

Voice from the Vicarage 7th September 2023

Dear All,

The Thursday lunch is hard work for the team, but in the midst of it there can be some marvellous interactions with those who come and share the time with us, and enjoy the food.

Cake, knockabouts, and chaste cuddles..

Today, one lady waxed lyrical about the cakes and when I told her the baker was our parish organist, she advised he should give that up and go professional. And she assured me she knew what she was talking about. She ate a lot of cake!

Then a conversation with a regular who is not always especially easy to deal with. He informed me with an interesting measure of pride that he had been knocked over five times by cars, and once by a tram. With a smile I told him that seemed somewhat careless, and at very least a failure to learn a lesson. He then told me with great delight that the compensation from the first knockdown had enabled him to buy a house! The others he admitted happened when he was a little worse for wear, but since he'd cut back on the booze, nothing had hit him and he had hit nothing...

These conversations do one a lot of good!



Couldn't resist a bit of a cuddle from these two delightful regulars

It was pleasing to hear from Margaret, our lunch team co Ordinator, that a lad from the Community School is going to do a bit of work experience at the lunch. How good to be making connections with the school in this way. As it happens I will be in school on Monday talking to a group of pupils

A time for Dedication

This Sunday is the Sunday we remember and give thanks for the dedication of our church building. It took place on September 13th, 166 years ago by the then bishop of Melbourne. As I was preparing the notices for Sunday's service paper after being out talking to the Thursday folks, I found myself wondering about the ways in which this church has been a consolation to the people of Brunswick over those many decades, and of the faithful attempts by the worshipping community to reach out with love and generosity to those who found themselves in need over those 160+ years. Who knows? Well, our Heavenly Father certainly knows. On Sunday we will give thanks for the dedication of our House of Prayer, for those who made the necessary sacrifices for it to be built, and for those who have been inspired for service through their belonging to Christ Church.

Of course the church is not simply *our* home, but also a place where our Lord himself is 'at home' in his mysterious but real presence in the Tabernacle, in the Lady Chapel.



In the midst for thanking God for those Anglicans who have beautified the church with windows, lecterns, icons, altar frontals and so much more, I sometimes think of the Roman Catholic nuns in Sydney who so kindly gifted us our tabernacle. Religious are often more ready than most to recognise the authentic presence of Christ in other denominations. They generally look for the sameness rather than the difference.

Anyway, Sunday will be a day of thanksgiving and an opportunity for us all to gently re-dedicate ourselves to our Lord as his disciples.

Well and truly stumped!

Readers of the Voice will know something of the saga surrounding the completion of the extension to the current vicarage. I was ridiculously overjoyed today to see ten concrete stumps firmly set into the ground over which the new deck will be built over the next week or so. The foundations are deep and rock solid!



Stumped at last! The boys are as happy as I am as they get the job done

Two Important Visitors..

I want to remind you that **NEXT SUNDAY**, the 17th, an important meeting will take place with our Archdeacon, Vanessa at 12 noon. The purpose is to talk with her as part of the process of consultation for the appointment of a new parish priest. Please be present if you can. Your experience and your opinion matters! The meeting is open to anyone interested in our parish life and its future.

Danishes and croissants will be provided to sustain you! The meeting will take place in the big room in the vicarage.

The following Sunday our regional BISHOP GENEIVE will preach at the 10 am Mass. It is a good number of years since she was last here. I remember us walking around the site that day talking about our hopes for a new church roof! So much has happened since then. Let's give her a warm welcome and show her what our congregation are made of!

And finally, I praise God that the renovation of the vicarage / parish house is now complete. And it's looking great! Hope to see you Sunday! Love, +Lindsay