

SALT

ST MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CHELTENHAM

PARISH NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2014 / JANUARY 2015

A WORD FROM OUR VICAR...

The young woman was heavily pregnant and there were dozens ahead of her in the line as they all waited to vote. Although the weather was 'kind' she appeared hot and tired and a certain anxiety was reflected in her eyes. Was she afraid that she might go into labour in this unfamiliar environment surrounded by strangers? Her husband / partner supported her as best he could and made sure she had her water bottle at hand; he beckoned to an official who led the woman to the voting area, seated her and arranged for her to vote in comparative comfort...

About 2020 years ago an even younger pregnant woman stood in line whilst her partner was registered in a census. Presumably she was also anxious as she knew birth was imminent. But the situation was not going to improve. The place was crowded and accommodation was going to be of very short supply and the young woman was probably tired, anxious and hot having travelled at least three days and was now surrounded by strangers in an unfamiliar environment and worried that she might expose herself by giving birth very publicly. Her fiancé / husband (depending on who you read) being an 'honourable man' was certainly caring for her but he could not conjure up accommodation even though he was in the area of his birth town. (Perhaps like him, all the relations had moved to other areas).

Things were not to get any better. Not moving up the queue, no helpful official, just the inevitable – the birth. And where did this take place? 'No room in the inn' but perhaps on the ground floor of the inn with the animals or in the main street or (as one tradition has it) in a cave.

It seems that the now younger mother had come prepared, for having given birth (and according to custom rubbed the baby with salt) she wrapped him in strips of cloth and 'laid him in a manger'.

'Very God of very God', this 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords', this Yeshua, this Joshua, this Jesus.



Fr Ron White, Parish Priest

WORSHIP

ST MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Corner Nepean Highway & Park Road,
Cheltenham, VIC, 3192

Sundays

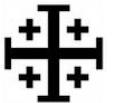
8am Eucharist with Hymns
1st Sunday of the month BCP service

10am Sung Eucharist

1st Sunday of the month Family service with
Sunday School

Wednesdays

10am Eucharist (not in January)



FRIENDS OF ST FRANCIS

Community of the Holy Name (CHN)
40 Cavanagh Street, Cheltenham, VIC, 3192
Phone: (03) 9583 2087

Sundays

9.30am in the Prayer Room at the Community

CLERGY & STAFF

Fr Ron White – Parish Priest & Bayside Area Dean
The Rev'd Margot Poole – Priest Associate
Fr Andre Hassing – Priest Associate
Marlene Davies – Organist / Musical Director
Claire Johnston – Parish Secretary

WARDENS & VESTRY

Sandra Cooper – Vicar's Warden & Vestry Sec.
Sue Polites – People's Warden
Phil Whelan – People's Warden

Sandra Cooper – Treasurer (temporary)

Debby Howard & Marlene Gale

CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Office

161 Park Road, Cheltenham, VIC, 3192
Hours: Wednesday to Friday, 9am to 4pm
Phone: (03) 9583 2205 Fax: (03) 9583 9660
Email: stmatthewsanglicanchurch@bigpond.com
Website: www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au

CHELTENHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Did you know that we can accommodate 400 people in the pews of the church? Not adults, but children of various ages and sizes, from our local school – Cheltenham Primary School – who had with teachers, parents (and ankle-biters), grandparents and friends come together for their annual Christmas service which was held on Thursday 4th December at 9.30am – over 500 people in the church!

They sang and prayed, listened to a Christmas story read by the Principal and the Biblical account read by the School Captains, Matthew and Meaghan, and Fr Ron suggested ways in which the child's gift to their parent(s) could be worthless in monetary terms but priceless in love and help.

It was wonderful to see the delight on the faces of the children and especially the 'preps and ones' dressed in their finery...

1 Mary swaying
1 Joseph standing
10 shepherds gazing
11 Magi wondering
12 angels winging it
And a Vicar up a gum tree!



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER

7pm Carol Service

CHRISTMAS EVE

5.30pm Children's Crib Service
followed by sausage sizzle

11pm Carols by Candlelight

11.30pm Midnight Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

9am Christmas Holy Communion

SYNOD SERMON

Choral Eucharist, Opening of 2nd Session, 51st Synod Sermon:

The Venerable Perry Brohier, Archdeacon of Colombo, Sri Lanka. Preached on the Gospel - Matthew 22.34-40

Jesus was asked “which commandment in the law is the greatest?”. He said to him, “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment, and a second is like it “You shall love your neighbour as yourself”. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Archdeacon Brohier stated that Jesus’ answer was very clever, as he emphasized that we should love God emotionally with our hearts, spiritually with our souls and intellectually with our minds. He also made the point regarding the second commandment that you are of no value to anyone if at first you don’t love yourself. Then you must love your neighbour equally.

He emphasized that Christians live lives of integrity. That the Christian church is active in the chaos that is in the world. Our relationship with God influences all our other relationships. We must believe in God with conviction. We must be aware of why we behave and why we act in a certain way. Our ministry in the midst of chaos is a sign of God’s care.

Archdeacon Brohier states that it is hard to accept, love and forgive others at times, but we have to remind ourselves of our commitment to God and Jesus. When we love God we love one another, thus reducing the chaos and conflict in the world.

We need to yield ourselves to God and thus reflect His presence and His peace. God’s Holy Spirit exposes our lives to God’s radiance.

Archdeacon Brohier implores us to be the person God calls us to be. We must trust in His care and walk by faith, not by sight.

Deborah Howard, St Matthew’s Synod Rep

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



JOHN THE BAPTIST
Matthew 3

LORD
 BAPTIZE
 REPENT
 PREPARE
 STRAIGHT
 LOCUSTS
 KINGDOM
 PATHS
 HONEY
 JOHN
 PREACHING
 CAMEL
 HAIR
 WILD
 BELT

OP SHOP CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

Over 30 volunteers gathered for the Annual Christmas / Thank you lunch on Monday 8th December at the Mordialloc Sporting Club. They were fortunate enough to procure a private function room with a brilliant view of the bay. All was silent...until the guests arrived and then it was like people's day at the Royal Show!

Over a wonderful meal there was opportunity to thank all for their ministry during the year; Julie was presented with gifts and thanked for her leadership; small gifts were distributed and each volunteer received a beautiful 'bag' of chocolates. Phil was able to live through a time of being surrounded by women and everyone expressed their appreciation of the occasion.

Once again we thank all who are involved in this wonderful form of outreach to others and the support of the parish.



PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

19th October – Milla Rose Burnham

19th October – Ashleigh Logan Burnham

9th November – Madden Ashworth Ferdinands

9th November – Leo Scott Nathan

23rd November – Lachlan James Gillett

23rd November – Adam Michael Gillett

23rd November – Elysia Rose Gillett



Weddings

31st October – David George Polites &
Emily Ruth Manger



Funerals / Memorial Services

14th November – Janice Flexer Daff

21st November – Lindsay Gordon Ritter

3rd December – Gaye Elizabeth Schade



LOVE AND AFFECTION

The Archbishop of Canterbury has urged families to show "love and affection" at Christmas rather than giving expensive presents. The Most Rev'd Justin Welby said families should not to make their lives "miserable" by trying to keep up with "ridiculous" pressures to spend money.

He admitted it was a "cliché of modern life" to complain about materialism. But he said the "over-the-top" consumerism of the festive season was putting relationships under strain. In an interview with The Martin Lewis Money Show recently he said: "It's a cliché of modern life that someone gets up and says Christmas is becoming very materialistic as though it wasn't 300 years ago. Yes obviously the secular over-the-topness, everything you have to have, new clothes you have to have, new this, new that, new the other, is ridiculous, it's absurd, it shouldn't happen. It puts pressure on relationships because when you're short of money you argue. You get cross with your kids more easily, it spoils life."

The archbishop said that if he suggested that people should stop giving Christmas gifts, no-one would listen. "It's obviously not what Christmas is about but to be absolutely honest, there's not that much point in saying it because nobody's going to pay attention," he said.

He added: "Giving at Christmas reflects that generosity of God. So be generous in a way that shows love and affection rather than trying to buy love and affection," he said. "You can't buy it, you can show it, and when you show it, it comes back at you with interest. Save up for the Christmas budget, be sensible, don't put pressure on your finances - don't make your life miserable with Christmas".

"Share love and affection with reasonable gifts that demonstrate you really care for someone. That makes for the best Christmas you could ever have."

St Andrews's News Kettering, December 2013 / January 2014

QUESTIONING GOD IS OK

When asked by the BBC reporter for his response to recent media reports he was agnostic, the Archbishop laughed out loud. "I am a believing Christian," he said. "I believe in God, I believe that Jesus Christ is God. I say the Creed without crossing my fingers at any point. Clear."

The reports arose after Justin Welby's tour of England's West Country when he was interviewed ahead of Holy Eucharist at Bristol Cathedral.

"I was asked a question: 'Did I ever have any doubts?' I said, 'Yes, everybody has doubts'. It's true. I think everybody has moments of doubt. They then said, 'What do you do with those moments of doubt?' I said, 'I pray, and I find that God is extraordinarily faithful even when we're faithless, he overcomes our weaknesses.'"

The Archbishop told the BBC's William Crawley that reports of his interview at the cathedral had omitted the second half of the answer.

"You find in the Psalms these extraordinary Psalms of questioning. In Job you find Job saying, 'I wish I could believe God didn't exist; what I'm really worried about is that he's against me'.

"I've lived through extraordinary things in my life," explained the Archbishop, "The death of a child, all kinds of really testing things, being in war zones, and there have been many moments where I've said, 'God what are you doing? Why is it like this?'

"So here's an extraordinary idea: that the Archbishop of Canterbury doesn't believe in God! I believe in God. I, just like everyone else, ask lots of questions and I ask God the questions and I find that he is faithful."

BBC

JANUARY

Just a reminder that in January there will be no Wednesday or weekday services and no morning tea after the 10am Mass on Sunday. The Parish Office will be closed until Wednesday 22nd January.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The clergy and staff of St Matthew's wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and a great start to the New Year.

May this 'holy day' season be a safe time for you all.

Thank you for all your cards and greetings.



AND NOW FOR NEXT YEAR...

Wednesday 18th Feb	Ash Wednesday
Sunday 15th Mar	Mothering Sunday
Wednesday 25th Mar	Annunciation
Sunday 29th Mar	Palm Sunday
Friday 3rd Apr	Good Friday
Sunday 5th Apr	Easter Day

2015

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 3rd Weekday Service – Frances Perry
10am Eucharist
- 4th 9.30am Cheltenham Primary School Service
- 7th Sunday Services – Second Sunday of Advent
8am BCP & 10am Mass
12 noon Parish BBQ
- 10th Weekday Service
10am Eucharist
- 14th Sunday Services –Third Sunday of Advent
8am & 10am Mass
Healing service will follow the 10am Mass
- 17th Weekday Service
10am Eucharist
- 21st Sunday Services – Fourth Sunday of Advent
8am & 10am Mass
11.15am Devonshire Tea
7pm Carol Service
- 24th Christmas Eve
5.30pm Children's Crib Service
followed by sausage sizzle
11pm Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm Midnight Mass
- 25th Christmas Day
9am Christmas Holy Communion
- 26th Weekday Service – Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
10am Eucharist
- 27th Weekday Service –John, Apostle & Evangelist
10am Eucharist

DECEMBER

- 28th Sunday Services – Holy Innocents
8am & 10am Mass
- 31st Weekday Service
10am Eucharist

Morning tea follows the 10am Mass on Sundays



JANUARY

- 4th Sunday Services – The Epiphany of our Lord
8am & 10am Mass
- 11th Sunday Services – Baptism of our Lord
8am & 10am Mass
- 18th Sunday Services – Second Sunday after Epiphany
8am & 10am Mass
- 25th Sunday Service – Australia Day
8am & 10am Mass

Please note morning tea is not held in January

