

SALT

ST MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CHELTENHAM

PARISH NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY / MARCH 2015

A WORD FROM OUR VICAR...

Can you sing? Not in the same league as Joan Sutherland or Peter Dawson or Emmerson or Lake or Palmer; but can you 'hold a note', follow the little black dots as they exercise on the lines? The ministry of singing (belonging to a choir) can be and often is demanding but there are times when there is pure joy.

Our choir sang 'O Holy Night' during the administration at Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and I happened to look over to them as they finished and I was fortunate enough to see a small sliver of the church triumphant as with eyes ablaze they oozed the phrase – 'we did it!' and what a way to welcome the Christ Child and what an achievement for organist and choir and what a gift for us who heard. Yet, of course it didn't just happen; it took many rehearsals including 'extras' at odd times and not all were present for all the rehearsals and yet it came together beautifully.

So you can't sing! Well how about read, pray, greet, serve or administer the chalice? All of these areas of service are ministry. The new roster is about to be drawn up and it would be wonderful to be able to add some new names. Or would you prefer to work in the background and be a member of the flower roster or assist in our ministry to those in nursing homes or learn the necessary skills of a sacristan and so set up the church for the masses and keep available the supply of Altar linen.

But we have people who do these things now!! Yes but there are many who once ministered in various ways but because of age or infirmity or circumstances are no longer able to continue in these various tasks. To be able to make the scriptures come alive for others, to lead in prayer for His world and His people, to handle the sacred vessels in various capacities or welcome the faithful and the stranger or visitor Sunday by Sunday are essential parts of the mix that make up the body of Christ in this place.

Training is available, help is at hand, encouragement is forthcoming and the rewards are out of this world! Have you spoken to God about this? Perhaps it's time you did. You may find Him leading you to a particular ministry or task.



Fr Ron White, Parish Priest
(P.S. Can you sing?!)

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



CANDLEMAS

The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple was known in Jerusalem in the 4th century and one hundred years later a form of the blessing of candles had become a part of the festival – thus Candlemas. The candles were used in worship and the votive tapers are blessed as reminders of the Christ, 'the Light to lighten the Gentiles'.

If people desire it, candles for personal use in such areas as a prayer corner, are also blessed. Although Christmas has officially ended Candlemas is often experienced as 'the formal ending of the Christmas cycle'.

Below are some photos from this year's service.



FUNDRAISING

Congratulations to the winners of our Christmas Special Effort, which was drawn on Sunday 21st December, during our Devonshire morning tea.

1st prize – Rosemary Van Buuren

2nd prize – Zach (Kath Daly)

3rd prize – June Mullens

We hope the winners enjoyed their prizes!!

Our appreciation to those who supported our Special Effort – we raised \$322!

Thanks to all who made our Devonshire morning tea such a success. The amount we raised was \$211.75! And we thank those who worked so hard in the kitchen to achieve such a wonderful outcome.



PANCAKES

To honour the traditions of Shrove Tuesday, join us for a pancake feast and fellowship on Sunday 15th February at around 9am – where members from both



congregations can enjoy and catch up.

We meet on the Sunday as it is difficult for people to attend on Tuesday night.

ASH WEDNESDAY

One of the most important days in the Church calendar, Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of abstinence and prayer leading up to Easter. The palm crosses from the previous year are burnt and reduced to ash and the priest makes the sign of the cross with the ash on the forehead of each person.



Mass times (with Imposition of ashes) are 10am and 6pm on 18th February.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Please join us as we give thanks for our mothers. As is our custom we will bless and distribute Simnel Cake at both services on Mothering Sunday the 15th March. We will also hold our first Parish Breakfast for the year on this day.

If anyone can provide a Simnel Cake please contact the Parish Office.



FLOWERS FOR EASTER

Lent is one of the two times of the church's year when we don't decorate the building with flowers. This is to remind us of the austerity of Lent when we try to live with less, however when we come to Easter we want to reflect the joy and the light of the celebration and flowers burst onto the scene again.

If you would like to donate towards flowers for Easter please put the money in an envelope marked 'Flowers for Easter' and place in the collection plate.



Holy Week & Easter Services



† March 29 – Palm Sunday †

8am & 10am: Blessing of Palms and Procession

† Weekday Services †

Mon, Tues & Wed: 10am Eucharist

† April 2 – Maundy Thursday †

7pm: Eucharist with Foot Washing

† April 3 – Good Friday †

10am: Walk of Witness

12 noon: Devotions

2pm: Stations of the Cross

† April 5 – Easter Day †

8am: Lighting of the New Fire & Eucharist

10am: Easter Holy Communion



CHILDREN'S CRIB SERVICE

Our Crib service continues to grow and in fact is the largest of all the Christmas services. As part of the telling of the story, the children place the crib figures in front of the Altar and they stay that way even (as happened last year) if the oxen is uninterested in what is happening.

Most of the children made a 'window' card of the manger scene but a few of the 'knee highs' found it easier to colour an angel. Singing of carols and choosing a gift by each child and a Christmas book for each family were an exciting part of the service which ended with the Lord's prayer.

And the mess was impressive!!

What was even more impressive was the fact that a number of the parents helped in the clean up and so everyone was able to enjoy a very happy sausage sizzle.



Easter Sunrise Surprise

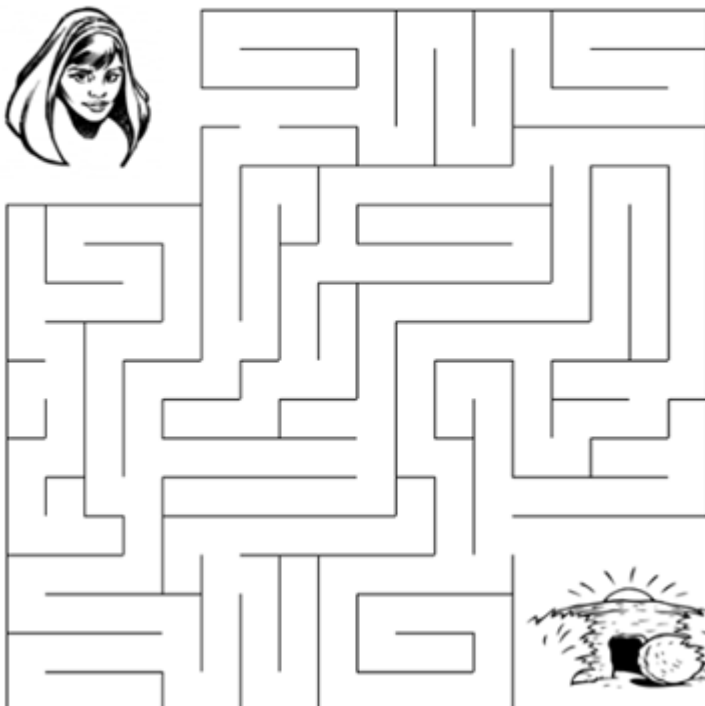
He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:6a (NIV)
 The puzzle is based on Luke 24:1-12 (NIV).



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

living
 women
 faces
 morning
 tomb
 first
 stone
 week
 rolled
 spices
 entered
 body
 risen
 away
 ground
 fright
 dead
 bowed
 remember
 day

Can you find the way to the empty tomb?

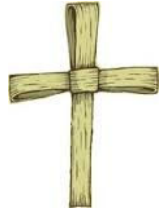


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PALM CROSSES

We will once again be making palm crosses which we use for our procession on Palm Sunday. We usually have a small but enthusiastic group who enjoy a good chat and morning tea whilst making the crosses.

We will continue this tradition on Saturday 28th March at 9am in the Parish Office. We will provide the palms and instructions and if you have never made one before help will be at hand so please join us!



PARISH FUNCTIONS



We will hold our Parish Luncheon on the following dates:

7th June (soup),
2nd August (finger food),
4th October (BBQ) & 6th December (BBQ)

The dates for our Parish Breakfast this year are:

31st May, 30th August & 29th November



Please note these dates and don't forget these are an opportunity to bring members of the family, friends and neighbours and introduce them to our fellowship.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 1st Sunday Services – Candlemas
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Septuagesima
8am BCP & 10am Family Service
12 noon Parish BBQ
- 4th Weekday Service – First Anglican Service at Sydney Cove
10am Eucharist
- 8th Sunday Services – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Sexagesima
8am & 10am Mass
Healing service will follow the 10am Mass
- 11th Weekday Service
10am Eucharist
- 15th Sunday Services – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Quinquagesima
8am & 10am Mass
9am Pancakes
- 18th Weekday Service – Ash Wednesday
10am & 6pm Blessing & Imposition of Ashes
- 22nd Sunday Services – First Sunday in Lent
8am & 10am Mass
- 25th Weekday Service
10am Eucharist



Morning tea follows the 10am Mass on Sundays

MARCH

- 1st Sunday Services – Second Sunday in Lent
8am BCP & 10am Family Service
- 4th Weekday Service
10am Eucharist
- 8th Sunday Services – Third Sunday in Lent
8am & 10am Mass
Healing service will follow the 10am Mass
- 11th Weekday Service
10am Eucharist
- 15th Sunday Services – Mothering Sunday
8am & 10am Mass
- 18th Weekday Service
10am Eucharist
- 22nd Sunday Services – Passion Sunday
Fifth Sunday in Lent
8am & 10am Mass
- 25th Weekday Service – The Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary
10am Eucharist
- 28th 9am Making of Palm Crosses
- 29th Sunday Services – Palm Sunday
Procession & Blessing of Palms
8am & 10am Mass

