

# KEEPING CONNECTED TO OUR ST MATTHEW'S FAMILY

## Theme: Re-opening St Matthew's and Bishop visit

23<sup>rd</sup> November – 6<sup>th</sup> December



### **St Matthew's Albury doors reopening after 9 months!**

This Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 9:00am. It's new and exciting but it feels a bit like the nightmare before Christmas trying to squeeze everyone in and keep everyone safe and happy. It is entirely in the spirit of the first Christmas; things weren't as anyone would have planned, and it ended in a blessing that we are still talking about today. The doors will be open and the Church full at 100 seats but livestreamed on St Matthews Albury YouTube, Facebook and website, so all can be welcomed, and all can be invited. With COVID-19 protocols and distancing restrictions St Matthew's can only fit 100 which can make things very tricky at Christmas.

Christmas Services are still being finalised, but it is clear that there are lots of new ways of doing things in this year's Christmas stocking.

Bishop Clarence Bester will make his first trip to St Matthew's since he became Bishop 9 months ago and will come back 13<sup>th</sup> December when ABC National Television will also be in attendance.

St Matthew's choir will be shrunk down to 5 people, but the service will include a special performance by Tom Summerfield and Arthur Hull - Feeling Good Michael Bublé **and** Here Comes the Sun by the Radcliffe family.

As well as hearing the famous pipe organ.

There will be a collection of food for the homeless to assist as Christmas approaches.

## **Important information about Sunday Services at ST MATTHEW'S Albury**

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. There will be a collection of food for the homeless to assist as Christmas approaches.

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 EACH WEEK either when you are at the service on Sunday or by contacting St Matthew's Office between 10am – 12noon on 6021 3022 by the Monday before.**

You need to register for Sunday services each week, if you are at the Service on Sunday, you can register for the following week. If you would like to attend a future Sunday service, please contact St Matthew's Office. The services will also be live streamed on St Matthew's Albury YouTube.

**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.

**Services for Christmas** - keep looking at website and Facebook for updates more detail next few weeks.

**Wednesday Service** resumes **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**, commencing at 10:30 am. The service will be a different format, with no communion and no morning tea afterwards.

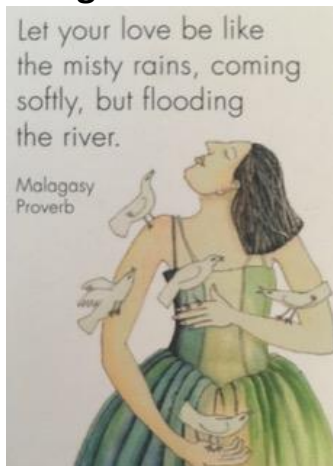
From Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November the Church will be open the same hours as St Matthew's Office hours from 10:00 - 12 pm. Both sets of gates will be open all day each day.

**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

Reminder - if you have not made your Christmas puddings/cake yet, it is a great way to involve the family. Traditionally, families gather in the kitchen of their homes to mix and steam Christmas pudding on Stir-up Sunday. Parents teach their children how to mix ingredients for the pudding. Everyone takes a turn to stir the pudding mix, each person involved makes a special wish for the year ahead. Practically, stirring the mixture is hard work, therefore as many as possible are involved. By tradition, the pudding mixture is stirred from East to West in honour of the three wise men who visited the baby Jesus. In some households, silver coins are added to the pudding mix. It is believed that finding a coin brings good luck.



## Thoughts for the week:



Love the moment. Flowers grow out of dark moments. Therefore, each moment is vital. It affects the whole. Life is a succession of such moments, and to live each is to succeed.

CORITA KENT

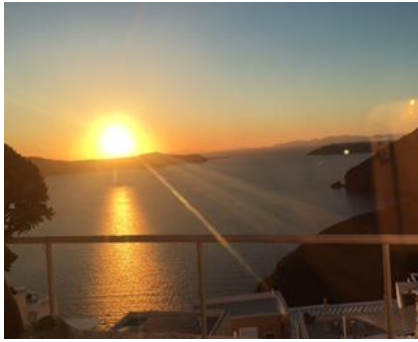
## Feeling Good Michael Bublé



Birds flying high You know how I feel  
Sun in the sky You know how I feel  
Breeze driftin' on by You know how I feel  
*It's a new dawn*  
*It's a new day*  
*It's a new life*  
*For me*  
*And I'm feeling good*



Fish in the sea You know how I feel  
River running free You know how I feel  
Blossom on a tree You know how I feel  
*It's a new dawn*  
*It's a new day*  
*It's a new life*  
*For me*  
*And I'm feeling good*



Dragonfly out in the sun, you know what I mean, don't you know  
Butterflies all havin' fun, you know what I mean  
Sleep in peace when day is done, that's what I mean  
And this old world is a new world  
And a bold world  
For me, For me



Stars when you shine You know how I feel  
Scent of the pine You know how I feel  
Oh, freedom is mine And I know how I feel  
*It's a new dawn*  
*It's a new day*  
*It's a new life*  
*For me*

*And I'm feeling good I'm feeling good*  
*I'm feeling good I'm feeling so good*  
*I feel so good*

### **Ways to Keep Connected:**

\*The Keeping Connected to our St Matthew's Family Newsletter is on the St Matthew's website: [www.stmatthewsalbury.com](http://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!



### **Collect:**

God who makes all things new,  
Prepare our hearts to see you in new ways,  
Our lives to shine with new hope,  
Enable us to be bearers of your Good News to  
our waiting world.

Amen.



## 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.**

## Relay for Life 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020



Relay For Life is a community fundraising challenge, with all funds raised going towards Australia's leading cancer charity, Cancer Council.

Underpinned by research, 61,000 Australian lives have been saved by improvements in cancer prevention, screening, and treatment over the past 20 years. When you make a donation to Relay For Life, you are helping Cancer Council support families affected by cancer when they need it

most, speak out on behalf of the community on cancer issues, empower people to reduce their cancer risk, and find new ways to better detect and treat cancer. With your help, we are getting closer to a cancer free future.

## 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. 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](mailto:office@stmatthewsalbury.com) Or phone: 02 6021 3022 Hours: 10:00 – 12:00 Monday – Friday

'Thank you' to Thurgoona Men's Shed and for all who have contributed towards the collection of toys to donate to the St Matthew's Chrissy for Kids Appeal'. We now have an adequate collection.

### **ST. MATTHEW'S MOTHERS' UNION BRIEF REPORT 2020**



January - family Annual picnic in Albury Botanical Gardens.

February - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Night at the Church inviting all parishioners.

March MU members: attended World Day of Prayer at St. David's Church. Co-ordinated the St. Matthew's Fete Morning tea stall; Simnel Cake pieces were distributed to parishioners on Mothering Sunday.

May 10th Mothers' Day - MU Executive members put a Chrysanthemum on cards and delivered to all members' homes. July - our Guest Speaker, Archdeacon Catie Inches-Ogden invited our MU members to St Marks Church – thoroughly enjoyed her life-journey presentation. October – St. Matthew's MU Branch celebrated our Birthday of 32 years! We celebrated in a local park having a BYO picnic - a good number attended and lovely to have young children with us. We have a Secret Friend in MU, who looks after another MU member all year, the secret is revealed during our October meeting. Lots of laughs but no hugs this year! Baptisms have still been held and MU have presented the usual knitted teddy and a spiritual children's book.



We have a MU Welfare Officer member who diligently sends out cards to MU members, parishioners, in times of ill health, bereavement and encouragement. Baptism Anniversary Cards are sent out every month. We have an MU Link Branch in Sandbach, Cheshire, UK we keep in touch with. Our AGM in November was held at a local park - we enjoyed lunch together with many members, 2 members with their beautiful children. Magic! (Photo above). We sadly miss Noela White who was a long-standing MU member originally from Corryong, died this year.





Janette Kettyle



Julie Scott



Jill Fielder



Great news:

**Retirement Village Service** resumed at Murray Gardens, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November. The service is held, the third Thursday of each month, in the main centre at Murray Gardens, commencing at 11:00 am.



### HAPPY Birthday wishes

to all celebrating a birthday in December.

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Julie Scott

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Erika Grimes

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> David Murray

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Sally Morris

Dec 17<sup>th</sup> Margaret Caton

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> Robyn Coleman

Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> Stephanie Stephenson

December 26<sup>th</sup> David Martin

**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](mailto:office@stmatthewsalbury.com)

### OUT AND ABOUT



Peter and Deb Davenport



Mark and Cathy Carden



Doug Milos and Bella





Stephanie Stephenson



Re Bryn Jones



Mon



Michelle Wood



Catherine Dawson



Allan Beavis



Fr Martin



Roma Hodges



Todd Banco



Helen Martin



Pam Horsburgh



Kate Ashley



Ron Ricketts



Fr Peter , Toni Johnson





## 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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020. 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.

### 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.** **Through these 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 December.



**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](http://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.

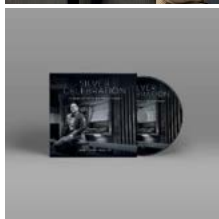
We will shortly be announcing our St Matthew's Music Association Scholarships including a new Indigenous Music Scholarship.

Please consider making a Tax-deductible donation toward the future of one of the children of the border.

**TUNES ON TUESDAY** continue each week online at 1:10, 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.

**EVENSONG LIVESTREAM Service Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December 5pm**

**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**