

# SALT

## ST MATTHEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CHELTENHAM

### PARISH NEWSLETTER – JUNE / JULY 2015

#### A WORD FROM OUR VICAR...

There is no shortage of news of the death of a famous or infamous person and the occasion gives rise to the retelling of their life story and often, sadly, an opportunity to 'bring down the tall poppy' – we so often hone in on the negatives and forget the good that people achieve.

This 'thought' wafted around as I looked into the lectionary at the approaching Saints days and realised that in a few weeks we will be celebrating the feast of St Mary Magdalene – the one to whom Jesus appeared on the day of Resurrection and commanded her to be the bearer of the good news that he was risen. Yet in a recent conversation I heard, once again, Mary described as a prostitute.

Yes, there were many in the church who for centuries described her as such but there is nothing in the Gospels to support this concept. Certainly she was the one out of whom Jesus cast seven demons / devils / evil spirits – whatever that was and in the past she was 'erroneously equated' with the 'sinner' who anointed and kissed the feet of Jesus and so appalled the Pharisees but scholarship has long rejected such an association (Luke 7.36-end).

Mary Magdalene along with some other women supported the ministry of Jesus financially and accompanied the twelve on their roving ministry – see Luke 8.1-3. She stood by the cross at the Crucifixion and was one of the women who came to the tomb on Easter morn to continue the burial customs but found the tomb empty. Utterly bereft, she stayed at the tomb and such was the depth of her sorrow she failed to recognise our Lord until he spoke her name. As I stated before he then gave her the task of announcing the risen Christ for which she is often remembered as the Apostle to the Apostles.

"Oh yes" cries the accuser. "This doesn't mean that she wasn't a sinner"! Of course she was a sinner. You and I are sinners – 'All have sinned and come short of the glory of God'.

Jesus forgave her  
Jesus forgives us  
Jesus accepted her  
Jesus accepts us.

 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 & Harold Daly

#### 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

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Website: [www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au](http://www.stmatthewscheltenham.org.au)



## ALL GOOD THINGS...ARE SENT FROM HEAVEN ABOVE

Already a wonderful array of 'produce' (plus displays of 'harvest foods') greeted those who attended our Harvest Festival, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, and added their gifts as thanksgiving to God. As most of us are no longer involved in producing food it is a sobering thought to consider the number of people we rely on (through God's good grace) to 'give us this day our daily bread'.

Lyn from Dixon House was amazed at the volume of goods received but at the same time let it be known that similar outlets were struggling to supply their clients. After a little discussion it was decided that our gift was to go to Dixon House and a wider spread of those in need and for that we rejoice.



## CLERGY CONFERENCE

A challenge: read the Gospel of Mark right through at one sitting, out loud if you can (best not to do this in the middle of Southland!). Listen to the vibrancy of the writing, the urgency of the message and the skill of Jesus as he continues to come back to 'the reason (purpose) that I came'.

This challenge was issued to all those attending the Southern Region Clergy Conference in mid May so that we could approach the Bible studies from a holistic viewpoint. So often, when we hear sections week by week at the Mass we lose sight of the impact of the whole!

Study is not the only advantage of a conference – meeting new clergy, renewing older relationships and fellowship over meals and 'after hours'. Each day began with worship and ended with worship (Compline) whilst the major study over a number of sessions concerned relationships. The Bishop and Archbishop also addressed us as did the Registrar to prepare us for the Special Synod. There are also 'quiet times' although I would like to see more days or at least hours devoted to a retreat.

My thanks to all who made it possible and thanks to all who organised such a profitable time.

P.S. The wonderful Carol from St Peter's Bookroom tempted us with an excellent display of books etc.

## DRINK, EAT & BE MERRY!

Our Hall was buzzing with contentment and happiness at two of our recent gatherings; the Parish Breakfast and the Soup Luncheon – on successive Sundays. This was no barrier to the enthusiasm of those attending and with regulars from our two morning services and a few visitors there was a constant murmuring flavoured with outbursts of laughter: a sure sign of fellowship.



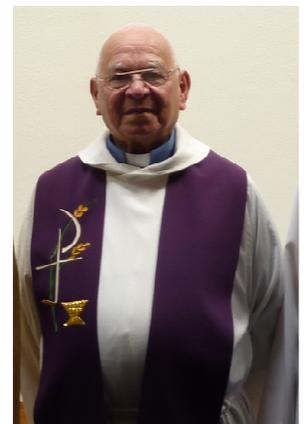
## 50 YEARS YOUNG

Achievements often go unnoticed through a variety of reasons not the least of which is modesty!

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of Fr Andre. As he won't blow his trumpet, I will!

Fr Andre has been and is a much valued priest in this Archdiocese and in particular in this parish. He is truly a man of God, a devoted servant, a person of integrity and humbleness with a deep pastoral heart.

We congratulate him on this wonderful occasion and pray that God may continue to bless his ministry for many years. Fr Ron.



## PARISH FUNCTIONS



We will hold our Parish BBQ / Luncheon every second month.

The dates for our lunches are:  
2nd August (finger food),  
4th October (BBQ) and 6th December (BBQ)

The dates for our Parish Breakfast this year are:  
30th August and 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.

## UPCOMING DATES...

Thursday 6th August	The Transfiguration of our Lord
Sunday 2nd September	Martyrs of New Guinea
Sunday 20th September	Patronal Festival
Sunday 4th October	Blessing of the Animals



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JUNE

- 4th Weekday Service  
10am Eucharist
- 5th Weekday Service – Corpus Christi  
10am Eucharist
- 7th Sunday Services – Second Sunday after Pentecost  
8am BCP & 10am Family Service  
12 noon Soup Luncheon
- 10th Weekday Service – Barnabas  
10am Eucharist
- 14th Sunday Services – Third Sunday after Pentecost  
8am & 10am Mass  
Healing service will follow the 10am Mass
- 17th Weekday Service  
10am Eucharist
- 21st Sunday Services – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
8am & 10am Mass
- 24th Weekday Service – Birth of John the Baptist  
10am Eucharist
- 28th Sunday Services – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
8am & 10am Mass



Morning tea follows the 10am Mass on Sundays

### JULY

- 1st Weekday Service  
10am Eucharist
- 5th Sunday Services – Second Sunday in Lent  
8am BCP & 10am Mass
- 8th Weekday Service  
10am Eucharist
- 12th Sunday Services – Sea Sunday  
8am & 10am Mass  
Healing service will follow the 10am Mass
- 15th Weekday Service  
10am Eucharist
- 19th Sunday Services – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
8am & 10am Mass
- 22nd Weekday Service – Mary Magdalene  
10am Eucharist
- 26th Sunday Services – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
8am & 10am Mass
- 29th Weekday Service – Mary & Martha of Bethany  
10am Eucharist

