

Voice from the Vicarage 27th July 2023

We love diggers!

Dear All,

Those of you who received last week's Voice may remember that last Friday I was due to be involved in an interfaith dialogue sponsored by a group called Voicecraft. It's led by a guy I met in our café called Tim Adalin. His passion is for getting together in respectful conversation people who likely come to different conclusions about what might be called 'meaning'.

The advertising blurb included the words '**Welcoming Bishop Lindsay Urwin and Zen Roshi Kirk Fisher in dialogue..**'

I have to admit that while I wouldn't want to overstate it, I have not always felt a personal welcome in Brunswick as a Christian priest and certainly there is an undercurrent of disdain about the Christian understanding of 'meaning'. But in *this* case the reality matched the advertisement. It was, I think, an interesting and altogether gracious evening. I suppose around 35 young people, were present and the conversation, and later discussion in smaller groups, was truly interesting, and marked by a genuine desire to listen. It was clear everyone present are trying to reflect deeply in order to make some sense of the mystery of life. Actually the word 'mystery' was often in use throughout the evening..

A golden opportunity...

The subtitle for the evening was 'Meaning, Tradition, Progress' and of course we only scratched the surface of such deep things, but I came away, as did Cecilia Fairlie who came with me, with a profound sense of respect and thanksgiving. I was listened to carefully as I talked about the Christian way of 'seeing'. Of course there was some cut and thrust. But it was good!

Anyway, thanks to those of you who offered a prayer or two as I requested.

These opportunities make me sweat a bit, but they are like gold as far as I'm concerned. In a small way they demonstrate the usefulness of the café as a place of encounter with those who would not be likely, at this stage in their lives, to walk into the church building itself. Anyway, yesterday, one of those who attended the gathering came into the café to talk a bit more.

It made me ridiculously happy.

Cara's back!

And I was happy again on Tuesday to see our Cara, even if it was at 6.30 am in a fairly cold church! How good to have her back after her sojourn in Flinders and Balnarring. I reckon we've missed her quite a lot.

She seems to have returned unscathed from the rigours of life by the seaside, but you can ask her yourself when you see her. She is preaching at the masses this Sunday. I'm not sure if she'll manage to weave any nautical or seaside parish references in as she illuminates some of the Lord's parables to us! We'll see.



Cara with Mother Keiron, the parish deacon and visiting preacher at Flinders last week..

At the Parish Council meeting last night, churchwarden John Vincent reported progress on the transformation of the vicarage into the new 'parish house'. You may have noticed it's a bit of a mess out back in what is usually our beautiful garden. Unfortunately the large underground water tank was pierced during the construction of the extension. I won't go into the tedious details of that but after the inevitable argy bargy, insurance is covering it. John expressed the hope that the putting in of a new tank might begin over the next few weeks, then allowing the completion of the decking. Yay!



Well, lo and behold this very morning Brad and Andrew turned up with their trusty digger to begin! It was a sight for these sore eyes!

I have a little prior experience in diggers myself but the boys refused my help!



There'll be a few large piles of soil and some heavy machinery about the place over the next few weeks.

It was a good Council meeting with quite a bit of discussion about our life now, and a little talk about the logistics of how the process for appointing the new parish priest will work. That's all laid down by a thing called the Clergy Act. Within a week or two I am sure the folk elected at the last parish AGM (the nominations committee) will be in position to let everyone know how the process of the appointment will proceed so that everyone is aware.

Nick Harman (who became famous in this column when he dramatically proposed to Tess while on holiday recently) reported on the work he has been doing on our new website which we hope will go live fairly soon. Watch this space! Thanks of course were expressed to Jesse Lattarulo who designed the existing site.

And finally, though I don't have a snap to show you, it was very good to welcome recently baptised **Emily Shalless** to our serving team last Sunday, carrying the cross with great care and aplomb! This Sunday at 10 we will welcome **Drax** to the team. So good!

Services @ 8,10 & 6 with love,

+ *Lindsay*