

PARISH DIRECTORY

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**THE SUNDAY 11AM INFORMAL GATHERING HAS
BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

*Christ Church St Kilda Parish acknowledges the
Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung with deep respect.
We give thanks to God for their Elders, both past and present,
and their continuing relationship to this land.*

CHRIST CHURCH ST KILDA

Acland St, St Kilda
Newsletter

5th February 2023

**A lighthouse atop Green Knoll
A lighthouse shining in the dark
A lighthouse beaming the light
of life
of love
of hope
of Christ**



**A vision for
Christ Church St Kilda**

Dear Christ Church Parishioners,

The weather App on my phone tells me that we are being given some respite from hot weather until the middle of next week – at least.

Do we ever wonder “what is the App” which will help us to see how we are going as Christians in today’s world? Possibly not – but – however – the Bible, is the Christian’s “daily bread” – sustenance, as well as that which “guides” our lives.

This Sunday’s Scripture Readings are our guidance from God to help us keep on track as Christians in our world.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthian Church, (1 Corinthians 2:1-5), speaks of his own weaknesses in oratory, philosophy and the human power of persuasion. He admits to feeling “fear and trembling” as he came amongst the Corinthians to preach and to live amongst them during his time in Corinth. For Paul – everything is for Christ – and so he says quite openly that “only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit” was of the utmost importance so that those who heard Paul speak and those who observed his life would see and know the “power of God” at work in him.

This evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of Christians, Jesus speaks of in the Gospel reading we are focusing on today. Jesus says that we Christians are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

Jesus is not saying that we will be the salt of the earth and that we will be the light of the world – but that we are!

Salt was very important as a preservative of food – especially in times past when there were no refrigerators.

We are also very aware that during Jesus’ lifetime, electricity had not been invented and the convenience we enjoy at the flick of a switch was unknown. Light was then considered in a different light to how it is today! If an area was to be well lit, back then, the “light” would be placed where its effect would take away the darkness in as wide an area as possible.

By virtue of our faith in the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, we Christians are to influence for good and for God, by the way we live our lives so that others will turn, not to us, but to God whom we serve with our lives. Salt and light are to be of the very essence of our beings as Christians in today’s world.

This is not “easy” for any of us, especially when Christians are not at all accepted today in our society. It would appear that the “press” love to ridicule

the Christian church and anyone who attempts to live their lives by our “rule book”, our “App for life” – the Bible.

Ultimately it is in the living of our lives as Christians, that the world judges us. As the Scripture passage from Isaiah challenges, it is in our “actions” of “sharing your bread with the hungry” and “shelter the homeless poor” and “clothe the one who is naked” that our “works” will be seen, as, St. Paul was at pains to say, those who observe the behaviour of Christians, will be drawn to God whom we serve – not ourselves.

The “world” so admired Mother Teresa of Calcutta and her Sisters of Charity – because of how they lived their lives, attending to the poor, the hungry, the dying in Calcutta.

The “world” is surely influenced for God by the way this Parish cares for the hungry, the homeless, those with addictions, etc., at our Christ Church Mission Centre.

“The most obvious *general characteristic* of salt is that it is essentially different from the medium into which it is put. Its power lies precisely in this difference. So it is, says Jesus, with His disciples. Their power in the world lies in their difference from it.” Tasker.

It is not “easy” to be different to all around us in our world – the transforming power of the Holy Spirit enables us to be salt and light in our world – to draw others to Jesus whom we serve and to whom we give all the glory.

Mother Gail.

If you would like me to call around for a chat or if you’d like to chat on the phone, please contact me and we can arrange a suitable time.

My contact details: Ph. 0458254882 / e mail: gaildbryce@icloud.com

Yours in Christ’s service,

Mother Gail.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION.

In order that all can safely receive the bread and the wine, the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, the Priest, following the Prayer of Consecration, will intinct at the Altar all the people’s hosts with wine from the Chalice and then distribute them to the congregation.



2023 ABM Lent Study The Imaginary Doorway

Would you like to order a copy of ABM's 2023 Lenten study? The imaginary doorway' is another fine piece of Australian, missional theology, designed to get your group talking and your mind thinking This study is about the lives of seven of the people Jesus brought to wholeness. Seven stories that bring scripture alive and help us to understand that Jesus was dealing with real people, rather than generic characters. Hear anew the stories of Legion, the haemorrhaging woman, Lazarus and Martha, the woman accused of adultery, Zacchaeus, the paralysed man let down through the roof – and that post-resurrection BBQ breakfast on the beach. Story-based studies that will touch your heart, build your faith, and encourage you on the missional journey. All genuine mission is incarnational and relationally based. As the studies suggest, "If our mission is all about purpose rather than relationship, we miss the point." Written by ABM Education Missioner, Stephen Daughtry, with art by Vanessa Daughtry, this will be another beautiful and challenging dive into God's love." (From the ABM website).

The book costs \$13, to be ordered no later than today, 5th February. Please place the money in an envelope marked: "Lenten Study Book"& give this to Charles or place in the offertory plate (eftpos is also available).

Dates and times of the Lenten Studies:

Friday @ 10 am Commencing 3 March

Sunday @ 10.30 am Commencing 26 February

Please plan to join a group or order a copy of the booklet for private use.

PRAYER REQUESTS

It's important for us to keep our prayers going for those on the Parish prayer list. How do you let the Parish know you have a prayer request? You can call Fr Ken on 0428 671 789 or email him at kletts@mac.com, or contact Valerie Lion or Geoffrey Court. We know prayer works.

PLEASE PRAY FOR A NEW VICAR

Please include in your prayers a prayer for a new Vicar for Christ Church. Here's a prayer from our Prayer Book which you could use:

Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your word and minister your sacraments;

An encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling.

Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

PRAYING FOR THE PARISH

The Parish Prayer Group continues to meet **every Thursday at 9.30am** to pray for the Parish. Now that restrictions have eased, they meet in the Memorial Garden when the weather is good, otherwise they meet in the St Michael Chapel (enter by side door). Everyone is welcome to join the Group whenever you are able. Geoffrey Court is the facilitator.

FROM THE WARDENS

PARISH FINANCES: Report on Offertory Collections

January 2023			Year to date		
Budget	Actual	Var	Budget	Actual	Var
5,962	5,448	-514	21,462	22,683	1,221

The Wardens thank everyone for continuing to give generously toward the life of the Parish.

THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

There is a lot of discussion in the community about the plan for a referendum to add an indigenous Voice to Parliament to the Australian constitution to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to provide advice to the Parliament on policies and projects that impact their lives. This plan comes from the Uluru Statement from the Heart which is an invitation to all Australians.

The Australian Board of Missions has published a study guide to the Statement from the Heart entitled 'A Voice in the Wilderness: LISTENING TO THE 'STATEMENT FROM THE HEART'', looking at it from a Christian perspective.

A copy of the ABM guide is on the table at the rear of the Church. If you want to read it, please take it and return it on the following Sunday for other parishioners to share. It is also available online <https://www.abmission.org/resources/a-voice-in-the-wilderness/>

Please pray for a Christian response to the Statement from the Heart.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

OUR NEXT MONTHLY MINI MARKET Will recommence on Saturday, 4th March.

If any of your family or friends have something to sell, please encourage them to have a stall.

We are happy to have stalls selling anything, except food.
For further information please contact **Robyn** on **0408 536 241**

FUNDRAISING - HELP

We are having a Sausage Sizzle on Sunday, 19th February, St Kilda Festival Day, and would love donations toward the cost that are incurred in purchasing sausages, onions, bread, drinks etc.

We also need volunteers to man the stall. We require a least three people for each shift.

Shift times are **12.20-3pm, 3pm-5.30pm and 5.30-8pm** or earlier if we run out (this shift includes cleaning up).

Please advise Robyn or Valerie of the times you can help.

VESTMENT EXHIBITION

On the day of the St Kilda Festival, we will have the church open for viewing 12noon - 6pm, kindly supervised by Elisabeth and Fr Ken, and will also exhibit some of Christ Church's vestments. To show them in their full glory we need dressmakers' dummies and dumb valets. If you, or anyone you know, would be prepared to loan them for the day, please let Robyn or Valerie know.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUNDAY CONCERTS AT 3PM

12 February – John O'Donnell (organ – Cesar Franck)

26 February – Chris Watson (tenor) & John O'Donnell (piano, Beethoven & Schumann Lieder)

Tickets \$25/\$20 concession/students free

Parish office – 9913 9365 (Tue & Fri 10.20-2.30) allsaints.org.au/concerts

CALENDAR OF SUNDAY WORSHIP FEBRUARY 2023

5th February 2023 –Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9am Eucharist – Mother Gail

12th February – Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9am Eucharist – Mother Gail

19th February – Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

9am Eucharist – Fr Ken Letts

22nd February – Ash Wednesday

10am Eucharist & Liturgy of the Day – Mother Gail

6.30pm Eucharist & Liturgy of the Day– Fr Ken Letts

26th February – First Sunday of Lent

9am Eucharist – Mother Gail

ASH WEDNESDAY

Would you please bring your palm crosses from last year for the ashes? Please hand them to Valerie or Geoffrey as you enter the church, and thank you to those who have already brought theirs.

REFLECTION GROUP

Meets on Sunday at 10.30am following Morning Tea.

Open to everyone, please come along and invite others.

Parishioners are invited to a special morning tea provided by Karen and Stuart Connew (our organist), next Sunday, 12 February in the Community Centre following the Eucharist. This is to celebrate New Zealand's National Day - Waitangi Day - which will be celebrated in NZ tomorrow, 6 February. There will be a display of kiwiana and some typical kiwi tucker.

