

St Mary's Grapevine

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, SUNBURY
SEPTEMBER 2018

Gavin's Grab

Well, the Bush Dance was lots of fun. I trust you enjoyed it. It's good to have a party and spend time together. Recently both the men and women have gathered for breakfasts and the fellowship has been great at all 3 events.

We have a New Friends Welcome lunch on Sunday 16th. It's wonderful to be welcoming new people into our fellowship and we pray they will find God's blessings as they join us and serve Jesus amongst and with us.

Off to Chibobo

Sharon and I depart for a visit to the Chibobo Community in Zambia on Monday 1st October. This will be an important trip as we follow up on the good work of the Mission Team in July. We will spend time with Staivous (mentoring him in his leadership role) and also with the church leaders encouraging them in their leadership and conducting

some Bible Study Preparation training. We would appreciate your prayers for us as we serve God in this way.

Following our time in Chibobo we are taking 3 weeks leave to undertake a tour of Uganda and Kenya and then spend a week in Perth on the way home. I return to work on Wednesday 7 November.

Building Programme

There has been a lot of work done by the Building Committee and Wardens and I over the past few months as we consider what our next steps might be. My thanks to everyone who took part in the Prayer Vigil as it was a vital component in our deliberations. We only want to proceed as God guides us.

Church Events

During my time away the Wardens will be busy arranging briefing sessions to update everyone on our Building Programme and the options we have for the next steps leading into the construction phase in 2019. Please see their update in this issue.

Gavin

Support Chaplaincy

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Warden's Report- Building Programme Update

It has now been several months since St Mary's planning approval was received from Hume Council. Over this time, our architect David Wagner has been in consultation with the Hume Planning Officer to clarify all of the conditions contained within the planning permit. These will hopefully be successfully resolved in the coming months. In the mean time we will continue to push forward with detailed specifications.

In July the parish took the time to stop and pause to realign our thoughts and to seek God's will in 12 hours of prayer. Led by Parish Councillors it was an important step for our parish, and allowed us to reaffirm that these are indeed God's plan's and vision, not just our own desire.

Next Steps

Parish Council has dedicated two meetings specifically for building discussion. At these meetings the Building Committee presented information on the proposed length of the building program, the estimated cost and the impact on current facilities. All of these were discussed and considered in detail. Parish Councillors have all considered the implications of this monumental decision, which will involve substantial borrowings for the parish. In addition, your Church Wardens have on multiple occasions reviewed the Building Committee recommendations and made further recommendations to Parish Council.

Finances

The Finances for the Building Programme, at this stage are:-

Total estimated cost:- **\$4.2million.**

There may be ways to reduce this cost if we consider different finishes throughout the facility.

We plan to finance this building cost as follows:-

Currently the available building funds amount is about **\$1.3 million.**

We have decided to limit our borrowing to **\$1 million** from the Anglican Development Fund (ADF). Whilst this appears to be a large amount to borrow and repay, it represents around 25% of the total building program estimated cost.

Looking at annual repayments of a loan of \$1 million, these equate to around \$90,000 per year. Some suggested methods of financing this loan have been through a commercial lease of the café, which may provide around 50% of this amount.

In addition, if additional space is provided for our Community Store, any increase in revenue could also be directed to loan repayments, this may provide an additional \$25,000. This then means that parishioners would need to continue to support the on-going building fund for any remaining repayments.

Parish Council is very conscious of the need to be responsible with burdening parishioners with long term debt: the loan would be over 25 years, so they have laboured with decision making.

That leaves us with **\$1.9 million**

At the August Parish Council meeting, it was resolved to go ahead and attempt to finance the entire project.

To this end Parish Council members and staff have given an indicative undertaking to personally donate over **\$230,000** towards the project over the next 3 years.

We will be looking for indicative undertakings from Parishioners over the next couple of months for what each of us would be willing to donate to see this project completed.

In addition, the Wardens and members of the Building Committee will be enquiring about funding from external sources over the next couple of months including Federal and State Governments, the Diocese and other individuals.

It's our intention to bring all of these financial considerations to the congregation at our AGM in November, where we will be able to assess financial support for the entire project from all of the St Mary's congregation.

Parish Council were optimistic that the Diocese would assist the parish with a substantial donation to the building program, as had been the case in other parishes. However when we examine the Diocese' current dire financial plight, it has \$2 million deficit. It also has a need to finance the national redress scheme for child abuse victims to the amount of \$16 to \$20million over the next five years. It appears unlikely that any funds will be available and provided to St Mary's for our building program. The Archbishop has recently held several meetings to inform parishes and where views were discussed about sale of church facilities to finance the redress requirements. These are extremely difficult decisions the Diocese will be required to make in 2019 and beyond, the hurt of which will reverberate through many parishes. Parish Council will still ask the Diocese for funding in 2019.

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A Future Not Our Own

In memory of Oscar Romero (1917–1980)

"It helps now and then to step back and take a long view.

The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives include everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water the seeds already planted

knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own. "

From Xavarian Missionaries:

Oscar A. Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, in El Salvador, was assassinated on March 24, 1980, while celebrating Mass in a small chapel in a cancer hospital where he lived. He had always been close to his people, preached a prophetic gospel, denouncing the injustice in his country and supporting the development of popular and mass organizations. He became the voice of the Salvadoran people when all other channels of expression had been crushed by the repression. This prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, drafted for a homily by Card. John Dearden in Nov. 1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Romero, Bishop Untener included it in a reflection titled "The mystery of the Romero Prayer." The mystery is that the words of the prayer are attributed to Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him.

Building Programme Update

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The numbers below show the extent of financial support the Parish Council is seeking.

Estimated Build Cost	\$4,200,000
Current Building Fund	\$1,300,000
Borrowing	\$1,000,000
Parish Council/Staff	\$ 230,000
Remaining requirements:	\$1, 670,000

Parish Consultations

Whilst the Building Committee has identified options for staging different parts of the building program, Parish Council seeks to step forward in faith and undertake the entire program. Experience tells us that it is extremely difficult to complete a partial building program once occupancy occurs.

During October the Wardens will be holding two open meetings for Parishioners (see the Pew Sheet for details) as well as visiting Home Groups. These will be opportunities to ask questions, hear more detail of the plans and for the Wardens to gauge support for the Project.

We will then have a fuller Parish Discussion at our Annual General Meeting in November.

CONCLUSION

Financially the parish operating budget has always been tight, but we have continued to press forward with the plans God has for us in Ministry. The generosity of Parishioners, coupled with a Grant from KidsPlusGFS, has enabled us to engage Laura Paul as a Children's Outreach Worker and we are currently seeking someone to follow on with her work in 2019. Our main focus continues to be on ministry, mission and people, and a new building will provide the facility to better serve in these areas as we plan for the future and serve today. The 2018 budget has again been challenging with projected giving falling below expectations.

With a concerted effort in 2019 to fund raise for our new facilities, our operating budget will again come under increasing stress. Continual prayer is needed if we are to build facilities for our future and bring people and families within Sunbury to know our Lord.

Having celebrated our 150th year, we look forward to our future with optimism and renewed enthusiasm, as we seek to serve our Lord and Saviour.

Loving God, following Jesus and sharing God's love with all.

Parish Electoral Roll

Each parish maintains an electoral roll containing the names of those people aged over eighteen who have met the qualification for being on the parish electoral roll, and have filled out and signed an application form. (Prior to the introduction of the Parish Governance act in 2013, some people may have been added to the electoral roll without completing the form.)

To be on, and remain on the electoral roll, a person must:

- Be a layperson (i.e. not ordained);
- Be over eighteen years of age;
- Be baptised;
- Have regularly and habitually attended public worship in that parish;
- Be a member of the Anglican Church of Australia;
- Not be a member of another church or denomination, and not be on the electoral roll of another parish or congregation;
- Have completed and signed an application to be on the electoral roll.

The parish electoral roll is reviewed in the month leading up to the annual meeting by the parish electoral committee and anyone who is no longer eligible to be on the roll is removed. No changes or additions can be made to the roll in the 14 days preceding the annual meeting.

It is not a requirement that you be on the electoral roll, however only those listed on the electoral roll are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting or stand for a position on Parish council.

Application forms are available from the AGM downloads section of the St Mary's website or from the Parish office and to ensure eligibility for voting at the 2018 Annual Meeting, forms should be returned to the Parish Administrator by Thursday 25th October.

If you wish to check your status on the electoral roll you can contact the Parish Administrator via email admin@stmarysanglican.org.au or call the office on 9744 1347.

Parish Governance Act 2013 section 9-14

A thought to ponder

"When a church congregation is not optimistic about its future, it stops spending money on the kind of things that make it attractive- things like heating and cooling, decent sound gear, comfortable furniture, and most importantly, highly competent, energetic clergy.....
The disciplines of keeping things clean, tidy, well organised, fresh and creative fade away to dirty, cluttered, sloppy, stale and predictable. The rusted-on congregation members don't seem to notice, but new people visiting the church sense the emotional climate in a heartbeat."

*Ken Morgan- Head of Parish Mission and Resourcing
(Acting) for the diocese of Melbourne*

Upcoming Events

28 September -	Friday Friendship Lunch- 12.30pm
6 October -	Games night- Parish House- 8.00pm
8 October -	Parish Prayer Meeting- 7.30pm
12-14 October-	Forgiven2Forgive Youth Camp
17 October-	"Girls Night in" Fashion Parade-
26 October-	Friday Friendship Lunch- 12.30pm
3 November-	Games night- Parish House- 8.00pm
4 November-	Refugee Visit and welcome lunch
5 November-	Parish Council Meeting- 7.30pm
12 November-	Parish Prayer Meeting- 7.30pm
17 November-	Parish Quiet Day
19 November-	Annual General Meeting- 7.30pm

Contact St Mary's

PO Box 2049 Sunbury VIC 3429

p: 03 9744 1347

admin@stmarysanglican.org.au

www.stmarysanglican.org.au



Fashion Parade

Featuring outfits styled exclusively from the boutique of the St Mary's Community Store!



Wednesday 17th October

7.00pm- St Mary's Parish Hall

GIRLS' NIGHT IN

Tickets \$12.00

Includes complimentary glass of bubbles on arrival and supper
Tickets available from the Community Store or Parish office