

KEEPING CONNECTED TO OUR ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY

Theme: Hope and looking to the future

9th – 22nd November



As the year progresses, we are blessed to be the bearers of good news. Unlike other places in the world the projections are all of great opportunities to meet together and to go forward to a new normal.

The 29th November at 9:00 am will see St Matthew's doors reopen for Advent Sunday

which is not just the beginning of a new Church year, but will no doubt be the beginning of a new Church life. Bishop Clarence will be with us and will Bless our new glass automatic door, which has been a sign of new hope even in a period of lockdown. Our Virtual Services, Keeping Connected Newsletters and OpShop have all been part of the 'good news' and we look forward to the good memories that we are creating and sharing as a mark of the resilience and faith, hope and love that spring eternal even in the face of adversity.

Our NAIDOC and Remembrance commemorations proceed Relay for Life and stir-up Sunday on the Feasts of Christ the King the Sunday before Advent. I am also glad to say that the Diocese of Wangaratta is in the news in a positive way in affirming greater equality, kindness, and compassion for all God's people.

This weekend was to mark the visit of His Excellency the Governor General of Australia and Mrs Hurley and many distinguished visitors from across Australia for our Chamber Music Festival Service. We are grateful that we will shortly be able to advise the date of the

Governor Generals visit and the series of events surrounding St Matthew's Music Association continuing the wonderful work of music tuition and artistic opportunity made possible through the generous donations and efforts of so many people.

You might consider a Christmas gift of music tuition for a local child or young person which will twinkle brightly not just from a tree but into the future.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE RE-OPENING SERVICE at ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, ADVENT SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

With the current restrictions on numbers meeting COVID-19 safe socialising practices of staying 1.5 metres away from people we don't live with. The **maximum capacity in St Matthew's is 70 inside** and if the weather is fine, we can have an additional 30 people seated outside.

Please keep in mind the service will be quite different to our usual service.

There will be:

NO Communion

NO congregational singing

NO peace/greetings

NO moving around

NO morning tea

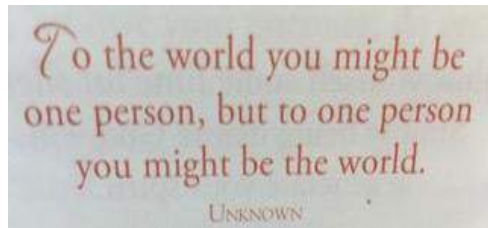
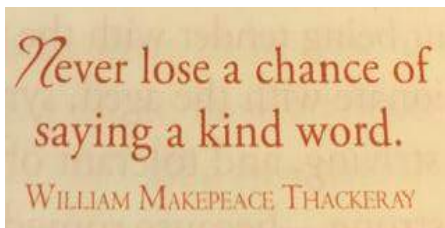
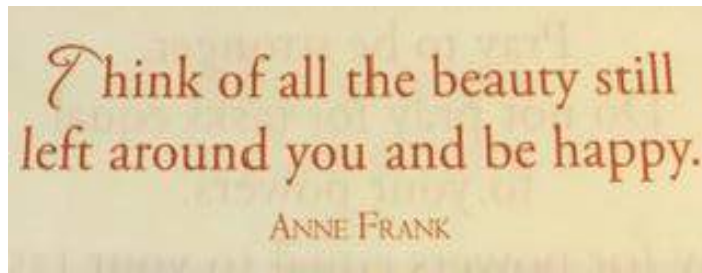
NO collection, you can donate electronically at the back of the church or by Direct Debit to the St Matthew's account as informed in our newsletter and on website.

The **Service will commence at 9:00 am**. We are asking that people start arriving at 8:40 am so you have time to register and maintain safe social distance.

Due to these restrictions, you will need to book your seat for attendance by contacting St Matthew's Office between 10am – 12noon on 6021 3022 BY Monday 23rd November.

NOTE: there could be further lifts on these restrictions in the coming fortnight. Please keep looking at the St Matthew's website and Facebook for the latest information and updates leading up to the opening of St Matthew's.

Thoughts for the week:



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

Ways to Keep Connected:

*The Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family Newsletter is on the St Matthew's website: www.stmatthewsalbury.com on homepage, News and Events.

*if you have a SMART TV you can tune in to St Matthew's Livestream Service through YouTube and 'Keep Connected'

***Join us for a Livestream Service each Sunday 9:00 am on our website, Facebook or YouTube. If you need help** connecting to YouTube or your Smart TV, please contact St Matthew's Office 6021 3022 and we will be happy to assist. Please Note: you can watch all of the livestream services on St Matthew's Albury YouTube at any time that suits you, after they premiere – can even watch time and time again!

PRAYERS



Family, friends and loved ones - We lift to God those we hold in our hearts – praying for their health, their well-being, and their sense of hope. We pray that even when loved ones cannot physically be together, they do not feel apart. We ask for God's help in our communicating, our connecting and our caring.

Loving God, you know us and all that we are facing. We thank you that we can come to you as we are – with all our fears and concerns, our difficulties, and challenges. Please draw close to each of us and those we remember. Bring to us your peace and comfort. And fill us with your Spirit that we may be bearers of your grace and hope to others. As a country protect us, encourage us, and keep us. In the name of your Son Jesus we pray. Amen.

Loving God, we pray for our nation and our world. Give our leaders wisdom, our Health Service strength, our people hope. Lead us through these difficult days to the fresh springs of joy and comfort that we find in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Gospel reading is from the 25th chapter of the gospel according to St Matthew: Jesus speaks about making the most of our opportunity and responsibility to use every day that God gives us.

For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' '

For the word of God in scripture. For the word of God among us. For the word of God within us. Thanks be to God

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 - Needs at the moment: bottles of pasta sauce, boxes of tea bags, store bought jam, 1L long life milk, non-perishable Christmas Treat, tins of fruit, sweet or savoury biscuits, canned salmon, pasta. Please deliver to St Matthew's Office Hours: 10:00 – 12:00 Monday – Friday Thank you in advance.

Christmas Hampers 2020 are in the process of being organised on a more manageable scale.

'St Matthew's Chrissy for Kids' – is an appeal for new Children's toys, these will be included with the Christmas Food hampers.



20/10 Email from Margaret Schwarz Shepparton. St Matthew's has always held a special place in my memory, the church where I was baptised, confirmed and married and as a Young Anglican took my turn in cleaning around the altar, polishing brass and wood etc. I realise that the original building was burnt but the stones used to rebuild are the same and am sure they surround untold numbers of prayers and endless moments of joy. Old friends, Norman and Beverly Halburd have been sending copies of St Matthews newsletters to me of late much to my delight. The impression I get is of a church (people) very much alive and in tune with its members. Usually a prayer or verse worth keeping, great photographs and a real sense of positivity in these difficult times. I have recognised some names from the past not necessarily photographs as I left Albury in 1960. HOWEVER, this brings me to a photo in the last newsletter of Susan Fyfe and I feel it may be the same Susan I taught at All Saints Sunday School in North Albury in the 1950s. I have always remembered her and this is a photo of myself (then Margaret Prosser) with Susan taken at All Saints in 1954..if it happens to be the same Susan, please pass on my best wishes to her Sincerely.



**HAPPY Birthday wishes
to all celebrating a birthday in November**

15th Veronica Robertson 21st Simone
Summerfield
25th Janette Kettle 26th Jack Hall
26th Catherine Dawson

Suggestion: Tune into **Songs of Praise** on ABC TV Sunday mornings at 1130 am
Good news is for sharing - If you have some good news, please share with
us by sending an email to St Matthew's Office: office@stmatthewsalbury.com

OUT AND ABOUT



Zayden Amanda Tyson



Tabatha and Michael Davenport



Kaye Everett



Graham Docksey



Beth Docksey



Alice Glachan



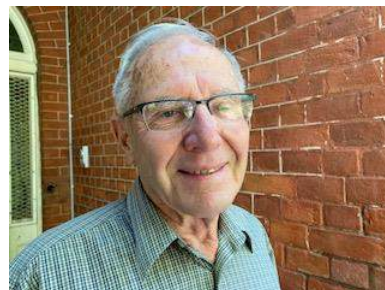
Brad Mallinson



Dianne McKie



Simon Williams



David Luxon



Robin Wellard, Gill Mackay



Graham Power



Ron Ricketts



Kaye Kennedy



Victoria Chick



Given and Shirley Freidrich



Mildred English



Pam Horsburgh



Patricia Clout



Cian and Gerald Coyle



Shirley Sizeland



Margaret Murphy

St Matthew's Craft Group Plans for Christmas



The Craft Group have been busy making craft items for Christmas gifts and they will be available for sale after the first service for Advent Sunday 29th November 2020. The items will be located on display tables on the right-hand side at the entrance to the church. Items include: Christmas decorations, Christmas tree brooches and for necklaces, coat hangers, kitchen tea towels, aprons, bathroom handtowels and washers, baby wear, iPad/tablet covers/bags. Specials on purchased Christmas decorations – angels, tealight candle holders, glass and table decorations. All items are at very reasonable prices. Purchases can be made by cash or eftpos.

Hoping to have the stalls the three Sundays leading to Christmas, weather permitting.



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 0413 938 541.**

If you know of anyone in real need, alone or isolated, who would appreciate a Christmas food hamper or a phone call over the

Christmas season, please contact St Matthew's Office by email:

office@stmatthewsalbury.com Or phone: 02 6021 3022 Hours: 10:00 – 12:00 Monday – Friday

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.



Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are sick or unwell during this time.

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

Rest in Peace: Joy King, Peter Ferry



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: www.quietcommunion.org

Update: 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 continues at the usual time of 1:10pm, every week online, please check our website for details. Join YouTube each Sunday for short Organ Recitals with James Flores at 1:30pm.



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, Létourneau 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's 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.



REMINDERS:

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

JOIN US for a Livestream Service EACH SUNDAY 9:00 am on our website, Facebook or YouTube.

This is a GREAT WAY of keeping the action alive and looking to the future