

KEEPING CONNECTED TO OUR ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY

Theme: Looking forward in Thankfulness

February 2021



Lent is upon us following Harvest Thanksgiving and the season of Christmas and Epiphany. Lent means 'Spring on the inside' and waking up. The absolute opposite from giving up and feeling guilty. It is not about going into a corner in sorrow but reaching out to each other in faith, hope and love. A year ago, there was all sorts of bad news and grim predictions uncertainty and isolation seems more like Good Friday than Easter Day but the result has been a series of blessings we could never imagined or achieved through mission statements or Evangelism plans. This has not been achieved through slogans, but through every member of our community joining together and making a real difference. This is also about the life of St Matthew's not being limited by what happens in any building, as one of our younger members so memorably said: 'Church isn't going someWHERE but being someone, not going TO Church but BEING the Church wherever we are.'

Stocktake time is a joyful moment to see how much really happens and the real difference that caring through the community and opportunity of St Matthew's makes.

Pastoral Care is at the heart of our life together which is a great Valentine's theme and Fr Bill Ginns who is part of our Ministry and Pastoral Care Teams celebrates the 59th anniversary of his Ordination to the Diaconate on this very day. Deacons celebrate loving service and both he and Rowena are glowing examples of both.

In Lent I am hoping we will be able to hear from all those in local ministries so that we can better understand what loving service means in a variety of contexts.

Bishop Clarence recorded a lovely greeting to St Matthew's, Fr Bill and Rowena. He looks forward to visiting St Matthew's on Mothering Sunday and also the 23rd May when he will bring The Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia.



**Congratulations to Fr Bill Ginns celebrating his
59th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Diaconate
Sunday 14th February**

Fr Bill will be reading the Gospel reading at our Thanksgiving Service on this day, which fits in well with our theme saying 'thank you' and giving thanks for all who have helped, and thanks for each other.



SOME BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION
 1961-62 St. John's College, Morpeth
 14-2-62 Made Deacon at St. Andrew's Church, Coolamon
 14-12-62 Deacon Assistant in the Parish of Leeton
 25-2-63 (St. Matthias deferred) Ordained Priest at St. Peter's, Leeton
 1963-4 Assistant Priest at Leeton
 1-2-65 Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Lake Cargelligo
 4-10-68 Rector of the Parish of Tocumwal-Finley
 14-11-75 Rector of Tennant Creek, Diocese of the Northern Territory
 25-1-80 Rector of the Parish of Hay
 28-5-87 Rector of the Parish of Corowa
 1-2-97 Rector of the Parish of Broken Hill South
 1985 Made Honorary Canon of the newly-proclaimed Cathedral of St. Alban the Martyr at Griffith
 1985-7 Rural Dean of the Lower Murray
 1991-6 Rural Dean of the Upper Murray
 1999-2002 Rural Dean of the Darling
 At various times, a Diocesan Trustee, a member of Diocesan Council, the Pastoral Care Board, Liturgical Committee, Education Committee, Curial Secretariat.



Upcoming services/ important dates

16th February

Shrove Tuesday

MU Pancake Day and extra Tunes on Tuesday Recital

Come and enjoy a light pancake snack and water listening to a musical recital **1:00 pm – 2:00 pm** (*donation bowl*)

17th February

Ash Wednesday Service 10:30 am

21st February

Children's Church 10:30 am



COVID-19 does not stop **Children's Church** at St Matthew's. Sunday 17th January, we celebrated Children's Church. Due to Catherine's creative reading of the lectionary (*not a mistake*) we looked at friendship and how Jesus made friends with people. We hummed, danced marched with instruments for the music. (Zayden is a very good band leader). Our story was about how Jesus knew people's names and how some people wanted scare people away from Jesus by saying he came from Wodonga and nothing good ever comes out of Wodonga... For

our craft activity we made friendship boxes to remind us of how we make friends. We did not have a cuppa at the end, but Janette made some amazing cupcakes that people got to take home with them. Thank you to Rowena for magic keyboards. Thank you to Julie, Janette and Judith for organising and encouraging everybody. Children's Church will be the third Sunday of the month. We do our best to cater to all ages, mainly primary school. Please feel free to come along and we will do our best to help everybody join in.



Valentine's Day has its origins as an ancient agriculture and human fertility festival. From February 13 to 15, the Romans celebrated the feast of **Lupercalia**. Lupercalia was a fertility festival in honour of Lupa. This festival was also dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture. This was the season to start sowing seeds and to hope for a fertile

year of crops. When the Roman Empire became Christian, it evolved into a "Christianised" form of the festival of Lupercalia. The church honoured St. Valentine—who was martyred at this time. Not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, the church still recognises St. Valentine is a saint. He is the Patron Saint of affianced couples, beekeepers, engaged couples, happy marriages, love, lovers, and young people.

Sunday Service 9:00 am each Sunday. As we count our blessings of being able to meet, we are mindful of the measures that are helping keep our community safe. Thanks to our Choir and organist who are keeping the music alive, while we are unable to do so. We are grateful for our congregations understanding in suspending Holy Communion in this period but so thankful that our real connection is expressed in the sharing our love and care together until we get the all clear.

Part of that care is in our social distancing and in supporting St Matthew's by Direct Debit, tap-n-go, or collection bags as you depart, rather than handing round the plate.

Private Communion can be arranged, by phoning St Matthew's Office 6021 3022

Wednesday Services commence at 10:30 am. The service is a slightly different format but connected in prayer and loving action.

Procedure for attendance at services be patient with ourselves and with others. If we are careful now, then we will have a lot more to celebrate at Easter.

We are now set up with QR-Code Registration on arrival, please bring your mobile phone for this process. If you do not have a mobile phone, you are able to register manually on the sign-on sheet on arrival.

We are asking that people start arriving at 8:40 am so you have time to register and maintain safe social distance.

You can continue to **Keep Connected** via the St Matthew's website: www.stmatthewsalbury.com and Facebook. If you have a SMART TV you can tune in to St Matthew's Livestream Service through YouTube.

Please Note: you can watch all the livestream services on St Matthew's Albury YouTube at any time that suits you – can even watch time and time again!

Contact details: If you have recently changed your email address or have a new email address, or a new mobile number, please inform St Matthew's Office 6021 3022

The **Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family Newsletter** is now a monthly production.

Making Music and Musicians at St Matthew's



This is the time of year when children and parents are looking at their options and St Matthew's Music Association provides a very special opportunity that can benefit the whole community. Our services have regularly featured recipients of our scholarships so would you please consider making a tax-deductible donation to add a bit of musical hope to the young people on the Border and at the same time making an

investment in our own future. The forms are on the St Matthew's Albury Website: www.stmatthewsalbury.com dropdown box 'music' or contact St Matthew's Office.

Thoughts for the month:



Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day.

Alice Marse Earle

What lies before us and what lies behind us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. Ralph Waldo Emerson

As we grow in our capacities to discover the joys that God has placed in our lives, life becomes a glorious experience of discovering His endless wonders.

Love is like the wind, you can't see it, but you can feel it. Nicholas Sparks

ST MATTHEW'S RETRO LANE OP SHOP MISSION STATEMENT



To raise funds for the work of St Matthew's Albury for the most vulnerable in our community, to provide cheap clothes and goods for sale and to offer a socially inclusive environment to volunteers regardless of race, sexuality, ability or beliefs.

New Op Shop Facebook page please like and share it.

Sharing the Good News

Sharing the vouchers! If you have any spare vouchers for the tip, they would be greatly appreciated please drop into the retro op shop or St Matthew's Office 10 – 12 Monday – Friday. Thank you in advance.



Food Room – On-going needs: 1L Long-life Milk, Breakfast cereal, packet Tea bags, store bought jam, 425g cans tuna. Need is for canned Pet food.

Please deliver to St Matthew's Office Hours: 10:00 – 12:00 Monday – Friday Thank you in advance.



HAPPY Birthday wishes to all celebrating a birthday February 2021

10th Noel Debien

15th Lyn Collins

17th Roma Sykes

15th Lyn Collins

20th Lyn Gardnir

22nd Ron Rickett's

23rd Sue Fyfe, Kiralee De Athridge



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

23rd February

Kevin and Shirley Monte's

69th Wedding Anniversary

Good news is for sharing - If you have some good news or have an event coming up that you would like to include in the Newsletter, please share with us by sending an email to St Matthew's Office:

office@stmatthewsalbury.com

OUT AND ABOUT



Margaret Watson



Cath & Emma McGlone, Julie Ling



John Schuberg



Diane and Gloria Myers, Natalie



Keith Crossley



Sandra and Dexter



Rosie and John Satchell



Paul Beckhurst



Annette Gorham, Helen Martin



Vicki Chick, Rev Catie



Sandra Halford



Fr Peter, Cathy Carden



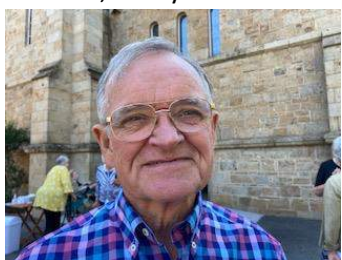
Judy Webster, Lyn Dynan



Wari Williams



Pam Horsburgh, Jill Fielder



Jim Wenham



Prue Smith



Jan Skinner



Erica



Estelle Poulton



Bryan Baker, Buddhi



Carol Wallace



Kei Pyke

St Matthew's Craft Group



Next meeting St Matthew's Craft Group - Wednesday 3rd March from 1:00 — 4:00 pm, if you are interested in joining the group, please contact Sadie Moffitt 0438 610 740. A new idea already stitched are the little felt crosses, given to those in special need so they know God is holding them in the palm of His hand. **Request: If you**

are have any spare wool blanketing to make baby cot blankets or pieces of felt to make small crosses, could you please bring with you to Church on Sunday or to the office between 10 – 12.

St Matthew's Craft Group will have a Craft Stall after the Palm Sunday Service Sunday 28th March.

Pastoral Care



The Pastoral Care's first meeting for the year was held Wednesday 3rd February, 9:00am at the rectory. Although we did not hold a meeting in January, we have been staying connected with phoning and visiting friends in our Parish and community. The 'Phone Tree' continues to be 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 phone Annette 0413 938 541. A visit can also be arranged. If you know of anyone who is sick or in hospital, please phone Annette so a visit from Fr Peter can be arranged. **At all times, it is important we think of each other, and those who are sick and isolated, and pray for all.**



We are very pleased that our Retirement Village Services have resumed. Services for February:

Mercy Place, Marianella: 2nd Tuesday each month 11:0 am, Tuesday 9th February

Dellacourt: 2nd Tuesday each month 3pm. Fr P, Tuesday 9th February

Borella House - 3rd Tuesday each month 3:30pm, Tuesday 16th February.

Murray Gardens: 3rd Thursday each month 11:00am, Thursday 18th February 11:00am.

Riverwood: last Friday each month 10:00am Fr Peter, AG, Friday 26th February.

Our thoughts and prayers

are with all who are sick or unwell at home, or in hospital.

Also, remembering our loved ones whose years' mind is in February,

And

those who have recently died.

Forever in our hearts.



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 6:15 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: www.quietcommunion.org

Albury Chamber Music Festival



The Albury Chamber Music Festival are pleased to announce a change of plans in response to the positive news of the borders opening and the return to live performances. Their Excellencies are currently working on a date for an Albury visit in the New Year on

the occasion of a Live Festival Concert at St Matthew's. Please check the Festival Website for updates.

We will shortly be announcing our St Matthew's Music Association Scholarships including a new Indigenous Music Scholarship. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation toward the future of one of the children of the border.



TUNES ON TUESDAY 2021

First quarter performers:

February 23	Hamish Wagstaff (Organ)
March 9	Stephanie Johnston (Voice)
March 23	Arthur Hull (Voice)
April 6	Ethan Porter (Cello)



SWELL VOX is a small ensemble of musicians from Albury, NSW, Australia. They primarily focus on repertoire featuring the organ and voices, including both sacred and secular music. Their goal is to provide high quality music and anecdotal entertainment, primarily in the online music space.



Silver Celebration James Flores, organist and St Matthew's Organ Scholar is pleased to announce the release of a CD to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the St. Matthew's, Albury, Letourneau organ. Own a part of Albury's history by ordering a CD! Buy for \$20.00 <https://silvercelebration.jamesfloresorganist.com/>



St Matthew's Letourneau Pipe Organ – John Scott has written detailed information about the St Matthew's Letourneau Pipe Organ, available on the St Matthew's website. Great Organs of Australia *Masterworks at St. Matthew's* Sydney organist David Drury Premiere Recording of the Letourneau Organ. Limited copies of this CD available at reduced price of \$15.00 **Every cent raised from the sale of these CD's goes into the Organ Fund.** Purchase from St Matthew's Office or from the Church organists: David Luxon, Malcolm Halford or John Scott.

PARISH FINANCES St Matthew's is looking to the future and working out how we can continue to service the community without going into a financial panic. A huge 'thank you' to the increasing number of people who are making a regular donation to the work of St Matthew's it is so encouraging. If you haven't managed to Direct Debit, make an enquiry at your bank and it's surprisingly easy to organise. New technology whether it is YouTube, a new car, a sewing machine, or a lawn mower can be frightening to begin with, but surprisingly easy when given a go. I hoped that by making some financial sacrifices myself that the load would be a bit lighter and others would also help out, and that is exactly what is happening so 'thank you' again on behalf of myself and St Matthew's.

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. Share the news and connection by emailing the Keeping Connected Newsletter to family and friends.