

Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family

Theme: Gifts of the Spirit

May 2021



The Easter Season breaks into Pentecost and the gifts of God's Spirit connecting our community are in joyful evidence. Pentecost has never been more vividly illustrated than the connection between individuals that makes us into a Church family made possible by modern technology responding to Covid-19. This surely will be the enduring message from this challenging time in our history, so we are connected even when physically separated. We are also connected through loving action and through the ministry of caring for friend and stranger. Just when the year is becoming colder St Matthew's ministry of welcome and caring is shining even more strongly. We are truly on the same page whether in the pew, reading our Keeping Connected, helping in the church garden or Op Shop, or using the phone for a caring catch up.

The opening up is a little slower than we had hoped and the vaccinations for many are still on the horizon and there is a fair bit of anxiety, but together we will get through just as we have faced the enormous challenges of our building being burnt down, bushfires, floods, and other sorrows. Just like the Easter Story, St Matthew's reminds our community that just when the door is totally closed, hope springs up when we need it and we find ourselves connected at the heart just where it counts.

Thanks to the ABC Compass program for a really positive window into the life of St Matthew's and it will be lovely to welcome Bishop Clarence and Michelle who are part of that media excitement as they join us for our service at Pentecost at 9:00 am this Sunday. This Sunday also celebrates the 33rd Anniversary our St Matthew's Choir and wearing their red choir birthday suits. The Spirit is about connection and the warmth we feel together and what a lovely day to come back to St Matthew's on what some people call the churches birthday not to blow out the candles but to light them.



Important dates in May:

Sunday 16th Ascension Sunday Service 9:00am, Children's Church 10:30 am
Sunday 23rd Bishop Clarence and Michelle visit and Choir birthday
Sunday 16th ABC Compass Program – 'One of a Kind' featuring St Matthew's debuts on ABC TV Plus at 8:00 pm. Then ABC 1 Premiere Sunday 23rd May at 6:30 pm
Tuesday 18th Tunes on Tuesday Malcolm Halford (Organ) 1:10 – 1:50 pm
Sunday 23rd Pentecost Sunday with Bishop Clarence 9:00 am

Upcoming event for the calendar:

Forelle Ensemble Concert SCHUBERTIADE Friday 25th June, more details to follow.

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. 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 Service commences 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. We are 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 Sunday Service through YouTube.

Please Note: you can watch all the livestream Sunday 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

St Matthew's change to Office hours: Monday – Friday 10:00 am – Noon.

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

If you have any news or articles that you would like featured in the monthly Keeping Connected Newsletter, please email to nettie.gorham@gmail.com

MOTHER'S UNION

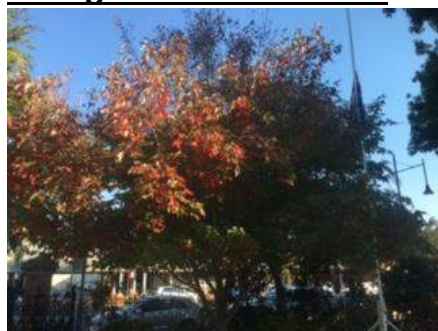


At MU this month we were lucky enough to have wonderful weather to be able to enjoy a BBQ lunch at Frederick's Park. It was lovely to be able to connect with not only members but also new friends, as the children who attended tried everything the playground had to offer. Enjoying fellowship, a simple prayer service, and a sausage sizzle feels like a special blessing after being limited in activities over the last year. Anyone is most welcome to attend our MU gatherings and they are usually held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. MU had a Mother's Day stall out the front

of the church on the 8th of May from 9am. We shall be selling bunches of chrysanthemums and lavender bags as a fundraiser to support our children's church ministry and baptisms. Will we also be handing out flowers to parishioners at church on Mother's Day to acknowledge the special role mother's (and mother figures) play.

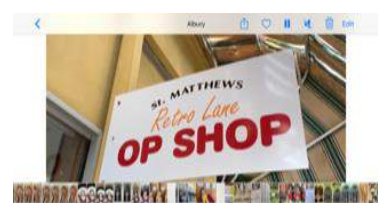
Children's Church: Hello St Matthew's from Children's Church. This month we had a visitor from the Bible come and tell us about a walk he went on. He met somebody along the way who didn't know anything about Easter!!! Because it had been such a long day, he invited the stranger to stay for tea. The stranger then broke bread and shared a glass of wine. OOOOOHHH the stranger was not a stranger at all. The stranger was Jesus!!! We decided that life can be like going on a long walk. Sometimes we may not recognize who is with us and that's ok because Jesus knows where we are. Julie made a lovely poster, and we stuck our footprints on it. We also had another visitor at Children's church. Cleo and her family came to celebrate Cleo's baptism and her joining in the journey of faith. Thank you to Trish for playing the piano. We all enjoyed marching around the church with our instruments. Gill did a great job with a covid friendly cuppa afterwards. We look forward to May when we will celebrate Pentecost a week early!!

Thoughts for the month:



*If you want happiness for an hour, take a nap.
If you want happiness for a day, go fishing.
If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune.
If you want happiness for a lifetime, help someone else. Chinese Proverb*
Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony. Mahatma Gandhi
Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom. Marcel Proust.

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.**



The Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd supports the '**In School Volunteer**' program which provides assistance to Aboriginal children in schools within the Diocese. We invite volunteers to assist in this In-School Programme at St Monica's Primary School, St Augustine's Primary School and St Francis of Assisi Primary School, all in Wodonga. Starting in term 3, 2021. Hopefully, volunteers would have had previous experience and/or interest in the field of

education. Adherence to Child Safety Standard protocols required. Indications of interest are welcome. For more information contact the Project Coordinator Sr Shirley Garland 0417 674 919 email: shirleygarland18@gmail.com

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.



Emergency Food Room requests: Packets of biscuits, tins of soup, cup of soup, tins of vegetables, canned baby food. Tins of spaghetti and baked beans, packets of pasta, bottles of pasta sauce. Boxes of tea bags, packets of noodles, tins of tuna, 1litre long life milk.

Emergency pet food needs: donations of small cans (ring tops) or packet cat and dog food, in date, would be appreciated.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes to all celebrating a birthday

MAY:

5 th	Fr Peter	10 th	Sally Anne Russell
11 th	Eve Ross	23 rd	Glenda Appleby
25 th	Roma Hodgson 90 th	26 th	Lyn Dynan
28 th	Matthew-Paul Fowler	31 st	Judy Webster 70 th

JUNE:

5 th	Victoria Chick, Joan Sheather
7 th	Bishop Clarence Bester
25 th	Roma Hodgson 90 th

SPECIAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

27th May Essie and Ken Osborne **60th Wedding Anniversary**

12th June Joy and Ian Habrecht **70th Wedding Anniversary**



CONGRATULATIONS to Lauren Jackson and her family, becoming the first Australian athlete to be inducted as a player into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

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



Annette, Cathy, Julie



Bede and Heather



Annette, Eleanor McKissack



Fr Bill, Betty White, Rowena



Arthur, Judy, Tom



Angela Braybrooks



Bill and Lyn Reagan



Shirley and Kevin Monte



Stevie and Kirralie



Mark, Ken, Fr Peter



Sylvia, Fr Peter, Bert



Fr Peter, Eve Ross



Stevie



Stafford and Denise



Fr Peter, Trish



Barbara Hoodless, Graham Power



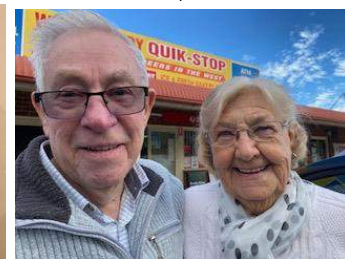
Graham, Wayne



Janice Barton



Gillian Pearce, Andrea Keen



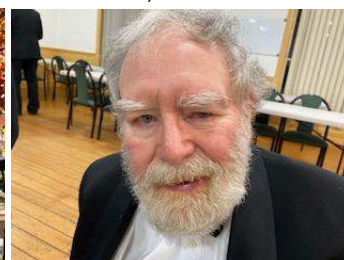
David and Norma 1st Anniversary



Fr Peter,



Michelle Wood



Rick Allan



Janette, Jonathan, Gill



Ross Altass



Gloria Summerfield



Doug Oxbrow



Malcolm, Buddhi



Carol Wallace



Marg Caton



Sandra Halford



Reno, Iris, David



Bob



Bryan, Paul



John, Trish



Emma, Alexandra, Katrina



Laurel Foster



Fr Peter,



Fr Peter, Helen from Albury's Own



Ray and Sue



Kaye, Victoria, Sandra



Ken, Victoria



Fr Peter, Jacinta Stapleton



Sandra, Annie, Lyn



Cathy, Sandra, Maureen



The Coyle family



Christine Nesbit



Sandra, Graham



St Matthew's Craft Group

Next meetings St Matthew's Craft Group - Wednesday 5th May and 2nd June from 1:00 — 4:00 pm, if you are interested in joining the group, please contact Sadie Moffitt 0438 610 740. **Request:** If you 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.

Pastoral Care



The Pastoral Care Team meet monthly at 9:00am at the rectory. We continue to stay connected phoning and visiting friends in our Parish and community. 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 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.

Dates next Retirement Village Services:

Sue, Jacinta Bartlett Pastoral Care Mercy, Annette

Andrea Beitzel, Pastoral Care Lutheran Aged Care, Annette



Borella House: Tuesday 18th May, 3:30 pm
Murray Gardens: Thursday 20th May, 11:00 am
Yallaroo: Tuesday 25th May, 11:00 am
Riverwood: Friday 28th May, 10:00 am
Mercy Marianella: Tuesday 8th June 11:00 am
Dellacourt: Tuesday 8th June 3:00 pm
Borella House: Tuesday 15th June, 3:30 pm
Murray Gardens: Thursday 17th June, 11:00 am



*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 May – June.

*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 Upcoming Recitals:

May 18	Malcolm Halford (Organ)	June 1	Ethan Porter (Cello)
June 15	Rhys McKee (Saxophone)	June 29	Aylish Jorgensen (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.