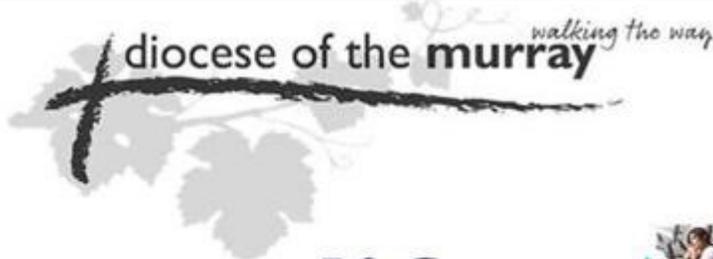




diocese of the murray

The Murray Anglican

summer 2018



there must be
more to **life...**



*Discover
Jesus.*

"There must be more to life...Discover Jesus" has been adopted as the theme for 2018 in the Diocese, with the hope that it will attract more people to know about Jesus Christ and in turn become followers of Him.

The theme was chosen by a sub-committee of Diocesan Council, which will continue to work during the year, offering resources to go with a monthly theme, which fits in with the church lectionary.

The theme comes at a time where many people are questioning what life is all about, particularly those who are struggling meet their day to day needs, and those who are falling prey to drugs and alcohol.

It is also a way of offering people hope that Jesus Christ can give them in their lives on earth and beyond.

The monthly themes include in February during the season of Lent "Jesus knows our trials and temptations, for April during the season of Easter "Jesus reveals new life" and for May with Pentecost and the gift of Jesus' ongoing presence and in being a community of love, "Jesus calls us to be love".

The focus on each theme will be complimented with resources to help deliver each of these, with clergy in the Diocese to focus their sermons on each of the topics.

Bishop John Ford says people are looking everywhere for hope, happiness, fulfilment, love and acceptance.

"This hope is found in discovering who Jesus is and who He represents for all people in the world, in showing His love for the world, by dying on a cross for humanity but rising again, to show that there is eternal life, for all those who wish to believe in Him".

Bishop Ford says all churches in the Diocese will have programs to encourage people to learn more about God and His Son, Jesus Christ, through Sunday worship, home and church study groups, and other evangelistic opportunities.

He says the phrase "There must be more to Life...Discover Jesus" is an attempt to enable parishioners put their faith into action to speak openly with others about what Jesus offers everyone, through baptism and with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Church Goes Blue for Survivors

During October 2017 the Cathedral found itself bathed in blue light in support of Blue Knot Day on 22nd October. The day is intended to raise awareness of the Blue Knot Foundation, a national organisation that works to improve the lives of an estimated five million Australian adults who experienced trauma and abuse during their childhood. The foundation provides phone counselling, information and workshops and trains health and other professionals who work with survivors.

This year, the Blue Knot Day was themed “unite in support of adult survivors of childhood trauma” to encourage widespread and visible community support. This is such an important part in the healing process as individuals often struggle to heal in isolation. By coming together as a community and spreading positive messages and raising awareness people are able to help those still suffering in their recovery.

As part of the day a special service was held in the Cathedral and Tailem Bend Churches that acknowledged survivors’ strengths and challenges, praying for God’s strength for



those suffering as well as praying for the perpetrators of violence and abuse that they may come to know the love of God and that it may change their lives.

For more information on the Blue Knot Foundation, visit www.blueknot.org.au

Christmas Tree Festival Spreads Joy



Over the weekend of 8th to 10th of December 2017, the Murray Bridge Town Hall came to life with nearly two dozen Christmas Trees that highlighted God’s promises to creation throughout history. The event was organised by the Lutheran Churches of Murray Bridge and involved most Churches and Christian schools in the town.

The Festival told the story of God’s promises beginning with creation and tracing history through the patriarchs, prophets and kings. The trees centred on the Nativity of Jesus but also extended to the Cross and God’s promises of new life for all.

The Murraylands Parish was involved by decorating a tree that reflected God’s promises through Moses and the Ten Commandments. This tree reminded people that God kept his promise to deliver the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and the Commandments were a sign of the covenant that God made with His people.

Many in the community came to this outreach event and were able to see and hear about God’s love for all creation before heading down to the Wharf Precinct for the town Christmas Carols, put on by the Inter-church Council and led by Church of Christ Pastor Grant Spangenberg, with Pastor Greg Page of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church delivering a Christmas message that unlike Santa, who keeps checking his list, Jesus offers the gift of life to all who come to Him.

Movie Night in the Southern Suburbs

On 9th December 2017, the Southern Suburbs Mission Partnership in collaboration with Adelaide Outdoor Cinema held a free starlight movie night on the lawns of Christ Church O'Halloran Hill. The evening attracted a respectable number of parishioners from across the four congregations of the Partnership, as well as a number of families from the wider community.

Fr Richard Burr gave a brief welcoming speech in which people heard, some for the first time, the good news of Christmas; about what God was doing that first Christmas when he gave His Son to the world, as a helpless baby boy, born to a young peasant girl, in a stable, wrapped in rags and laid in a feed trough. The good news of God's love, in the person of Jesus.

This was however not a pulpit from which to preach in depth and at length, a bible study, or an altar call. It was an opportunity for the church to 'look alive'. To share with our wider community a small seed of our faith, and the hope which is within us as Christians, and as the church. To share with them some of why we rejoice so much at Christmas, and to share some of that joy with them. By inviting them to 'our place' to watch a movie, share a meal, and be with each other.

The Southern Suburbs Mission Partnership would like to thank Roshi and Ryan at Adelaide Outdoor Cinema, the Diocesan Council, George Christensen, Fr Paul Monash, and the people of the Southern Suburbs for their generous support in this pioneer outreach event. Also, a very big thankyou to the people of Christ Church O'Halloran Hill and the Southern Suburbs for their assistance on the day. We hope to see you at the next one!



Kingston-Robe

As with every church community, the normal round continues day-by-day, week-by-week, and month-by-month. Occasionally there are extra occasions which highlight to work of God in different ways. Kingston-Robe has had a variety of different 'extras' over the last few months of 2017.

The beginning of October saw the annual St Francis' blessing of animals – for the first time at Kingston this was at the Kingston Show, with an assortment of pets (mainly dogs) and some horses blessed by Fr David Patterson. (He was also asked to award prizes after the pet judging!) At Robe there was a gathering of canines and their owners.

Also at the beginning of October, Holy Trinity, Kingston, had a wedding, the first for a number of years. Local, Aaron Prosser, wed his Pakistan born bride, Lorina Aziz, with family and friends gathered from all over Australia.

In November we joined with the local Uniting Church congregation and participated in a BBQ at the local Aboriginal Reserve. Peter Clark told something of the history of the Kingston area as a gathering point for indigenous groups from the region. Another November event was the annual 'thank you' to our Op Shop volunteers, with a lunch provided for them in the Kingston Church.

December 29th saw a small band of parishioners behind a Pavlova Stall, at the first Kingston Twilight Market. This was a fundraising event toward the Ipoh Women's Refuge, Malaysia, a project supported by parishioners from Southern Suburbs, and by Kingston-Robe as a result of Fr David having also participated in the trip to Malaysia last year in April. With lots of visitors in town, purchases and donations raised over \$1000 toward the project.



Christmas in the Southern Suburbs

For most of us the preparation of Advent is flavoured with expectant hope. The expectant hope of the coming of Christmas Day, and all that means for us as Christians. As well as the expectant hope of celebrating with friends and family, sharing gifts and food and drink which is (or at least should be) a close second.

However for some among us, both churched and unchurched, Advent is a time of stress, anxiety, and dread. Financial hardship, the loss of loved ones, family breakdown, social isolation and a whole host of other reasons, leave many in our communities dreading what should be the most joyous time of the year. With this in mind, the Southern Suburbs Mission Partnership held a free community lunch on Christmas Day, open to all and sundry, but deliberately targeting those who would otherwise not be eating, or else eating alone.



Sixty Seven people came together to share a meal in our community hall at Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill, approximately 70% of whom were not regular members of our congregations. So much food was left over after everybody had eaten that we made up a further 40 plates of Christmas lunch and went into the CBD offering meals to those sleeping rough, speaking with them, and wishing them a blessed and holy Christmas.

A very sincere and heartfelt thankyou to everybody in the Southern Suburbs who gave so generously to support this ministry, and to those who gave up some of their own time on Christmas Day to assist with putting it all on. And a very, very special thank you to David and Helen and the BurrIDGE family and the faithful people of Grace Ministries for their generosity, prayer, and support.

Evangelistic Opportunities in the Riverland

One of the smallest churches in the Riverland, St Oswald's Monash, has begun having Eucharistic family services on Saturday nights once a month.

The church, the only one in the township, normally attracts half a dozen people once a week at 7.30am on Sundays.

The timing of the service enables Father Paul Devenport to take services at St Edmund's Barmera at 9.00am and at St James, Waikerie at 11.00am on the second and fourth Sundays a month. The other two Sundays, it is a lay led service.

In an effort to attract more people, it has shifted the 7.30am service to

5.00pm on a Saturday afternoon on the second weekend of the month.

In the first of these services in September last year, the families of the children who had been baptised over the past 20 years were invited. They were recognised for their baptism in the church and encouraged to consider confirmation. The service was followed by a meal at a nearby property. Two families and about 10 children came along, attracting about 30 people.

The following month and with the start of daylight saving time, there was an outdoor service at Gurra Gurra Lakes near Berri. A makeshift altar, a pulpit and pews had been created at the site for a

wedding several years before. Through permission with the family who came along with two of their friends, we staged the Mass overlooking the lakes. Even though it was a little windy on the day, it was a great event, with a picnic afterwards. Around 25 people came along and enjoyed the evening despite a snake lurking in the background in the water!

The monthly services have been maintained, with a Christmas styled service in December, where we set up the Christmas tree using Christian symbols; and in February, two weeks into the new school year, a blessing of the school bags. It was a service designed to bless the students, teachers and the parents.

In the two weeks prior to the Mass, Fr Paul gained permission for the school to advertise the service in the school's newsletter. The pastoral care worker also had the opportunity to speak about the service at the school assembly the day before and encouraged teachers and parents to come along.

Even though the pastoral care worker did come and speak about her role, there were no children or parents that came. Though disappointing, it was a good evangelistic opportunity in associating the church with the school. The 15 or so people who were there enjoyed fellowship with a barbecue tea afterwards and celebrated two people's birthdays, one of them on the day!

Elsewhere in the Riverland, the Church of the Resurrection, Loxton has a



Altar at Gurra Gurra

monthly lunch almost every month during the year, following the service at 11 am. In November, around 65 people came to a lunch at Jennie Lory's property near Loxton and in December, there was a Christmas styled lunch in the hall, with carol singing. Again this

attracted around 60 people. The church along with St Edmund's Barmera hold Shrove Tuesday Pancake Evening every year, which are widely advertised around both towns and in the local media.

Sermon preached by the Dean Emeritus, The Very Reverend Canon Dirk van Dissel at the Memorial Service for the late Bishop Graham Howard Walden, Bishop of The Murray 1989 – 2001

A requiem Eucharist was held for the second Bishop of The Murray, Graham Walden at Holy Trinity Dubbo on 8th December 2017. Bishop Walden died peacefully on Monday 27th November, aged 86. Bishop Walden was the Bishop of the Murray between 1989 and 2001. The Registrar of the Diocese Donna Jones was able to attend the Requiem Eucharist on behalf of the Diocese.

At the same time as the funeral at Dubbo, a Memorial Mass was held for Bishop Graham at the Cathedral at Murray Bridge. Bishop John Ford celebrated while the Dean Emeritus, The Very Reverend Canon Dirk van Dissel, preached. Here is an edited version of his sermon.

We are here to thank God for the life and gifts of a good man, a bishop in the Church of God, an apostle of Christ. As I reflect on that, the following came to mind immediately. Bishop Graham was a gentle and kindly man. He was unassuming, with always a smile on his face. He walked humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

Bishop Graham's life and ministry were centred on Jesus. In his sermons he reminded his listeners again and again of what God has done for us in Jesus and urged them to draw more fully in their daily lives on the reality of Christ, in us, the hope of glory. And because

Bishop Walden's life was centred on Jesus, it was centred on the Eucharist. It was characterised by prayer, in particular intercessory prayer. Because Bishop Walden loved Jesus, he had a deep devotion to our Lord's Mother. For the same reason, he was a man of the scriptures and took seriously St Jerome's dictum; that ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ.

The Ordinal of The Book of Common Prayer, which was used at both Bishop Graham's Ordination and his Consecration, places great emphasis on the priest's and bishop's pastoral role. The gospels appointed are drawn

from John 10 and John 21: 15-19, and forcefully bring home to the ministers of the Church that they must model themselves on Jesus the Good Shepherd.

This Bishop Graham endeavoured to do. He was a pastor to all the people entrusted to his care, but especially to his priests. In his dealings with them he was caring, supportive, understanding, generous and forgiving. He always gave them the benefit of the doubt and a second chance, when perhaps it would have been wiser not to have done so. It is

Continued overleaf.

therefore no surprise that during his episcopate the Diocese was peaceful and happy.

Bishop Graham was courageous. His time as bishop coincided with the introduction of novelties of all sorts into the life and faith of the Church, and there was great pressure on the Church's leaders to succumb to them. Many, for reasons we can only guess at, did succumb. But Bishop Graham remained true to the catholic faith as he had embraced as a teenager. Our gracious and loving God bestowed many and varied gifts on Graham Walden, gifts which he used to proclaim the catholic faith and to build up people in it.

Bishop Graham made the decision to love and serve God. He lived his life in the belief of the Christian Faith. His faith was sustained in the fellowship of the Church, the Body of Christ;

By the Scriptures

By the Sacraments of the Church

By Prayer

That is why I am prepared to apply C.S. Lewis' words to Bishop Graham.

"When the idea of death and the idea of Bishop Graham Walden met in my mind, it was the idea of death that was changed."

"When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the kingdom of heaven to all believers" as the *Te Deum* proclaims. Or as the modern translation has it; "You overcame the sting of death, and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers."

The Christian Church last Sunday entered upon Advent, the season that focuses on the coming of Christ – as the baby in the stable in Bethlehem, in our daily lives, and as Judge of the living and the dead at the end of time. Already there are Christmas parties, Christmas breakups, Carol services and all the rest. Soon there will be Nativity Plays and Nativity Sets erected. It was always my practice at St Francis' Christies Beach, to erect the Nativity



scene on the side altar, with the altar cross behind and as it were overshadowing it. In this way the great truths of the Christian faith were kept together – because Incarnation and Atonement belong together. The Incarnation finds its fulfilment, its completion, in the Atonement.

In the Incarnation, Jesus took upon himself our human nature, and in our human body strove against the foe and defeated death. Christmas, Good Friday and Easter Day belong together and so we are brought to the manger in the stable, to the cross on the little hill outside the city wall, and to the empty tomb in the garden. These together proclaim the great truths, the stupendous facts of our faith. And because of these facts, Christians dare to say that the idea of death is changed – changed by Jesus.

Death is swallowed up in victory.
O Death, where is thy victory
O Death, where is thy sting.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15: 55, 57

It is beautifully stated in an anthem from the Greek Orthodox liturgy; Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and giving life to those in the tomb.

Bishop Graham Walden's life and ministry were an inspiration to the

people he came across. He taught some to pray better, others he encouraged to study the bible, in others he kindled a love of the sacraments particularly of the Holy Communion, in others he inspired a devotion to our Blessed Lady, and in some he increased their understanding of the mysteries of the Christian faith. All of us were encouraged by his steadfast adherence to, and defence of, the catholic faith, the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3).

Above all, Bishop Graham was the adoring follower of Christ, his incarnate Lord and living friend. It is therefore with thankfulness to God that we come together today to commemorate and give thanks for the life of one of his servants and ministers, Graham Howard Walden, Bishop in the Church of God.

So we leave him in the hands of God whom he loved and so faithfully served, and we pray that the Lord may grant him a peaceful refreshment, and in a place of quiet consolation, may allow him to profit by the intercession of his saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Ordination of Deacons 2017



A woman and two young men were ordained as Deacons in the Diocese of The Murray at Christ the King, Mt Barker on Saturday 9th December 2017.

Carol Cornwall, Scott Mudd and Jesse Poole were ordained to the Diaconate. Both Scott and Jesse had been undergoing training at St Peter's Anglican Church, East Maitland in the Diocese of Newcastle under the guidance of Archdeacon David Battrick before being accepted to this Diocese. Deacon Carol has been a lay reader in the Pastoral District of the Southern Suburbs. Deacon Scott Mudd will be in the Riverland, based at Waikerie, while Deacon Jesse will be on the South Coast based at Victor Harbor. Deacon Carol's ministry will have a particular emphasis St Aidan's, Aberfoyle Park.

Below is an edited version of Bishop John's homily at the ordination.

One of the things we have used to feed our reflections these past few days has been the wounds on the Body of Christ
In his side – the dominical sacraments –
In his hands – the tools of the minister's trade to tend and care

In his feet – those feet to carry the Good News where ever these are sent/called

These three – are wounded themselves. They are not perfect – you know this better than I do! They, like the rest of us, are a work in progress. We are all still clay in the hands of the potter being shaped and moulded by him as we continue as his disciples.

No matter what particular charisms of the Spirit have been poured out upon us, and with no exceptions for those of us called to a particular order from me, either up or down and you can take your pick! – all of us are to be formed and shaped in response to and in order that we can proclaim Jesus as Lord – in response to the hearing of the Good News. And this is a continuous action, keenly to be known and understood in the present and which must, of necessity, direct our future – both individually and as a community of faith. We are all to be formed and shaped in response to the preached and living Word of God. There is an urgency for a renewed understanding of the importance of preaching of the Word – part of the licensed ministry to be entrusted to you ... and an essential part of the ongoing discipleship of us all is to attend to how we preach Jesus, the Word. For most of us this is not done in a pulpit; but done nonetheless it has to be and, in fact is, in our daily living as witnesses to Jesus.

One of the temptations of today's church is to engage in frenetic activity; paying urgent attention to its structure and

funding, its shape and purpose, its leadership and administration – and whilst I know that it is not intended, this activity takes the place of the life of discipleship. What we have in our urgent attempts to engage in God's mission is in fact our own mission that is set on manic street and, if we are not careful, we go around in circles chasing our own tails and encouraging others to join us in what can only become a downward spiral – that, when recognised, only increases the pace and panic of the journey!

It is part of your ministry to be aware of the urgency of his proclamation – underlying the gospel passage – and to set others on fire that their hearts might burn within them as the scriptures are expounded and Jesus the Word becomes known. That by your preaching, following the example of St Peter on the day of Pentecost, hearers may be cut to the heart. In the narthex of St Catherine's monastery on the Sinai peninsula there is an encaustic icon from the 6th Century. It is written on a convex panel and as you walk in, greeted by this icon of Christ, the creative Word and Lord of all, it is as if the Word hits you with a right upper cut from the heavyweight boxing champion! Cut to the heart; knocked for six!

At the start of the interrogation in a little while I will ask you about the Scriptures and what they mean for you. But what I am not asking is that you read and study them merely to become expert commentators or exegetes or be able to find an apposite quotation for each and every occasion, still less to become overflowing repositories of proof texts.

What is important about the Scriptures is not their written-ness, which is instrumental, but the Word of God, whose instrument they are. In other words, it is their spoken-ness

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that matters. The Bible is not ultimately a book for the study, for analysis, speculation and even exegesis, important though all those things are. The Bible is more a matter of celebrating, listening and living. It is a book for liturgy and life. It is noteworthy that the overwhelming content and shape of our Eucharistic liturgy is scriptural. Obviously there is room for non-scriptural material as well, provided it accords with sound tradition – hymns for example, although we need to be on our guard (and I do wish people were sometimes a bit more careful about the words of what they expect congregations to sing!), and sermons too, and exposition (so long as it is not imposition) - but our fundamental conviction is that here, in our worship is to be found the Word of God; and in a variety of ways. This is why our worship is the way it is, and why there should be a reverence about our handling of it and an openness to being surprised by it.

We are all called to a pattern of life which is based on hearing and receiving the Good News of Jesus. And you, my brothers and sister, take on new responsibilities today in connection with this. A new ministry begins today. I believe that our Church needs you and indeed calls you to an obligation to preach, live and display the Good News of Jesus. We need witnesses, able to engage with all opportunities to present the Good News, constructively and creatively but above all with conviction.

The call of ministry is not to status but to service ... first of Christ and therefore his message and second of those who are Christ's. That is those for whom he has a special and heartfelt love ... the sick, lonely, poor, marginalised and oppressed. You are to take and be Good News for them ... and for those who occupy all the other forgotten corners of the world where the light of the contemporary power orientated, consumer driven and money dominated society doesn't shine. And precisely because this is your ministry you are to be prophetic in your task as servants of the Good News.

Very particularly at this time in the history, development and change in our Diocese ...you must be prophetic of new ways and models that have to be established if we are to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our part of SA. Tinkering around with internal politics concerning self-indulgent personal opinions be they about status either of ministry or parochial history, worship, gender, sexuality or anything else; playing about with times and forms of liturgical worship; arguing over who is better qualified to do whatever and the commonly held thought that all will be ok if we go on doing things that we have always done (even though always in this context has a rather modern application and an especially quaint view of history) – all of these distractions **you have to resist**.

We are going out on a limb with this new way of preparing, training, forming and ordaining ministers for the Church. As I have made plain to each of you, you are guinea pigs! We have particular and special needs in our Diocese and have called you to be part of that ... part of the solution. Things will have to be different. In all areas; not just ministry with your ordinations but also in the development of more diverse forms of authorised lay ministry ... in what we call mission partnerships ... in how we fund the mission of God in and through the Diocese ... and in so many others ways. It is a time of incredible transition ... quite what will emerge, under God in the coming years we don't know. What we do know is that things will have to be different – this could be our mantra!

In a changing scene the need is for prophets ... prophets tell it as it is! For you ... to the wider society with the edge of the gospel ... hard as that might be I suspect the other side is possibly even harder because your ministry must also be prophetic to the rest of the Body. For you are to remind us that, in the words of one deacon martyr St Lawrence, the treasurers of the church are the poor. For these are those who Christ chose to be amongst ... these are the people about whose life and circumstance he had the most to say. One might be forgiven for thinking almost the opposite by both our public image and regular utterances. And if we are serious about growing the Church then this will have to change!

Your ministry in the service of Christ – of the human Jesus who had the fullness of God in him – is not only to emulate yourselves his preferential option for the poor but also to call us all to the truth that in following our master we are those who should not only be seen with, but have a special regard for, those with whom many would rather not be identified. It is they who will be Christ to us and they are those whom Christ longs to draw to himself.

Of course we have to be as balanced as we can. The rich also feature in the Lord's plan and those who are thought rich/poor; powerful/weak; marginalised/central vary from culture to culture and place to place. All are those for whom Jesus came as Saviour.

What I want to emphasise to you today is the critical importance for our church today of the ministerial function to call to the mind of God's holy people those whose needs are urgent. Your call ... you deacons to be ... is primarily to pastoral work ... but with a missionary intent ... that is rooted in the liturgy of the church. I charge you to be heralds of the Kingdom ... to live, speak and act with its values even although they are unpopular and derided ... they are true ... and it is for them and their establishment amongst the communities of people that Jesus went to his death.

**The call of ministry is not to status but to service ...
first of Christ and therefore his message
and second of those who are Christ's.**

I am based in the Pastoral District of the Southern Suburbs, where my particular focus is ministry in four local aged care centres, our healing and wholeness service, as well as leading a home group. In 2017 I completed a Graduate Certificate in Ageing and Pastoral Studies at St Barnabas College, which was particularly helpful in developing an insight into ageing, and what impact this has both physically emotionally, and spiritually, and how then to provide spiritual and pastoral care in the aged care context.

Two days a week I am employed as a Chaplain with AnglicareSA, one day a week providing spiritual and pastoral care for the residents at Anglicare SA Trott Park, including a weekly service, and one day a week as Employee Support Chaplain for the Anglicare SA staff at Trott Park and Christies Beach.

I give thanks to God for calling me to this ministry, and particularly for the support and encouragement of my husband, John, and the clergy and parishioners in the Southern Suburbs. I am excited for what 2018 holds not only for me, but for the Diocese of The Murray, and I give thanks and hold on to the promise that "God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

Deacon Carol Cornwall

Mount Gambier Welcomes Fr Neil Fernando and His Family

Fr Neil Fernando was licensed as Priest in Charge of the Parish of Mount Gambier on Saturday 20th January 2018. Christ Church was full with parishioners, Bishop John, priests from across the diocese, ministers of other churches in the city, local and state civic and political leaders all in attendance. There was also a big contingent of about 20 people from the Mount Barker Parish gathered to support Fr Neil, Nalini and their sons Innocent and Sadewu. And what a wonderful service it was; full of music and laughter, words of inspiration and welcome and, of course, prayerful thanks and praise to God for guiding Neil to us.

Fr Neil has been working in the parish since late September 2017, engaging widely with our local communities, joining sports clubs, working with the Ministers' Association and finding his way into the hearts of parishioners. The parish has a new feeling of optimism and hope for a future of outreach and growth, of family and community. Fr Neil's broad Sri Lankan smile, infectious laugh and outpouring love for all of God's Holy people have touched us all.

The last few months have been hectic and somewhat stressful. There has been a long wait for Fr Neil's visa and an equally long wait for him to be able to return to Sri Lanka and gather his family and bring them back to Australia. Neil, Nalini and the boys are now together experiencing family life in Australia. There are wonderful cultural differences for us all to discover and enjoy and some difficulties with language. However, this has in no way hindered the many social gatherings (parties really!) and beautiful Sri Lankan banquets at the rectory.

In such a short space of time there has already been growth numerically and spiritually in so many ways. In recent times we have celebrated the family's arrival, a parish Family Fun Day complete with Christmas Nativity play, the 100th birthday of our amazing organist, Kath Watts, our Patronal Festival and the great liturgies around All Souls, All Saints and Christmas. It's been quite a ride!

Fr Neil is a highly skilled priest with an enormous breadth of experience and an irresistible enthusiasm. Glimpses of his vision, plans and ideas are mildly terrifying, but we know therein lies our future. One which respects the past but is new, different, creative, inclusive and flexible. It is a future which acknowledges that our wider community has changed far faster than we have. God's people need to get to know him once again as a Saviour who is just as vital in the 21st century as He was in the first century.

God has gifted Mount Gambier a new beginning. We are incredibly grateful. Please pray for us.

Rick Fisher



A New Chapter ...

On 24th January, as my former colleagues were finishing their first day back at school, I was beginning a new chapter in my life's story by being licensed as an Assistant Priest in the Parish of Mt Barker in the Mission Partnership of The Hills. The service was uplifting and full of inspirational prayers and messages from the many who attended, including a reference to a purple bicycle in Fr Peter Carlsson's Homily (he was explaining the lengths people go to for love).

It was a great night and I was overwhelmed by the amount of support and love that was shown not only by the people of the Parishes of Mt Barker, Onkaparinga Valley and Strathalbyn in their kind and generous welcome, but also from the members of the Parish of Murraylands and the clergy who travelled from far and wide.

It was the next day when the rubber hit the road and I took my first service at The Laurels Retirement Village and I began the task of learning about parish life. As a training curate one of my main learning areas will be in how local Church reaches out to help those in need and the various ways they share the good news of Jesus. The congregations in Mt Barker and Strathalbyn (and their surrounds) are quite involved in their respective communities and I am looking forward to getting to know the people and the communities and help them share the love of God with those among whom we live.

I will also have a strong focus on continuing my formation, training and education. Formation as a disciple of Christ is an ongoing process in all of our lives and is a key focus of the vision to help our Diocese grow. I will also be continuing my



Fr Daniel and Jasamine Irvine

training as a priest and developing skills in areas like liturgy and pastoral care, and of how we can work together to strengthen our communities. In terms of education I am starting a Masters in Theological Studies that promises to be an exciting addition to the work that has already been undertaken within the Diocesan Formation and Training Program, which this year will be even more accessible to people around the Diocese.

Fr Daniel Irvine

Diocesan Community Award Winner

Cassandra Evans, pictured right, is the first recipient of The Diocese of The Murray Community Award.

Cassandra won the award, which she was very pleased to receive, for her Year 12 artwork and for her involvement with Riding for the Disabled. She is now looking forward to entering the University of South Australia.

Fr Paul Monash



Long Standing Principal At Woodcroft Anglican College Retires



Mark Porter, the Principal for almost all of Woodcroft College's existence in Adelaide's southern suburbs, will retire in April.

Mr Porter arrived at the school in October 1990, just one year after it opened. It then had just 85 students, along with significant financial problems, low enrolments and a handful of buildings.

Twenty Seven years later, the school has nearly fourteen hundred students and a waiting list.

Originally designed as a secondary school, it now caters for students from Reception to Year 12.

It also has global recognition with international curriculums and accreditation with the Council of International Schools and the World Academy of Sport.

Mr Porter says the school has a vibrant education program and a wonderful co-curriculum program.

"These are initiatives that the school has wanted to pursue because they fit with its overall direction."

"Morale here is strong with many staff recently completing 20 and more years of service".

"People want to be here. The students want to be here because they know they are in a safe place where they are nurtured and encouraged," he said.

The school, which was an initiative of the SA Anglican Schools Commission

and local churches, has an emphasis on teaching Christianity, supported by the School Chaplain.

"We've never shied away from being a Christian school. Students are taught about Christianity in the context of world religions."

"With the opportunity to have Bishop John here, too, we have a rich sacramental life, supported by Fr Andrew Forder, the Chaplain."

Fr Andrew has been at the school for 20 years in a leadership role but decided to train as a priest and has returned as Chaplain, a position he has held for the past two and a half years.

"Bishop John appreciates the school and we appreciate what the Bishop is trying to do in the Diocese. We've happily provided hospitality and a venue for Synods, post-ordination training and other meetings as well," Mr Porter said.

Mr Porter adds that he has no regrets about leaving the school.

"I love the school. I love the people I work with. And I love the school community, past and present. But it's time to take a step back and personally I couldn't be happier."

Mr Porter will be replaced by Mrs Shannon Warren.

"Until recently Shannon was the

Principal of an all-girls school in New Zealand Previously, she was Deputy and Head of the Senior School at Seymour College in Adelaide. She has also worked in a Catholic School in Adelaide, in her home town Sydney, and overseas.

"She brings fresh energy to Woodcroft. There are still wonderful opportunities for the school to explore and exciting times lie ahead."

Mr Porter hopes that the relationship with the Diocese and the school will continue.

"There is a requirement for the new Principal to maintain good relations with the Diocese. These have been particularly strong, especially lately, so we trust that the good chemistry will continue."

Mr Porter says he'll do some volunteer work in the Diocese in the foreseeable future.

"I have a strong interest in aged care as I currently chair the Resthaven Board. I also plan to read and write for my own enjoyment and indulge my interest in local history.

"My wife Margie and I are rebuilding our house. We plan to travel, too, so there'll be no shortage of things to do in retirement."



Woodcroft College

The Helpless Colony that Became the Happiness Home

When Father Thomas Karamakuzhiyil came to Mt Barker in June 2016, our Parish became involved with the Nepalese Orphanage or Helpless Colony, in Kathmandu, Nepal, run by Nanu Rai. Nanu founded this organisation in 2004, for children who were orphans, disadvantaged or abandoned, as well as those who lived in faraway villages, who had little opportunity to receive an education. The early days were extremely difficult, and the name, Helpless Colony was appropriate as the children did not go to school or have regular meals and they slept on the floor. Things became much worse, after the disastrous earthquake in Nepal on 25th April 2015, when the building they lived in was badly damaged, and they had to use a tent.

Before Father Thomas came to our Parish, it had been decided that it was vital to build a house for Nanu and the children, which would provide security with a permanent home, and no longer depend on rental property. People from York Peninsula were already involved with fundraising, and Joan Correll's extraordinary generosity saw the land purchased and the building of the house commenced after the laying of the foundation stone in May 2016.

We in Mt Barker, commenced various fund-raising efforts from markets, to a hugely successful lunch and auction in April 2017. There have been numerous contributions from our community, and their support has been greatly appreciated.

On 3rd October 2017, fifteen of our Parish, joined Father Thomas for the journey to Kathmandu, primarily for the Official Opening and Blessing of the Happiness Home, scheduled for Thursday 5th October. We were joined by Joan Correll and six others from York Peninsula. Four other friends joined us, including Julie Papworth from Victoria, who had visited Nepal with Father Thomas, in October 2015.

This was a wonderful, emotional experience, and one we will never forget. Nanu's gratitude is summed up by her message:

'Like everyone I had a dream too, not only me everybody of our home. Until we found JOAN AMA it was just a dream. AMA (MOTHER) JOAN appear as god in our life who would turn our dream in to real. I like to thank you for your generosity of Joan Correll and Fr. Thomas. And also Kay Barlow and Regina Bishop for their effort and support. I really appreciate to Fr. Thomas for everything you made happen to us. Every one in Australia who supported us THANKS YOU. Now I really do believe that there is God in this world but you just need to see through their heart and I found this in AMA JOAN. Lastly thank you all for supporting us for our dream home. DHANYABAD – THANK YOU.'

Father Thomas wrote: 'AN EXTRA MILE – An amazing journey with incredible people to make a difference in the life of the children in Nepal.



JOAN CORRELL, your kindness will make a life changing experience in the life of Nanu Rai and the children who are in the orphanage now and the future children to come and live and study in the Happiness Home.

To all the kind people who helped and are helping Nanu Rai and the children with their education and all other living expenses – THANK YOU. I thank God for giving me an opportunity to walk an extra mile.

To my church members in the Anglican Parish of Mount Barker – Thanks for your amazing support and encouragement in this journey. YOUR KINDNESS HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE.

Our support does not end with the completion of the Happiness Home. Our fundraising efforts continue, both large and small, and there are opportunities to sponsor one of the children for their education etc. It is a privilege to be involved with these wonderful people.

In closing, I would like to share these words from Terry Moore.

'I am constantly amazed by the ability of the poor and disadvantaged to teach us the basic virtues of humility, love and respect. The Happiness Home is a testament to what can be achieved if we are all guided by these virtues.'

Sandra Pullen

New CEO for Anglican Community Care (ac.care)

Shane Maddocks has begun his role as the new CEO of ac.care, replacing Rob Foggo who retired after 30 years with the welfare organisation last year.

The welfare organisation which began in Mt Gambier in 1986, providing foster care services, operates in the Diocese of The Murray, and has its major offices in Mt Gambier, Murray Bridge and Berri with a staff of 250.

The new CEO comes with a wealth of experience in national leadership roles in community development with Red Cross and with State Government departments in child protection, juvenile justice, early childhood health, education and care and in contributing to policy and legislation reform in the family services sector.

In addressing Diocesan Council, Mr Maddocks explained that coming into the role is a bit like coming home.

"I was born in Renmark and lived in the Riverland until I was 10 when my family moved to Adelaide. After completing my schooling in Adelaide, I joined the Commonwealth Bank at Murray Bridge. I became involved in youth leadership and was the Chairman of the Murray Bridge International Youth Year Committee. The committee was successful in receiving many grants. I also was the Murray Bridge Young Person of the Year in 1986."

After returning to Adelaide, Mr Maddocks completed a Bachelor of Social Work with Honours and then moved to Port Augusta, where he worked with children and families impacted by child abuse, children in foster care and young people at risk or involved in the justice system.

He then moved back to Adelaide and continued to work in various state government departments in welfare, education and primary health for 20 years. During that time in 2000, Shane completed a Master of Policy and Administration Degree at Flinders University. Then, in 2011, he was appointed the national lead for Australian Red Cross's work with vulnerable communities across the country.

Mr Maddocks said it was a huge privilege and responsibility coming into an organisation that has been operating 30 years.

"The attraction was to reconnect with my country origins and working with people in rural areas".

He spoke of the funding arrangements for the welfare organisation, saying over half of it went towards foster care. He also spoke about the impact of drugs and family violence in providing appropriate services.



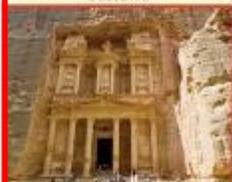
"ac.care is well known for working with those in poverty, homelessness, isolation and working to keep children and families safe with positive strong futures."

"The demonstration of how ac.care improves lives and measuring the resources received and making a difference, and increasing and strengthening the partnership and connection with Anglicare SA and other organisations".

Mr Maddocks noted the importance of working with the Diocese, the Parishes and communities and acknowledged the need of help from physical and spiritual support and prayer.



Caesarea



Petra in Jordan



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND including Petra and Jordan **25th February to 15th March 2019** (subject to airline schedules) **\$6,695 approx.** (subject to airfares for 2019)

As well as visiting "Pilgrimage" sites, we will also experience Israel as a country, meeting up close its people, hearing first hand from the Palestine people and their Bishop what it is like living under Israel rule. We will also include visiting • Beersheba • Time with Bedouin people • Meal at an original Kibbutz • Catacombs • Train from Jerusalem to Bet Shemesh • Baptism site of Jesus • Mt Nebo (Memorial church of Moses at Mt Nebo where he viewed the promised land from) • Visit factory of wood carvers in Bethlehem, and other new additions not previously visited.

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Reflection - The Long Walk

I have titled this the long walk as way back in my teenage years I had a sense God was calling me to a ministry. I guess then I was thinking to the priesthood with no thought to any other form of special ministry.

Home town was Orroroo. Left there aged 3 years to Tooperang (near Mt Compass) Moved from there to district of Bray (East of Robe) at age 5 years. Attended Robe primary school – left there at age 10 years to Mount Gambier where I remained for the next 64 years.

First contact with the church was at Bray where I attended home church with family at neighbours farm. Once a month Methodist minister would visit. Did not mean much to us children – we played outside while adults had meeting – went inside when food was ready.

When we shifted to Mount Gambier church became an integral part of life. My mother was a dedicated Christian and made sure her six children attended. By age 11 years I became an altar server. I was very dedicated to that role never missing my turn and quickly offering to serve when others either did not turn up or could not attend. I continued as a server until about 21 years of age.

Sometime in my late teens I recall reading from Isaiah 6:1-9 and coming upon the words of vs 8 & 9 "I heard the voice of the Lord saying "whom shall I send and who will go for us?" Then I said Here am I! Send me." And He said "go and tell this people." I remember being impressed (if that is the right word) that here was a 75 year old man, Isaiah, willing to step out in faith and take up the challenge for the Lord. From that time I made a commitment to respond to calls God might place on my heart. Sadly I must say I was not always good at following through. The book of Isaiah holds a special interest and place in my heart. Later in my walk Isaiah 55:11 became the foundation stone to my developing spiritual walk and to this day holds a special place alongside my love for Jesus.

It was in my early 20's that I first



offered myself for Holy Orders. My reception was brief and discouraging. I was advised to try "that lot on the hill at Mt Lofty – St Michael's House" I went there accompanied by Raelene (my then girlfriend) They were not impressed that I should present with a young lady (she had remained in the car) – another quick rejection.

There were two other occasions, with two other Bishops and my audience with both was not long. Neither felt that my academic achievement was sufficient. I did however participate in the discerning process at the same time as Ed Pumphey – later became Fr Ed and Gary Weatherill – later became Bishop of Willochra and now Ballarat. – I was in good company.

I continued with my walk with the Lord at Christ Church Mt Gambier. Being a training parish there were two curates in training at any one time. After the retirement of Fr Brian Ashworth there were several locums, including Fr Tony Wilds and Bishop David McCall who had an influence on me.

I served in many positions during my time in Mt Gambier – member of church choir, parish council, synod representative for many years, priest warden for Fr Ross Lenthall, licenced lay preacher, parish secretary, scout leader for Christ Church Scout troop, leader of Church of England Boys

Society and leader of Young Anglican Fellowship (YAF). It was during my time as a choir member and of YAF that Raelene arrived in Mount Gambier – she was a member of both.

In the 1970's I was very close to walking away from the church. A movement known as the charismatic movement "hit" the Anglican church. My first response was extreme resistance. Thankfully God intervened and turned my life around. That was the major turning point in my spiritual life.

In my early 30's God called me into a ministry at Bethesda Rehabilitation Centre, working with those affected by alcohol and other drugs (another story for another time), with the marginalised and those experiencing severe family issues through domestic violence and sexual abuse. I served in that ministry for 38 years. Isaiah 61:1 became the foundation on which my ministry was built.

While employed as a counsellor at Bethesda, with a young family and working long hours (24 hour call) I studied and successfully completed an Associate Diploma in Social Work and later, The Graduate Certificate in Health: Addiction Studies, at Flinders University. While remaining employed at Bethesda, God added to my work load and in 1994 I was called into the

Gideon's International and together with Raelene we grew in our faith and understanding of the importance of working together as a couple and with other denominations. In 2015 when I was ordained to the Diaconate it was with great sadness that we had to resign from that ministry.

The diocese was blessed with the installation of Bishop John Ford. In 2014 I was privileged to be in a group who participated in a prayer and meditation workshop at Naracoorte with Joy Gilliver. It was during that workshop that I knew God was speaking to me and calling me to a new adventure. In 2015 I was privileged to be invited to attend the first of the formation camps at Cockatoo Downs with Bishop John Hind. A week later Raelene and I were thrilled to be the guest of Fr David and Lesley Price, with Bishop Hind. By then I was convinced that God was calling me to the ordained ministry and so I advised Fr David who then set the "wheels" in motion with Bishop John Ford. I was next privileged to attend a second formation camp with Bishop Michael Languish. Soon after, having participated in the discernment process with two groups of Laity and Fr Alf

Stringer, Bishop Michael and Bishop John of The Murray, Bishop John advised that he would ordain me to the diaconate (aged 71) on 11th July 2015 following a week of retreat at Sevenhill – what a life changing experience.

The effect of ordination is difficult to explain. However, the sense of internal change was immediate and from then on the scriptures took on a "new life" with a clearer understanding and an increased appetite to learn and know more

At the formation weekend in July 2015 it became clear to myself, Raelene, Fr Peter Carlsson and Bishop John that God was calling me out of Mount Gambier and so began the painstaking period of getting our house ready for sale, down sizing, decluttering 40+ years of accumulated memories etc., and finding a place to live in Murray Bridge where God had suggested I might best serve him.

We moved on the 11th September 2017 (a week before attending the annual Retreat at Sevenhill) It was there I was blessed to be among the other clergy of the diocese. It was during this time that I experience a process of internal change in preparation for my ordination

to the priesthood. On September 30th 2017 an experience beyond words took place as Bishop John ordained me to the priesthood celebrating St Michael and all Angels with Fr Peter creating a PowerPoint and showing depictions of "St Michael" during his address - Our grandchildren Violet 3 years and Arie 8 years of age were awed by it.

Having been a Deacon under the guidance of Fr David Price I am now working as a member of the team in the Murraylands assisting him again.

Many people have supported me along the way. The most significant were my mother who guided me from childhood to the teenage years. My wife Raelene of 49 years who by example of prayer and dedication to the Lord kept me focussed all these years. Fr David and Ann Withers, Fr Wayne Corker, Fr Peter Carlsson, Fr David Patterson, Fr David and Leslie Price, Mrs Ruth Dawes, Julienne Feast, Bob and Marie Lynch. The ministers association in Mount Gambier especially Pastors Rudy Furlong, Errol Carson and Rev Gary Ware and Rev Murray Earl.

Fr Des Ackland

Child Aware Practice

Using a 'Child Aware' approach to ensure that parenting roles and the needs of children are considered in all interventions

'Child Aware' practice is an emerging concept in Australia. It involves building an organisational and workplace culture that embraces a range of practices and attitudes that aim to keep the 'child in mind'. This practice needs to occur from a client's first contact with a service through to their follow-up.

This course aims to enhance understanding about the impact that adult problems may have on children and to support practitioners to think about children early in any contact with a parent. It ensures that families are supported to make and sustain changes so that they can better meet the needs of their children.

The course is interactive and features high-quality video scenarios that are partnered with a useful workbook. The workbook contains exercises, discussion starters and reflective questions that can be used in a range of settings (e.g. staff meetings, professional development, team and management meetings) by practitioners, team leaders, managers and organisations.

Production of this course brought together national initiatives with a shared interest in vulnerable children. The COPMI national initiative partnered with the Australian Centre for Child Protection and drew on collaboration with the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction. The course received funding by the Australian Government through the Protecting and Nurturing Children: Building Capacity Building Bridges initiative.

For more information and to register, please visit the Emerging Minds website:
<https://emergingminds.com.au/training/child-aware-practice/>

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Want to know what is happening
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Fr Thomas Karamakuzhiyil, Fr Peter Simmons, Fr David Price,
Fr Michael Varnish, Ruth Daws, Rick Fisher, David Fleming,
Murray McFarlane, Margaret Philpott, Joan Small, Anna Stanley,
Chancellor Robert Tong.
Graham Dickson, Chris Martin, Jeff McHugh, Dr Ted Sandercock,
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