, it is from my point of view a step too far, not least since it is well known locally that the pub plays fast and loose with regulations, and has no regard for its neighbours.

The Council decided to allow the amendment to the Retreat's existing planning permit with no acknowledgement that the objection we lodged had any legitimacy so there was nothing else to do but take the matter further. It's a long haul, and to be honest I did not believe there was much chance of it being overturned but felt I must try. It seemed to me that the Church as a fruitful amenity and sanctuary in this area was being disregarded, as have local residents been. The amended permit will adversely affect our lives and theirs.

Today's conference was to see whether there was any compromise to be reached. In a sense we are between a rock and a hard place. If a compromise is reached, will it really be effectively policed and acted upon if it is not honoured? If I don't accept a compromise and proceed to a hearing, if we lose, we lose what little we might get by way of any compromises. Ho hum.

Whatever the outcome, I am simply not prepared for the Church or local residents for that matter to be disregarded in the way I believe we have been over this matter.

Rant over...

I don't expect there'll be many free drinks offered by the Retreat. Never mind there's always the Brunswick Green!

Farewell and Godspeed to our Pi Bob

On to much happier things. Well, happy in one sense, sad in another. There was much appreciation expressed today at the Thursday lunch as we said farewell to Pi Bob as he returns to his native Thailand having completed his PhD. Bi Pop has been lovely presence around Christ Church and we shall miss his quiet getting on with things, not least Saturdays in the café.



*Jo summed it up....
"Here is our wonderful friend"*

the lunch team and a blast from the past, our former curate, Kathryn



How lucky we are to have the Lamb café to meet in after the 10 am mass on Sundays! Here's a scene or two from last Sunday.



Greetings from the Lamb!

It's a buzz with conversation, and laughter. Thanks by the way to the team who provide us with refreshments.



ASHES to FIRE

There will be no LAMB B & B this Sunday, for which I apologise. But

NEXT SUNDAY the 21st, Father John Stewart will give his third reflection in the Lamb on the journey from Ashes to Fire. These have been good sessions. Why not come along?

And then the following Sunday is the great Feast of Pentecost. More of that next week, but we shall be baptising Lan and Henry and confirming Liviane. Joy!

And finally, some of you present last Sunday may have had a taste of the Coronation Quiche made by Robyn White. We sold out of it in The Lamb this week. It seems that there are more royalists than I had imagined in the fair town of Brunswick.....or maybe they just like quiche!

With much love from me,

+ *Lindsay*

ASCENSION DAY
This THURSDAY MASS with HYMNS @ 6.30 p.m.
'God is gone up with a merry noise!'

