

Thursday, 19 January 2023

Dear Parishioners,

I wish you every blessing for 2023, as we are now nearly 3 weeks into the new year. I hope you had a happy Christmas and were able to spend some time with those who are important to you.

I always marvel at how quickly the year starts. It seems that we are only just through Christmas when our thoughts must turn to Lent and Easter! I haven't visited any of the major supermarkets yet, but no doubt the hot cross buns are on sale already!

As you may have noted from the *Vision and Strategy* newsletter, we are now looking at the second of the strategies in the diocese: *Learning more about Jesus Christ in order to become more like Christ*. Picking up a Lent Study with this in mind seems an obvious choice. Here are some resources/suggestions people may like to look at:

- There are a number of suggestions on the diocesan website, under Vision and Strategy.
- Check out Revd Sue Lodge Calvert's website www.companionsontheway.com
- ABM has a study available called *The Imaginary Doorway* which is selling for \$12 each plus \$11 postage, no matter how copies are ordered.
- There is a series called *The Chosen* which is a TV drama based on the life of Jesus. It can be downloaded for free or you can buy the DVD from Koorong bookshop. There is a study guide to go with it. Season 1 study guide is \$21.59.

If any of these appeal to you and you would like to meet in a group, please let me know.

Lent to Easter.

Since I have been here, we have had a short service on Shrove Tuesday, followed by a pancake lunch. We are hoping to do this again this year. I have listed below the extra services which will be celebrated in our lead up to Easter.

Tuesday February 21st – Shrove Tuesday

11.30 am St Leonard's Service of Penitence followed by a Pancake lunch

Wednesday February 22nd – Ash Wednesday

10.00 am St Leonard's The Imposition of Ashes

2.00 pm St George's The Imposition of Ashes

Sunday April 2nd – Palm Sunday

Monday April 3rd – Wednesday April 5th – Holy Week

9.00 am St Leonard's - Morning Prayer

Thursday April 6th – Maundy Thursday at St Leonard's

9.00 am Morning Prayer

2.00 pm Midweek Eucharist ?

7.00 pm Maundy Thursday service including commemoration of the Last Supper, stripping the sanctuary and ending with an optional 1 hour, silent vigil.

Friday April 7th – Good Friday

9.30 am St Leonard's – Passion Drama

2.00 pm St George's – At the Foot of the Cross

Sunday April 9th – Easter Day

6.00 am St Leonard's – Service of Light

9.30 am St Leonard's – Holy Communion

10.00 am St George's – Holy Communion

The monthly services of Evening Prayer will recommence shortly. St Leonard's, Denmark will start again at 7 pm on January 29 and St George's Taize service at 5 pm on February 5.

The 3rd Friday, *Twilight Meditations* at St Leonard's will take a 6-month holiday, hopefully recommencing in July.

Our prayer and congratulations go to some of the students in the ordination programme as they are ordained at Bunbury Cathedral on February 4. Revd Dr Genevieve Milnes, who has been assisting at St Leonard's on a 4th Sunday last year, will be priested; with Rod Steel, David Bardsley and Br. Martin Bishop to be ordained deacon. I also encourage you to pray for the number of vacant parishes in our diocese and a calling to fill them.

Many congratulations to the Denmark *Mustard Seed Op Shop* which completed a record year, exceeding all previous years in their income. As a result, we have been able to support a number of worthy appeals and organisations, locally, nationally and internationally.

Being this time of year also means that the Annual Meeting of Parishioners is 'round the corner'! This year, rather than having our meeting on the first Sunday in Lent, we have had permission from the bishop to put it back a few weeks. The AMP will be on Sunday March 12 at 12 noon, in St Leonard's church in Denmark.

I am hoping that you will consider coming onto Parish Council and serving in this most important ministry. Please speak to me if you think you might be interested. The nomination forms will be available soon.

That leads me into reminding everyone to check that their contact details are correct. You can do that by either speaking to our Parish Secretary, Marion Jamison or me, or filling out a new contact form.

One of the things I love about the Anglican Church is the diversity in its theology, in its worship styles and so on. Unfortunately it is also its biggest weakness and the cause of so much schism. This week in the Northern Hemisphere is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (in the Australian church, celebrate it in May), however, the Archbishop of Perth, the Most Reverend Kay Goldsworthy AO, posted the following prayer:

Almighty God,
who inspired Simon Peter to confess Jesus as Messiah
and Son of the living God:
keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith,
so that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth
and follow the one Lord, our Saviour Jesus Christ;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

May 2023 bring you blessings to deepen your faith, challenges which strengthen your soul, but above all, the knowledge that you are deeply loved by God.

Peace and every good wish, with my prayers,

Sally

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Live simply, Love generously, Care deeply, Speak kindly.
Tell of Jesus' love at the cross and in your life.
Leave the rest to God.