

Parish Magazine

Anglican Parish of St Stephen & St Mary Mt Waverley



From Your Vicar

Easter 2016

Often we take for granted custom and Christian Festivals. Do we ever pause and wonder, what does it mean? Or think where does this come from, or why do we do this?

The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday was a day plentiful of food and long past a day off work. It was called carnival in the Italian states and *mardi gras* in France. It was a time to eat foods which could not be stored (including flour and dairy products). Crepes and pancakes were often eaten, hence the name **Pancake Tuesday** or **Shrove Tuesday** because after the festival people went to church to be shriven of their sins before the official beginning of Lent and its associated austerity.

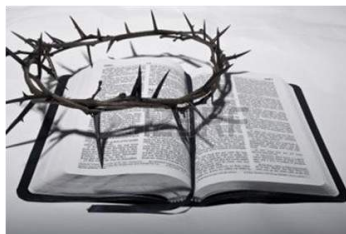
The next day, **Ash Wednesday** was a day of solemnity which included the ceremony of ashing – placing ashes on the forehead in the shape of a cross. The ashes were obtained from burning the palm crosses of the previous Palm Sunday.

The ashes represent our broken pledges, our half-heartedness, the 'crumbling to dust' of all of our proclamations of loyalty to Christ, and our mortality of which it is good to be reminded, since it will help us rely on and trust in the One who is immortal, creator and sustainer. Usually a bowl of Ashes covers the font and the absence of Holy Water provides an image of the desert, of our journey from Ash Wednesday through to Easter.

Lent is like a retreat. Throughout the year the church is directed out to the

world, during the 40 days of Lent we pull back for reflection, self-examination and repentance in preparation for the great Easter celebration and the renewing of our baptismal vows.

In Lent we emphasise some things by their absence. The Paschal Candle is removed to be brought back only for funerals. Often churches use clay vessels for communion instead of gold and plain wooden candlesticks and alms dish in place of the more ornate brass. The colour is penitential purple.



We have no flowers during Lent as these are signs of festivity and celebration and our music is more subdued and no Gloria is Sung. Some churches also cease to say the Creed during Lent as the Creeds are a source of comfort and assurance to us.

All these simplifications are outward and visible signs of the season which can create in us a holy hunger for things to be set right, in ourselves, our church and our world.

From Ash Wednesday until the Fourth Sunday in Lent there was observed a period of fasting – of giving up the pleasures of earthly life for the life of high spiritual things. For health reasons this was broken on Refreshment Sunday. On

this day the Lenten taboos on music, on entertainments and dairy foods were broken. The day also became known as **Mothering Sunday**, symbolic of motherhood, family and the mother church. Children were encouraged to visit families and godchildren and their godparents.

(As well as the spiritual sponsors, godparents were expected to be the legal guardians of their godchildren if their parents died).

So twice a year, Epiphany and Mothering Sunday, godchildren were encouraged to visit their godparents to show that both were still alive. They would often bring with them *simnel* cake, a rich cake made from fine flour (from the Latin *similia*, fine flour). This was often decorated with eleven pieces of marzipan, one for each faithful disciple. By Elizabethan times a tax on flour was introduced to pay for the cost of defeating the Spanish Armada. This proved such a good revenue raiser that it remained. Enterprising pastry cooks introduced the early form of marzipan as a flour substitute, using dried fruits from the Americas. Thus the rise of the fruit cake for traditional celebrations began.

Easter which is the major festival of the Christian year is associated with many of these habits which we often 'just do' automatically as part of the Easter season. Even the word Easter comes from the pre-Anglo-Saxon pagan name to the earth

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Acknowledgment and thank you to Rowena for photos in this edition of the Parish Magazine Also to Graeme Dellora for his photo of John Bisset.

Any suggestions and feedback to helenedur@netspace.net.au

From the Registers:

Baptism:

24.01.16

Natalie Evelyn Fraser

"By Water and the Holy Spirit"

Deaths:

24.11.15 Ian Patterson Kelly

05.12.15 Barbara Le Huray

07.12.15 Margaret Anderson Briggs

"May they rest in peace
And rise in glory"



**Ever considered
making a bequest to
the
Parish in your Will?
Need more details,
then please speak to
one of the Wardens.**

(Continued from page 1)

mother-goddess whose death and rebirth was celebrated in connection with the end of winter and return of spring each year in rural communities where food gathering and preparation was a full time occupation and consciousness of the earth's annual cycles was ever present.

By medieval period when church was the centre of organised community life, these rituals and symbols were grafted onto the church's teachings. **Lent** was divided into forty days, excluding Sundays, to symbolise the forty days Christ spent in the wilderness at the start of his ministry. This period was observed with a set of rituals to help teach the faith in an age when to be able to read was a rarity. So, I hope some of this information will help you to know where some of these important terms come from. I pray that you will enter into Holy Week beginning on Palm Sunday and attend as many of the services as possible, particularly Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

Pax (peace) Vicar Dianne

The Poet thinks about the Donkey

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
the donkey waited,

Not especially brave, or filled
with understanding,
he stood and waited.

How horses, turned out into the meadow,
leap with delight!

How doves, released from their cages,
clatter away, splashed with sunlight!

But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.

Then he let himself be
led away.

Then he let the stranger mount.

Never had he seen such crowds!

And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.

Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark,
obedient.

Poems by Mary Oliver - from 'Thirst'



HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Monday March 21

7.30 pm Eucharist

Tuesday March 22

7.30 pm Eucharist

Wednesday March 23

10.00 am and 7.30 pm

Reconciliation with Anointing and Eucharist

Maundy Thursday March 24

10.00 am Eucharist

7.30 pm - Celebration of the Last Supper with Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday March 25

9.00 am - Celebration of the Lord's Passion with Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday 26

8.00 pm - The Great Vigil of Easter - Lighting of the new fire and renewal of baptismal vows

Easter Day March 27

7.30 am	Book of Common Prayer
9.00 am	Sung Eucharist.
10.30 am	Contemporary Eucharist

Reflection— Pilgrimage to Turkey Lent 2016.

Today, I want to tell you about the place in Turkey that affected me the most. It was the Church of Saint Polycarp in Izmir. As soon as I walked into the building, I found myself crying. I've been meditating on why I had such a strong reaction, and I want to share with you some of my ponderings.

Initially, the beauty of the church overwhelmed me. You can Google the church to see images of the life of Christ, of Polycarp and other saints, and glorious decorations that cover every square inch of the internal walls. I have never seen anything like it.

The next thought that came to my mind was "haven". By the time we visited this church, we had been in Turkey for ten days. It had all been wonderful, and the people had been welcoming and generous, but I still felt like an outsider. I did not look or talk or act or dress like the local women.

I understood nothing of the language, written or spoken. I had not realised, until I stepped into this church, how much I had been guarding my heart and mind from the subtle effects of being the foreigner. Here, however, I was at home.

From there I started to think about all the people for whom church is a safe haven, and those for whom it is not. Don't get me wrong: while I was regularly stared at during the trip, I experienced no hostility whatsoever from the locals in Turkey. But there are people, including children, in our world today who are tortured and killed for their faith in Christ. For all of those, I was overcome with grief.

Finally, I was confronted by a painting that broke my heart. While it was a painting of Teresa of Avila receiving the stigmata, the beauty of art is that it is open to interpretation. What I saw was not Teresa, but Mary, the mother of our Lord, connected to her son in his death, as though his wounds from the cross also wounded her. And I remembered that Jesus Christ preceded all who are persecuted for their faith in him; that Mary was not

the last mother to have her child taken before in the prime of his life, simply because he refused to bow down in subjugation and fear to the powers of his day.

As I journey through Lent, I am endeavouring to make space to face the difficult emotions that I find within my own heart: fear, loneliness, grief. It is only in acknowledging these within ourselves that we begin to understand that they are part of what it means to be human, and that all people experience them. As we confront the cross together again on Good Friday, may we remember that, in his betrayal, arrest and torture, Jesus did not project these emotions onto others and fight against them there. Instead, he embraced them as part of his shared humanity, and took them with him to his death. In so doing, he conquered all that stands between us and God and each other, showing in his resurrection the life and love that God has for all people.

Kate Lord
Assistant Curate

You are invited: Human Rights Sermon Series at Trinity College Chapel

In April, the College Chapel is presenting a sermon series of talks around human rights. Being held during the Sunday Choral Evensong services, the talks will cover a diverse range of issues around social, spiritual, religious and cultural aspects of human rights. A number of speakers will offer valuable contributions to this discussion. All are welcome to attend.

[Read more...](#)

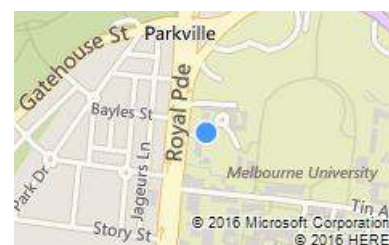
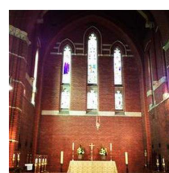
Details

Commencing at 5.00 pm in the College Chapel; these are the last two in a series of lectures:

- 10 April: The Hon Michael Kirby (topic: Human Sexuality as a Human Right)
- 17 April: The Revd Fr Bob Maguire (topic: Homelessness and Human Rights).

As part of the Choral Evensong, these talks are free and open to all; no bookings required.

The Chapel



Trinity College

A red tree in Autumn

It is coming! This glowing opera season of life pulls me up in my tracks to stop, look, and marvel. I reflect on the meaning of life re-enacted in its unfolding stages of drama: The cycle of life. The need for change. The challenge to let go. The invitation to hope. The call to mystery. It leads me into a quiet knowing that like every burning leaf being sustained on the branch, that's how I am held. With each leaf falling into terrifying space that discovers itself supported in the Breath of God, that's my journey. This running-out-of-summer-juices season calls for a change of pace and to pay attention to beauty and mystery seen in burnished birds and bushes aflame with water. Wild winds moan through giant gums, tender rays warm amber leaves and crows cawk in melting trees. It's the time to listen to fallen leaves severed from the outgrown and flowers lovingly compelled to surrender.

Autumn lavishly flings huge fluffed pumpkins across the setting sky and gifts us with crisp nights of wonder under Mars hanging so close. This season draws me to contemplate, nestle and ponder. I listen with my heart to my own falling and then surrendering to the pathway that leads to Life.



Could Moses burning bush have been more glowing, more holy, than this red tree flaming in front of me? No, for this tree burns for me! It reminds me that it is falling, failing, suffering that brings this glowing beauty - and new life only

comes after death. My tree speaks, "Don't resist. Be held until you glow." Sweet and wonderfully bitter is this season of change, struggle, life and death. It teaches us that we can find something unexpectedly delicious from something hard.

Christine Mallouhi



Vale John Bisset, 20/2/16



John Bisset (far right) taken with Allan and Des before a Men's Forum Meeting.

I first met John Bisset in 1996 when Margaret and I joined the congregation at Stephen's. John and I both attended The Men's Forum run by Hughie Tonge.. After the death of Hughie, I became convener of the Men's Forum and in due course John became Speaker Convener. Over the years we

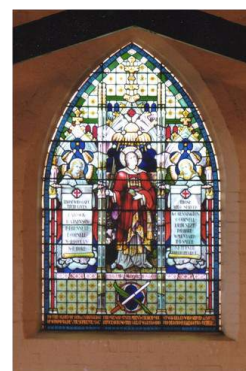
had many interesting speakers and had several "off site" outings all arranged by John. At the end of the year we had the very well organised and popular Men's Forum Lunch

John was always interested in the amateur musical productions that were staged at the Nunawading Civic Centre and a few of us started attending these productions. Initially we started with a group of about eight people but word got around and at the next production, the number of parishioners attending increased to 20 and then we all went to the Glen Waverley RSL for dinner. The last time we enjoyed one of these productions, the number had increased yet again to 40. We all dearly loved these outings arranged by John.

John was a very good parishioner attending on most Sundays. He was a great help to the Wardens undertaking

small maintenance work required around the Church buildings. Sadly John's health started to fail and the last year had been horrendous for him.

It is a sad time for us all and John will be sadly missed. Our sincere sympathy to his son Jim and daughter Nerida and family. Des Sparrow



John's photo of the Old Church Memorial Window

Shrove Tuesday



Contemporary Eucharist BBQ



Contemporary Eucharist congregation thank Elizabeth for "looking after" the CE music for two years



Jazz Night





Commissioning Garry Deverell



Our Locum Fr Derek



Commissioning David Cundy



David plays for the CE for the first time



Lenten Studies



Commissioning Becky Sims



Blessing



Keith's Farewell Blessing and 'Thank You' for 18 years as devoted Organist and Choir Director



Blessing



At the 150th Parish Anniversary



You are Invited to an
Interactive Seminar

On 27 April 2016: 7.30—10.30 pm

Parish Centre.

The Anglican Parish of St Stephen and St Mary
383 High Street Rd., Mount Waverley.

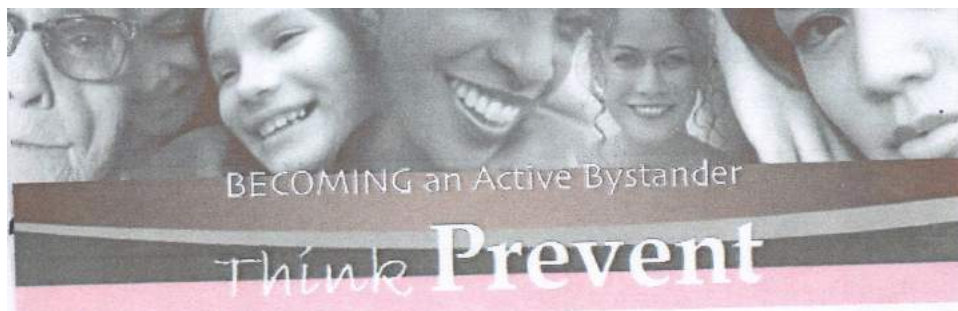


Everyone is a bystander at some time. A bystander is someone who observes a conflict or unacceptable behaviour. It might be a situation of bullying, intimidation, sexual harassment, abuse or violence. A bystander knows the situation is destructive; or likely to make a bad situation worse.

The Good News is there's an opportunity to embrace your ability to make a positive change in 2016 by turning passive bystander behaviour around.

Dr Ree Boddle presents a follow up workshop to Active Bystander workshop one. This covers how to recognise the signs of domestic violence, and draws on real life scenarios to help participants evaluate safe and appropriate interventions.

Please RSVP by 15 April by ringing Margaret, Secretary on 98071541, Elizabeth, President 9802 6952 or email parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au.



Sponsored by Mothers' Union, a global Christian membership organisation working in over 80 countries to enable individuals, families and communities to be loving, respectful and flourishing relationships; and to challenge social injustices affecting family life.

Mothers' Union wants violence against women and girls to end before it even starts.



MOUNT WAVERLEY CHADSTONE INTER CHURCH COUNCIL

Formed over 40 years ago, the Mt Waverley and Chadstone Inter Church Council (MWCICC) is a fellowship of Mount Waverley and Chadstone churches, bounded by Warrigal Road, Highbury Road, Blackburn Road and Ferntree Gully Road.

The MWCICC seeks to fulfil the common call to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ,

Make such unity more apparent than any divisions, and initiate and/or give every possible encouragement to local ecumenical projects.

Which churches are involved?

St Stephen's and St Marys is one of 15 member churches of the Inter Church Council. There are currently two Anglican, five Uniting, three Catholic churches, the New Church, the Church of the Nazarene, two Churches of Christ and one Baptist.

Who represents us?

Each church is represented by its clergy and up to three lay representatives. Currently our representative is Marg Taylor and she would welcome hearing from anyone interested in ecumenism to join her. Marg has been a representative for many years, together with David Strudwick, who represented us for approximately 30 years. There are six meetings a year, held at various

churches on the 4th Thursday of the month starting at 7.45 pm. The AGM takes place in November.

Events and Activities

Events organised by the MWCICC have included:

.Ecumenical Lenten Studies,

The Way of the Cross on Good Friday,

The Easter Event,

Ecumenical Christian Unity Visits – Trinity Sunday,

Ecumenical Hymn Singing,

'Food for Friends' collection, and Carols in the Village.

Lenten Studies

Many readers will remember the **Lenten Studies** organised by the MWCICC with participants encouraged to attend one at a different church. In the last three years, each Church has run its own Lenten event with an interesting range of styles and with an 'Open Door' welcome towards the other churches.

Way of the Cross

For the last few years, the Good Friday '**Way of the Cross**' has been centred on St John's Uniting Church in Virginia Street where the first and last Stations are celebrated. The congregation of around 200 from the member churches walk the Way of the Cross around Sherwood Park and each church is responsible for reading part of the liturgy at its allocated Station.

It is a very moving experience to participate with other people of faith from the Mount Waverley area. It starts at 11.15 am, straight after our Good Friday Service, so you can fit

in both: why not stay on afterwards to share in the morning tea and chat!

The Easter Event

Every two years between 1990 and 2008, primary school children from all State and Catholic Schools in the area were invited to participate in The Easter Event. Through storytelling, dioramas and drama performances, the real meaning of Easter was portrayed to around 1500 children each year over a 4--5 day period prior to Holy Week.

About 100 volunteers from the various churches were involved in running the various activities, with St Stephen's and St Mary's taking a major role. Unfortunately The Easter Event was discontinued due to lack of support from the State Schools - a sign of the times.

Carols in the Village

Since 2012 '**Carols in the Village**' has replaced The Easter Event, and it is growing in popularity.

The idea was to provide a free event for the community, and to use volunteer musicians and school choirs to provide items in between the community singing. This has now been running for four years, and last year our very own 'Singers on the Hill' contributed two items.

Ecumenical Christian Unity Visits – Trinity Sunday

After Easter, the next event on the MWCICC calendar is the **Ecumenical Christian Unity Visits on Trinity Sunday** (this year Sunday 22 May). We will be sending out two people to visit two other churches in the area. (Continued on page 11)

Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Parish Centre

at 2.00 pm. Please join us for a chat and afternoon tea. You will be made most welcome.

For our February meeting we were treated to a display of Nima Flora's saris and a demonstration of how they are worn. She also dressed Revd Kate in one.

Op Shop Notice

The Guild will be staffing the Lions Club Op Shop in Wadham Place Mt Waverley from

April 18 – 22 inclusive. Please bear us in mind if you have any suitable items that we could sell over that period. We would ask that the goods be taken to the shop on Tuesday 12 April or Wednesday 13 and let the people there know they are from St Stephen's and St Marys.

Annual Morning Tea

On Friday 20 May we will be holding a morning tea at 10.00am in the Parish Centre.

Our guest speakers will be Shirley Hardy-Rix and Brian Rix. Shirley and Brian have been travelling the world by motor cycle and have wonderful tales to tell of their adventures. You may have recently heard Shirley talking on ABC Radio of their journeys.

Please join us for a very interesting morning.

Janice Miller..



Thank you to Fr Derek
for being our Locum Priest
while Revd Dianne and Revd Kate
were on the Pilgrimage to Turkey



Third Thursday Eucharist

10.00 am

followed by a special morning tea in the Parish Centre
All welcome.

Future dates in 2016:

17 March

21 April

19 May

After rain after many days without rain, it stays cool, private and cleansed, under the trees and the dampness there, married now to gravity, falls branch to branch, leaf to leaf, down to the ground.

Here it will disappear—but not, of course, vanish except to our eyes. The roots of the oak will have their share, and the white threads of the grasses, and the cushion of moss; a few drops, round as pearls, will enter the mole's tunnel; and soon so many small stones, buried for a thousand years, will feel themselves touched.

Mary Oliver, *from 'Wild Geese.'*



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1966 and All That

In 1971 in Vietnam an Australian infantry section was on patrol, seeking out the enemy: they were patrolling in a formation of three abreast in 4 columns. Nerves were tense as all was quiet, until the enemy sprung its ambush. The three leading soldiers dived for cover but only two were alive when they hit the ground; the middle soldier was dead before he hit the ground.

On Sunday 21 February this year, those two surviving soldiers – one of whom is a close friend who I volunteer with in Ward 17 at the Repat - were standing beside the grave site, at the Lilydale Cemetery, of the soldier killed in that ambush.

Theirs was one of 98 gravesites throughout Victoria and Melbourne where grave side vigils were all held at

midday on that Sunday for those soldiers who were killed in action in Vietnam and were buried here in Victoria. The vigils were three years in the making, in conjunction with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

My friend and the other surviving soldier were able to meet with the dead soldier's sister, cousin and several school mates who as it turned out had never known the true circumstances of their loved ones death. To hear that he would never have known what hit him and would have suffered no pain was of great solace to them all these years later. After many photographs and lots of fellowship the relatives and friends left the cemetery immensely comforted by the experience. Anecdotally, many relatives had

similar experiences on that day; another example of the ministry of remembrance.

18 August this year will be the 50th anniversary of the seminal battle of Long Tan and the grave site vigils were one of a series of commemorative occasions to be held during this year, which will include: Vietnam Veterans will be leading the Anzac Day March this year and there will be a parade to the Shrine and service at the Shrine on August 18 – Vietnam Veterans Day - amongst other activities.

Lest We Forget

Michael Mosley



(Continued from page 9)

Conversely, we will welcome two people from the same churches at our Sung Eucharist at 9.00 am.

Hymn Singing

In October the **Ecumenical Hymn Singing**, (not to be confused with the Ecumenical Choral Festival), is held at one of the member churches. Here, each church puts forward a well-known hymn, and everyone joins in with the singing of ten or so hymns.

Food for Friends

'Food for Friends' happens in the last week of November outside Ritchies IGA. We take our rostered time to raise awareness and collect donations

of non-perishable goods. These are packed into hampers and distributed to the various agencies put forward by each church.

For the past several years, our nominated charity has been the Asylum Seekers Centre in Dandenong.

*** NEW – MWCICC Picnic ***

On one Sunday in spring the MWCICC will be holding a 'BYO Everything Picnic' at Valley Reserve. There will be hosts of activities for all ages, with the aim of having an informal opportunity to meet people and make new friends.

This event will be advertised widely and will be a good opportunity to invite someone from outside the parish family.

Some of the proposed activities will include a Treasure Hunt, Nature ramble, some old fashioned games like Egg and Spoon, as well as some less active games, and a chance to be introduced to Geocaching with Revd Kate.

Look out for more details....

Please get involved!! would like to urge everyone from St Stephen's and St Mary's to come along to these Inter Church activities – it is a great way to share our faith with the other Christian churches in our area and with the wider community.

Watch out for notices in the pew sheet for upcoming events.

Margaret Taylor

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN & ST MARY

Vicar: The Revd Dianne Sharrock
Assistant Curate: The Revd Kate Lord
Clerical Assistant: TBA
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Email: parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au
Pastoral Care Ministry:
Home Communion and
General Visiting; Ian Smith
Aged Care Chaplaincies: Bruce Chugg
Hospital Visiting: Sue Retschko
Contemporary Eucharist Contact: Rowena Ferguson
Funeral Ministry: The Vicar
Pastoral Associate (Emeritus): Trevor Bickerstaff

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March 2016

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