

Prayer of the week:

O God, you alone can order our unruly wills and affections, teach us to love what you command, and to desire what you promise, that, among the changes and chances of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARMINGATHA

Stories to Inspire

WEEK ENDING 26 JULY 2020



COMMUNITY CHOIR

St Michaels North Carlton

One weekly activity in the parish that pivoted quickly in the pandemic was our community choir. Conducted by Christine Hutchinson and made up of some church members and people from the local neighbourhood, the choir is about health and well-being, not prize-winning.



Recently the Vox Populi choir established its own **Facebook page** and produced a recording on video with a great piece written by Debra Cheetham AO. Want to get involved? Find Vox Populi Choir North Carlton via their website [here](#).

- The Reverend Steve Webster

ADAPTING TO NEW WAYS OF WORKING

St Augustine's Moreland

At St Augustine's we are missing the personal interactions of Sunday church gatherings but in this second lockdown phase we have a little more headspace to be creative about what we do with technology. We livestream our services from the church building to remind people of the time and space of our church community and during a trip to IKEA I bought a spinning wheel and then typed out all the names of our congregation and cut them up and stuck them to the wheel. Every week during the announcement time I spin the wheel and three or four people get a special shout out! The kids in the congregation in particular love it when their name comes up!

Recently we had an 'all ages' service on the book of Esther. Simone Turnbull, our children's and families worker, broke up the book of Esther into 15 sections and different families and people from church filmed themselves acting out or reading the section and I edited it together to form our Bible reading for the day. It was a wonderful opportunity to see people we hadn't seen in a while and I even visited one of our elderly congregation member sat her nursing home and recorded her contribution. We also used the Youtube chat function along with the church mobile number to gather 'live' prayer requests from the people watching and we were able to pray together - it was great for others to see and engage with peoples prayer points, particularly the kids of the congregation! While technology can be frustrating - I think we have small tech issues every week - we are enjoying experimenting with the medium to help our community see and hear from each other and feel connected!

-The Reverend Angela Cook



VIRTUAL WALKERS

St Michaels North Carlton

"Agile" is one of those buzz words in the marketplace, but it has been a practical descriptor of our community walking group for many years. It's been a great way for local parish members to invite other locals into community and conversation with good health outcomes too! When the pandemic took us into Stage 3 restrictions our walking group continued to "meet" via Zoom at 7pm on each Tuesday.



Photo from pre-lockdown stage 3 restrictions

When restrictions were lifted, some members returned to physical walking with social distancing observed. They also included "virtual walkers" who chose to stay at home by calling them via FaceTime at certain points on the journey, including them in the conversation. What an encouraging example of how church might look in the future - agile enough to gather people together sharing God's goodness in-person and online.

- The Reverend Steve Webster



MASK MAKING

Port Phillip Deanery

At Port Phillip Deanery last week we heard about how the people at St Lukes South Melbourne are launching into some mask making, with the aim of providing them to people they serve community meals to. Holy Trinity Port Melbourne have also started, doing some in footy team colours and some with their Trinity symbol on them.

So we decided as a Deanery to spread the word amongst our congregations, and join in and contribute to the effort.

We'll be needing masks for a long time, and people in the Housing Commission towers and on the local streets have limited discretionary income to purchase anything extra. Many also have compromised immune systems, so if we can help in this little way, that will be wonderful. If anyone out there would like to contribute making of masks - all assistance is welcome! The pattern we're using is available **here**.

- The Reverend Kathryn Watt



Click here for this weeks' video message from the Archbishop

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+Genieve