

KEEPING CONNECTED TO OUR ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY no 5

Thanks for a huge community Anzac effort with poppies and other special ways of remembering and the trees blazing red in remembrance.



Looking forward to The Good Shepherd, Mother's Day and all carers



Dear friends, the themes of shepherding and Mother's Day fall appropriately at a time when we need to be cared for and guided and defended through the valleys, and brought safely home. As we look around these age old ideas come alive as we see those working in public health and essential services and consider the special role of Mothers and all whose life and ministry take up the themes of sacrifice and love that will not let us go. The great rain and the Government permission to go out and visit 2x2 reminds us all of Noah and the Ark and one of our earliest rescue stories. Those stories help us to get through these difficult days and encourage us not to sit tight in the Ark but to take an oar. Thank you to all who are doing so in

such creative ways. Some are rowing with technology or through direct debit donation for the work of St Matthew's others through hand craft and through sharing prayer and hope. A good old-fashioned phone call is a great way of practical Christian caring, why not fast track the Christmas card list and give your friends a surprise! To the world you might be one person, but to one person you might be the world.



From the Church of England,

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Stay at home, continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable.

Join us for a recorded Service this Sunday 9:00 am on our website, Facebook or YouTube. We have had St Matthew's on the square and now St Matthew's on the screen.

This is the Bible reading for the Good Shepherd, you can probably hum the famous hymn in your head and remember that we remain one flock in many folds, we all belong, all cared for wherever we are. Together with the Wardens and the Parish Council we are thankful for the care and contact of our new Bishop Clarence and remember him in this challenging time.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

— Psalm 23:1-3

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. I have come that they may have life and have it the full."

Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me. John 10:7-14

For CHILDREN, an option for families 'Kid's Blast' live each Sunday at 10:00 am.

by googling: youtubekidsblaststpeters

SNAPSHOTS – please keep connected by emailing 'snapshots' of some of the great activities you have been involved with either individually or as a family during these times. Mother's Day could be a great opportunity for a family photo. We would love to feature them in our next Keeping Connected Newsletter.

STARS IN THE DARKNESS - Good News for sharing:



* Gill and Bill Mackay - Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary for 30th April – Congratulations! Wishing you a ‘diamond’ of a day!

* Rick Allen – after many months in several hospitals, he is well enough to return home – Well Done Rick! A well-known part of St Matthew’s Choir and congregation, we wish him continued progress.

* Margaret Stevens, a regular part of St Matthew’s family, is home following a serious health scare and feeling so much better for being in familiar surroundings. We wish Margaret and Graham all the best.

* Marg Caton’s cousin, Helen, is improving after catching COVID-19, on a cruise.

* Angela Braybrooks – recovering very slowly after her fall and has returned home to Riverwood Hostel to be with Edgar. We wish her continued improvement to a full recovery.



*Update Hailey Wright -day 41 post-transplant; going well. Thank you.



* David Murray has been our clerk of works with so many projects that look forward to St Matthew’s reopening. A big thank you to Tiler Harry Morgan, Dawn Brooks is his Mother-in-law, for fixing all the broken tiles and tiles in the Lady Chapel, at no cost. Many thanks to Brian Smith and Craig Boyd for their generosity. Looks fabulous!



* Acts of kindness – beautifully knitted beanies have been received from a lady in Jindera, for the homeless, greatly appreciated especially with the current cold snap! Kindness rugs are also in the making ready to bring comfort to those in need.

*Donations of bathroom kits and blankets have been received to assist people in need.

Thoughts and Prayers:

- Please keep in your thoughts and prayers Bev Butler who has recently had three heart stents, she is recovering in Calvary Hospital Wagga Wagga
- Dana and Morrie Lauder, Riverwood Retirement Village
- Mark Carden’s parents adjusting to great changes in their daily living with moving into supported accommodation.



We are deeply saddened on the passing of Peta Smithwick, a dear friend to so many in Albury and beyond. Our thoughts are with her family. She will be remembered with love.

We are also saddened by the passing of Mark Dixen, an important part of St Matthew’s and Albury HS, our thoughts are very much with his family at this time. Especially remembering his wife Patricia and daughter Andrina and Alyse and their many friends in the Choir and St Matthew’s congregation and community.

SUPPORTING: The Albury Club – Fresh or Frozen Meals to go! Order online:

<https://www.milkinKitchen.com.au> or phone Erika 0467257921

Cofields Winery Rutherglen – to order phone 0260333798 email: topdrop@cofieldwines.com.au

MEDITATION across the world and in Albury we are using new ways to stay in touch. There are growing numbers using ZOOM to connect with a meditation group at 5:30 each Thursday. At a time of great stress and isolation this could be just the tonic we need! Connect with Michelle and Paul on: Zoom:

<http://www.explorationinmeditationandprayer.com/>



PASTORAL CARE: The 'Phone Tree' is a great way to keep in touch. If you would like one of our team to phone you, or if you know of anyone who would appreciate being contacted, please contact Annette 0413938541. Through these difficult and changing times it is important we think of each other, and those who are sick and isolated, and pray for all.



TUNES ON TUESDAY continues at the usual time, every week online, please check our website for details. Recently we had Tom and Jacky and last week we heard Malcolm Halford and our marvellous organ and every week at 1:10 tune in! Thanks to our Concert Master James Flores. **THIS WEEK FEATURING DAVID LUXON.**

CARING CLEAROUT! Please think of St Matthew's in the future – more people are going to be struggling and it will be even more important to be able to help. Please think about things for OpShop, Food Relief, Book Fair, Tip vouchers – St Matthew's is having a mass clearout as well! Please store in boxes, ready for when we can receive them.

PARISH FINANCES – All on board! Share the load! We all know that these days are challenging for individuals' families and organisations. There is Government help for some, and we want to ensure we can see our way through this without huge crisis. There is something we can all do, if we all do a little, it will sort the problem, we can stop talking about it and it will be one less thing to worry about.

There is an urgent need for St Matthew's Parishioners to commence making direct deposits to the Church accounts if we are to keep St Matthew's afloat for when we come out the other side of the pandemic. **So far there has been a great response with 44 parishioners now giving via EFT and a further group who received the recent Government bonus also making one off donations to the Parish. This is even more appreciated because we do not talk about money much, it is the people who are important. It is very special and thank you so much for being there when we need you and need each other. Please keep up the great work.**

Without further contributions the Parish will not be able to pay Father Peter's wages and other fixed costs for May and beyond. Your assistance is urgently needed.

Bank details are:

Account name: St Matthews Church Albury

BSB: 032736

Account no: 392189

Reference: 'Giving' and your name

Please help us reach all our Parish Members: If any of your friends have recently got an email address, could you please send an email to St Matthew's Office, with their name and email address, so we can add it to our emailing list.

REGULAR UPDATES - Please keep going back to the website, includes Livestream links, Facebook and YouTube