

**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

29<sup>th</sup> January 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 Parish Family,

Today we celebrate the Feast of Candlemass.

The Parish of St. Mary the Virgin, Diocese of London have given the following explanation of this Feast:

*“We celebrate the feast of Candlemass on Sunday which marks 40 days following the birth of Jesus. This was a significant date in the Jewish tradition, when women who had given birth to a child would attend the temple for a rite of purification and thus bringing them back into the worshipping community. As it was prescribed in the Book of Leviticus (Chapter 12) – 40 days for a male child and 80 days if the child was a girl; the mother would attend the temple to be purified after childbirth. The tradition even carried into Christianity and found its way into the Book of Common Prayer under the heading “The Churching of Women”*

Of course, Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit and gave birth “without stain”, so we may wonder why she needed to attend the temple for the rite of purification? Perhaps we forget that Mary and Joseph were a real family and that Jesus, whilst being God, was also man or boy or child; and for the first thirty years of his life, the Holy Family did what every other Jewish family did: and 40 days after his birth, that meant taking him to the temple.

But this is no ordinary visit as Luke tells us in the Gospel account from Sunday: “Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel’s comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord.”

Imagine – as the Holy Family enter the temple – the hairs on the back of Simeon’s neck start to twitch. This is it. The time has come. Simeon takes Jesus into his arms and proclaims: “Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace.”

As with many Christian Feasts, there has evolved a tradition of special food, e.g., in France it is traditional to eat Crepes at each meal on that day. Why not begin something special on this day to celebrate with your family?

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](mailto: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.* Seven studies that, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, take us into 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. As the studies suggest, *If our mission is all about purpose rather than relationship, we miss the point.*

**Our Lenten Study group will commence first Sunday in Lent - 26<sup>th</sup> Feb., 2023,** following Morning Tea at 10.30am. (If another group can be arranged it will be advertised later.) Parishioners are requested to sign up (there is a sheet in the St. Michael’s Chapel) so that we can order the appropriate number of Lenten Study books on time or you can order a copy simply for personal use during the Season of Lent. *Cost \$13 - please give your money to Charles.*

## FROM THE WARDENS

### PARISH FINANCES: Report on Offertory Collections

December 2022			Year to date		
Budget	Actual	Var	Budget	Actual	Var
4,769	6,526	1,757	15,500	17,235	1,735

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

### PHOTOGRAPH

We now have a suitable photograph. Thank you to Stephen Baldwin.

### 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.

## 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](mailto: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.

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

### OUR NEXT MONTHLY MINI MARKET

Will recommence on **Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

## CALENDAR OF SUNDAY WORSHIP

### JANUARY 2023

*29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - Candlemass, The Presentation of the Lord*  
9am - Mother Gail Bryce

### FEBRUARY 2023

*5<sup>th</sup> February 2023 -Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time*  
9am Eucharist - Mother Gail

*12<sup>th</sup> February - Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time*  
9am Eucharist - Mother Gail

*19<sup>th</sup> February - Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time*  
9am Eucharist - Fr Ken Letts

*22<sup>nd</sup> February - Ash Wednesday*  
10am Eucharist & Liturgy of the Day - Mother Gail  
6.30pm Eucharist & Liturgy of the Day- Fr Ken Letts

*26<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### REFLECTION GROUP

Meets on Sunday at 10.30am following Morning Tea.  
Open to everyone, please come along and invite others.

