

Parish Directory

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Parish Council: Robert Breakwell, Geoffrey Court, Corrine Griffiths,
Bob Hall, and Helen Kelsall,

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Christ Church Mission

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Website

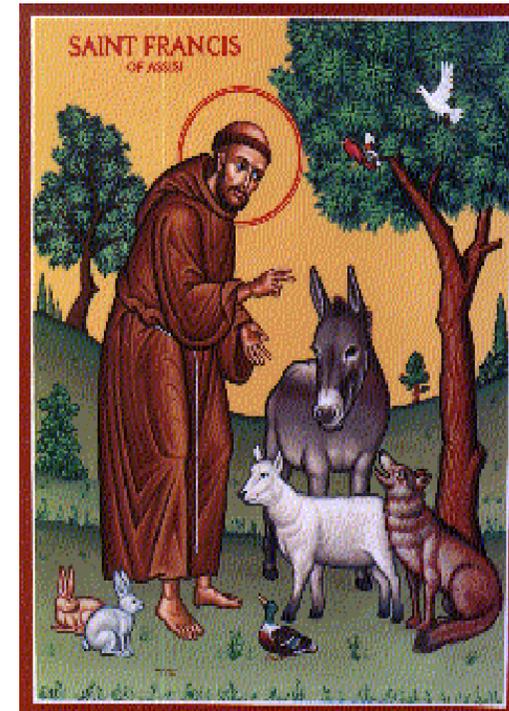
" www.christchurchstkilda.org.au/community-centre

Facebook Page facebook.com/christchurchcommunitycentre - the
little st kilda mission

Postal Address PO Box 1221 St Kilda South 3182

CHRIST CHURCH ST KILDA

Acland St, St Kilda



*Celebrating St Francis of Assisi
with the Blessing of the Animal*

11am, Sunday 2 October 2022

The People Gather in the church

Please say the words in bold print

We worship this Sunday with all the creatures we love. We join the Psalmists and rejoice with all living things. We sing with all the cats, dogs, fish, birds and creatures that make our lives richer.

HYMN

**Mother Earth, our mother birthing
ev'ry creature from the ground.
Jesus too was flesh and breathing,
kin to all that's green and brown.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.**

**Sister Air, our sister lifting
every creature born with wing;
Jesus shared the breath of forests,
breath that makes our spirits sing.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.**

**Brother Water, brother pulsing
deep through every vein and sea,
Jesus drank the very raindrops
for our wine and in our tea.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.**

**Father Fire, our father burning
with the sacred urge to live.
Jesus' death completes the cycle,
Bringing life beyond the grave.
Celebrate with all creation:
God has joined the web of life.**

*Words: © Norman Habel 1999, music from Anglican Hymns Old & New,
No. 623 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven! By Henry Francis Lyte and John Goss*

Circle of Blessing

All those who wish to have their pet(s)/friend(s)/companion(s) blessed now form an inner circle. The priest will then move(s) to each creature, saying its name, holding a hand over it, and blessing it in the name of God the Parent, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit who fill and heal creation.

Blessing the animal(s):

N, may the power of this blessing from God the Creator fill you with life, bind you to your human partner(s) and lead you to praise your Creator. **Amen.**

SENDING OUT

God our Creator calls of us to be like Jesus Christ: to serve him and each other with love and compassion, and to serve Earth by caring for her creatures. Will you care for creation?

We will care for creation!

We will nurture our animals!

We will celebrate the circle of life with them!

The Blessing

May the Spirit of God, who is above all and in all and through all,
fill you with the knowledge of God's presence in Earth
and the pulsing of Christ within you.

May the blessing of God:

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Amen.

Go in peace!

Serving Christ and loving all creatures!

We go in peace,

serving and loving our animal friends and companions.

Thank you for coming today!!

You are all welcome to stay, enjoy your family and friends, meet new people.

But most of all spend some of your valuable time

with your furry, feathery and/or scaly friend(s), companion(s), kin.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God, now and for ever.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,

we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.

As we join in celebration with you and all creation,

we ask for your blessing, your peace,

on the creatures present here that we love,

and all creatures everywhere, including those in the wild.

In the name of the Father, who creates all life,

in the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life,

and in the name of the Spirit, who renews all life,

we ask with all in the circle of life:

May your blessing come! Amen.

Circle of Thanksgiving

A Version of Psalm 148

For all dogs and dingoes, large and small:

We give thanks!

For all rabbits, hamsters and guinea pigs:

We give thanks!

For all goldfish, guppies and swimming creatures:

We give thanks!

For all kookaburras, budgies and singing birds:

We give thanks!

For all wombats, koalas and wallabies:

We give thanks!

For all horses, cows and sheep:

We give thanks!

For all lizards, skinks and crawling creatures:

We give thanks!

For every animal in the sky, the waters, and on and below the land:

We give thanks!

Confession and Thanksgiving

*Please hold the creature(s) you love or
place your hand on it/them as we give thanks.*

Let us pray.

Lord, for all creatures in the whole wide world,

We give thanks!

Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

We give thanks!

Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

We are sorry.

Lord, for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

We are sorry.

Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the
bush, forests, oceans, lakes, rivers or fields,

We are sorry.

The Creator God forgives us our sins against the creatures of Earth. In response, I call upon you to honour and protect all creatures. May the creatures of Earth be your companions in life and lead you to celebrate your place in the circle of life. **Amen.**

Procession

*Please follow the priest outside and form a circle
with space between the various creatures.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

HYMN:

All things Bright and Beautiful

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours, He made their tiny wings.**

Refrain:

**The purple-headed mountains, the river running by,
The sunset and the morning that brightens up the sky.**

Refrain:

**The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.**

Refrain:

**The tall trees in the greenwood, the meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water, to gather every day.**

Refrain:

**He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty, who has made all things well.**

Refrain:

*Words by Cecil Frances Alexander, music from Anglican Hymns Old & New,
No. 26, [English melody](#) arr. by [Martin F. Shaw](#)*

Prayer for the Day

Let us pray.

God, our Creator, help us to love
all creatures as kin,
all animals as partners on Earth,
all birds as messengers of praise,
all minute beings as expressions
of your mysterious design
and all frogs as voices of hope.
Amen.

St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

A brief account of the life of St Francis.

A Reading from a Sermon of St Francis: 'Peace, birds, peace!'

My brother and sister birds,
you should greatly praise your Creator and love him always.
He gave you feathers to wear, and wings to fly,
and whatever you need. God made you noble among his creatures
and gave you a home in the purity of the air,
so that, though you do not sow nor reap,
he nevertheless protects and governs you without your least care.