

Prayer for Ascension:

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne
of heaven that he might rule over all things
as Lord: keep the Church in the unity of the
Spirit and in the bond of peace; and bring
all creation to worship at his feet, who is
alive and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

MARMINGATHA

Stories to Inspire



WEEK ENDING 24 MAY

Dear Colleagues

It has been a very different Easter season for us. At the same time our experience helps us to identify more closely with the uncertainty the first disciples experienced and all that goes with that. We are entering into another phase as restrictions begin to be lifted and it will be important to reflect on what can inform and shape our ministry in the future.

The restrictions have forced us to adapt, particularly in terms of what it has meant for us to continue to gather and reach out as the people of God. It has meant quite radical change and I have continued to be inspired by the stories you have shared. Times such as these - of immense change, of suffering - are a reminder of our primary vocation. I have seen that in your ministries in many ways: the willingness to open the 'virtual' doorway, overcoming challenges and entering more fully into that space. The focus on pastoral care especially with people who are isolated and the opportunities to provide support to vulnerable people. The commitment to prayer and in particular the recovery of the Daily Office.

In these ten days, from Ascension to Pentecost, let me encourage you to be responding to the Archbishop's call to prayer Thy Kingdom Come. I look forward to gathering with the Diocese to pray this Sunday evening with the [Cathedral's Beacon event](#).

*Please keep sending your stories to inspire...
+Genieve*

A UNION LIKE NO OTHER

St Alban's Coburg West / Holy Trinity Pascoe Vale South

The Reverend Jennifer (Jenny) Inglis shares with us the following: I have been taking Home Communion when allowable to Sadie and Dennis Rathbone since beginning at St Alban's Coburg West/Pascoe Vale South in May last year. Recently they celebrated their 76th Anniversary of marriage. Hard to believe. Their tragedies and joys are to be noted alongside their years of devotion not only as a couple and family but also to our church and wider community over many decades. Their union has also given so much to many other causes, sometimes through tragedies and often through generosity that takes decades to see fruit borne. Sadie had a lot to do with Mission and children, Mothers' Union, Criminal justice, probation officer and formation of clergy in her times. Even last year in November at the Annual meeting of Mothers' Union Sadie was upfront! Far Right is a lovely photograph taken of Sadie Rathbone on her 98th Birthday, Easter Day, 12th April, 2020. Also a photo of Dennis & Sadie at the 4th Brunswick Scout Group taken around 1940 & article in the Herald Sun on their anniversary. Wishing Dennis and Sadie a most wonderful Anniversary of Marriage, from us all.





ONLINE COURSES REACHES ACROSS BORDERS

St Timothy's Bulleen

The Reverend Ben Wong shares with us the following: There are different measures taken for different situations, due to the gathering restrictions St Timothy's Parish Bulleen has adopted online meeting for all of our parish activities including Sunday worships, Sunday school/Kids church cell groups, counselling groups, as well as Evangelism courses.

St Tim's Parish conducted our very first online Evangelism Course in April and it had a good turnout. It was a successful online trial with 7 converts by the end of the 4week course of 8 sessions included. We look forward for the Baptism Service once the Church reopen.

One of the up-side of this online Zoom Evangelism course was that it had no geographical restrictions. We've had people participating from various parts of the country involved in lively discussions seeking answers and understanding of our faith.



It was very encouraging to know that God's hands are at work no matter what restrictions there are in place.

KNOWING GOD IN TRYING TIMES

Holy Trinity Coburg

The Reverend Farag Hanna shares with us the following; Although we are living in the midst of the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and go through uncertain and difficult times, despite of fear, insecurity, and anxiety, we carefully go out to visit our congregation every Sunday to have not only Holy communion with them but to provide food and support. We are amazed by their reaction. Many new families in 15 suburbs start to know God through the

Arabic Anglican church and to participate in the weekly bible study through Zoom (Coburg, Pasco vale, Glen Roy, Fawkner, Coolaroo, Dallas, Broadmeadows, Meadow heights, Roxburgh Park, Craigieburn, Mickleham, Epping, Eltham, Dandenong, Frankston), many of them promised that they will join us at the Holy trinity once allowed. More than 480 people have had communion and food in Melbourne and Geelong.

Above is a photo of Rev'd Farag & his family.

OP SHOP CONNECTION CONTINUES

Christ Church Essendon

Sadly our OP Shops are closed. It is important during this epidemic to keep in contact and support our volunteers. Many of our volunteers have no links with our church except through the Op Shop. In the Parish we have produced a monthly Op Shop newsletter which has news, encouragement and resources for OP Shop volunteers which is emailed.

We also produce a weekly Newsletter with the Sunday readings, prayers and reflections which is also sent to OP Shop volunteers. Besides phoning and texting to keep the communication open, we recently had an OP Shop zoom meeting for a catch up and to see each other, sharing experiences, survival hints and encouragement. Our volunteers, like other OP Shop volunteers in others churches, are a special group and we still need to care for them in this epidemic. May our OP Shop open soon because our volunteers are busting to be back but we must make it safe for them.



See above pre-COVID-19 photo of the team.

[Click here for this weeks' video message from the Archbishop](#)