



Fr Peter writes: Dear People of St Matthew's

O come, O come, Emmanuel And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The *Great "O Antiphons"* form the basis of the popular Advent hymn, <u>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</u> by English hymnographer <u>John Neale</u>.

The *Great O Antiphons* are rich in meaning and nuance. Each antiphon begins with the acclamation "O," addresses Christ by one of His messianic titles from the Old Testament, and ends with a heartfelt plea for His coming. The sequence of the antiphons, progresses from before the creation of the universe, through the promises of the prophets, and culminating with birth of Christ in Bethlehem. The initials of each Latin title -- *Sapientia*, *Adonai*, *Radix*, *Clavis*, *Oriens*, *Rex*, and *Emmanuel* -- combine to form SARCORE. When this is arranged backwards, it spells ERO CRAS, which means "Tomorrow, I will be." This wonderful coincidence has fascinated Christians since the Middle Ages because Christ seems to answer the pleas of the *Great O Antiphons* by promising to come to His people on Christmas Eve (December 24), the day after the singing of the final antiphon.

With the help of our wonderful choir and music department we are reviving some of these ancient traditions at St Matthews so look out for them.

#### "Trumpets Sound for Sellout Messiah"

400 people packed out St Matthews Albury for a peoples Messiah with soloists from London and Opera Australia. On the feast of Christ the King, the King or instruments the Letourneau pipe organ of St Matthews was heard to heroic effect under the fingers of international organist Heather Moen-Boyd. Celebrated Australian Arts Patron Lady Primrose Potter who also attended the morning services, meeting the children of St Matthews choir, and returned to the afternoon concert as guest of honour. People came from Sydney and Melbourne especially for the event. Opera Australia 's Joanna Cole, Sally–Anne Russell and tenor Greg Brown joined Bass Baritone Leslie Macleod-Miller from London, with a chorus of over 90 and Trumpeter Matthew Winnel, organised by St Matthews Organist John Scott and directed by John Ross for a roof raising performance that was nothing short of a triumph, Archdeacon Peter MacLeod-Miller called upon Archdeacon John Davis to bless the performers and congregation at the end of the performance and a champagne reception in the St Matthews garden and forecourt followed under clear skies.

# "No room in the inn for Albury Visitors" (so they join the St Matthews Christmas Stable) and the Stable is filling fast ... Ups and downs of a living nativity"

It is time in most homes to start searching for the nativity scene and looking for missing pieces. At the Rectory at St Matthews Albury the pieces are walking around and its time to start working out where the EXTRA pieces are going. The Living Nativity is to be assembled as a central feature of the Albury community carol event from which the Christian story has been effectively sidelined over the last few years. Forget the French hens and partridge in the pear tree, we have to make room for 2 donkeys "Tilly and Tessa", 3 different coloured alpacas in camel harness (and a baby white alpaca called "Ken" after one of our church wardens who is a real little star) and 4 fluffy or feathery bantam friends.

We also need to find room for some lambs, and in an advent mood awaiting their arrival. Some ducks "Adelaide and Thurston" have appeared "out of nowhere" part of a travelling magic show, a local hotel decided that while their owner could be accommodated, for the ducks there was "no room at the inn" and so they joined the St Matthews nativity. It is one of the unpredictable aspects of having real animals involved in the proceedings and other members of the animal kingdom are also auditioning as "extras".

Over the Christmas period there will be carols at the stable door and bookmarks telling the true story of Christmas will be distributed.

Families will have the opportunity to participate by dressing up in costumes provided, as members of the Holy Family or as shepherds, kings or angels (large and small) and to have their photographs taken to remember the first Christmas with donations being shared to assist children in Papua New Guinea and musical education for the children of St Matthews choir.

You may notice some photos of **Fr Philip from PNG who has been staying in Albury** it has been humbling to catch a glimpse of the challenges of Christian life so close to our shores and through the Mothers Union network and Fr Philip we hope to assist children in that community in a meaningful way this Christmas.

We celebrate a real saviour and so we have a Real Nativity pointing to a Real Christmas with a Real Message why settle for less?

#### "O' come let us adore Him Christ the Lord"

The BCP Collect for the First Sunday in Advent is considered to be one of the finest in the Prayer Book. It isn't a translation of the Sarum Use Missal's prayer but a new composition by Abp Thomas Cranmer. Here Cranmer's mastery of using the English language to express prayer remains unmatched to this day.

"Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen."

#### Fr Peter



Vicki Chick, Lady Primrose Potter, Darren Eddy his wife Julie & daughter



Lady Primrose, F. Peter, Music Director, John Ross, with junior choir members.

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#### **Parish Council News**

- **Storm Damage** Parish Council have decided to wait until after the air conditioning is installed before doing anything about storm damage. National Trust does not have the funds to cover the costs.
- Cooling. Preliminary work has commenced. Hope to have the work finalised by 16<sup>th</sup> December.
- Microphones A quote for a new microphone at the Pulpit to be asked for.
- Landscaping This work is continuing. The idea for a memorial garden has been well received.
- Bequests If you see a brochure that's attractive about bequests, as an sample, please let Fr Peter know.
- The Font Members of Albury's Own has offered to pay the costs to move the font to the Lady Chapel. They would also pay for tiling the area where the font was, in their own colours. The Lady Chapel would become the Baptistery. The South transept would be dedicated possibly to St George as a chapel for the Albury's Own, the forces and the Police.
- **Anglicare** 22 hampers were distributed in October. Angle expects a large increase in the number of Christmas hampers needed this year.
- Relay for life A great success. A wide range of people attended. Fr Peter was encouraged by the participation of the parish for the event.
- Messiah was very well organised. Thanks to Lester & Son for sponsoring the event.
- Lenten Talks 2012. The topic could be 'Sense of Salvation through the arts'.
- Founders' Day As it is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Governor of NSW hopes to attend the service at St Matthew's to celebrate this day.
- Nursing Home visits. Deacon Heather Matthews is interested in visiting the residents in the nursing homes, also visiting families after a bereavement.
- Fr Alan Kelb will officially commence duties in February.

Finances

No 1 a/c @ 7/11/11 \$10,836.37 less cheques to be paid \$12,551.16

No 2 a/c @ 7/11/11 \$36,339.36 less cheques to be paid \$1,200

High Grove @ 7/11/11 \$9583.25

Kaye Kennedy

## **REPORTS FOR THE 2012 AGM**

Would you please give a copy of your report for 2011 to Debra or email it to her by the 10<sup>th</sup> February . I know that some of the groups have had their AGM so they will already have a report ready. The report should be short & should only cover 2011. I am not sure when the AGM will be, but the books do have to be collated promptly. Thankyou, Kaye Kennedy

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N.B. THE EMBROIDERY GROUP will hold CHRISTMAS STALL at Carols

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# CHRISTMAS SERVICES



## 21st December -

Albury City Carols by Candlelight with St Matthews to have a 'Living Nativity' in the grounds at the back of the church with our donkeys – Tilly and Tessa and the alpacas. And bookmarks will be distributed telling the true story of Christmas.

# 24th December -

At 4.00pm and 6.00pm Children are invited to come dressed in costume of the Holy Family, or as a Shepherd, angel or a King to remember this special time.

4.00pm Short Infants Carols Service with Donkey

6.00pm Children's Family Service with Holy Communion

10.30 pm Carols

11.00pm Midnight Mass

# 25th December -

9.00am Eucharist



# PRAYER OF THE DONKEY

Oh God who made me to trudge along the road, always to carry heavy loads, always to be beaten,

always give me great courage and gentleness,
one day let someone understand me- that I may no longer want
to weep because I can never say what I mean, and they make fun of me.
Let me enjoy a juicy thistle, and make them give me time to pick it.
And Lord, one day, let me find again my little brother

of the Christmas Crib

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### **EVENING GROUP NEWS**



At our November meeting we held our Annual General Meeting when new office bearers for 2012 were elected. They are :

President Margaret Shearer
Vice President Kaye Kennedy
Secretary Pam Thorman
Assistant Secretary Helen Martin
Lynda Crookham
Assistant Treasurer Jan Draper.

Before the meeting, Fr Peter conducted an Eucharist with the 10 members sitting in the Sanctuary. This was followed by a bring and share meal. At the meeting President Kaye read her report a copy will be in the 2012 Parish AGM.

Several years ago the Evening Group donated \$2500 to the church. This money was put into the National Trust a/c. The money is being used for Church work with some of it being used towards the costs for the rising damp report.

After listening to the reports Fr Peter commented that the money in our account was raised by a few people. The Evening group pays for the rental of the photocopier and its with this assistance that the Parish is able to have a photocopier. Its also one way that we can support the choir, because we know that they use the copier each week to copy their music etc. We also support children's church, Mother's Union, and the prayer circle because they also use the copier.

We intend to have a cake stall on 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 7.30 am to 9.30 am to help raise money for the choir to purchase new robes.

Our next meeting will be a planning meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Jan at St Pat's Retirement Village.

President Margaret & the Evening Group members wish you all a Happy & Holy Christmas

Kaye Kennedy

## M.U. CARD STALL

'Tis the Reason for the season'



## Please support the Mother's Union card stall

The stall has good quality Christian cards for most occasions, priced at \$2

There are also Christmas cards — \$5 for 10 cards.

Stall operates between the 8.30am and 10am services Please support the stall and purchase cards with a Christmas theme Stall co-ordinator - Joy Haberecht

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The alpacas and donkeys with Fr. Peter & Karl



M.U. fundraiser 'HighTea with strawberrries.'



Evening Group A.G.M



F. Philip Jiregari & Fr. Peter - Wed. Eucharist



Fr Peter, Fr Philip, Fr Peter McKeague & Fr Alan



Lee and Fr Alan Kelb.

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Sylvia and Bert celebrating 50 years married



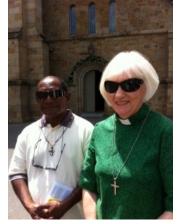
Principal Singers presented after 'The Messiah'







Fr. Philip Jiregari



Fr Philip and Deacon Heather Matthews

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## CHILDREN'S CHURCH IN NOVEMBER

The theme for this Sunday was 'CHRIST THE KING', and 'STIR-UP' SUNDAY'.

Fr. Peter told the children that in England, and parts of Australia, people make their Christmas Puddings, and each family member gets to stir the mixture, on this day. He mentioned that it was a time to think about what sort of people we are, and to make a new start, if we feel we have let God down, as we look forward to his coming at Christmas. There were 20 children, one a tiny, 2 week old baby, proudly bought by her Mother and 16 month old sister! As usual, the children enjoyed the action songs, and made crowns to wear. Fr. Peter pointed to the stained glass window over the alter, depicting "Christ the King". The service was a 'Children's Mass' and was held to involve the younger Confirmees, who gathered around the altar, during the 'preparation and Communion', to get an understanding of the Communion service. During the last hymn, all things Bright and Beautiful, there was the usual happy and enthusiastic musical procession around the church.

Jellybabies, teddy bear biscuits and drinks were had after the service.

Julie Scott Children's church spokesperson.

# <u>MONTHLY OFFERINGS</u>

Week	Planned Giving	Open Plate	Baptisms
2 October	\$1216.00	\$344.40	\$125.00
9 October	\$1122.00	\$424.40	\$202.60
16 October	\$1506.00	\$485.25	
23 October	\$1225.00	\$468.20	\$158.00
30 Octobor	\$1/19 00	\$574.20	•

Offerings do not take into account any payments that are paid directly into the Bank.

No Evensong was held in October

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## HUMOUR

Noticeboards seen outside American Churches





<u>WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT?</u> (Taken from papers written by class of 8 year olds) Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no children of their own.. They like other people's.

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them... They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run.

It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars

They show us and talk to us about the colours of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on 'cracks'.

Usually Grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear.

They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandparents don't need to be smart. They only have to answer questions like "Why isn't God married"? and "How come dogs chase cats?

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have T.V. because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.

They know we should have snack time before bedtime, and they say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've been naughty.

A six year old was asked where his Grandma lived "Oh, he said, she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go and get her, then when we are done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

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## **ON THE RECORD**

## Baptisms

We welcome into Christ's family

6 November Markus Robert ARDLEY

Marshall Lawrence DEAS

13 November Bailey Laine DREW

Isabella Violet HOLUMBIYEVSKA

Blake John MORGAN Ethan Gordon WILSON

27 November Benjamin Henry BLYTHE

**Toby Patrick PHEGAN** 

# Weddings

We congratulate those joined together in Holy Matrimony

5 November Daniel Joseph LEWRY & Christine Marie TAYLOR
11 November Grant Adam JARVIE & Kate Ellen PERIC

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 12 November Michael Jeffrey Charles MARTIN & Karen Elizabeth SMITH

19 November Mita PAULJEVIC & Leonora SEMPRUN

26 November Timothy James PRICE & Ebony Lin TAI

## Funerals

We pray for those who have died and extend our sympathies to those who mourn

26 October Alan James MARLES

2 November Mandy Elizabeth KEMP

14 November Nancy SNARE

16 November Alan David FRANKS

17 November Lola Edith Alice RICKETTS

23 November Frederick (Fred.) Leonard GREEN





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## ST MATTHEW'S PARISH DIRECTORY

#### **SERVICE TIMES**

Weekdays

Morning Prayer 7.00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. **Evening Prayer** 

Tuesday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. Eucharist

Thursday Friday

10.00 a.m.

Eucharist at Riverwood (except 1st Friday). All welcome

Sunday

Sung Eucharist (5th Sunday of every month—Mattins) 8:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Family Service (Children's Church 3rd Sunday every month)

(5th Sunday of every month—BCP Holy communion)

Only 1st Sunday of every month 5.00 p.m. Evensong

<u>CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Note time changes from last year</u>
24<sup>th</sup> December -

Short Infants Carols Service with Donkey 4.00pm Children's Family Service with Holy Communion 6.00pm

10.30 pm Carols **Midnight Mass** 11.00pm 25th December -**Eucharist** 9.00am

PARISH CLERGY:

Rector: Peter Macleod-Miller Ph: 6021 3022 Associate Priest: Fr. Bill Ginns Ph: 6025 0556 **Hospital Chaplain:** Rev'd Arthur Martin Ph: 0414 575 875

PARISH OFFICE:

Rector's Secretary: Deb Davenport Open Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Fax: 6041 3149 Phone: 6021 3022

e-mail: office@stmatthews.com.au Website: www.stmatthews.com.au

### **PARISH COUNCIL:**

Angie Barney Cate Austen Fr Peter MacLeod-Miller—Chairman Angela Braybrooks Cathy Carden Victoria Chick—Rector's Warden Mark Carden Rav Feitz Ken Curnow-Warden Carol Read Robyne Slade Ken Davenport—Warden & Treasurer Neal Gunn Robyn Gibbs Kaye Kennedy—Secretary Stephanie Stephenson Robyne Slade

**Councillors** 

**GRAPEVINE EDITOR:** Julie Scott Ph. 6021 8897

Email: jazzer43@bigpond.net.au

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# ST. MATTHEW'S GRAPEVINE

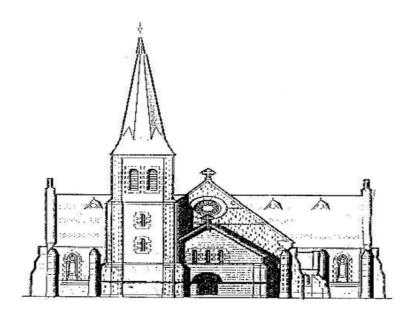
PARISH OF ALBURY

If undeliverable, please return to: St. Matthew's Church PO Box 682, Albury. NSW. 2640.





DATE: DECEMBER 2011



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