



# The Grapevine

Volume 13, Issue 3

November 2011 to February 2012

Our Triannual Parish Magazine

## The Vicar's Letter

### Your Vicar Writes.....

Welcome to this edition of The Grapevine as we race through the year 2011 towards Christmas and the impending New Year of 2012.

This year has been a productive and happy year at Holy Trinity and I hope it has been a good though no doubt busy one for you also.

I hope that you all have a very happy and meaningful Christmas with family and friends and that we see all of you over the many opportunities for celebrating Christmas at Holy Trinity - at the premiere screening of this year's Sunday School movie "Jesus Christ - this is your Life!" and Christmas Carol Service on the Sunday before Christmas (Dec. 18) and on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day - which falls on a Sunday this year!

I also encourage you to attend the combined Australia Day, Harvest Festival and Start / Return To School service on Sunday, January 29, 2012. Check later in this Grapevine for the details.

Following now is my Annual Report to the Parish which was presented on Sunday, November 13 at the 9.30am service.

### Vicar's Annual Report to the Parish

Believe it or not, this is my Ninth Annual Report now to the Parish since I became your Vicar in 2003.

It has in many ways been a year of consolidation with a great deal of attention being given to long standing issues of maintenance and a number of critical things have been done including the exterior painting of the Church, Vicarage and Hall. So I would like to thank the Wardens and Vestry and many others who have helped in the various Working Bees and in other ways to achieve a really good year in getting the grounds, pathways, storm water plumbing and the buildings in a much better state of repair.

Over recent years there has been a significant change in attendance patterns of parishioners – even those who once may have been Sunday by Sunday attendees. There

are so many more demands on our time and our allegiances with work, family, sport, travelling overseas and weekends away that it is very hard to presume what size and makeup of congregation we will have Sunday by Sunday at both 8am and 10am services. However, our stewardship in offertory-giving has been generally excellent and we have almost kept up with budget forecasts for the year, and income from other sources such as donations and rentals has increased pleasingly.

The Sunday School has had an innovative, productive and exciting year and we thank the children and the teachers for their enthusiasm and hard work.

We have been blessed with several new families joining our Parish community over the past year and it is always wonderful to welcome new people and new families into our community and fellowship. However, due to less regular attendance patterns of many parishioners and particularly families, numbers at church Sunday by Sunday have not increased to indicate that we are a healthy, slowly growing Parish which I believe we are.

We have had several significant social functions and successful major focus worship Sundays this year and we look forward to continuing and expanding this tradition.

Earlier this year the Parish Vestry attended a workshop on being a Welcoming and Inviting Church and, as a Vestry, we found the Workshop stimulating and challenging. We decided that we would seek to grow in this very important area of our Parish Life and Ministry.

I preached nearly 3 months ago on this topic to encourage Parishioners to be an inviting people so that our Parish can grow and so that "Back to Church" Sunday in September would be a successful and worthwhile exercise. Indeed I think a number of you did make an effort to invite family and friends to come with you that Sunday and we had around 20 more people attend than we would normally have. This was an excellent beginning. It was clear that both adults and children did the inviting and some of our Sunday School children came with friends as well. It is important to train and encourage our younger generation to be inviting and welcoming members of our community.

This coming year of 2012 I would like to be a year of increased participation in and commitment to the

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## Vicar's Annual Report

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process of being a fellowship of people who invite others to join with us in worship and social functions.

People in our wider community need relational groups to belong to and be part of. We can surround ourselves with constant activity and doing things but it is the important process of relating to and gaining the encouragement and support of community that is essential to personal and societal well being.

I'm sure we all believe we are a welcoming church and in many ways we are. However we need to be very careful Sunday by Sunday that we don't form little cliques before the service in the Narthex and after the service over coffee time and fail to engage and welcome any newcomers to church or those who don't as yet feel incorporated into the Parish Community. I have noticed that there is a growing tendency for those on side duty and welcoming duty to arrive much later than is ideal to do their duty. The sidespeople and welcomers should be the first people at church and make sure that they are available to welcome and enable all those who attend that day. I also encourage parishioners not on duty that day not to engage the welcomers and sidespeople in long conversations and general chit-chat as it is so easy for newcomers to slip by unnoticed and unwelcomed if the sidespeople are prevented from doing their duty by regular parishioners engaging them in chit chat and blocking the way to receiving worship books and a welcome.

Please all of us be aware of how we can help or hinder newcomers and less regular people to be welcomed and encouraged to participate in the worship and in the coffee afterwards. Be good hosts. Do not hang back and expect others to be and do what we all can and should do.

In Australia's last census (not the one this year as figures aren't out yet) it was noted that around 64% of people crossed the box that claim their religious affiliation was Christian. So it appears that just more than 6 out of every 10 people in your street, in your workplace, in your school, in your sporting clubs claim to be Christian. Now the interesting question is "Why did so many people mark that box when they didn't have too?" Was it just habit? or Was it just an easy response? Or is there a God part in themselves that deeply and maybe subconsciously wants to be invited and nurtured? Why are so many of us afraid or reticent to talk about our faith and our

involvement in a church community? We don't need to Bible Bash or be insensitively aggressive, but we can gently raise the issue and see where it leads. Afterall, 6 out of every 10 adults identify as Christian so they should not be antagonistic to the Christian ethos and message. So I want to encourage you to share and talk about your faith and church involvement more and to be an "inviting" Holy Trinity Community Member.

If everyone invited a friend, a family member, a neighbour, a work colleague to come to church over a 12 month period and they decided to come back and join on a more regular basis then we would double our congregation and presumably also increase our ability financially to do other more creative things. And remember that a reasonable number of our regular parishioners come from Brighton, Cheltenham, Bentleigh, Moorabbin, Sandringham, Highett and even much further afield so we don't need to worry that people don't live in Hampton to invite them. People will travel substantial distances if they enjoy the fellowship and the worship and the Christian nurture of a congregation.

I encourage you all, especially for major occasions like Christmas and Easter, but also for Pet Sunday, Australia Day and Harvest Festival, Football Sunday and Back to Church Sunday to actively encourage and invite others to come with you. Some people will say "No". Some will say "Maybe" and not turn up. Some will have other commitments on that day. Be gently persistent. Invite them all again and continue to do so and, if they come once, don't believe you have done your duty! Encourage them and invite them again.

I would like 2012 to be the year of Invitation and Encouragement and Spiritual Nurture and Growth for Holy Trinity Hampton. If you have any ideas, or wish to offer help in any way to achieve this, please speak to me, or one of the Vestry.

Let's together be a growing, healthy, vital community of faith and fun.

I would like to thank very sincerely and appreciatively our hard working Wardens, - Tony Mayor, Glenn Adams and Richard Pennington – and the Vestry Members, as well as our wonderful Treasurer Martin Turner, our excellent Parish Secretary Jill Esplan and our organist Ian Keenan.

Our deepest thanks must also go to our Sunday School teachers, our Choir, our Sacristans and particularly Kate Walker and Linda Barry, as well as all on our Ministry Teams and Rosters.

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## The Grapevine

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## 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.

## Vicar's Annual Report

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I continue to have a participatory and meaningful presence in the Holy Trinity Kindergarten. I am Chair of its very active Parents' Committee and it is pleasing to see the number of Kinder families who attend our Christmas Crib Service and have had children baptised as well. Complementing this, I take an active role on the Melbourne Anglican Early Childhood Services Executive Committee.

I continue active involvement in the Hampton Churches Ministers' Group, the City of Bayside Anglican Clergy Deanery Group, the Bayside4 Anglican Churches Meeting of Wardens and Clergy twice a year and several other Anglican Diocesan groups. I have also just recently been elected, once again after several years break, to be a Diocesan Clergy Consultant for Parishes undergoing a change of Vicar or Incumbent when their Vicar leaves or retires. This is an important role in enabling Parishes to know something about many Clergy they may not know anything about and who may be a suitable applicant for the Parish's needs.

I commend all the issues raised in my report for your prayer, reflection and action and I look forward to this coming year being a stimulating, joyous and inspiring one for us all.

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I am also including the sermon I preached at the Christmas services last year and hope it may encourage you and your friends and family to really celebrate the Birth of Christ and all that it means to us.

May we all have a Happy, Joy-filled Christmas and New Year and a wonderful 2012 year ahead.

God Bless.

Fr. David.

### What's Happened To Christmas?

Christmas is not what it used to be. For all sorts of reasons Christmas, for many in our society, has lost a lot of its specialness and distinctive, unique seasonal flavour.

Of course, firstly we can blame commercialization: Christmas trees in shops, and advertising for Christmas go up at the start of November, or even earlier. No longer is Christmas a really special "December birthday" but it is over-extended and loses all its concentrated specialness and we get sick of it rather than get excited by it.

Secondly, we can blame political correctness. No longer is it considered to be politically correct and multi-culturally sensitive to have Nativity scenes and carols and special Christmas religious connections in shopping centres and schools and kinders and even some city

### Ha! Ha! Ha!

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher

### Ha! Ha! Ha! Holy Humour

from Margaret Tripp

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

\*\*\*\*\*

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humour, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign.... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

### Get to Know your Vestry

#### Wardens :

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

#### Vestry Members :

Caroline Aikins,  
Bill Appelbe,  
Linda Barry,  
Andrew Esplan,  
Martin Turner (Parish Treasurer),  
and Greg Wolfenden.

### Ha! Ha! Ha!

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

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This is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

## What's Happened To Christmas?

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councils are clamping down on Christmas scenes lighting up front gardens of houses. So sadly, Christmas is increasingly embraced and celebrated as some sort of religion-less holiday and a party time and family celebration that has lost most of its connectedness to the Christian faith origins.

Thirdly, we can blame technology and the internet which have caused a significant decrease in the sending and receiving of Christmas cards as people now send email Christmas letters and E-cards that twitter and jingle on the screen. I have to say I deplore them. It is a bit of a chore to write and address well over 130 Christmas cards as I do, but it is a gift of love and care to people who are, or who have been, important in my life and especially people whom I rarely see but nevertheless I want to be remembered at this special season of giving and blessing and loving. These cards acknowledge that we celebrate the greatest gift of love ever in God's son born to be one of us.

Finally, we can blame busyness and stress, cut backs and higher electricity prices for the almost total lack of Christmas lights and Christmas trees and Christmas decorations in our shopping strips and particularly on our suburban houses. Moreover, the Christmas trees we do see in shops often are laden with commercial gear such as the tree in the local TSL Brands shop window laden with underwear! It is an advertising tree, not a Christmas tree. Our streets are dismally unfestive and even I, a lover of Christmas and all it means, find it difficult to maintain the momentum when there is so much apathy around, even among people of committed Christian persuasion.

But Christmas is at the core of our Christian faith. It is absolutely central with the celebration of Easter to our *raison d'être* – our reason for being – as people of Christian faith. Christmas celebrates the most amazing belief that God – the creator of the universe and of its incredible complexity and infinity – could so love this tiny earth in the vast infinity of what is out there – that God could so love this earth and so love us who are often very intractable and at times seemingly unlovable! That God would risk to become for an instant in time one of us, that God would, if you like, “take on skin and bones and the whole wonderful and messy bits of being human” so that God could assure us that we are forever blessed and loved in his mystery of creation.

Part of the purpose of Christmas is to show us how God responds to what we really most need. First note that God's answer is not the answer we expect of an all powerful, all wondrous God.

Mary does not prove to be a royal princess. The value of the three wise men's gifts seems to be more in their meaning than their monetary value. And for all of the angels and signs in the heavens, Joseph and his family just barely get out of Bethlehem with no time to spare before Herod's storm troopers come in and seek to kill all the baby boys.

The biblical Christmas story is very much a family and communal event, but not what you might expect. No sooner do we meet Joseph in Matthew's version than we see him trying to figure out how to break up with Mary with the least humiliation and embarrassment for the two of them. She's pregnant and he's certainly not the biological father. He wants out!!

It takes God's direct intervention in the dream-visit of an angel for Joseph to discover that the right thing to do is just the opposite of what he was raised to believe. Love and compassion are for rigid rules.

We hear little of the emotional lives of Mary and Joseph in the story, but we see them each acting generously and graciously under extreme stress. In Luke's account we see Mary's perspective on her pregnancy, how she accepts her problematic status and sees in it God at work, regardless of what anyone else might think.

By the end of the story, Mary and Joseph have each been brave in their own way – in facing down their doubt, in facing physical danger, in making difficult choices, and in staying together. Perhaps one of the significant but undervalued lessons for families and communities at Christmas is that difficult times can be opportunities for deeper blessings and that what we have always believed needs to be tested against what God might be calling us to now. And Christmas is not just about us! There are plenty of “others” in the Christmas story – the poor, the outsider, the unwashed! There are plenty of “thems” in the Christmas story.

It's perfectly fine for the dirty, redneck shepherds to be abiding in the fields by night with their flocks, as long as they stay there.

Shepherds are outsiders, unable, by the demands of their profession, to keep the various requirements of the law. But they did not just stumble onto the manger and the baby Jesus by accident; they were the only ones with a hand-delivered invitation from God. And God doesn't just send a messenger; he dispatches the whole tabernacle choir in their best vestments to back up the message with full choral accompaniment!

It's a pretty big deal for working shepherds who generally never make it to the top of anyone's guest list! God is not just speaking platitudes about hospitality and inclusion, God is making sure the working people on the nightshift get included first.

Then God also gives place of honour to the Magi, Arabs from the East, unclean outsiders of a different sort than shepherds. The East was the direction of Babylon, the ancient biblical place of exile, and Magi were certainly pagans, and whether they were actually kings or just wise astrologers, they were definitely not people observing the traditions of the people of God. And yet they, not the King of Jerusalem, were the ones who came guided by a star to honour the eternal King of the Jews. The distinguished temple scholars knew that if the Messiah was ever actually to come, it would be in Bethlehem. They were clueless that it was happening right now! The outsiders get it; the insiders, at best, are oblivious to God's active presence and, at worst, are like Herod who

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## What's Happened To Christmas?

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sends in his troops to wipe out the possibility of God's son becoming King in his place.

The Christmas story reminds us that God sometimes speaks to "others outside" more directly and more clearly than to people like "us". God went to considerable lengths to be sure that night-shift shepherds and pagan astrologers got the word - they got tickets to the world premiere. If that is how God treats "them", then perhaps there is a lesson there for "us" to be inclusive and always open to God's presence everywhere.

The essence of the Christmas story is that in the darkness, light shines, and the darkness does not overcome it. The Christmas lights will be packed up and put away, trees will go to the green waste bin, and all that we bought will fade away. But if we can take all that Christmas is really about and, like Mary, ponder it in our hearts, then what a life of joy and peace lies ahead of us.

Rejoice and be glad – it is a wonderful and awesome mystery to share and celebrate!

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## Thanks for the Stamps

Kath FitzGerald received a thank you note in July from ABM for all the stamps the parish collects and gives to them to sell. When the letter was received in mid-July, sales so far this year had netted \$3,574.20 so the total for the whole year is expected to be well above the \$4,684.40 that was forwarded to Sydney from 2010 sales.

So, keep on collecting your used stamps, especially with Christmas just around the corner and bring them to church trimmed leaving a 1.5cm border around each one.

## About our Email and Telephone Prayer Teams

Don't forget we have two teams of people who are very happy to pray for 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).

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## Ha! Ha! Ha! Recall Notice

*From May 2011 Cursillo newsletter and submitted by Ann Mayor.*

The Maker of all human beings (GOD) is recalling all units manufactured, regardless of make or year, due to a serious defect in the primary and central component of the heart.

This is due to a malfunction in the original prototype units code named Adam and Eve, resulting in the reproduction of the same defect in all subsequent units. This defect has been technically termed "Sub-sequential Internal Non-Morality" or more commonly known as S.I.N. as it is primarily expressed.

Some of the symptoms include :

1. Loss of direction
2. Foul vocal emissions
3. Amnesia of origin
4. Lack of peace and joy
5. Selfish or violent behaviour
6. Depression or confusion in the mental component
7. Fearfulness
8. Idolatry
9. Rebellion

The Manufacturer, who is neither liable, nor at fault for this defect, is providing factory-authorized repair and service free of charge to correct this defect. The Repair Technician, JESUS, has most generously offered to bear the entire burden of the staggering cost of these repairs. There is no additional fee.

The number to call for this repair in all areas is

P-R-A-Y-E-R.

Once connected, please upload your burden id SIN through the REPENTANCE procedure. Next, download ATONEMENT from the Repair Technician, JESUS, into the heart component.

No matter how big or small the SIN defect is, **Jesus** will replace it with

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self Control

Please see the operating manual, the B.I.B.L.E. (Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth) for further details on the use of these fixes.

**WARNING:** Continuing to operate the human being unit without correction voids any manufacturer warranties, exposing the unit to dangers and problems too numerous to list and will result in the human unit being permanently impounded. For free emergency service, call on **Jesus**.

**DANGER:** The human being units not responding to this recall action will have to be scrapped in the furnace. The SIN defect will not be permitted to enter Heaven so as to prevent contamination of that facility.

Thank you for your attention.

**GOD.**

PS Please assist where possible by notifying others of this important recall notice, and you may contact the Father any time by 'Knee mail'!

**Because He Lives!**

## What's Been Happening Lately?

### Footy Sunday

On **Sunday, August 28** at the 10am service the Sunday School hosted "Football Sunday". Most people came along in their footy scarves and colours and it was a lot of fun including a balloon race, a sports quiz with the left side of the congregation saying "amen" as their buzzer noise and the right side saying "ball", a story all about Echidnas using team work to climb Mt. Everest and lots of football flavoured hymns to sing along too.

What could possibly top all that? Why a footy pie and sausage roll lunch in the hall afterwards of course!

### Stewardship Sunday

On **Sunday, September 4**, we had Stewardship Sunday. This is a necessary part of our annual yearly reflection on where we are as a Parish. A Parish cannot survive if parishioners who come, however regularly, do not financially support the large costs of maintaining ministry and the three large, costly and high maintenance buildings that make up our Church, Hall and Vicarage. It would be great if we didn't have to have a focus on Stewardship, but all Parishes do and the Vestry thanks you for your response in anticipation of a good year ahead.

### Back to Church Sunday

This year it was held on **Sunday, September 11** with the primary focus being on our stewardship of our faith as we are encouraged to invite at least one person to accompany us to church. We had around 20 guests come on the day which was mildly successful but I am sure we can do better in our inviting and welcoming of others.

### Annual Blessing of the Fleet

On **Sunday, October 2** the Annual Blessing of the Hampton Sailing Club Fleet by Fr. David took place. Graeme Disney, who is honorary Lay Chaplain to Sandringham Yacht Club, blessed that fleet also on the same day.

### Parish Progressive Dinner

The Parish Progressive dinner was held on **Saturday, October 15** commencing with delicious finger food and champagne at the Appelbe home. Carolyn outdid herself with really yummy and interesting food. For example, everyone thought she had deep fried parsnips as one of the dishes

and those of us game enough to try it soon discovered they were actually prawns, just shaped to look like parsnips - and they were a taste sensation.

Next it was off - in very windy conditions but fortunately no rain - to the hall to enjoy a delicious spit roast of beef and pork.

Finally it was back to Service St to the Esplan home for dessert, coffee and port. Ann Neville brought a couple of bottles of fruit liqueur to share that a local friend had made. Must have been good because she didn't take any of it home.

Thank you to the Appelbe and Esplan families who hosted the night, to those of you who came along on the night, and to those of you who helped set up and clean up the hall. Another great night!

### *Ha! Ha! Ha! Children are Quick ...*

*(from Fr. David)*

TEACHER:

Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

GLEN:

Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

\*\*\*\*\*

TEACHER:

Millie, give me a sentence starting with 'I'

MILLIE:

I is..

TEACHER:

No, Millie..... Always say, 'I am.'

MILLIE:

All right... 'I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.'

\*\*\*\*\*

TEACHER:

George Washington not only chopped down his father's cherry tree, but also admitted it.

Now, Louie, do you know why his father didn't punish him?

LOUIS:

Because George still had the axe in his hand....

\*\*\*\*\*

TEACHER:

Now, Simon, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?

SIMON:

No sir, I don't have to, my Mum is a good cook.

\*\*\*\*\*

TEACHER:

Clyde, your composition on 'My Dog' is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

CLYDE :

No, sir. It's the same dog.

# What's Been Happening Lately? *Continued from previous page*

## Annual Pet Blessing Service

Don't know how Fr. David could bear (get it?) to be away for this service but he was on long service leave. Our locum, Fr. Brian filled in admirably as Helen and Jill ran the service on **Sunday, October 16**. It was the second of our family services this year with no communion and the Sunday School was heavily involved. Thank you to **Kai and Alexandra** who led the congregation in the Thanksgiving Prayer; to **Michaela E and Gwynneth** who read the story of Noah's Ark, and to **Michaela S-T and Jessie** who read the prayers.

A BIG thank you also to **Daniel S-T and Mikey** who made a "Claymation" of Noah's Ark using the amazing animals the Sunday School children had made out of plasticine at the end of Term 3. It was a short one and a quarter minute film and excellent.

We are very fortunate to have such technical expertise in our younger Sunday School assistants in Daniel and Mikey, and by using the BIG screen and projector in the church we didn't have to hand out prayer books, hymn books or even pewsheets as the people arrived so they could spend more time holding and cuddling their pets.

Speaking of pets, the **Saint-John family** won "most unusual pet at church" by bringing their pet blue tongue lizard. But we also had 4 six week old bantam chickens, 2 rats, 2 budgies, 2 cats and, as usual, lots of dogs. Everyone, including their owners, were very well behaved and enjoyed the service.

## Fr. David took Long Service Leave

Fr. David had five weeks Long Service Leave - mainly over the month of October - to use up a lot of his accrued Long Service Leave. He didn't go overseas (which still managed to have its share of disasters despite Fr. David still being in Australia), but spent a quiet few weeks down at his retirement home in Yarram (Gippsland) gardening, reading and pottering about.

## At Her Majesty's Request

The locum whilst Fr. David was away was **The Reverend Brian Porter** (husband to the well-known Journalist and Diocesan Identity Muriel Porter). The Parish gave him one of his weekends off however, because he and his wife were invited by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, to dine with her and the Governor General on the Sunday HRH was in Canberra! Fr. Brian's wife, Muriel, was even

invited by the GG to say Grace at the luncheon!

Fr. Brian retired several years ago after a long term ministry as a School chaplain in six Anglican schools, more recently those of Melbourne Grammar School and Brighton Grammar School. He enjoyed his ministry in the Parish and was most appreciated for his care and preaching.

A regular locum to our parish. **Fr. Walter McEntee** also filled in for two Sundays of Fr. David's leave.

## The Annual Diocesan Synod

Synod met from **October 19 to 22** and was attended by our Parish Rep **Martin Turner**, and Area Rep **Graeme Disney**. Fr. David was on LSL and Graeme Richardson was overseas so could not attend. We sincerely thank our Synod Reps in their gift of time and commitment to his important role of representing the Parish in the major electoral and voting body of the church in the Melbourne Diocese.

## Annual General Meeting

On **Sunday, November 13** we had just the one service at 9.30am and followed this with the Annual General Meeting. At the meeting all the annual reports were presented and received as well as the election of the Wardens, Vestry and Parish Incumbency Committee for 2012.

## Ha! Ha! Ha! Holy Humour

*From Margaret Tripp*

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for

'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'"

\* \* \* \* \*

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

*("What's Been Happening is continued on page 10)*

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

Christmas Presents for  
Southern Life

**Please bring your gifts  
by Sunday December 4, 2011**

Holy Trinity Parishioners and Kinder families will again this year donate presents to local families being helped by Family Life (formerly known as Southern Family Life).

They usually receive lots of things for the younger children, so would appreciate things for older children such as sporting equipment, CD vouchers, movie vouchers etc for teenagers, and toiletries, ties or socks for single fathers and toiletries or "pretty things" for single mums.

**Clients of Family Life like to choose the gift they will give to their child, so please do not wrap the presents so they can see what they are before they choose.**

**Please bring along your unwrapped gifts on either November 27 or December 4** as we need to deliver them to Family Life on Friday (Dec. 9). Here are some other ideas to help you in choosing a gift for a needy child helped by Family Life.

### 13 - 16 year old adolescents

T-shirts, sneakers, CDs tapes, videos, games, books, posters, key-rings, wallets, camera, personal radios, clock, back-pack, beach towels, diaries, calendars, year planners, cinema/book/CD vouchers, sporting goods, accessories from designer shops.

### 9 - 12 year old children

Books, games, CDs, tapes, videos, caps, hats, sneakers, t-shirts, windcheaters, netballs, footballs, swimming goggles, craft activities, jigsaws, marbles, carpentry set, cooking set, beach towels.

### 5 - 8 year old children

Lego, board games, balls, bats, paints, pencils, textas, scissors, crayons, art equipment (brushes and paints), musical instruments, videos, beach toys, toy trucks, dolls, jigsaws, socks, items from popular children's shows, cut and paste activities, billycarts, prams.

### Pre-schoolers, toddlers and babies

Lego, building blocks, crayons, drawing equipment, paints, games, books, shapes, pull-along toys, play-dough, beach toys, bath toys, socks, rattles,

mobiles, baby blankets, baby pillows, bibs, jigsaws, book tape sets, videos, cubby houses.

### Kinder Christmas Talks

Fr. David will give a Christmas talk to each of the four kinder groups at Holy Trinity Kinder in the church during the second week of December.

### "Jesus Christ - This is Your Life"

Following on from the success of their first movie last Christmas, the Sunday School will follow it up with the movie "Jesus Christ - This is Your Life" based on the popular TV show. The World Premiere of the Movie will be held at the 10am Service on **Sunday, December 18**. Put the date in your diary now! Filming will take place on December 4 and 11 so it is hoped the Sunday School children will be available on these days.

### Annual Christmas Carol Service

This will take place on **Sunday, December 18** at **7.30pm** and we expect, as usual, it will be a most inspiring and happy occasion.

Drinks and nibbles at the Vicarage will precede the Carol Service **from 6pm**. BYO drinks and glasses.

### Ha! Ha! Ha! More from Margaret Tripp

A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy.

"Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."

\*\*\*\*\*

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with petrol just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

*("Coming Up" is continued on page 9)*

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

The nibbles will be provided.

### Christmas and January Services

For full details of our Christmas Services and the change to timetables during January 2012, please see the back page of The Grapevine.

### Australia Day Celebration Service

On **Sunday, January 29** we will have a HUGE service at 10am celebrating Australia Day, the Blessing of Teachers and Children as they either begin or return to school or kinder, and the Harvest Festival.

A Parish BBQ will follow the service with the usual gold coin donation for a sausage, onion, sauce and bread deal. BYO drinks and salads to share.

We encourage parishioners to invite family and friends to join in the fun. We also encourage everyone to bring along their Harvest Festival produce - fruit, vegetables, jams, pickles, sauces and cakes to sell on the Produce Stall and also to bring lots of tinned and packet non-perishable food to give to the Emergency Relief Charities we support.

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday falls on **Wednesday, February 22, 2012** and our usual 10am service and Imposition of Ashes will occur as well as the 8pm Ecumenical Service and Imposition of Ashes at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Holyrood St.

Please bring back your old palm crosses to Holy Trinity in the weeks before February 22 so they can

### Ha! Ha! Ha! Selling Bibles – from Sue Gilbert.

A vicar concluded that his church was getting into very serious financial troubles. While checking the church storeroom, he discovered several cartons of new bibles that had never been opened and distributed.

So at his Sunday sermon, he asked for three volunteers from the congregation who would be willing to sell the bibles door-to-door for \$10 each to raise the desperately needed money for the church.

Jack, Paul and Louie all raised their hands to volunteer for the task.

The minister knew that Jack and Paul earned their living as salesmen and were likely capable of selling some bibles. But he had serious doubts about Louie who was a local farmer, who had always kept to himself because he was embarrassed by his speech impediment.

Poor Louie stuttered badly. But, not wanting to discourage Louie, the minister decided to let him try anyway.

He sent the three of them away with the back seat of their cars stacked with bibles. He asked them to meet with him and report the results of their door-to-door selling efforts the following Sunday.

Anxious to find out how successful they were, the minister immediately asked Jack, 'Well, Jack, how did you make out selling our bibles last week?'

Proudly handing the vicar an envelope, Jack replied, 'Using my sales prowess, I was able to sell 20 bibles, and here's the \$200 I collected on behalf of the church.'

'Fine job, Jack!' The minister said, vigorously shaking his hand... Oh well done! The Church is indebted to you.'

Turning to Paul, 'And Paul, how many bibles did you sell for the Church last week?'

Paul, smiling and sticking out his chest, confidently replied, 'I am a professional salesman. I sold 28 bibles on behalf of the church, and here's \$280 I collected.'

The minister responded, 'That's absolutely splendid, Paul. The church is indebted to you.'

Apprehensively, the minister turned to Louie and said, 'And Louie, did you manage to sell any bibles last week?'

Louie silently offered the minister a large envelope. The minister opened it and counted the contents. 'What is this?' the minister exclaimed. 'Louie, there's \$3200 in here! Are you suggesting that you sold 320 bibles for the church, door to door, in just one week? Louie just nodded.

'That's impossible!' both Jack and Paul said in unison. 'We're professional salesmen, yet you claim to have sold 10 times as many bibles as we could!'

'Yes, this does seem unlikely,' the minister agreed. 'I think you'd better explain how you managed to accomplish this, Louie.' Louie shrugged.. 'I-I-I re-re-really do-do-don't kn-kn-know f-f-f-for sh-sh-sh-sure,' he stammered.

Impatiently, Peter interrupted. 'For crying out loud, Louie, just tell us what you said to them when they answered the door!'

'A-a-a-all I-I-I s-s-said wa-wa-was,' Louis replied, 'W-w-w-w-would y-y-y-you l-l-l-l-like t-t-to b-b-b-buy th-th-th-this b-b-b-bible f-f-for t-t-ten b-b-b-bucks ---o-o-o-or--- wo-wo-would yo-you j-j-j-just l-like m-m-me t-t-to st-st-stand h-h-here and r-r-r-r-r-read it t-to y-y-you??'

## From the Parish Registers July 2011 – October 2011

*May God bless you in your life in Christ!*



31/07/2011	Zara Mary Davis
31/07/2011	Owen Walter Davis
07/08/2011	Hamish Nicholas Walker
24/09/2011	Mia Matilda Eileen Stauber
02/10/2011	Callum William Curtis
30/10/2011	Noah Hudson Currie



10/09/2011	George Tamvakis and Jennifer Paturzo
24/09/2011	Jared Chaplin and Emma Ramadge



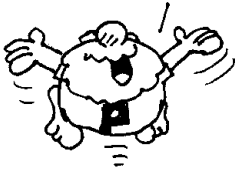
01/07/2011	Phyllis May Garner
29/07/2011	Elaine Opal Markby
17/08/2011	Christopher Raymond Hennessey <i>A much loved parishioner who used to be brought to Church every so often in a big wheelchair as he was a quadriplegic.</i>
15/09/2011	Paul Mason Hodges

### Significant Birthdays

29/07/2011	Liz Carter
07/08/2011	Maurice Kezilas
28/10/2011	Tino Karras



CONGRATULATIONS!



Congratulations to **Linda and Don Barry** on becoming grandparents - a grandson Jayden John (to son Jason)

Congratulations to **Anthea and Kevin Soutter** on becoming grandparents again - a granddaughter Kellisa (to son Glenn)

Congratulations to **Dougal Mayor** (Ann and Tony's son) who received the Silver Kokoda Medal for Distinguished Service to the Scouting Association.

Congratulations to **Ann Mayor** who has become a highly skilled presenter on behalf of the Breast Cancer Association, recently speaking to a large audience in the Dallas Brooks Hall, East Melbourne.

### What's Been Happening Lately? (continued from page 7)

Over the past few months a considerable amount of work has been carried out in the Vicarage Back Garden and surrounding areas trying to locate, unblock and replace the storm water drainage system. We had a full day working bee to which seven eager parishioners attended while Mark Holland clipped the front hedge. It was hard and laborious work and further periods of work had to be continued in various other parts of the property. We have resolved most but not all of the problems so far. We particularly thank **Greg Wolfenden** and **Tony Mayor** for their hours of extra work and service.

*Well done and thank you to all who helped!*



### Christmas Word Search

How many words can you find in the puzzle using the word bank below?

Words can only go across, down, or diagonally.

J	H	O	L	Y	S	P	I	R	I	T
E	T	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	D	K
S	T	A	R	X	Q	R	B	A	O	I
U	H	E	A	V	E	N	X	V	N	N
S	M	A	N	G	E	R	D	I	K	G
W	I	S	E	M	A	N	E	O	E	S
I	N	N	K	E	E	P	E	R	Y	Z
F	H	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M

Word Bank:

BETHLEHEM

HEAVEN

JESUS

SAVIOR

CANDLE

HOLY SPIRIT

KINGS

STAR

DONKEY

INNKEEPER

MANGER

WISEMAN

### Christmas Colouring

Colour them both in, and don't forget to draw your own decorations on the Christmas Tree!



Merry Christmas Kids and we look forward to seeing you at Sunday School next year, beginning Sunday, February 5 at 10am.

**JESUS**  
THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

# Christmas

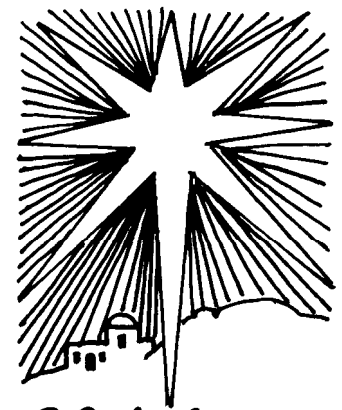
**Sunday,  
December 18** (Advent  
4)

- 8.00 am - Said Holy Eucharist
- 10.00 am - Sung Holy Eucharist & Sunday School Movie premiere
- 7:30 pm - Traditional Carol Service

COME AND  
**CELEBRATE**  
WITH US!!

**Christmas Eve, December 24**

- 7.00 pm - Children's Crib Service - *always a standing room only service! Come dressed as a nativity play character!*
- 11.30 pm - Midnight Eucharist - *be early to get a good seat and then join us after the service for Port & Christmas Cake!*



**Christmas Day, December 25**

- 8.00 am - Christmas Eucharist
- 10.00 am - Christmas Family Eucharist with

**Christmas**



## December / January Holiday Service Schedule

### Sundays

There will be one Sunday Service at **10am** on Sunday, January 1 & January 8. From January 15, Sunday services are at 8am and 10am as usual.

**Sunday School will resume on Sunday, February 5, 2012**

*No morning tea will be served after the 10.00am service on Sunday January 1, or on Christmas Day.*

### Wednesdays

Last 10 am service on December 14, 2011. Resumes 11/01/2012

Last 7.30 pm Meditation Service on December 21, 2011.

Resumes 01/02/2012

### Thursdays

Last 6.30 am Prayer Group meeting on December 15 Resumes 19/1/2012

Last 10.30 am to 12 noon Open Church & morning coffee on 15/12/2011

Resumes 02/02/2012.

