

THE GOOD NEWS

Pentecost 2022

Anglican Parish of Box Hill
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The Vicar writes...

No doubt as you read this latest edition of our "Good News" parish magazine you are aware that I will be leaving St Peter's to take up a new ministry position as Priest-in-Charge of the Anglican Parish of Christ Church St Lucia, in the Diocese of Brisbane. I studied for the Priesthood at St Francis College Brisbane back in the 90s and, apart from my curacy, this new position will be the first opportunity I have had to serve the Diocese for which I trained! My last Sunday at St Peter's will be 11 September and then I am on leave – my last day in the parish will be Tuesday 4 October. After which Janet and I pack up and travel to Brisbane, where I will be commissioned as new Priest on Friday 21 October at 6.30pm at St Lucia.

While it is sad to leave I know that I leave the parish in good hands (Anne Kennedy will be the locum ably assisted by Alasdair and Esther and Joseph). While we, along with most Anglican parishes, are still feeling the effects of the COVID pandemic, (with smaller attendances at worship services and uncertainty about future planning being two major ones!) I believe the parish has a great future. There is so much potential and so much good will and that stands the parish in good stead and I will continue in my prayers that God sends the right person to be Vicar for this time and place.

There is a lot to do in the short time before I finish. Our stewardship program begins in August and finishes with our Thanksgiving Sunday on Sunday 4 September. There will be more information about this in the next week or two. This year is a bit of a stock-take year as the parish assesses in what shape it finds itself in after 2 ½ years of COVID. My other desire is that the parish can complete most of the requirements so as to be well on the way to receiving the bronze environment award from 'Five-Leaf Eco Awards.'

I give thanks to God for the life and witness of two parishioners who have died recently – Gwen McDonald and Joan Simmons. Both were lifelong Anglicans who devoted much to the life and ministry of St Peter's over many years! Both were faithful members of Mother's Union and both will be sorely missed by all who knew and loved them. We continue to uphold their families in their time of grief and pray that Gwen and Joan may Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

As this issue is published bishops from around the Anglican Communion have gathered at Lambeth Palace, Canterbury, UK for the 15th Lambeth Conference. I include some reflections from our Melbourne Bishops, and if you want more than you can visit the official Lambeth Conference website: <http://www.lambethconference.org>

Bishop Brad Billings posted the following reflection on 5 August 2022:

It is the Lambeth “calls” that have, rightly, received the majority of attention externally (in our observation) so far. Each is on pre-prepared texts being discussed in small groups among the assembled bishops. As the Lambeth conference continues into day nine there have now been “calls” made on a variety of subjects – mission and evangelism, safe church, Anglican identity, reconciliation, human dignity, the environment, and today on Christian unity and inter-faith relationships.

What may be less well known and appreciated are two other large and important aspects of this Lambeth conference, namely:

- The extent to which Holy Scripture has shaped everything being done here, and
- The presence of the bishops’ spouses, who are joining together with the bishops in the plenary sessions and biblical expositions, and whilst the bishops are discussing the “calls”, are taking part in their own parallel spouses program.

In respect to the latter, one of the areas in which the conference has stumbled has been the sometimes jarring exclusion of the spouses. At one elective seminar, to give one example, that bishops and spouses were invited to attend together, the presenter constantly addressed “the bishops” and invited “the bishops” to discuss matters, but made no reference at all of the several spouses who were present in the room.

Much more positive in our experience has been the experience of the small groups, both in the bishops and the spouses programs. Reading and discussing Scripture has informed and shaped almost everything we have done. The scriptural text for Lambeth 2022 is the first epistle of Peter, and this text has formed the foundation of, not only the Bible studies, but most of our shared dialogue. It has also frequently influenced the content of the keynote addresses and speeches being delivered, especially those being delivered by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A “normal” day at the conference begins with an exposition of the text of 1 Peter in plenary, with the assembled bishops and spouses together in the main conference venue. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has taken the lead in this, delivering hour long teaching and exposition on the text himself. His explanations, exhortations, and application of the text have been, on each occasion, crisp and clear, and delivered with the authority of a chief pastor who is clearly very much at home in the Bible. The more difficult passages have not been glossed over or evaded, but rightly, read and explained in their context, and allowed to speak for themselves.

Following the exposition of the passage assigned from 1 Peter, the bishops and the spouses go in different directions to different parts of the vast venue, to form their Bible study groups. These are typically groups of six to eight, with membership reflecting the very international nature of the conference. All of the diversity of the Anglican Communion, together with the differing ways of

engaging with and reading scripture, is present in microcosm in these groups.

The exposition, study and application of Scripture is not left there in the small groups. As the bishops assemble to consider the various ‘calls’, the first half of the discussion is around how and in what way the text of 1 Peter that has been the subject of the Bible studies informs this particular call.

In this way Scripture has been at the very core of this 15th Lambeth conference, for both the bishops and spouses present. And the biblical exhortation for us as believers to come together as the Body of Christ, across our diversity and difference, has been very visible throughout.

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Bishop Kate Prowd posted the following reflection on 3 August 2022:

When the Bishop of Pretoria, Right Reverend Dr Vincentia Kgabe preached her sermon on Sunday at the cathedral, I heard her say: “You’ve got it in you”. She was talking about our call to love and serve the Lord. It’s a phrase that resonates with Australians. I was moved by it to ponder how when we are fed by the sacraments of bread and wine, we do literally have it in us to do what God asks of us.

And so, encouraged to think I had it in me, it was with enthusiasm that I presented at the church planting workshop headed up by Bishop Ric Thorpe, of Islington, London. It was an exciting opportunity to showcase some of what the Melbourne diocese is doing in this space and explain the infrastructure we have developed to foster new plants and support revitalization projects.

Last night the Bishop of London, the Right Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally hosted 97 women bishops for an evening meal. 97! Last Lambeth in 2008, there were a total of 18 women. The one before that in 1998, only 11. The numbers speak for themselves. As I looked around the room, I saw so many courageous women who have stepped out, trusting that they’ve got it in them to love and serve our Lord as leaders in our Anglican Communion.

The Lambeth Calls continue, and the first for today was reconciliation. We were reminded that reconciliation is the journey of a lifetime, always requiring work and effort. We were also reminded how we need to be reconciled over and over again. We heard of the suffering in countries where there is an absence of reconciliation, and the psychological, emotional and spiritual wounds that result from this – evidenced by colonialism, apartheid, the slave trade, racism, tribal conflicts. The process of reconciliation involves the power of love rather than the love of power. It is God’s gift to the world and so it is our duty to offer it to our neighbour.

The second call was on human dignity. Part of this call addressed issues of same-sex marriage and human sexuality. The resolution of Lambeth 1.10 (1998) remains: that is, that marriage is between a man and a woman.

## **PENTECOST WIND, FIRE AND HOLY SPIRIT**

It was anticipated that this call might be the most controversial of the calls for the bishops, given the expressed deeply held views on both sides of the argument concerning same-sex marriage and views of sexuality. There was no attempt in the call to alter the teaching of the Church on marriage. Archbishop Justin addressed the bishops, reminding us of the theological foundation that underpins our faith: namely that all humans are of equal worth, loved by God and those for whom Jesus died. He highlighted that for some, to question the teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman is unthinkable and to contemplate changing this challenges their very existence. For others, he added, not to change the Church's traditional teaching on marriage challenges their very existence. In other words, we have more in common with each other than we think!

Archbishop Justin acknowledged that we bishops remain deeply divided on this issue. However, the purpose of the Call on Human Dignity was not to change people's minds. Rather, he exhorted us to keep praying, listening and walking together even with, and in our differences. This is how we can continue being God's Church for God's world.

Discussion about the specifics of the call took place in our small groups which have now been meeting for three days to pray, study the Scriptures and discuss matters arising. In my group the discussion felt safe and honest, if raw. Around my table there was significant difference of opinion, hardly surprising given the eight people in my group represent seven countries. However, our exchanges were deeply respectful and the listening was treasured by all of us. This conversation is not over, but today a door has been opened. The call makes no mention of sanctions or exclusions. It states that in the ethnic and cultural diversities of the Anglican Communion, all are made in God's image and all are equal. If I were to sum up (impossible really!) what happened in today's call, it would be that there was confirmation that there is a place for everyone at The Table. We are all equally loved, and, as the psalmist proclaims, we are all fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139).

I came away my heart strangely and unexpectedly warmed. "We bishops have got it in us," I thought, to love and serve the Lord by the way we show love to one another in and through our differences and vulnerabilities.



Our Church was again decked out in its Pentecost colours to remind us of the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples gathered in Jerusalem after his death and resurrection.

Sometimes referred to as the 'birthday' of the Church, we celebrate this gift of God to each and everyone of us who has been baptized in the name of the Trinity.

Whether you were baptized as a baby, a child, or an Elder of the congregation, the Holy Spirit has been dwelling in you since that time.

God created each of us as individuals, Jesus Christ loves us so much that he died to save us from our sins, and the Holy Spirit—well, the Holy Spirit gives us *life*.

And how do we sustain that *life*? By meeting together to share in the Holy Eucharist and by supporting and encouraging each other to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit is with us always! Thanks be to God for the life of the Church!

## **WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE KINDERGARTEN??**

Sadly, the decision was made to close St. Peter's Kindergarten at the end of last year due to lack of enrolments. Happily, this venue is going to become the new home for Playgroup as well as catering for our Chinese Ministry, i.e. Rev'd Esther will have a readymade office there complete with computer, printer/copier, laminator, book binder, etc., and space for her various group meetings as well as for the Chinese Sunday School.



However, on departing, the Kindergarten was locked and left as is which has entailed a massive clean-up/out led by Barbara Plumridge who was supported by Kathryn McCarthy and myself. It was stocked to the hilt, every square inch was covered including storage rooms and cupboards (we are not sure where the space was for the kindergarten children and teachers); so a great deal of time was spent sorting through everything, from toys, puzzles, books, craft materials, instruments, dress ups – you name it, they had it – both inside and 3 sheds outside of the Kindergarten.

Once sorted, we were able to donate quite a lot of toys to the Box Hill South Toy Library and the books to a charity named 123Read2Me (this

organisation currently provides children in low socio-economic communities with FREE quality children's books through recycled books or new ones purchased with cash donations).

Then the great clean up began. Three large Croc Bags were obtained and our Men@Work loaded them to the hilt with all the damaged and obsolete items.

There was and still is general maintenance to be done inside and out but we are very happy with what has been accomplished. By the time of going to print, the space will be ready for Rev'd Esther, the Chinese Sunday School and Playgroup which is due to resume after the July School holidays.

The clean-up effort has taken over five months and collectively, approximately 250 man/woman hours has been put into this project. We would also like to thank Garry P for his help over the journey by providing muscle & height when required and his excellent ceiling fan and window cleaning.

Thanks also to the members of our Chinese congregation who assisted in cleaning up the kindergarten playground.

Barbara and I would like to thank all those who have assisted in anyway with this huge undertaking and we are looking forward to hosting Playgroup again after a two year layoff due to COVID.

*Michele Mitchell*





## ***From Kindergarten Kids to Elders...***

The director of the George Washington University School of Medicine argues that the brain of an older person is much more practical than is commonly believed. At this age, the interaction of the right and left hemispheres of the brain becomes harmonious, which expands our creative possibilities. That is why among people over 60 years of age you can find many personalities who have just started their creative activities.

Of course, the brain is no longer as fast as it was in youth. However, it gains in flexibility. Therefore, with age, we are more likely to make the right decisions and are less exposed to negative emotions. The peak of human intellectual activity occurs around the age of 70, when the brain begins to function at full strength.



Over time, the amount of myelin in the brain increases, a substance that facilitates the rapid passage of signals between neurons. Due to this, intellectual abilities increase by 300% compared to the average.

Also interesting is the fact that after 60 years, a person can use 2 hemispheres at the same time. This allows you to solve much more complex problems.

Professor Monchi Uri, from the University of Montreal, believes that the old man's brain chooses the path that consumes less energy, eliminates the unnecessary and leaves only the right options to solve the problem. A study was conducted involving different age groups. Young people were very confused when passing the tests, while those over 60 years of age made the right decisions.

Now, let's look at the characteristics of the brain between the ages of 60 and 80. They are really pink.

## ***\*CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BRAIN OF AN ELDERLY PERSON.\****

1. Neurons in the brain do not die, as everyone around you says. The connections between them simply disappear if one does not engage in mental work.
2. Distraction and forgetfulness arise due to an overabundance of information. Therefore, it is not necessary for you to concentrate your whole life on unnecessary trifles.
3. From the age of 60, a person, when making decisions, does not use one hemisphere at the same time, like young people, but both.
4. Conclusion: if a person leads a healthy lifestyle, moves, has viable physical activity and is fully mentally active, intellectual abilities do NOT decrease with age, they simply GROW, reaching a peak at the age of 80-90 years.

So do not be afraid of old age. Strive to develop intellectually. Learn new crafts, make music, learn to play musical instruments, paint pictures! Dance! Take an interest in life, meet and communicate with friends, plan for the future, travel as best you can. Do not forget to go to shops, cafes, shows. Don't shut up alone, it's destructive to anyone. Live with the thought: all good things are still ahead of me!

*SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine.*

***Pass this information on to your family and friends in their 60s, 70s and 80s so they can be proud of their age!***

This article also appeared in <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/08/110825102253.htm>





### ***And So Much More to see!***

I would like to share an interesting day that I recently spent in Bendigo Victoria. Aside from seeing the Elvis Presley Graceland exhibition, I also visited the magnificent Roman Catholic Cathedral. It was being prepared for a very large congregation for an Ordination service.

On chatting to one of the parishioners he



mentioned that an unforeseen positive outcome due to Covid restrictions was that the parishioners were required to enter and exit through the same door resulting in members greeting other members they had never met before.

I then visited the Bendigo Anglican Cathedral and was impressed with the various prayer stations set up around the periphery. One station was for support of the

Ukrainian people and had activities such as strands of blue and yellow wool you could plait into a bracelet as a reminder of their plight. Another station involved a mop and bucket where you could pray for those suffering hardship due to the northern NSW floods. A further station was to respect the environment and you were encouraged to take some seeds to plant. There was another station at which you could pray for those affected by domestic violence and obtain reading materials to assist those in need from the Anglican Cathedral.

I also went to a Buddhist Temple a short distance out of Bendigo. It is known as The Great Stupa, stands



some 50 metres high and I understand it is the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere. Some sections of the temple interior are still under construction. I found the numerous prayer wheels particularly interesting.

Outside the temple itself there is an expansive garden with a legend to highlight the many features of significance. Regular busloads of school children attend and enter through a theatre where they are given some insight before walking through the garden on the way to entering the temple.

For me it was an informative and worthwhile day.

*Lyn Bryant*

## **Vale—Fr Graham Reynolds KSJ**

Parishioners were saddened at the news of the tragic death of our past Vicar, Fr Graham Reynolds.

A passionate worker for social justice, Fr Graham embraced refugees, and oversaw the beginnings of our Sudanese and Chinese Congregations. He instigated the sewing programme now known as Dream Stitches.

Along with his late wife, Judy, he led people on Pilgrimages to the Middle East and the Holy Land, and also to Berriwillock in the Mallee to plant 1700 trees in one weekend.

As our Vicar, he encouraged and supported us all with a big heart, a warm smile, and a Gospel-based ministry from 2004-2009.

We uphold his sons Anthony, Andrew and Tim and all Graham's family and friends as they mourn his death.



*Fr Graham and Judy Reynolds on a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee.*

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## **Samaritan's Purse**

In October we will have 'Shoe Box' Sunday, when filled boxes will be brought to St Peter's to be blessed before delivery to Vermont. After they are checked, boxes are distributed to overseas countries, e.g. Cambodia, Vietnam, Fiji and Thailand. A child only ever receives one box.

To participate in this outreach programme,

- *Collect a printed box*, or cover a normal size shoe box with colourful paper.

- *Choose age group*: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14, boy/girl

- *Begin collecting gifts (some examples)*

Something to wear: T-shirt, shorts, cap, beanie, folding sunhat, scarf, thongs

Something to love: small soft toy, bear, doll (patterns available for knitters)

Something for school: exercise book, notepad, biro, pencil eraser or sharpener, coloured pencils, markers, fancy pens

Something to play with: tennis ball, toy car, skipping rope, yo-yo, marbles, small musical instrument (e.g. mouthorgan, slinky, finger puppet, wind-up toy (will need batteries sealed in original packaging), balloons

Something for personal hygiene: Soap, washer, comb, brush, toothbrush (no toothpaste), hair clips, ribbons, scrunchie

Something special: Carry bag, sunglasses, bangle, stickers, necklace

A personal note and a photo of yourself.

PLEASE NOTE -

**\*\*No second-hand items to be used.** This includes second-hand material, bottle tops used in noughts and crosses, and used greeting cards to make card boxes. Why? We need to adhere to Strict Customs regulations that can stall a container when it arrives in a country to search for second-hand goods and will stop it from going to the children.

**\*\*Quality of Sewing**—Please ensure that materials used are not see-through. Also adhere to the patterns/measurement which we can provide if required. Seams need to be overlocked or stitched and turned.

**\*\*We will not be accepting unacceptable and impracticable items**, as we do not have the manpower to sort through all of this, along with the space and time to deal with it.

*Jan Gunst*



## ***10 Years of Vision, Fundraising and Hard Work for the Abaar Orphanage Bortown South Sudan***

It is ten years since Father Joseph came back to Melbourne from a trip to Bortown with a vision to provide an education and safe housing to orphaned children who were destitute and uncared for in the aftermath of years of civil war in South Sudan. The ABAAR Orphanage Bortown South Sudan Inc was registered at the start of July 2012.

There have been obstacles and difficulties along the way, but we have much to celebrate on our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

The first pictures show the temporary shelters erected in the grounds of the Cathedral in Bortown to provide a classroom for the students (circa 2014).



In the early years our efforts were focussed on the establishment of ties with a local partner organisation and the purchase of land in Bortown as the site of a future school and dormitory blocks. We also supported children by paying their school fees and providing uniforms and school supplies.

Four years ago we reviewed our work in Bortown (together with Peter Maker Thiak of the Bor Orphanage Foundation) – the outcome of the review was a strong preference of the people in Bortown for us to concentrate our efforts on building a school on our land so that we could realise our first aim of having a secure set of school buildings and an operational school. A major fund-raising drive raised money to build the first of the school classrooms.

There were delays in our fundraising efforts and in work in South Sudan because of the COVID pandemic, but we started a major fund-raising effort 12 months ago so that we could make repairs to the existing buildings and build enough classrooms and other buildings to have the school fully operational this year.

This is the result:







We have over 200 students in eight classrooms,

17 people on staff, including Head of School, deputy, Bursar and assistant, class teachers, cooks and a security guard

ancillary buildings including staff room and kitchen, storage building and toilet blocks.

The classrooms have some benches and seats, with more under construction.

*Where to from here:*

We have committed to funding the staff salaries for the remainder of 2022, with salaries eventually to be covered from revenue from student fees. The salaries are costing about \$3,000 AUD per month – that is an average monthly salary of \$180.

There is some money owing for the school furniture.

We are planning to replace the school fence, which was built eight years ago and has been damaged over time. If we use locally made concrete blocks as the basis for the construction it should provide a secure perimeter for many years.

We will again consider building a secure dormitory block. Senior students usually live at their school while they are preparing for their final certificate examinations. This preparation time is during the school vacation period, so students could be accommodated in classrooms, but that is far from ideal.

There is always a need for financial support for students who do not have families to pay the school fees.

*In a quick financial summary:* In our ten years we have raised \$214,503, most of which has been raised in the last 12 months. We have \$23,657 in our bank account at 30<sup>th</sup> June, intended to fund school furniture, to support the on-going running costs of the school, and to make a start on the new fencing.

The funds raised have been used for fencing the land and building the school (69%); buying the land (12%); school furniture (8%); support for students – fees, uniforms & supplies (5%); teachers' salaries (3%); administration and fundraising costs (\$3%).

We thank the members of all congregations at St Peter's, who together with members of the South Sudanese community in Australia, have generously supported us during our first ten years.

|  |                                                                                                                          |  |                                                                    |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>Committee: Rev Joseph Arou,<br/>Margaret Dooley, Andrew Gai,<br/>James Malou, Ruben Majok,<br/>Deborah Yar Garang</p> |  | <p>Abaar Orphanage Bortown<br/>South Sudan<br/>ABN 84932954309</p> |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------|

# Poetry Corner

A poem from a Ukrainian poetess  
who died from illness in 2020.

*I think love is not about flowers...  
Not the moon walking at night...  
Love is watching the kids like this  
Sleeping quietly on his shoulder...  
Love does not come in beautiful gifts  
And not even in loving words...  
Not in sweet passionate kisses,  
And in the shining, caring eyes...  
Love in a warm cup of tea,  
In endurance, the skilled will speak...  
In what we so rarely notice  
And we often forget to say...  
Love is not in her slim state,  
And in the changes on the corners  
of the eye...  
Love is not what is on the screen,  
And deep in the souls of two people...  
Love is in conflict and forgiveness,  
In mistakes, even the skilled will for-  
give...  
Love is not a moment one inspiration,  
It is eternity that teaches us to wait...  
Wait until we are wiser,  
Because youth will fade away with  
years...  
And will remain in the heart much  
more...*

*The caring, the family, the silent...  
Love in gray on silver temples,  
In wrinkles and in a quiet hoarse...  
In the caring of busy hands,  
Consistently the warmest in life.*

## A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.  
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion  
to guide their decisions.  
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,  
that you would hold and protect them.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby  
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



Walter Cronkite ( An American radio and TV  
journalist working 1935 to 2009) said...

War itself is, of course, a form of madness. It is  
hardly a civilised pursuit. It is amazing how we  
spend so much time inventing devices to kill each  
other and so little time working on how to achieve  
peace.

## News on the Environment

There is no doubt that climate change is high on most people's agendas. Our Federal parliament is in the process of passing legislation to enshrine new targets on the way to achieving net zero carbon omissions by 2050.

It is the same with the Anglican Church. The recent Lambeth Conference issued a series of "calls" - calls to action - and care for the environment was included. Here is a brief extract from the Environment and Sustainable Development Call:

*We call on ourselves as bishops and the people of our provinces, dioceses and parishes to:*

*1. Treasure God's marvellous creation, recognising the profound interdependence of all life on earth and repenting of actions and theologies of domination, which have caused great harm to the earth and injustices to its people.*

*2. Recognise the triple environmental crisis as a crisis of cultural and spiritual values and build on the reach and influence of the Church to challenge ourselves and humanity to transform our mindset away from exploitation of the natural world to one of relationship and stewardship, as embodied by the wisdom of the Christian tradition and by Indigenous peoples. Lambeth Conference 2022 20*

*3. Equip communities to build resilience to help them withstand and recover from disasters, and promote the prophetic voice of young people and the key role of women as earth protectors, recognising that climate change impacts unequally on women and future generations.*

*4. Join in the Communion Forest initiative, to protect and restore forests and other ecosystems across our planet and commit to promoting tree planting at the time of confirmation, and other key life and faith moments, as a symbol of spiritual growth.*

*5. Ensure we use and invest our assets ethically to be good news for our planet and people and, as a matter of urgency, remove our funds from any new fossil fuel exploration, and seek to invest in renewable energy sources.*

There is going to our own Diocesan Synod in October a motion which calls for the resourcing of a position within the Diocese of Climate change mitigation project officer.

But the real question is what can we do at our local level. No doubt we have been inundated with much information and many of us are indeed doing our best to recycle. There is a church organisation dedicated to helping parishes do all they can to help the planet: The Five Leaf Eco-Awards. This is an Australian ecumenical environmental change program specifically designed for churches and religious organisations.

Using a series of non-competitive awards the program assists, inspires and rewards faith communities for taking environmental action and becoming more sustainable in response to God's call to care for creation.

The Five Leaf Eco-Awards encourage holistic environmental action environment covering five areas:

- Buildings
- Worship
- Congregation
- Outreach
- Community Leadership

There are six awards - two basic and four advanced. It is my aim to see our parish well on its way to getting its first basic award before I leave in September.

There are seven steps in getting this first basic award.

Step one is to conduct an Energy Audit. This involves collecting some data and posting to the



site.

The second step will be to take three actions to reduce our resource use. These could include:

- Change to more efficient lights (CFL's, LEDs)
- Install timers on hot water units
- Seal up drafts to keep heat in
- Switch to GreenPower
- Install a water tank
- Switch to 100% post-consumer recycled paper

The third step will be to run two behaviour change campaigns which could be like the following:

- Advertise how to use your new compost scheme
- Put reminders to switch lights off above switches
- Remind people to report leaks
- Print the church newsletter in duplex (both sides)

The fourth step will be to provide two resources for members to take action in their own lives outside the church.

Some of the things you can do include:

- Providing regular tips on being environmentally friendly in the church notice sheet or newsletter
- Establish a church environmental group
- Conduct or promote a sustainability workshop
- Organise a carpool to church

Step five is to conduct a worship service around the theme of the 'environment'; step six is to conduct one green event and step seven is to conduct a special project to demonstrate our parish's commitment.

Be on the lookout for more news around this and how you might get involved.

.....

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay,  
confused, well heeled or down at heel,  
we especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.  
We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself.  
You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woken up, or just got out of prison.  
We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury,  
or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.  
We extend a special welcome to those who are over sixty but not grown up yet,  
and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.  
We welcome keep fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree huggers,  
latte sippers, vegetarians, and junk food eaters.  
We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted.  
We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps, or don't like 'organised religion'.  
We offer welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell,  
or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to church.  
We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither.  
We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their  
throat as kids, or got lost in Box Hill and wound up here by mistake.  
We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!"