



The Grapevine

Volume 13, Issue 1

March 2011 - June 2011

Our Triannual Parish Magazine

The Vicar's Letter

The Vicar writes.....

All of us I'm sure have been shocked, appalled and deeply saddened by the number and ferocity of recent natural disasters to befall vast areas of our nation over the past two months or so.

Floods in North-West Australia; devastating and frightening floods in Queensland; widespread floods across New South Wales and Victoria and even Tasmania; cyclone Yasi bringing devastation to areas of north Queensland, and more flooding - particularly across Northern Victoria; two capital cities, Brisbane and Melbourne, hit by severe flooding; bushfires in Victoria; other bushfires severely destroying areas around Perth, and cyclone Carlos hitting Darwin and moving inland.

And now the devastating killer earthquakes in Christchurch, New Zealand.

We are all a little numbed by it all and can only feel deep compassion for those who have lost homes and livelihoods and family members.

The following is a sermon I preached on Sunday, January 16, after the devastation of Toowoomba, Grantham and Brisbane.

A Tsunami of Tragedy

It seems to me that every couple of years or so around this time of the year we have a major calamity that transfixes our minds and hearts with the enormity of the tragedy and suffering that is taking place and the sheer power of nature to suddenly take over people's lives on a vast scale.

We have had the 2005 Boxing Day Tsunami which, in a matter of hours, inundated vast stretches of the Pacific Rim and killed 250,000 people and laid waste immense areas.

We had the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires in Victoria a couple of years ago that on one horrible day of scorching heat and wind completely overwhelmed bushland communities in over half of Victoria like a super-hot tsunami of fire and will forever go down in our memories as our worst State tragedy and a day of

deeply etched sorrow.

Then this week there was another tragedy of extraordinary proportions for the State of Queensland. We have all seen the horrifying scenes as a tsunami of storm water from deluges of rain swept through Toowoomba and cascaded down the escarpment to flood the Lockyer Valley and then sweep down through Ipswich and Brisbane. Not to mention the devastating flooding of immense areas of other parts of Queensland, New South Wales and West Australia, Tasmania and now Victoria. It is hard to imagine a weather chart as I did on Tuesday where all major cities and towns in Australia were described as rainy and stormy! All of us surely must know at least one person or family affected by such vast flooding and destruction. I was Vicar of Natimuk in Western Victoria for 2 years in the early 1980's and it was flooded out on Wednesday. Its last great flood was 30 years ago when I was the Vicar there - so I know the town and, no doubt, some of the affected people. My uncle and aunt lost their beautiful home on the Brisbane River in the awful floods of 1974. I used to stay there when I lived in Newcastle in the early 1970s.

Many of us have visited and stayed in a number of these places that are now under vast oceans of water and mud, and the devastation is amazing and sobering as we are constantly forced to face the power of nature.

It always raises the question about how we balance our belief in a loving, life-giving and all powerful Creator God with, on the other hand, a God who created a world that can be so violent, capricious and devastating and who seems to stand by and allow appalling events of ferocity to occur dozens of times each year with huge loss of life and damage to creation.

It is not an easy question to face as almost any answer will seem somewhat glib and inadequate, especially if you or your family or dear friends are on the receiving end of such destructive and unwarranted violence and terror. Yet it happens. It has always happened in our world. As students of history know, whole civilizations have been destroyed by catastrophic natural events - towns and cities have been wiped out never to be lived in again - I don't need to list them all - it would take

(Continued on page 2)

A Tsunami of Tragedy

(continued from page 1)

many pages but let's just mention the volcanic horrors of Pompeii or, more recently in our lifetime, Rabaul in Papua New Guinea.

How do we believe in a God who is the creator of all this capricious violence and suffering and a God who yet is all loving and all powerful?

We have to acknowledge first that we can't adequately even answer that question because it is in the realm of knowledge beyond our own very limited human knowledge even though it seems we know so much about our world. We have to live with the paradox of a wonderful beautiful world of great opportunity and resource and delight as well as a world that is dangerous and unpredictable and overwhelmingly powerful when nature's forces are unleashed in violent catastrophic ways.

This is our world and God created it that way. God did not create us to be all powerful, all knowing, eternal beings in his creation. We often like to think at times we are. But we know we are far from being all powerful, all knowing and eternal when faced with such awesome displays of violence and tragedy. God's creation – animals, birds, fish, plants and trees have always been subject to an ongoing, seemingly random at times, cycle of life and death, destruction and renewal and we are a part of that glorious but, at many times, fearful reality.

However, unlike the rest of creation we as humans are also able to be part of God's loving and protective power in the face of such times of devastation. There will always be resurrection and renewal and we can in faith be an energetic and resourceful part of that resurrection and renewal as we respond in love and generosity and hope to these events.

We have the God-given resources and capabilities to help restore the lives and well being of vast areas of death, injury and destruction. A vivid image to me was the man in Queensland walking out of the flood waters with an exhausted joey kangaroo in his arms – what an image of God's protective love in action! We are often faced with such tragedies – on both "little" and "enormous" scales. It is how we respond to these tragedies that dictate our ability to be the amazing human beings that God created each of us to be.

Jesus was born both as God's Son and as an ordinary being. He wasn't born to be eternal – he died. He wasn't

born to avoid tragedy and suffering – we know how much he suffered. He wasn't born to wave a magic wand and restore everyone forever to health and well being and everlasting felicity – he clearly didn't do this – nor did he say he would.

He was born to show us how to live in the face of tragedy and oppression, of violence and of all the realities of human weakness and imperfection. He calls us to do this by choosing to be people of love, of hospitality, of generosity, of tolerance and compassion. We can choose to be selfish, intolerant, violent, oppressive, and isolationist at the expense and rejection of others, or we can choose Christ's way – the way of God's resurrecting and renewing power over tragedy and suffering.

This is my answer to the ongoing saga of our inhumanity to others and of the awful natural disasters that regularly affect areas of our world. They happen and, sadly, will always happen! But there is always the reality of new life and resurrection! Always!

How good, effective and rapid this is will depend on how we, ourselves, connect into God's love and resurrection power to enable that to happen. A perfect example of this is the virtual army of volunteers that have come in each day to clean up the houses of strangers in flood affected areas of Brisbane.

Let's always be people of faith. Let us always be open to the power of the Holy Spirit's renewing grace and to the joy of being resurrection people of generosity, compassion and merciful love in a world that will ever **seek to be loved** and rescued from tragedy, injustice and oppression.

End

Many of us came together at Holy Trinity for the many celebrations around Christmas time. On the Sunday before Christmas, the Sunday School presented a fantastic DVD Nativity movie which was scripted, filmed and produced virtually entirely by 11 year old Mikey Esplan with the Sunday School children being the actors.

We screened it four times (twice on December 19 and twice on Christmas Day) and it was greatly enjoyed by all and impressed a number of visitors and new attendees at church.

(Continued on page 3)

The Grapevine

Published three times a year by the Anglican Parish of Hampton, 10 Thomas Street, Hampton, Victoria, 3188

Vicar

The Rev'd David Head
(03) 9598 1707;
Email drhead@netspace.net.au

Parish Secretary

Jill Esplan
(03) 9598 4239
Email jesplan@netspace.net.au

Email Distribution Lists

If you would like to be on the "General" email list (for notification of deaths, illness, special events), or the "Sunday School" email list (for Sunday School events) please email the Parish Secretary, Jill Esplan.

The Vicar Writes....

(continued from page 2)

We also enjoyed a splendid “Lessons, Readings and Carol Service” on the Sunday night before Christmas and a heartfelt thank you to Ian Keenan and the augmented choir, and to those who read the lessons, for a most enjoyable and enriching experience.

The Christmas Services, particularly the Children’s Crib service and the Midnight Mass were very well attended and I think greatly enjoyed by all. I was struck, I must admit, this last Christmas by the lack of obvious Christmas Spirit decorating the shopping strips and houses in our suburban streets. Did you notice it too?

On Sunday, February 13, parishioner, and member of our Healing Ministry Team, **Dr. Philip Thomas** spoke at both services on “A Doctor’s View of the Healing Ministry of Prayer”.

It was such a thoughtful and interesting sermon, that it has been included below for your reflection.

A Doctor’s View of the Healing Ministry of Prayer.

Thanks to Father David for asking me to speak to you today.

Thanks, too for being initially asked to join the healing ministry team. This was an obvious choice for me as a medical practitioner, as I have seen the obvious acts of God’s healing, his creation and the end of life... so many times.

But do we as doctors really “heal”? I believe that we only “lubricate things along”, not really cure, for that alone is the province of God

It is tempting to use a series of anecdotes to illustrate these points, and I’ll also add some of the perspective I’ve gained over the last (very rapid) twenty years since graduating from Monash in 1991.

An alternative title for this sermon may have been “a very fortunate life”

I regard our profession as the ultimate mix of art and science, or perhaps even the ultimate career. It seems appropriate to briefly examine a few concepts that we

see on an almost daily basis.

The beginnings of life:

When does life begin? When the egg is fertilised? And when does the spiritual self begin? It’s not obvious to me that this commences at the same time as life on a simply biological level. Consider the totipotent (cells that can change or differentiate into any organ in the body with appropriate stimulation) embryo and embryo division and re-fusion. Embryos may spontaneously divide, and this is one of the ways in which twins are created. Does this then result in the cleaving of the spiritual self into two new individuals? Early on, these two embryos can then be reunited or fused, and a single embryo results, so does fusion of two spiritual individuals recreate of a new single person? What is it that defines life and when does death occur?

And why?

This is easy to explain on a scientific level- Na/K ATP –ase

This is a membrane ion pump, requires consumption of energy, the purpose is maintenance of action potentials and osmotic gradients within the cell. When energy runs out, the pumps fail, ions flow unimpeded across cell membranes, cells swell and rupture, and cell death inevitably follows.

In our wondrous bodies we are programmed to live, programmed to survive, to heal, self maintain, and to pass on our genes afresh to the next generation. There are many “fail safe” mechanisms to ensure this process continues to occur.

Some examples are: Tumour suppressor genes. Self versus not-self tissue recognition. Natural killer cells. Concept of DNA repair at the time of fertilisation (genetic errors in the sperm may be corrected by the ovum or egg).

There is however, the phenomenon of programmed cell death /obsolescence. Why does this occur? I presume that it is God’s concept that our mortal lives must be limited.

What happens when we try to create life? The process of IVF: A so called stimulation cycle as opposed to a natural cycle, aims to produce many eggs for each treatment episode, which are then fertilised in a dish. Although we have come a long way, and chances of a baby for each treatment episode far out strip chances of natural conception in almost any couple, there is still

(Continued on page 4)

Get to Know your Vestry

Wardens :

Richard Pennington and Glenn Adams. Tony Mayor is the Vicar’s Warden.

Vestry Members :

Linda Barry, Greg Wolfenden, Martin Turner, (Parish Treasurer). Andrew Esplan, Caroline Aikins, Clay Jones & Catherine

Robertson.

Save your Stamps and Corks please !

Our Parish is a collecting point for used postage stamps and corks. We give the stamps to the Anglican Board of Missions (ABM) who then sell them and use the money raised to help fund their mission work both here and abroad. *When you cut your stamps from their envelopes, please leave*

a small margin around them.

We also collect corks (not the plastic ones please) to give to the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association. For every 300,000 corks collected by the MND Association they can purchase a motorized wheelchair.

There are separate boxes in the Narthex where you can place your used postage stamps and corks. Thanks for helping.

A Doctor's View of the Healing Ministry of Prayer.

(continued from page 3)

much that is unknown. Why does it work? Why does it now work? Concept of idiopathic infertility (no apparent cause): not that there is no problem, its just that we cannot truly define the problem.

All we can do then with this modern "miracle" of IVF is to bypass "mistakes" and disease. A natural, God-given process of life creation results.

IVF- the complexities of fertilisation

"So doctor, why can't we have a baby?"

In 30% the cause is female, 30% male, 30% both, and 10% unknown.

Mother's age: still the most important determinant. Harkening back to my earlier point raising the issue of a finite mortal life, perhaps then this means that we are meant to have a finite chance to pass on our genes. Some male factors too are indefinable and bypassed by ICSI (intracytoplasmic sperm injection) which can achieve fertilisation rates of over 50%, but some will never succeed. Recurrent miscarriage, too is a perennial problem in which a cause is found in the minority of cases. Some causes, such as a divided uterus are eminently treatable, but many others are difficult to elucidate and even harder to treat.

Miraculous and unexpected cures

I'd like to give you an example of an elderly Italian lady with skin cancer. I performed a biopsy to make the diagnosis, the lesion was therefore incompletely excised. She was initially very resistant to further surgery, and feared pain, disfigurement. But, when faced with the almost certain prospect of an uncomfortable, undignified and slow death we were able to convince her to have definitive surgery. Subsequently though, there was no residual tumour in the second operative specimen! The inflammatory response resulting from the initial biopsy cleared the few abnormal cells remaining. But was this a divine cure? And is it one and the same?

No justice in surgery

I like to use the analogy of baking cakes. Despite following exactly the same recipe, some cakes come out perfect, some not. I like to pray whilst I am scrubbing, before operating, and I've never been let down when doing this.

As a medical student I travelled to India, and then Mussoorie in the Himalayan foothills. My room at the

hospital was seemingly in the clouds. The windows were usually jammed closed to keep the rhesus monkeys out which kept me amused watching them play in the trees outside. One day, whilst sitting on my bed studying an antique surgical textbook, I heard a wailing from the street below... a red draped body was on the roof of one of our land rovers.

This was the body of Mussi Devi, whose appendix we had removed several days ago. We think the stump-tie had fallen off, leading to her death through sepsis. Her husband had no money and no transport and requested to borrow one of our vehicles to transport her body to the banks of a feeder tributary of the Yamuna river for cremation.

So what was it like in India? - so much was beyond our control. In the foothills of the Himalayas, it was easy to feel profoundly spiritual and all really sought a relationship with God. The challenge lies upon return to the developed world where we seek to "control" so much of our environment, our lives... and we seek perfection - no inconvenience, no illness... and the complete cooperation of those around us to make our lives easier. Once we achieve these our dependence on God is soon forgotten.

Other Unexpected deaths: still births. This is not as rare as people think. Placental failures. Most unexplained. 1/800 to 1/1000 term babies. Perfectly born... no reason. One of the hardest jobs I've had then on many occasions is to make the diagnosis of a still birth or foetal death in utero, and then to break it to the parents.

So why the hardship? Why the illness?

Is it simply a matter of not enough faith? Not enough prayer? Too sinful a life led?

Not at all. Remember that God's purpose for us is unknown. Ultimately only he knows the plan. It is too simplistic to say that we have something to learn from our illness. God is sovereign and his plan for us is unknown.

Ultimately, everyone will die, that's obvious:

We are all prone to illness and will return to dust as we came from dust.

So ultimately all of our bodies are fallible and not all of those who are sick will be cured.

Ultimately the flesh can be sacrificed to save the soul.

(Continued on page 5)

Get to Know your Vestry

Wardens :

Richard Pennington and Glenn Adams. Tony Mayor is the Vicar's Warden.

Vestry Members :

Linda Barry, Greg Wolfenden, Martin Turner, (Parish Treasurer). Andrew Esplan, Caroline Aikins, Clay Jones & Catherine Robertson.

Save your Stamps and Corks please !

Our Parish is a collecting point for used postage stamps and corks. We give the stamps to the Anglican Board of Missions (ABM) who then sell them and use the money raised to help fund their mission work both here and abroad. *When you cut your stamps from their envelopes, please leave a small margin around them.*

We also collect corks (not the plastic ones please) to give to the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association. For every 300,000 corks collected by the MND Association they can purchase a motorized wheelchair.

There are separate boxes in the Narthex where you can place your used postage stamps and corks. Thanks for helping.

A Doctor's View of the Healing Ministry of Prayer.
(continued from page 4)

Does healing still happen today? And does it only happen to those who are faithful?

I am amused by the story of the parishioner who said to a visiting vicar "we don't believe in healing at this church!" to which the vicar replied "that's fine, then you have nothing to fear, because I don't think it will bother you here!"

Be conscious that healing is already happening in your body.

This is a God-given mechanism built in to help our mortal bodies survive. Just as our admittedly fallible bodies accumulate damage from the environment, our food, and other unhealthy habits which constantly challenge these repair mechanisms.

All we in the healing professions do is to try to massage things along a little:

I liken it to the process of trying to alter the flow of a mighty river by building dykes, sand bagging or digging channels... we are ultimately up against an unstoppable force that sometimes we can modify... sometimes permanently and sometimes only temporarily.

Healing does occur, and it occurs in those without faith as it does in those with...the Oxford dictionary defines faith as "complete trust or confidence in someone or something" or as "strong beliefs in God or a doctrine or religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof."

Every time we go to a doctor, take a pill, undergo an operation or a vaccination we exercise faith in that process. You may find it hard to believe, but some medical treatments and especially operations carry with them a real risk of doing harm.

Sometimes the chance of benefit is far outweighed by the risk of harm... the so called risk-benefit ratio - and sometimes it's a pretty close call... but if the chips are really down or we have no option, it's best to give a certain treatment or course of action a chance to work.

The concept of faith in healing is also illustrated by this point: Almost all treatments, and even operations, have a placebo effect. The term placebo comes from the Latin "to please". It's fascinating that some placebos, even if devoid of medical substance also have side effects.

In days gone by we used placebos as a valid treatment - but in modern times, with our emphasis on accountability, and fairness, and reproducibility of results this is considered unethical.

But everyone knows that red pills work better than white ones, large better than small... patients who have larger dressings on their wounds will also feel more pain, as the corresponding wound is thought to be larger!

Such is the power of suggestion and the effect it has on our healing.

The next question that we may constantly ask ourselves, as a corollary of whether or not healing only occurs in the faithful... is sickness related to sin?

The short answer is... yes... and no.

There is no doubt, and this is medically proven, that stress affects most illnesses, our response to them, and our chances of healing.

Stress will increase our endogenous steroid levels, which suppress white cell function, raises blood pressure, raises blood glucose...and temporarily halts protein building.

In fact everything is made worse with stress, from response to surgery, pain control after it, need for medication, chance of infection and the length of rehabilitation... on one hand stress can be a powerful motivator but in too greater quantity and for too long... damage can occur.

I am reminded of **Ainslie Dixon Meares** (3 March 1910 – 19 September 1986) who was an Australian psychiatrist, scholar of hypnotism, psychotherapist and authority on stress management. He drew a very strong link between stress and illness... to such an extent as to ask patients - *How do you explain this cancer? What has happened in your life to cause this?*

The link can sometimes be made, but my own view is this is rather harsh and can easily be counter productive... it is too easy to assume the blame for one's illness, to invent past wrong doings and to blow things out of proportion.

It's easy, too, to assume the worst of others. Sometimes as a medical practitioner it is all too easy to be judgmental in an attempt to look slick or wise:

I can tell you now that not all illness follows sin, and not all of the sick are faithless.

So, why do some, faithful, God-serving Christians fall ill, and why do prayers seem not to be answered when we

(Continued on page 6)

Get to Know your Vestry

Wardens :

Richard Pennington and Glenn Adams. Tony Mayor is the Vicar's Warden.

Vestry Members :

Linda Barry, Greg Wolfenden, Martin Turner, (Parish Treasurer). Andrew Esplan, Caroline Aikins, Clay Jones & Catherine

Robertson.

Save your Stamps and Corks please !

Our Parish is a collecting point for used postage stamps and corks. We give the stamps to the Anglican Board of Missions (ABM) who then sell them and use the money raised to help fund their mission work both here and abroad. *When you cut your stamps from their envelopes, please leave*

a small margin around them.

We also collect corks (not the plastic ones please) to give to the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association. For every 300,000 corks collected by the MND Association they can purchase a motorized wheelchair.

There are separate boxes in the Narthex where you can place your used postage stamps and corks. Thanks for helping.

A Doctor's View of the Healing Ministry of Prayer.
(continued from page 5)

simply seek, with our own eyes, the right answer- a chance of healing or cure?
 Patients are always seeking answers to the question "But why doctor, WHY??"
 It all, to me, comes down to God's sovereign purpose for us, that we will never really fully know or understand, perhaps not until it has already unfolded before us.
 Therefore we cannot afford to speculate upon, or judge another for their illness.

So what is my advice to you, for personal health and healing? From twenty years of medicine -

First, practise preventive medicine. We are fearfully and wonderfully made (*Psalms 139:14*). An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Pay careful attention to nutrition; eat what God has made (*and not too much diet coke - I wonder if this is worse for you than red wine!*)

Secondly, reduce stress. Be kind to yourself. Allow time to unwind and put things in perspective. Try to identify the things that are bringing you unstuck and be honest with yourself.

Third, find a friend. Unburden yourself, debrief, different friends for different purposes. All the way from the little problems to the big ones, but don't sweat the small stuff.

Fourth, connect with the environment: be "child like" and observe, take in the simplicity of how God's creations and creatures live.

Fifth, mind your own business! Only ask what you need to know. Extend the hand of friendship and open the door, but don't pry. Be a listening ear and wait for them to come forward with info. The less you interrupt the better.

Sixth, acknowledge that we all have our own healing and repair mechanisms... working right now inside us. We just have to let them work and don't inhibit their progress. Simple things go without saying... no smoking, sensible amounts of exercise (much more than you'd think), eat naturally and sleep well.

Seventh, seek medical attention - sometimes even mighty rivers need to be sand bagged. Be faithful, pray for personal healing but remember the weaknesses

within us. Our bodies are not perfect. Foster a relationship with a good doctor - men are especially bad at doing this; by all means take responsibility for your illness and practice reasonable self-stewardship, but share the love! Be careful of eschewing conventional medical treatments for so called alternative or natural remedies, many of which are harmful (Black Cohosh for menopausal symptoms and liver damage is my favorite example. If it's completely safe then it probably doesn't do anything. If it does something, then it can't be completely safe as it has no biological activity).

Don't try to self diagnose! Remember, a doctor who treats himself has a fool for a patient.

Eighth, have an expectant heart and focus on the future: there is always much to live for. A man in jail can be happy, but remember there were plenty of very sad princesses locked up in palace towers in Mughal India.

Ninth: stay away from the internet when it comes to your illness (unless its my website ☺), it's never any substitute for the healing relationship and the reassuring presence of the relationship you have with your doctor, your friends and God.

And lastly: don't forget to be thankful for healing - thank God, share the joy of your success with your friends (*and a bottle of red wine for the doctor wouldn't go astray either*).

End

Life is already speeding by with so much happening in our world and our lives. Soon Lent will be upon us and then the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter in mid to late April. I encourage you all to try and make the six week period of Lent from Ash Wednesday to Easter Day a time of some spiritual nurture for yourselves and encourage you to join our Wednesday evening Lent Discussion Group from 8:15 to 9:15pm on five Wednesday evenings from March 16 to April 13.

We will be using the excellent little booklet prepared by the Bishop of Gippsland, the Right Reverend John McIntyre, called "Saved by God's Grace."

May God bless you all over these coming few months and, despite the fact that Easter falls towards the end of the school holidays, I hope as many as possible will join us for the Easter celebrations at Holy Trinity.

Yours in love and friendship,
 Fr. David.

Get to Know your Vestry

Wardens :

Richard Pennington and Glenn Adams. Tony Mayor is the Vicar's Warden.

Vestry Members :

Linda Barry, Greg Wolfenden, Martin Turner, (Parish Treasurer). Andrew Esplan, Caroline Aikins, Clay Jones & Catherine Robertson.

Save your Stamps and Corks please !

Our Parish is a collecting point for used postage stamps and corks. We give the stamps to the Anglican Board of Missions (ABM) who then sell them and use the money raised to help fund their mission work both here and abroad. *When you cut your stamps from their envelopes, please leave a small margin around them.*

We also collect corks (not the plastic ones please) to give to the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association. For every 300,000 corks collected by the MND Association they can purchase a motorized wheelchair.

There are separate boxes in the Narthex where you can place your used postage stamps and corks. Thanks for helping.

What's Been Happening Lately?

Cake Stall and Parish BBQ on Advent Sunday, November 28

They both went very well and we thank all who worked so hard to make the yummy cakes and slices for the stall. We raised around \$260. Well Done!

While we are on Fundraising the Christmas Raffle raised an excellent \$850. Well done to the all the Raffle Ticket sellers and those who gave to the three Hampers.

The Kinder Christmas Talks

Fr. David's annual Christmas talks to the 2 three year old and 2 four year old kinder classes were held in the Church in early December. They provide a wonderful opportunity to share the wonder of Christmas and the beauty of the church with the young children who love coming to this special place.

The Sunday School Nativity Movie

Leaping into the 21st century, the **Sunday School children** made and presented a movie version of the Nativity play on Sunday, December 19 at both the 8am and 10am services on our newly installed BIG screen (thank you **Glenn, Andrew and Richard**). It was a tremendous effort by the Sunday School and greatly enjoyed by all. Well done to **Mikey Esplan** and all the acting and production team. Sales of the DVD raised \$140 for the Christmas Bowl appeal.

Apparently they intend to do possibly two more such productions this year - so stay tuned!

The Christmas Carol Service

As mentioned earlier in this grapevine edition, our annual Carol Service was held on the evening of December 19 and was a most enjoyable occasion. It was a tribute to the hard work of our organist and choir master, **Ian Keenan**, and the Choir members.

Australia Day Service, Harvest Festival and Blessing of the Children and Teachers

to go back to school was held on Sunday, January 30 and a good number attended the service and a large collection of food, both home-grown and non-perishable, for the emergency relief centre we

support was collected. Unfortunately, due to the very hot day the BBQ was cancelled. We thank the Band members for their enthusiastic playing of the Australia Day songs.

Repainting the Exterior of the Church, Vicarage and Hall

Many of you may have noticed in December and January much feverish activity around the Church and Vicarage and Hall as the exterior woodwork, guttering and downpipes were repainted. This hasn't been done for many, many years and the woodwork was in many areas in a bad state and needed much repair work.

However, at a cost of around \$30,000 our church and vicarage are now looking wonderful - on the exterior anyway! We have taken out a loan to enable this work to be finished and paid for!

A New Exterior Toilet

by the Tennis Court Pavilion has been built with the hard work and commitment of **Glenn Adams**, assisted in the plumbing work by **Greg Wolfenden**. Thank you to Glenn especially for his many hours of hard, hot work! Fr. David says it is a better toilet than those in the vicarage!

Birthday Congratulations

We have celebrated a number of special birthdays recently -

Mavis Corp 90, Beryl Dean 80, Ann Mayor 70, and Fr. David will turn 60 in early March.

Congratulations to you all.

Ha! Ha! Ha!

A guy goes into the confessional box after years being away from the Church. He pulls aside the curtain, enters and sits himself down. There's a fully equipped bar with crystal glasses, the best vestry wine, Guinness on tap, cigars and liqueur chocolates nearby, and on the wall a fine photographic display of buxom ladies who appear to have mislaid their garments.

He hears a priest come in: "Father, forgive me for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession and I must admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be".

The priest replies, "Get out, you idiot. You're on my side".

COMING★UP.. at Holy Trinity in the next 4 months

Holy Trinity Kinder

The kinder has sadly been informed that the Director and four year old teacher for the past 8 years, **Rebecca Adams**, is leaving at the end of February to take up a new appointment at Xavier pre-school. This is a major change!

Thankfully our excellent three year old teacher, **Shauna McGregor** has accepted the Direct and four year old teaching position and we will need to seek out a new three year old teacher.

We do have an excellent Parents' Committee to facilitate this. Thank you to Rebecca for her year of service to the Kinder Community and to the hard working Parents' Committee who have done so much over the years to raise the standard of the kinder facilities.

A New Pathway

A new pathway from the Church door into the Memorial Garden and into the Vicarage Front door is to be completed soon replacing the current uneven and cracked one. A new Vicarage gateway will also be installed a later date.

Thank you to the generosity of **Mavis Davis** and **Irene Smith** which has allowed these works to occur.

Vestry Planning Day

A Vestry Planning day is to be held on **Saturday, March 5** and it is anticipated that the Vestry will attend a Diocesan Seminar that day on Welcoming and Church Growth.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday occurs this year on **March 9**. There will, as usual, be the Imposition of Ashes at the 10am Mid-week Communion Service, and there will be an evening ecumenical service of Imposition of Ashes at St. Mary's Catholic church in Holyrood St at 7pm.

Try and make it to one of these services if you can. **NOTE!!** Your old, dry palm crosses from previous years should be returned to Fr. David by **Sunday, March 6**, ready to be burned for the ashes used on Ash Wednesday.

The Lent Study / Discussion group

is taking place on **five consecutive Wednesday Nights** over Lent, from **March 16 to April 13**

inclusive. They will take place in the Vestry from **8:15 pm to 9:15 pm**.

All are welcome, even if you can only come for some of these five nights. The Booklet to be discussed is "Saved by God's Grace" by Bishop John McIntyre, and is \$10 to purchase.

Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday is on **April 17** - wear something red. There will be a working bee at church on Saturday, April 16, at 9am to cut and place the Palm Fronds. Please come along to help, and bring your gardening gloves as the fronds are quite sharp.

Holy Week and Easter

Please see the back page for the details of service times during this period. We are all invited and encouraged to attend as many of these as we can!

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost this year is on **Sunday, June 12** and is the Annual Festival of the Holy Spirit. It is the Sunday, when we all wear something bright red to church - or yellow or orange - if red is not your colour!

Trinity Sunday

Trinity Sunday falls this year on **Sunday, June 19** and is what we call our Patronal Festival Day - Holy Trinity Day. We intend to have, as usual, a shared community lunch together in the Hall of Soup, Breads and Slices as in past years. It is always delicious, and we suggest a \$5 donation per head for this luncheon.

Flowers for Easter Services

Every year **Jan Litherland** arranges the flowers for our Easter and Christmas services. *(Thanks Jan!)*

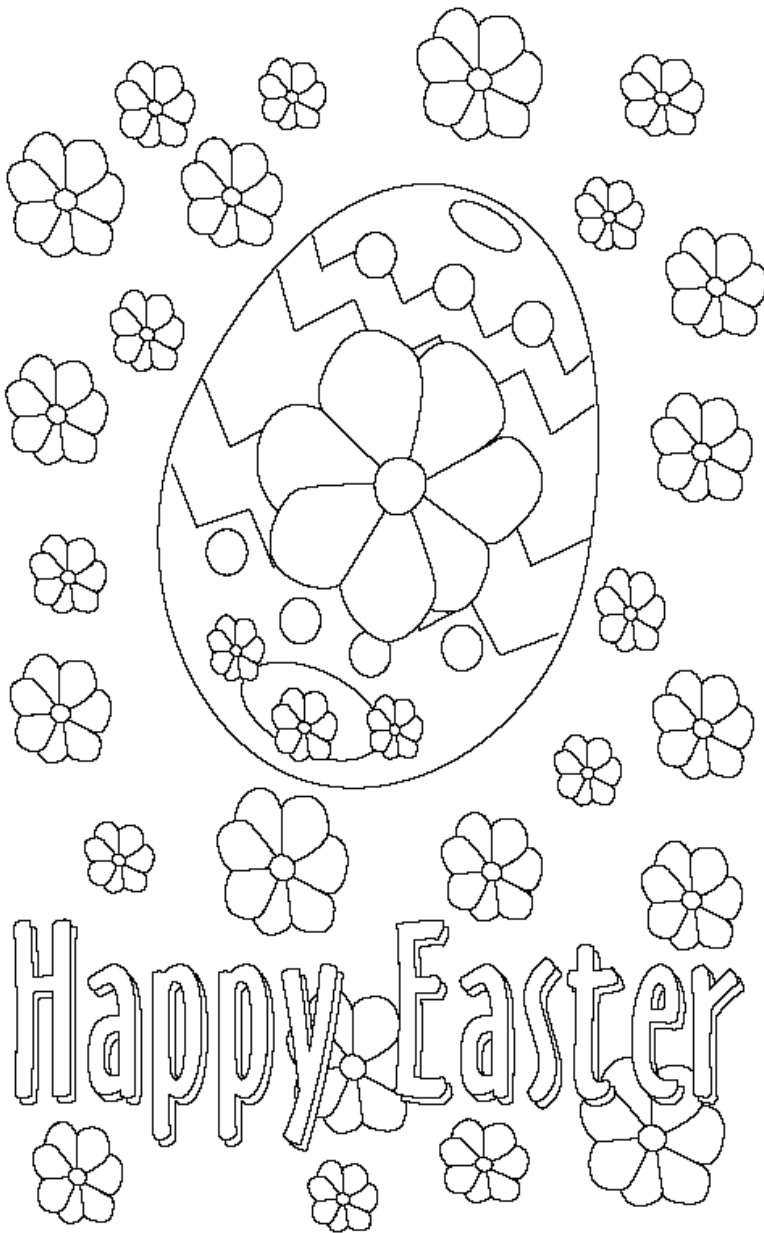
If you would like to help Jan arrange this Easter's flowers, please be at the church by 9.00 am on **Saturday, April 23**.

Alternatively, if you would like to donate some money towards the flowers, please put it in an envelope marked "For Easter Flowers" and either put it in the offertory plate or hand it to Fr. David.



KIDS ONLY

KIDS ONLY



Sunday School News

This term we have been getting to know each other and painting a beautiful mural of

"God's Creation"

on the Sunday School wall. It's looking fantastic.

If you are into arts and crafty sorts of activities, then come along each Sunday until the end of Term 1 because we are going to be **painting Easter eggs** and learning about different Easter customs around the world.

We plan to sell the Easter eggs and the money raised will be given to the Red Cross.

Sunday School is on at 10am during School Term time, beginning in the church. The activities are aimed at pre-school and primary school aged children.

Next term, the older children will receive a work book about the New Testament to use throughout the term. It has lots of facts and activities about the books of the New Testament and the people in it.

The younger children will be given age/ability appropriate activities to match what the older kids are doing.

Ha! Ha! Ha! from Kath Fitzgerald

The following series of ads reputedly appeared in the wanted columns of a newspaper:

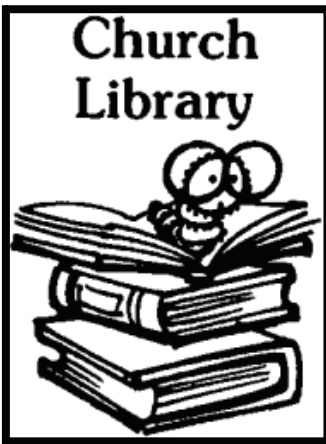
Monday: "The Rev'd A.J.Jones has one TV set for sale. Tel. 555 1234 after 7pm and ask for Mrs. Smith who lives with him cheap."

Tuesday: "We regret any embarrassment to Rev. Jones caused by a typographical error in yesterday's paper. It should have read: "The Rev.A.J.Jones has one TV set for sale cheap. Tel 555-1234 and ask for Mrs. Smith who lies with him after 7pm."

Wednesday: "Rev. Jones informs us that he has received several annoying telephone calls because of an incorrect ad in yesterday's paper. It should have read: "The Rev. Jones has one TV set for sale cheap. Tel. 555-1234 after 7pm and ask for Mrs. Smith who loves him."

Thursday: "Please note that I, Rev. A.J.Jones have no TV set for sale. I have smashed it - don't call 555-1234 any more. I have not been carrying on with Mrs. Smith and, until yesterday, Mrs. Smith was my housekeeper."

Friday: "Wanted housekeeper. Usual duties, good pay, love in. Contact Rev. A.J.Jones, Tel 555-1234."



Book Review - "Theo's Odyssey" by Catherine Clement.

This is an interesting and spiritually challenging book.

Some of you may have read the wonderful novel "Sophie's World" by Jostein Gaarder which explores the world of different philosophical beliefs across the centuries in a delightful and absorbing way through the eyes of a young girl called Sophie.

This book, though not quite so delightfully written, does the same thing for different spiritual belief systems of the world through the eyes of a young boy Theo, whose "agnostic" aunt takes him on a world tour to explore the world and, in the

process, explore different spiritual belief systems through the eyes of different cultures.


All of the major beliefs systems such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism are explored plus some other less major belief systems.

A good enjoyable read.

In our Parish Library, it has a blue dot (for Prayer, Spirituality, Icons) and is #671

Have you checked out our Parish library lately?

BOOKS



There are many, many interesting books in our library that might be just the thing you are looking for at this point in your life. Spend some time and browse



From the Parish Registers November 2010 – February 2011



Unusually - there were no baptisms over this November to February period, but we have four baptisms already planned for March.



Weddings

15/01/2011 Lorraine Hider and Graeme Smith
at Sandringham Yacht Club

Funerals and Thanksgiving Services



31/10/2010	Herbert George Butters
11/11/2010	Thomas Ivan Hast
25/11/2010	Ellen Rosina Darke
10/12/2010	Kevin Tudor Pearce
31/01/2011	Sadie Grace Mappin
09/02/2011	John (Jack) Spooner

We join with Val Pearce as she mourns the loss of Kevin, her beloved husband for over 60 years of marriage, and the Parish extends its sympathy to Margaret and the family of Tom Hast who was, since 2009 until his death, a member of our Vestry .

Child's View of Thunderstorms.....

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the primary school.

As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning.

The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she feared the electrical storm might harm her child.

Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along. At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. Another and another flash of lightning followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother's car drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called to her: "What are you doing?"

The child answered:"I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."

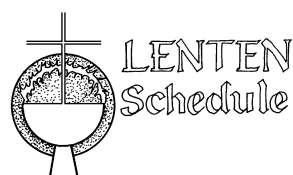
**May God bless you today and everyday
As you face the storms that come your way.**

Postscript.....About our Email and Telephone Prayer Teams

Don't forget we have two teams of people who are very happy to pray for either you or someone you know of in need of prayers. You can ring them through to Fiona Thomas on 9557 6577, or email her on fiphil44@hotmail.com.

If you can't contact her, please contact Jill Esplan or Fr. David (details on page 2).

Come and Join Us This Lent and Easter



During Lent try attending one of our mid-week activities as an extra focus for your Lent

10.00 am Wednesday Morning Eucharist or Lenten Discussion Group

Commencing Wednesday, March 16 for five consecutive Wednesday nights until April 13, 8.15 pm to 9.15 pm in the Vestry .

It is not mandatory to come to every Wednesday session.



Sunday, April 17 Palm Sunday

8.00 am Said Eucharist

10.00 am Festival Service with Palm Procession

Monday, April 18

8.00 pm Ecumenical Devotional Service at Hampton Baptist Church

["Ecumenical" means local Christian churches combined together]

Tuesday, April 19

8.00 pm Ecumenical Reconciliation Service at St. Mary's Catholic Church

Wednesday, April 20

8.00 pm Ecumenical Service of the Shadows at Holy Trinity

(NB please note there will be no 7.30 pm Meditation this Wednesday)



Thursday, April 21

Maundy Thursday

6.00 pm Shared meal of the Last Supper at Hampton Uniting Church (The Seder Meal)

8.00 pm Ecumenical Service of the Last Supper and Washing of the Disciple's Feet at Hampton Uniting Church.



Friday, April 22 Good Friday

9.30 am Good Friday Liturgy at Holy Trinity

10.30 am -12.30 pm Ecumenical

Hampton Walk of Witness

Baptist (starts approx 10.30 am), Uniting (approx. 11 am), Anglican (approx. 11.15 am) and Catholic Church (approx 12 noon)



Saturday, April 23 Easter Eve

8.00 pm First Easter Service with the Lighting of the New Fire of Easter and Blessing of the new Paschal candle

Sunday, April 24 Easter Day

8.00 am Easter Communion

10.00 am Family Easter Communion