

# Voice from the Vicarage 17th August 2023

Dear All,

What a joy it was last Sunday to welcome fifteen children to our Lamb's Sunday school! It really was a bumper crop and both Jo and Craig, the rostered 'shepherds' were grinning from ear to ear as the crew returned to the church in time for the Offertory!

The enlarged room in the Vicarage was 'christened' because there just wasn't enough room around the kitchen table! May this little sign of blessing continue. Those who attend worship regularly will know that there is some days when there are no 'Lambs', and I want so much to pay tribute to the team who week in and week out have prepared lessons, and when there has been no need, have never murmured or expressed a desire to give up. They have kept on, waiting and praying.

Let's all pray that we may be blessed by the Lord adding to our number those whom he is saving! (Acts 2:47)

## Milk Shake Sunday...

In addition to Sunday being the 11th after Pentecost, in the circumstances there was nothing for it but to declare it MILK SHAKE SUNDAY! This was met with general enthusiasm and being the old softie I am, when a well and truly teenager with more capacity for a beard than I have, had the temerity to ask for one, he got what he asked for! No names, of course, but clergy children....

**If you feel called to join the team of folk offering this important ministry (Lambs not milk shakes!) you would be so welcome. The person to talk to is Cecilia Fairlie who co ordinates the group.**

**ceciliafairlie@gmail.com**

## It's all sacrifice at Christ Church...

The parish Executive group—churchwardens, treasurer and yours truly—were scheduled to meet last night after Evening Prayer to discuss both the budget for the parish for next year and to explore plans for the new vicarage to be built on land behind the church. At least one member of the group had suggested, maybe more than suggested that we deal with our business by 7.45pm. What of sacrifices of leadership I asked myself?.. Actually, it made for a rather good and efficient meeting! More of both those matters as time goes by.

Well, it seems that just about the whole of Australia stopped whatever they were doing by 7.45 last night! I was sitting at the kitchen table with someone

when suddenly the sound of an almighty roar went up from I don't know where, and I knew there must have been a goal for the home team! Truth to tell as the bearer of two passports, I often find myself with a foot in two camps... I caught the last part of the game, and I have to admit my heart was with the team that lost. Whatever the disappointment of the outcome, to watch the Mathildas journey on the field has been tremendous.

## Celebrating the hope of Heaven...

At the 6.30 mass this evening we will celebrate a journey of a very different kind: the **Feast of the Holy Mother's journey to Heaven**, sometimes called the Assumption, sometimes the 'Dormition' or falling asleep of Mary, or simply kept as a celebration of Mary. Whatever you call it, from the earliest days of the Church, the gift to Mary of her place in heaven has been celebrated.

Christians live now in the hope of Heaven. Of course, uber our own steam, we do not have a hope of getting there, or anyone we love getting there. It can only be the work of Grace, a gift from the Lord, whose own sacrifice allows us to be 'counted worthy' of Eternal Life. That is also true of Mary, who is gifted with that Grace. Never forget her Yes, her Amen to God's will for her life is like a key that opened the door to God's plan for you.

## Many or few...

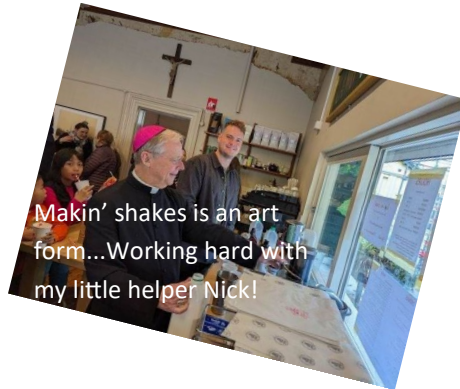
Cara is away on retreat for a few days, so yesterday morning it was especially good that Mason, now living above the café, came to pray Morning Prayer with me. We mused about how we will keep the Feast, adding to our usual 6.30 mass a serving team, incense and music, and we shall do so knowing that realistically on a Thursday evening, there may be relatively few folk able to attend. Mason hit on a great truth when he said that there will be something strangely beautiful about offering the mass in this way, even if the church is almost empty!

Like every mass, it will not be a performance *for* those who come, but a sacrifice of Praise *by* those present, many or few, unto our God. And it is always offered gathering in those who are *not* present for whatever reason, for the Sacrifice re-membered was for the whole world! Two or three are enough for the Lord to be in the midst!

*And finally,* those who gathered in The Lamb last Sunday night had great fun romping through the life of Moses in a Q and A format.. This week, Joshua.

Much love from me,

+Lindsay



Makin' shakes is an art form... Working hard with my little helper Nick!



Cheers!

