

CHRIST CHURCH ST KILDA

Acland St, St Kilda

Newsletter
Advent 4
19 December 2021

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

*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 Parish Vision

A worshipping Christian community

- humbly loving God and each other;
- proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed; and
- creating an environment in which all people feel welcomed and accepted.

Christ Church Parish Mission

We take as our Christian Mission the practice of Pastoral Care for our community and the wider community; Worship that welcomes all; Nurturing all peoples; Social Justice; and Caring for God's Creation

Child Safety Policy

Our commitment to child safety

Christ Church St Kilda has adopted the policy on Child Safety as set down by the Archbishop in Council of the Diocese, the governing body of the Diocese. This Parish is committed to complying with the requirements of Diocesan and Victorian legislation. The Policy states:

The Anglican Church of Australia within the Diocese of Melbourne, including its Cathedral Church of St Paul and each parish or congregation or faith community within the diocese (the Church) is committed to child safe practice. The care, the safety and the welfare of children are embedded in policies and practices which are intended to reflect a commitment to zero tolerance of child abuse.

From the Vicar's Desk

COVID-19 has not gone away!! On Tuesday Dianne and I went to a dinner at the Caulfield RSL. It was a pleasant evening but on Saturday afternoon (18 December) both of us received a text from the Victoria Health Dept telling us that we had been exposed to COVID-19 at the RSL and that we were required to get tested within 24 hours of receiving the text and to immediately isolate until we received a negative result.

The text to me arrived at 3:01pm just as I was getting together with Robyn Foy, Rachel Prince and Sue Wilson getting set up for the Christmas for Kids scheduled for 4:30pm. Needless to say, all three were concerned and I was sent off with Dianne to get tested. By 4:15pm we were back but I was not allowed into the church. Rachel, Sue and Robyn held the fort and I want to thank them for doing that. Sadly no children with their parent(s) turned up but that is another story. Next year's event has been planned.

Dianne and I went into isolation in the vicarage and we waited and waited to learn whether we had the virus or not. Late on Saturday afternoon I spoke with Fr Ken Letts about the 9am service. He was scheduled to take the service but needed to be informed of the situation especially as it was possible that I might not make it to the service. Robyn and I decided that the best thing to do with the 11am was to cancel it, which I did. As it was, Dianne and I didn't get our NEGATIVE results until after 5pm on Sunday.

I want to thank Rachel, Sue and Robyn for taking charge of the Christmas for Kids event and coming away from it with a positive outcome - 2022 is going to have a great Christmas 4 Kids event!!

I also want to thank Fr Ken, Elisabeth Newman, Robyn, Valerie and Geoffrey for stepping up for the 9am service. I am very grateful!! As I am sure that the Parishioners are too.

Please take note that Dianne and I will be on holiday from 27 December to 9 January inclusive. Fr Ken Letts will be standing in for me.



At the end of this week we have

Christmas Day !!

May your days be filled with joy and thanksgiving as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Son of God.

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 to add to the Parish prayer list? You can call Fr Turi on **0413 395 621** or email him at vicar@christchurchstkilda.org.au. You can also contact Valerie Lion or Geoffrey Court. We know prayer works.

PRAYING FOR THE PARISH

The Parish Prayer Group continues to meet **every Thursday at 9.30am** to pray for the Parish. During the lockdown they met by phone. Now that the restrictions are easing they will meet in the Memorial Garden when the weather is good otherwise they will meet in the St Michael Chapel. Everyone is welcome to join the Group whenever you are able. Geoffrey Court is the facilitator.

MORNING DAILY SERVICES

Morning Prayer services are held Monday to Thursday mornings at 8am in the Zoom room **944 101 4887**. The Morning Daily Service liturgy is available on the Parish Website. You are welcome to join Fr Turi and Peter Wild.

FROM OUR COVID SAFE OFFICER

Living With Covid-19

The Service Victoria QR code system is mandatory for anyone in church facilities. People without smartphones will need to be checked in by someone and only in exceptional circumstances can a non-electronic recording system be used for them. If you have a smartphone/mobile but you haven't done it yet, **please download the Service Victoria QR Code system onto your smartphone/mobile.**

As you may be aware, the State government is requiring people to provide evidence of whether or not they have been vaccinated. The Diocese has asked all Clergy and Lay Ministers to provide their regional bishop with this evidence and that all Parishes request this information from all officeholders, staff and volunteers.

From 22 October onward everyone attending services in the church and on church grounds are to be asked to provide evidence of their vaccination before they are permitted to participate. A smart phone/mobile can be set up to provide this evidence. For those who do not have a phone/mobile, they will need to provide a paper copy of their vaccination certificate or present their COVID passport (when it is available).

For those who regularly attend worship at Christ Church Fr Turi and our COVID Safety Officer, Robyn Foy, would be helped if you were to provide them with a copy of your certificate that the Parish might hold in the Parish Office. However, this is completely voluntary.

In addition, the Parish Council will decide which services can be attended by those who are vaccinated ONLY; which services may be attended by those who are unvaccinated ONLY; and which services may be attended by both. This is important as it can determine how many people may attend a particular service.

FROM THE WARDENS

Financial Position Of The Parish

At the Annual Meeting it was made clear that the Parish faces a major shortfall of funds for the 2021-2022 year. Giving has been down due to COVID, costs are rising and Boon Wurrung has been unable to meet its rental. We are estimating a shortfall of \$72,000 and, as a result, the Church Council has had to take cost cutting measures.

We are no longer able to afford a Parish admin assistant, repayments from the Community Centre have been increased, Fr Turi and Dianne are contributing to travel costs, printing costs will be reduced and budget areas reduced. This will not solve the problem but greatly reduce it and if we can find a new tenant for the upper storey of the Community Centre, the problem will reduce still further.

Can you help by examining your weekly giving and ensuring that when you miss Church, that weekly amount is included with your next attendance at Church? We have new giving envelopes available so please take a set if you don't already have one. Please make sure you put aside something each week. You can have the money taken out through the ADF so that you don't have to remember and we will have the card machine available at the back of the Church if you don't carry cash. Feel free to talk to a Council member!

"WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!"

Restoration Collection

As we approach the end of the calendar year it is very pleasing to note that the \$10,000 target for our Church plate restoration appeal has been achieved. This is in addition to the funds in the National Trust Christ Church Restoration Appeal Account. Thank you to those who have supported the special collection plate at the rear of the Church as our repair and restoration costs remain high. This year alone over \$350,000 has been expended on these areas and involves using up Parish reserve funds, donations and the money from St. Luke's for the Old Vicarage. The new Church year started on 1 October and we have now set a target of \$10,000 for the rest of 2021 and 2022. Please help!

Making A Bequest To Christ Church

Parishioners may like to consider leaving a bequest to the Church in their wills. If you are interested in this way of helping to keep our beautiful Church continuing into the future please consult the Church website in the "giving" area. Alternatively you are most welcome to speak to one of the wardens confidentially for advice on how to proceed. A proforma can be made available to guide you. If you are making a bequest, it is essential that the ABN number of the Church is stated in your instructions.

FROM THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

This year we have provided more than 6,500 meals to people including families and the number keeps rising. Christmas is a time for giving particularly to those in need. Since the recent easing of COVID-19 restrictions, we are delighted to see the return of people enjoying again the variety of activities which makes our Centre the dynamic hub that it is.

The Centre is able to thrive because of the help that is provided by at least fifty volunteers and the support and generosity of individuals, partner groups, organisations, grants and donations. If you could help us to expand into 2022, please make a donation now.

(Extracts from the latest Newsletter of the *St Kilda Little Mission*)

CALENDAR OF SERVICES

22 December 2021: Waiting for Christmas

10am A time for reflection, meditation and singing. - Fr Turi

24 December 2021: The Eve of Christmas

9pm. 1st Eucharist for the Feast of the Birth of Christ (Commonly called Midnight Mass) - Fr Turi & Fr Ken

25 December 2021: Christmass

10am Eucharist for the Morning of Christ's Nativity. - Fr Turi & Fr Ken

26 December 2021: 1st Sunday After Christmas

9am Eucharist for the Holy Family - Fr Turi

2 January 2022: The Epiphany of Our Lord

9am Eucharist - Fr Ken

NB: There will NOT be an 11am service

9 January 2022: The Baptism of Our Lord

9am Eucharist - Fr Ken

NB: There will NOT be an 11am service

16 January 2022: 2nd Sunday After Epiphany

9am Eucharist - Fr Turi

11am Gathering for Fellowship - Fr Turi

PARISH OFFERTORY

November 2021			Year to date		
Budget	Actual	Var ⁿ	Budget	Actual	Var ⁿ
5,431	3,752	-321	10,719	9,613	-1,106

The Wardens and Fr Turi thank everyone for continuing to give generously toward the life of the Parish during this difficult time.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Vicar: The Reverend Dr. J.T. Hollis (Father Turi)

9534 3892 / 0413 395621

vicar@christchurchstkilda.org.au

Church Wardens: Gary Israel, Charles Baird, Robyn Foy

Parish Council: Geoffrey Court, Helen Kelsall

Website www.christchurchstkilda.org.au

Facebook Page facebook.com/christchurchstkilda

Postal Address PO Box 1221 St Kilda South 3182

Christ Church Mission Community Centre

Manager: Elizabeth Rooney

9534 9250/0402 358269

communitycentre@christchurchstkilda.org.au

Website - www.ccm.org.au

Facebook Page:

facebook.com/ChristChurchCommunityCentreStKilda