

Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family

Theme: And With Joy We'll Persevere

August 2021



Our Wednesday Service is small but friendly and recently Patricia Clout who is in our choir, op shop, office and also pianist chose 'Jesus Good Above All Other' to a beautiful French tune. The recurring theme is 'And with Joy we'll Persevere' it seems such a perfect theme as we navigate the great changes.

All our diary entries need to be in pencil and appreciated day-by-day. Instead of looking to the far-off horizon we have an opportunity to look around us, as William Blake put it:

To see a world in a grain of sand
And heaven in a wildflower
hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And eternity in an hour.

Being patient with ourselves and the world and hopeful for the future and practicing trust and joy as Spring also bursts upon us. There are so many wonderful things happening, so many acts of generosity and kindness as we reassess our opportunities and thank God for the simple gifts.

I would like to say something positive about our opportunity and our chance to make a difference. I was very moved to realise that when we understood that St Matthew's could be in financial trouble, we all stepped up to the mark. I was pleased to take a cut in my stipend so that we could all manage and ease the load and I think it is time to do that again. Because of what we are doing together we have been able to maintain our service to the community and Albury has never needed St Matthew's more than it needs us now. I wonder if we all could decide to organise a Direct Debit, not to make a sacrifice that we can't maintain but just to do a little extra and regularly. It would actually make an enormous difference so that we don't face a future crisis. If you need some simple advice

how to organise it, we would be glad to help you, please just contact the office. This way we won't have to talk about all the things that can't happen and all the things we can't do and all the money we need. We have deliberately not spoken about these things and if we all do something now, we can enjoy what we are able to together. I can't help thinking about the wonderful people that St Matthew's has lost in the last 18 months and without naming them to remember that when we were in a situation of need, they just quietly and graciously helped. What a blessing they have been, and I wonder if we could honour their friendship and memory by following their example and do our part in the 171st year relay that continues to be the ministry of St Matthew's Albury to our community.

Thank you, Fr Peter



Important dates in August:

Monday 9th August Mary Sumner Day

Sunday 15th August Children's Church 21st Birthday – all are invited to attend this special service.

Saturday 21st August – Canon Lyall Turley Memorial Lecture and Diocesan Ministry Conference **POSTPONED** until Saturday 23rd October 2021.

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 wearing a mask, sanitising hands and QR sign in on arrival, social distancing and 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 10:30 am. This service is a great option for people who find the 9am service too early, especially in the winter months. 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. Sanitising and safe personal hygiene procedures are still a requirement at the time of arrival.

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. A very big 'thank you' to our volunteers manning the office each morning. 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

MOTHER'S UNION STUDY, PRAYER, AND SUPPORT GROUP meets every Friday at the Martin Centre, Cahill Place from 9:30 am – 12 noon. Everyone most welcome.



Mary Sumner Day is celebrated on 9th August.

On this day Mothers' Union Worldwide gives thanks for the vision of its founder Mary Sumner.

1876 Mary Sumner's Prayer

O Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may firmly believe in Jesus Christ, and love Him with all our hearts. Wash our souls in his precious blood. Make us to hate sin and to be holy in thought, word and deed. Help us to be faithful wives and loving mothers. Bless us and all who belong to the Mothers' Union; unite us in love and prayer and teach us to train our children for heaven. Pour out thy Holy Spirit on our husbands and children. Make our homes, homes of peace and love, and may we so live on earth, that we may live with thee for ever in heaven; for Jesus's Christ's sake. Amen.



Mary Sumner's personal prayer:

All this day O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch do by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.
Amen

CHILDREN'S CHURCH Rev. Catherine Dawson: Hello everyone!!! Children's Church is having a party. We are 21 years old, and we are going to celebrate... with music and dancing and crafting and musical instruments. Bring your party gear. IF you would like to bring something to share it needs to be individual wrapped. If that sounds like a bit too much effort that is fine. We want you to celebrate not get stuck in the catering!! We look forward to seeing you. St Matthew's Children's Church Crew

August Children's Church is a very special celebration - it is their 21st Birthday Sunday 15th August at 10:30 am. An invitation is extended to all to join in this special service.



Thoughts for the month:

When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy. Rumi

You are unique. Embrace the talents and qualities God has given you.

Unshared joy is an unlighted candle. Spanish Proverb

The fragrance always stays on the hand that gives the rose. Hadar Beja

A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer; it sings because it has a song.

Maya Angelou

Kind words do not cost much, yet they accomplish much. Blaise Pascal

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.

Emergency Food Room requests:

Packets of biscuits, tins of soup, cup of soup, tins of vegetables.

Tins of spaghetti and baked beans, packets of pasta, bottles of pasta sauce.

Boxes of tea bags, packets of noodles, tins of tuna.

Emergency needs – include more than just food hampers, frozen meals from Food Share, laundromat tokens are given for washing clothes, accommodation is provided from a Grant we received, and bedding, clothing and domestic goods are given.

Covid lockdown like “manna from heaven” for homeless on the Border.

The latest covid lockdown in Victoria is a disaster for many businesses, but the Milawa Bread company is teaming up with St Matthew's Albury to assist those struggling in the winter weather. With the normal outlets compromised by lockdown restrictions the surplus loaves baked by Milawa bread co. were delivered to St Matthew's Albury at the 9am service Sunday 8th August and placed on the altar by our children and distributed for the benefit to those “doing it tough” by St Matthew's emergency care. It is a time when soup, meals and blankets are distributed according to local needs. It is also good news when people in need get the best quality rather than the “bottom of the barrel”, the finest loaves rather than the crumbs from the community table. It is curious that the theme of the bible readings is “Jesus as the bread of life” and the sermons on loving action, so it does seem like a miracle out of the blue, or at least out of the lockdown.



From Community Crew:

Our high tea back in May was a huge success and a big Thank you to Father Peter for allowing us to share his home Adamshurst 🙏
Friday 16th July, crews Cathy McGlone handed over a \$1000 donation to St Matthews music association that assists local low economic students have lessons- from a high tea of 50 women we supported a dementia activity table and children's music 🎵 lessons - now that is sharing the ❤️



Renewal of Vows Kerry Wilkinson

7th July 2021 Wednesday Service as an oblate of the Benedictine Community.

A special day for Kerry.



**Fide et Literis Scholarship
Congratulations Elspeth Morris**

Message from Sally Morris: 'Fr Peter: I think you helped compose this reference - I owe you a debt of sincere gratitude - Elspeth has been awarded the Fide et Literis Scholarship over 4 years - and I consider your terrific recommendation in no small part responsible. Our deepest thanks.
Her smile is a million miles wide.

Congratulations ANDREW HOY



Great news!
Ray Fietz is returning to Albury!

*Remembering the past: memories keep us together – those who remember All Saints will be delighted to know that the pews from All saints were renovated a few years ago and are now in the Choir Gallery as pews and music stands.

*Keeping connected with technology! Positive feedback after watching - Sunday Service 8th August on YouTube - Mary Sumner Day from Janette Kettle: 'I have just watched the service from last Sunday, thank you for telling me it was available and I finally worked out how to get it on the iPad (not very tech savvy) I felt very emotional , what a wonderful sermon by Fr Peter bringing Mary Sumner and Mother's Union into the context of the theme. I thought if we got the MU prayer included in the service that would have been great, it was so much bigger than that, and I am sure all members in attendance would have been very happy with the fact Fr Peter went to so much trouble to research the origins of MU, and allowed the banner to be processed with members present, it is a very interesting story, and it is still as relevant today as it was then, our branch in Albury is the biggest in the Wangaratta Diocese and still very active, welcoming everybody, male and female.



Baptisms July 2021:
Raegan Rebecca Helwig
Charlotte Ruby Lukassen
Luke John Nelson Melville



House Blessing
Gill and Bill Mackay



HAPPY BIRTHDAY wishes to all celebrating a birthday August:

- 1st Kirsty Coyle 3rd Gwen Schnelle, Jill Fielder
- 8th Val Hawker 10th Judith Hore
- 17th Shirley Monte 90th, Rowena Ginns
- 28th Christine Nesbit

Early September:

- 1st Christine (Kiki) Watson, Joe Nesbit
- 2/9 Essie Osborne, Marilyn Comitti, Marlene Hudson
- 3rd Roma Jones

Angela Braybrooks 90th Birthday Celebration July 27th at Riverwood Hostel



Fundraiser book for St Matthew’s - makes you laugh and might even ‘save your sanity’! ‘Beware: Old Age Ahead in Albury’ is a unique take on steering family members or yourself through the complicated realities of getting older, by Marie Lee. The book includes a wealth of easy-to-read information, local resources and wonderful illustrations, 100% of the proceeds go to the church’s Homeless Fund. Be quick: limited copies on special for only \$20.00, Available at St Matthew’s Office (10 – 12) and Retro Op-Shop (10 – 2).



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



Fr Peter, Bishop Clarence



Shirley Sizeland



The Scotts



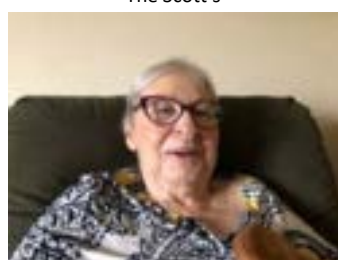
Sandy, MatthewPaul, Noela



Shaun and Annette



Ian and Joy Haberecht



Marg Caton



Julie Scott



Judy Guilmartin



Justin Clancy



Alyssa



Sue Fyfe



Harris and Kay West



Ratcliffe Family



Barb Ross and Trish Lloyd



Jim Williams



Annette, Shaun



Cathy Webster



Wari Williams



Aaron - Moffit



Kylie Hall



Michelle Wood



Mick and Cath McGlone



Graham, Wayne



Lorraine and Ken Curnow



Pamela and Dad, Jeff Smith



Margaret Jacobs



Lyn Dynan



Kevin Kennedy



Steve Bowen



Mike Egan



Deb Davenport

St Matthew's Craft Group

Next meeting St Matthew's Craft Group – Wednesday September 1st 1:00 —4:00 pm, if you are interested in joining the group, please contact Sadie Moffitt 0438 610 740.



Pastoral Care. The Pastoral Care Team meet the first Wednesday of each month 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.

Acts of kindness making a big difference! Our kindness rugs and 'thinking of you' cards, continue to be given to members in our parish/community who are not well, and are so greatly appreciated by all who receive them. We receive so many beautiful cards and messages from those who receive them, such as this lovely message from Chris Thomas: *'Thank you so much for your words and comfort and kindness during my hospital stay and wonderful knee rug. It's been such a warming gift, goes everywhere with me and even sleeps on my bed, I am never without it. Thank you. Xxxx.'*

Thank you to all who have made and donated knitted/crocheted rugs or wool for rugs to be made.

A new 'Act of Kindness' idea this year is giving a knitted or crocheted shawl, very handy for people in hospital or Nursing Homes, if you would like to make and donate one, they would be appreciated.

From 1st June, it is a requirement that all visitors and staff entering a residential aged care facility provide evidence that they have received a dose of the 2021 influenza vaccination.

Mandatory Requirement for going into Retirement Villages and Nursing homes by mid-September: Clergy and volunteers will need to provide a copy of influenza and COVID injections.

Even if volunteers have only had one injection at this stage, proof of that will suffice until the second injection has been had.



*Yesterday is history.
Tomorrow is a mystery.
And today? Today is a gift.
That's why we call it the present.
Michael Babatunde Olatunji*



Fr Peter bringing joy to our friends in aged care after our services.

Our friends at Riverwood



Fr Peter, Roma Jones



Kevin and Shirley Monte



Angela Braybrooks, Joan Sheather



Angela

Our friends at Marianella Mercy



Dellacourt Service



Dates August Retirement Village Services:

Mercy Marianella: Tuesday 10th August 11am **Dellacourt:** 10th August 3 pm
Borella House: Tuesday 17th August 3:30 pm
Murray Gardens: Thursday 19th August 11:00 am
Yallaroo: Tuesday 24th August 11:00 am
Riverwood: Friday 27th August 10:00 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
August.
And those who have recently died.
Forever in our hearts.*

Funerals July:

Margaret Ellen Rapley (nee Pascoe)
Gwenneth Judy Dobson (Gwen)
Wayne John Barber Kaitlyn Rose McGowan (Kate)



Remembering DOUG OXBROW

Dr Doug Oxbrow was well known at St Matthew's and loved being part of our community. It was wonderful to continue that special connection even when he was physically unable to be down the road to our pastoral care team St Matthew's was able to be with him.



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 2021



Dates for the Albury Chamber Music Festival 2021
Friday 5th – Sunday 7th November.

Lady Primrose Potter has called to confirm her attendance at our festival she is one of the most important Arts patrons in the country and many of her friends are making plans to join her. Nance Grant and Lady Potter both turn 90 this year so it will be a time to celebrate another milestone for two of Australia's Golden Girls of the Arts.

TUNES ON TUESDAY



RECITALS:

- August 17** James Flores (Organ)
- August 31** Bulmer Family (Classical Guitar)
- September 7** Thomas Summerfield (Piano)
- September 21** James Strachan (Piano)
- October 5** Thomas Summerfield (Organ)

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.

Bank details are:

Account name: St Matthews Church Albury
 BSB: 032736
 Account no: 392189
 Reference: 'Giving' and your name.

