

Grapevine

December 2012
St Mary's Anglican Church-

www.stmarysanglican.org.au

03 9744 1347



Christmas Message

Christmas Service Times at St Mary's

Sunday 23rd December- 4.00pm

4.00pm- Prayer & Praise with
Preschoolers- in the Hall

Monday 24th December- 7.00pm

Family Christmas Eve Service

Monday 24th December- 11.00pm

Christmas Eve Holy Communion

Tuesday 25th December- 9.30am

Christmas Day Holy Communion



Gavin Ward

From Rev. Gavin Ward

I was in Canberra in mid-October and from my sister-in-law's balcony in the city centre, we watched a large cavalcade of black vehicles escorted by police on motorbikes as it raced from Parliament House to some other part of the city.

All traffic had to get out of the way. We didn't know who it was but guessed it was some foreign dignitary being transported around.

Hillary Clinton received similar treatment during her recent visit to Australia as did the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall on their flying visit to the Melbourne Cup.

We make a big deal of dignitaries who visit our shores and expect that our own Prime Minister, Governor-General or other senior Australian dignitaries will be treated well when they visit other countries.

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Youth & Young Adults Camp, 2013

With Kim Beales

GO Camp is back!

Sunbury's Youth and Young Adults Camp will be a fantastic way to start the year!

We return to Rowallan Adventure Camp and this year we will explore Philipians with Guest Speaker Angas Tiernan, who will also be telling stories and encouraging us in our faith. Angas leads Christian Union at Swinburne University. Kim will speak on 'the hunger games'.

There will be heaps of fun, games such as capture the flag, music, a theme dinner, bush walks and plenty of time to hang out!

When: Friday Feb 8, 7pm to Sunday Feb 10th 2pm.

Where: Rowallan Adventure Camp, Riddells Creek

Cost: \$65 (sponsorship is available. So please be in touch with Kim if this is needed as we hope for everyone to be able to come) Register by Sunday 27th January

For more details or an application form email kimbeales@stmarysanglican.org.au

Gavin's Christmas message continued ...

All this prompted me to think of the treatment received by the most important visitor ever to humanity.

He was born amid the humility of a stable surrounded by various animals, in Bethlehem, a backwater of the then Roman Empire. Those present at his birth knew this one was very special. They acknowledged it at the time. Even the king of the day was threatened by this child and attempted to have him killed.

Yet he grew up to live a humble life, walking around Israel, teaching, listening, healing and caring for all who would take the time to listen to him. Finally he was betrayed, unjustly tried, flogged and executed in the most brutal way.

However, as we know, he was not a victim but a willing participant in this act of love for the salvation of those who place their trust in Him and his resurrection draws us to look forward to His return again – when there will be great fanfare!!!! Every eye will see him and every tongue confess that he is Lord.

So this Christmas, amid the flashy presentations, glitter and glamour of Christmas, let's take some time to pause and reflect and give thanks to God for the small and unpretentious.

I pray that you are also filled with the great hope of what God has done for us all in Christ and the peace that flows from a relationship with him.

May you know God's peace in your hearts, homes and families this Christmas and into the New Year.

How can we interpret the bible?

Summer study series with Rev Cath Fisher

- An introduction to general principles for interpreting the bible
- Gaining an appreciation of different genres and how to interpret them
- Developing skills of biblical interpretation which form a basis for personal study, group bible study and preaching

Dates- 21, 28 January & 4 February
7:30-9:30pm
in the parish house





Melbourne Synod 2012

By Lesley McInerney

Once again Kim Beales, our congregation planting curate musician, was the minstrel of choice for the opening of Saturday's daytime session of the October 2012 Melbourne Synod.

Synod is the gathering of the clergy and lay representatives of the Diocese with the Archbishop to make decisions about our corporate life in Christ. The majority of lay members are elected representatives of their parishes. Each Synod is elected for a term, usually of three years. Max Langshaw and I were elected as lay representatives of St Mary's for the 2010-2013 Synod. Each Synod begins by coming together as the Body of Christ in a celebration of Holy Communion.

Many of you will have read the reports of the Melbourne Synod in The Melbourne Anglican. This is my own personal perspective on the 2012 sessions, highlighting matters of particular interest to St Mary's at Sunbury. This meeting of Synod was marked by a spirit of unity and conciliation, building on the foundations prepared in the previous two years, strategic in its emphasis on the Diocesan Vision and Strategic Directions.



Diocesan Vision and Strategic Directions

In 2010 Archbishop Philip Freier launched the Vision and Strategic Directions for the Diocese for 2011-13. The Vision is to make the Word of God fully known throughout the Diocese of Melbourne and Geelong, emphasising a new missional focus. The aim, in every part of the Diocese, urban, developing and rural, is to –

- Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- Teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- Respond to human need by loving service
- Seek to transform unjust structures of society
- Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

A major focus of the Diocese since the launch of the Vision has been a pilot program to assist growing churches. As a church moving to over 150 worshippers, St Mary's has benefited from training and coaching through this pilot program. The Prayer and Praise with Preschoolers Mission Action Team was formed and has undertaken the Pathways training module offered through the Bishop Perry Institute. At Synod, speakers from other parishes praised the pilot program, the coaching it provides to help ministers stay focussed and proactive, and the training modules offered through the Bishop Perry Institute.

Finances

With the continuing global financial crises, the return on Diocesan financial investments has not improved as had been previously hoped. The Diocese is therefore facing continued financial pressures, and the 2013 budget is moving back into a deficit position. In order to meet this financial challenge, it has been decided to grow the investment holdings by \$10 million from the proceeds of sales of surplus property not presently used for ministry purposes. This will increase investment revenue to the Diocese.

Melbourne Synod 2012 continued ...

Infrastructure for new and growing parishes

Last year Synod endorsed the principle that proceeds from the sale of surplus property should in future be pooled and used primarily to establish new parishes and ministries in growth areas, in line with the Diocese's Strategic Vision.

After the \$10 million has been accumulated for the investment corpus, 70% of the proceeds from the sale of surplus property will be allocated to the Church Extension and Development Fund (CEDF). The CEDF makes grants for the establishment and support of parishes, with a primary focus on identified growth areas. There are four categories of grants –

Category A – Land Purchase

Grants for the purchase of appropriately zoned land in areas firmly projected by government authority to have a future population in excess of 37,000 that will not be served from an existing or planned site within 5-7 kilometres. Up to 100% of the cost of such purchases may be met by these grants.

Category B – First Buildings

Grants for the construction of the first buildings, including a vicarage, for a new parish. Up to 80% of the anticipated cost of construction may be met from such grants.

Category C – Expansion of Existing Buildings

Grants for the expansion of existing buildings in parishes where they are demonstrably too small for current congregational needs. Up to 45% of the anticipated costs of extensions may be met.

Category D – Improvement of Existing Amenities.

Up to 20% of the anticipated costs of improvements to the amenity of existing buildings may be met from grants in this category.

As St Mary's contemplates the need to respond to the growing population of Sunbury and surrounds, including the growth of Diggers Rest, this policy will have a strong bearing on our planning exercises in 2013.

Professional Standards

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne and Geelong has stringent laws and procedures covering misconduct, which includes bullying, emotional abuse, harassment, physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse or spiritual abuse. The current diocesan Professional Standards Act 2009 governs the handling of complaints of misconduct against clergy and church workers. As well as paid staff, "church workers" includes wardens, vestry, the treasurer, Sunday school superintendents, youth group coordinators, organists, directors or coordinators of music, and others.

At Synod, a separate category of "church volunteers" was added to the Act, which now authorises a separate and less formal process for resolving complaints of misconduct against volunteers who are not defined as "church workers"

The End of Life

A summary of the report recently commissioned by Benetas Finding the Way – a Theology of Ageing was approved for distribution. This report, which is directed at carers and caring agencies, offers an understanding of what it means to grow old in the light of belief in God.

Synod also commended Advance Care Planning as a process to help people make early decisions about their future medical care. Speakers gave accounts of dying family members being subjected to intrusive and ineffective procedures which sought to prolong life. They spoke of the desirability of such planning, leading to an Advance Care Directive, both for honouring the rights of individuals and relieving their families of later anguish. Synod encourages parishes, chaplains and agencies to raise awareness of the Advance Care Planning process and encourage its use.

Conclusion

This was the final session of the 2010-12 Synod. Next year parishes will be asked elect lay representatives for the 2013-15 Synod.



2013 Preaching Planner

Miracles Series

Sunday January 6th	Power over elements
Sunday January 13th	Only one says thanks
Sunday January 20th	Raising the Dead
Sunday January 27th	Raised from the Dead

Serving Jesus in 2013 Series

Sunday February 3rd	Preparing to Serve Jesus in 2013
Sunday February 10th	Vision Process Launch – 40 Days of Prayer

People Jesus Met on the Way to, and after the Cross Series

Sunday February 17th	Sunday April 14 th
<i>Incorporating Palm Sunday and Easter Day</i>	

Heroes, CMS and Question Sunday

Sunday April 21st	Hero of the Faith- Luther
Sunday April 28th	Question Sunday
Sunday May 5th	CMS

Early part of Acts series

Sunday May 12th	Sunday June 16th
Sunday June 23rd	Evangelism Sunday (Back to Church)
<i>Incorporating Pentecost and God's Gang service on Sunday 19th May</i>	

Apologetics Series

Sunday June 30th	Sunday July 14th
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Daniel Part 2 Series

Sunday July 21st	Visions from the Past- Four Beasts
Sunday July 28th	Visions from the Past- Ram & a goat
Sunday August 4th	Model of Prayer
Sunday August 11th	Daniel- The Real Battle
Sunday August 18th	Daniel- Visions from the Past- Final Victory

1 Corinthians 12-14 (Gifts) Series

Sunday August 25th	Gifts of the Spirit
Sunday September 8th	Gifts of the Spirit
Sunday 15th September-	Question Sunday and God's Gang Service
Sunday September 22nd	Gifts of the Spirit

Heroes, Abraham & Sarah, and Question Sunday

Sunday September 29th	Guest speaker
Sunday October 6th	Abraham & Sarah
Sunday October 13th	Hero of the Faith (biblical hero)

150th Celebrations of St Mary's Parish

Sunday October 20th	Yesterday, Today & Forever (Parish's 150th)
Sunday October 27th	Halloween

Hebrews Series

Sunday November 3rd	Sunday December 22 nd
<i>Incorporating Advent</i>	

Christmas Eve /Day

Psalms Summer Series

Sunday December 29th	Sunday January 26 th
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This Preaching planner has been developed as a guide to the year, and is subject to change.

St Mary's
is a
community...
Loving God,
Following
Jesus,
Sharing God's
love with all.

2012- 2013 Wardens



Mark Armstrong



Lesley McInerney



Noel Sprague

2012- 2013 Vestry



Geoff Klouth



Max Langshaw



Peter Rovers



Phillip Stacy



Rod Smyrk



Michael Williams

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