

PARISH DIRECTORY

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

**BUT, at 10.30 each Sunday during Lent,
we are having a Lenten study**

*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

12th March 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 Parishioners,

FAITH

Barney Zwartz

One in seven of the world's Christians – about 360 million people – face a “high or extreme” daily risk of persecution, according to the newly released 2023 World Watch Monitor by advocacy group Open Doors. The world is increasingly dangerous for believers. This dismaying truth often surprises believers and non-believers in the West, who tend to think of Christianity as a Western religion practised mostly by white Europeans. In fact, Europe is home to about a quarter of the globe's 2.3 billion Christians, with Africa now having the most, followed by the Americas.

The 30th edition of the authoritative World Watch Monitor restores North Korea as worst persecutor (with a worst-ever score of 98), where it had been from 2002 until 2022, when Afghanistan temporarily replaced it. It is followed by Somalia, Yemen, Eritrea, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan and Sudan. Of course, not only Christians face persecution for their faith. In various parts of the world people of almost any faith – Muslims, Hindus, Baha'is, Buddhists, tribal religions – and atheists are in peril as well. But Christians are by far the greatest number at risk. In sub-Saharan Africa, the monitor says, entire countries are at risk of collapse into extremist violence, while the “China effect” – the use of surveillance technology to boost intimidation and persecution – is spreading to other nations.

The monitor defines persecution as violence and imprisonment plus a range of hostile pressures, measured in six categories. It is true that Christians in the West face more pressure and hostility than a decade ago, but they are not led in orange jumpsuits to a beach where their throats are cut; they are not dragged into the street and beaten while their houses are burnt to the ground; they are not jailed or forcibly “re-educated” because they met to worship; and they do not face systematic inequality at law. But here is the unexpected fact that oppressors overlook. Persecution does not often dissuade people; to the contrary, it deepens their faith. Further, even if faith is driven underground, examples of courage inspire. The second century church father Tertullian rightly observed that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

Barney Zwartz is a Senior Fellow of the Centre for Public Christianity,

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.

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice for Refugees 2023

WHEN: Sunday 2 April 2023 at 1:30 PM

WHERE: State Library Victoria, cnr Swanston & Latrobe Sts, Melb.

Palm Sunday each year is an occasion to bear witness to the priority of compassion and to call for justice for refugees and people seeking asylum. It is also a time to celebrate the contribution that so many refugees have made to Australian society in a wide range of endeavours. It is a time to stand together.

This Palm Sunday the event begins with music at the State Library from 1.30pm, followed at 2 by speakers including Dr Monique Ryan MP, people with lived experience of bridging visas and Temporary Protection Visas, and faith leaders such as Ukrainian Bishop Mykola Bychok. The walk then goes to Parliament Gardens for more music and speeches.

Melbourne Anglicans will meet at 1.50pm in front of the State Library under the diocesan banner, 'Anglicans Walking Together – Justice for Refugees'. Please invite friends, church and family to stand in solidarity with refugees and people seeking asylum.

For updates on the event, see the Facebook page:

<https://m.facebook.com/events/1607844152985818?mibextid=Z0UBBX>

Bishop Kate Prowd will be taking up the responsibilities of the Monomeeth episcopate, which includes the portfolio of responsibilities overseen for the past several years by Bishop Brad Billings. The Monomeeth episcopate includes the various functions and programs associated with theological formation and training, together with clergy wellbeing and professional supervision. Bishop Brad will move to be the area bishop for the Oodthenong episcopate. He will also assume responsibility for the church planting portfolio. After several years respectively in their current roles, this change follows a process of prayerful reflection and discernment. I look forward to the new opportunities both bishops will have to exercise their respective gifts and skills in service to the wider Diocese. I am

pleased to support them in this and commend them to your prayers as they prepare for their new ministries.

This change will commence from 1 May, after a period of handover and transition leading up to that date.

ABM Lent & Good Friday appeal

Many in this Diocese have had the wonderful privilege to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, either through one of the colleges, with Bishop Brad or another leader, or with one of the programs run by St George's College Jerusalem. Pilgrims rarely see beyond the sites, and their historical and biblical significance, into the lives of the people of the land, in places such as the Gaza strip and the West Bank communities. This year, the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) Lent and Good Friday appeal is in support of the inspirational work of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, in support of the many children and young people living in extreme hardship in places such as Gaza. Follow the link to further details of the appeal.

[Lent & Good Friday Appeal 2023 - Anglican Board of Mission \(abmission.org\)](http://abmission.org)

DATES AND TIMES OF THE LENTEN STUDIES

Sundays @ 10.30am & Fridays @ 10 am

please join a group

ABM LENTEN ENVELOPES

Please take the ABM envelope(s) and use it/them to make your Lenten offering(s) for the Diocese of Jerusalem

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.



FROM THE WARDENS

PARISH FINANCES: Report on Offertory Collections

February 2023			Year to date		
Budget	Actual	Var	Budget	Actual	Var
4,769	4,774	5	26,231	27,457	1,226

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

CHURCH RESTORATION

The weekly collection for Restoration is via a plate near the exit door to the Community Centre. Did you know that we have collected over \$12,000 in this little collection since it started a few years ago? This provides us with money to draw on for special projects and has been used, in part, for plaster and paint repairs inside the Church. We want to keep these repairs going in stages. A large part of the fund is reserved for repairs to the Belfry but the regular collection enables us to act on minor repairs as needed. Some parishioners direct restoration money via our National Trust Account, which is quite healthy with over \$70,000 in the balance with another \$30,000 promised for the repair of the Belfry. This allows a tax deduction.

Any donation, large or small, is always welcome. There are several challenges at present- stained glass windows in the Sanctuary, rising damp in the chancel, a leak in the roof in the North transept, drainage problems outside the Vestry door and the fence between the Old Vicarage and the Community Centre in bad shape.

Parishioners are doing a great job with weekly plate collections and we continue to be very grateful for this support and for the support via fund raising efforts.

NEWS OF THE OLD VICARAGE

As you are probably aware the Old Vicarage is under the care of St. Luke's South Melbourne until September 2024. They arranged this with us so that their Verger and family had a residence. That family has left St. Luke's and the house is now to be given as a temporary Vicarage for St. Silas' Albert Park.

The Rev. Sophie Watkins, her daughter and 2 dogs will move in early in March while repairs are undertaken to the Vicarage at Albert Park. She has arranged alterations to the fencing at the Old Vicarage for better security for the dogs. This is at no cost to Christ Church.

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

THANK YOU

A very BIG thank you to everyone who has donated to the costs of providing the Sunday Morning Teas. Thank you so much.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUNDAY CONCERTS AT 3PM

12 March – *Aequales Ensemble, including Mozart Oboe Quartet*

26 March – *Josephine Vains, 'cello & John O'Donnell piano Beethoven & Brahms*

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

Parish office – 9913 9365 (Tue & Fri 10.20-2.30)

allsaints.org.au/concerts for booking and information

CALENDAR OF WORSHIP

MARCH 2023

12th March 12 - Third Sunday of Lent

9am Eucharist – Mother Gail

19th March - Fourth Sunday of Lent - *Mothering Sunday*

9am Eucharist – Fr Ken Letts

26th March - Fifth Sunday of Lent - *Passion Sunday*

9am Eucharist – Mother Gail

APRIL

April 2 - Sixth Sunday of Lent - *Palm Sunday*

9am Eucharist – Mother Gail

Thursday 6th April - *Maundy Thursday*

7pm Eucharist & washing of feet/hands

Stripping of the altar followed by Prayer Watch

7th April - *Good Friday*

9.30am Ecumenical Service at St Kilda Baptist Church

9 Pakington Street, St Kilda

8th April - *Holy Saturday*

9pm Easter Eve Vigil Service

9th April - *Easter Day - Queen of Festivals*

6am – Mass of the New Fire and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

9am Festival Eucharist

1 16 - Second Sunday of Eastertide - - *Octave Day of the*

9am Eucharist – Fr Ken Letts

Resurrection

23rd April - Third Sunday of Eastertide

9am Eucharist – Mother Gail

30th April - Fourth Sunday of Eastertide

9am Eucharist – Mother Gail

