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Kate Campbell joins Permanent Diaconate



Alisha Moyle

(L–R) Anne Ranse, Kate Campbell and Susanna Pain with Bishop Richard at St Paul's Cathedral in Sale

The ordination of Kathleen (Kate) Campbell to the Permanent Diaconate happened at St Paul's Cathedral in Sale on Saturday 6 February, on the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Kate's service was witnessed by her family and the extended Church family of the Cathedral Parish and the wider Diocese. Her family travelled quite a distance to witness her ordination.

Kate's daughter Amy played *Give Thanks* on piano during Communion, and

granddaughter Elly read from Malachi 3:1-4. These defining moments that Kate shared were important and embedded as a true gift to her.

Kate recalled having quite the journey leading up to her ordination day. She grew up in the Anglican tradition from Sydney, with varying ministries. These included children's ministry, liturgical preparation, administration and finance, traditional and contemplative worship, pastoral visiting, Christian meditation and InterPlay. Kate was also one of the founding Servant Leaders of the Gippsland Anam Cara Community and

has hosted a Home Group for many years.

Just before moving to Sale in 2003, Kate completed Education for Ministry over four years. Little did she consider that she would be studying at the University of Divinity through Trinity College later in life.

Kate's family includes three children, their spouses and five grandchildren. She is also 'mother' to her companion cat, Tabby. Kate enjoys physical movement and exploring her creativity.

It is Kate's creativity that has enabled her to specially craft a cope that Bishop Richard wore for the first time for the service.

The Hebrew text meticulously stitched on the cowl is from Psalm 85:10, meaning 'righteousness and peace have embraced'.

Leading Kate's ordination retreat was the Venerable Emeritus Archdeacon Anne Ranse OAM, who travelled from the Holy Covenant Anglican Church in Canberra to be with Kate and delivered a moving sermon for the service. Anne and Kate met previously via Zoom for Evening Prayer from St Paul's Sale, and shared a special in-person experience on retreat at The Abbey. Both Kate and Anne reflected on

this seemingly perfectly timed experience at The Abbey, especially the mother and baby koala watching over them during the entire retreat.

In what was described as a touching and moving sermon, Anne spoke of the special connection between the presentation of Kate to become Deacon and the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. The call to Deacon being one of servanthood, the towel and bowl symbolic of this call were presented to Kate during the service. Anne shared stories from her journey and servanthood as Permanent Deacon, expressing the core heart of diaconal ministry.

Kate said Deacons "are Boundary riders on the edge of the community taking the love of Christ to many of the unloved. Their ministry is out in the community rather than confined to a church building", believing that "any faith community that has a Deacon among them is greatly blessed".

Anne concluded with graceful wisdom to Kate, reminding her that "when things get tough, it was your name that God called, your name and he will give you the strength you need for this ministry ... to be a light."

Dean Susanna spoke to Kate, welcoming her to that Cathedral clergy team and commenting in particular on the way she had seen her plan to retire last year to then flourish in her calling "on the edges".

Reflecting on her ordination service, Kate described her experience as being "like coming home" – a culmination of her journey and retreat gifted in one day in her home parish.

Kate treasures significant moments amongst the ceremony, including ministering the Eucharist with love.

Kate recalled a special connection on retreat with Anne, "perfectly timed" for her ordination. Overall, she was truly honoured by and in awe of her experience.

Saying “no” in order to say “yes”

“What are you giving up for Lent?” It’s a question we’re often asked at this time of year. Leanne has suggested there are some things I ought not attempt to give up, as it makes me too hard to live with!

These days I try to get in behind the question a little more, to better understand what spiritual good this traditional Lenten discipline serves.

There’s the idea of ‘sacrifice’ in there somewhere: a sustained period of self-denial which may help us to focus on Christ’s self-offering. There’s something about ‘penitence’ too: a symbolic change in habits that represents a greater intention to reorient ourselves; that ‘turning around’ to which we are starkly summoned by John Baptist and Jesus at the start of Mark’s gospel.

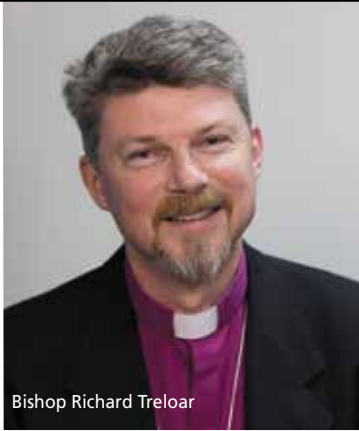
These are not unimportant aspects of fasting during Lent. Yet I wonder if our tendency to think in terms of deprivation does justice to the more positive dimensions of this widespread and enduring practice? The Feb Fast, for example, is explicit about the benefits of abstinence for a season: saying “no” to

a glass of wine in order to say “yes” to better health and wellbeing.

On the First Sunday in Lent, I was joined by the Uniting Church Presbytery Chair for Gippsland, Ron Gowland, and the Churches of Christ Communities Team Leader for Vic/Tas, Michael Vanderree, for a service at Churchill marking the end of the Churches of Christ’s share in a three-way ecumenical partnership stretching back over half a century (see picture below). It was a sad occasion in some ways, and yet the focus of Michael Vanderree’s helpful address was ‘Saying “no” in order to say “yes”’.

The gospel for the day drew together, in just a few verses, Jesus’ baptism, his temptation, and his first proclamation. Michael made the point that in his baptism Jesus is given his primary identity as the Beloved of God, from which everything he says and does in the gospel will flow.

Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness is really about sharpening his vocation in light of that identity as the Beloved. What are the things that might get in the way of his ministry? What must Jesus say “no”



Bishop Richard Treloar

to (in Matthew and Luke’s versions it’s something like the temptation to be ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’) in order to say “yes” to what the Father was actually calling him to do and be?

From this clarity around his own identity and belonging in the Father’s love his proclamation of the nearness of the kingdom emerges in his every word and deed.

From the point of view of the Churches of Christ in Vic/Tas, saying “yes” to their wider sense of mission meant saying “no” to continuing as a mission partner in the Cooperating Churches of Churchill. “We’re still family,” Michael said, “we’ll just relate to each other differently.”

What are the things that might be getting in the way of what God is calling us to do and be as beloved children – individually, and

as a diocesan family? What might we need to say “no” to, in order to say “yes” to our calling to bear witness to the nearness of God’s kingdom?

One of the other gospel texts we will encounter this Lent includes Jesus’ saying, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” (John 12:24)

What might we need to let fall, in order to be more fruitful in our baptismal ministries? What are the deepest and most liberating truths about ourselves that are being masked by those things which tempt us to try and be something or someone other than God’s beloved?

So, what am I giving up for Lent? I am trying to let fall those markers of my identity that are not grounded first and foremost in who I am as a beloved child of God. Perhaps in my “no” to these I will see others more clearly as they are in that same divine and loving gaze, catching a fresh glimpse of how near the kingdom has come to us, and find a more singular “yes” to its call.

+RM

Prayer around our parishes

“That we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith...” (ROMANS 1:12)

BUNYIP – EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

In thanks for the gifts of lockdown – sabbath, reflection and renewed compassion.



For the re-building of our parish community after a year of closure.

In thanks for our connection with Hillview Aged Care and our service on 12 February – the first time in 12 months.

For our building connection with the local community and our Harvest festival on 14 March.

In thanks for the purchase of our little clergy house – it is so useful!

CHURCHILL/BOOLARRA/YINNAR – WESTERN REGION



(L–R) Michael Vanderree (Churches of Christ), Ian Combridge (Chair of Parish Council), Ron Gowland and Peter Batten (UCA Presbytery), Bishop Richard, Cathie Halliwell (UCA Supply Minister) at a service in Churchill on 21 February marking the end of the Churches of Christ’s share in a three-way ecumenical partnership (see editorial this page)



Set apart amid a pandemic

Ordinations at Bendigo Diocese

Katy Lambert

On Saturday 28 November 2020, a small group of family and close friends gathered (socially distanced) in St Paul's Cathedral in Bendigo for the ordination of three deacons, two priests and the licensing of the new Archdeacon of Bendigo and the Goldfields.

Earlier last year, Tim Bowles and Andrew Howe were set to be ordained for the ministry of Deacon when the first COVID lockdown hit and the ordination was postponed. Despite the pandemic, God continued to work in and through his people and since then three others were discerned as ready for ordination.

Tim Bowles was ordained Deacon in the Parish of Echuca and as Chaplain at

Moama Anglican Grammar School; Andrew Howe was ordained as Deacon at St Paul's Cathedral; Darcy Vaughan was ordained as Deacon to serve the parishes of Maldon and Inglewood; Rev'd Rob Edwards was ordained Priest of Strathfieldsaye Community Church; and Rev'd Bertram Mather was ordained Priest in the Parish of South East Bendigo. The Rev'd

George Hemmings was also licensed for his new role as Archdeacon of Bendigo and the Goldfields.

The outgoing Archdeacon of Bendigo, Rev'd Chris Appleby, preached from 2 Corinthians 5: 14-21 encouraging the ordinands and all followers of Christ in their call to live counterculturally for Christ and not themselves; to be servants in the ministry of reconciliation; and to

be encouraged that as ambassadors for Christ "the power of the message [they share] doesn't reside in the bearer but the one who sends them".

Bishop Matt was assisted by Bishop Donald Kirk from the Diocese of the Riverina as Tim Bowles' chaplaincy at Moama is in the Diocese of the Riverina. The service also included Dean Elizabeth beautifully singing *Come Holy Spirit* acapella as they prayed for the ordinands.

Although there were restrictions in numbers and slight modifications required, it was a joy for family and a small number of clergy to gather in St Paul's Cathedral, and for many others watching online, to join in this significant occasion for Tim, Andrew, Darcy, Rob, Bertram, their families and the Diocese of Bendigo.

Courtesy Anglican Diocese of Bendigo



Supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

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- cultural education within Gippsland Diocese
- development of Aboriginal ministry

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Our commitment to a Safe Church

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland does not tolerate abuse, misconduct and harm in its Christian community.

We are committed to ensuring all people in contact with the Church can participate in a safe and responsible environment.

If you have been harmed by a church worker, or you know someone who has, please contact Cheryl Russell, Director of Professional Standards, for a confidential discussion.

Contact: 03 5633 1573, 0407 563 313, cheryl.russell1@bigpond.com

To find out more about Safe Church, and about Safe Ministry resources, visit www.gippsanglican.org.au/safe-church.

Induction of Rev'd Graeme Liersch at Wonthaggi and Inverloch

David Beischer

On Tuesday 2 February (the feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple) the Rev'd Graeme Liersch was formally installed and inducted as the Rector of the Parish of Wonthaggi and Inverloch. The service was held at St George's Wonthaggi and attended by members of the Liersch family, clergy from the Diocese, members of the parish and representatives from other local churches and the community. Invited guests, the Rev'd Dr Wei Han Kuan from the Church Missionary Society, Rev'd Hugh Prentice from Berwick Anglican Church and Rev'd Bob Barclay

from Bush Church Aid, also attended.

Bishop Richard said "the invitation was made on the recommendation of the Clergy Appointments Advisory Board, which has worked diligently, prayerfully, and fruitfully since late last year [2019], within the significant constraints that circumstances in 2020 have brought to such a process."

Bishop Richard and the Rev'd Graham Knott officiated the service, with Bishop Richard delivering a message from Luke 2:22-40. During his sermon, Bishop Richard said, "Graeme brings a wealth of experience and a variety of skills to this role, from his time in the RAAF, in small business, in juvenile justice, in parish ministry, in diocesan positions; and,

as a qualified electrician he'll probably be able to fix the lights when they blow! That's all deeply reassuring. Yet it's the saving light Simeon saw that Graeme is here to attend to. The most important tools he brings are his love of our Lord; his passion for evangelism; his looking and longing for God's promises in Christ, after the pattern of Anna. These are commitments that he shares with the clergy and people of this Parish, and of this Diocese, which makes his appointment so fitting."

Following the installation, Brendon Smith, from the Wonthaggi Baptist Church and representative of the Interchurch Council, welcomed Graeme and looked forward to his involvement with them. The Mayor of Bass Coast,



and preaching from the whole scriptures and so challenge us to respond to the Gospel in our lives. With you we will seek to be obedient to the Word of God." David then read from 2 Timothy 3:16

Brett Tessari, also welcomed Graeme into the community of Bass Coast. Church Warden David Beischer then welcomed Graeme and Susan on behalf of the parish and presented Graeme with a Bible that had been signed by every member of Parish Council. The Bible was inscribed with the following text: "Graeme, we present this Bible to you with the desire that you faithfully proclaim the Word of God, in its entirety. Be diligent in reading, studying

to 4:2 on the charge to preach from the Scriptures in season and out of season.

Graeme responded, acknowledging the attendance of members of his family and expressing his thanks for a warm welcome by the parish. He said he looked forward to his ministry with the parish.

Following the service, refreshments were served with a delicious pre-packaged assortment of cakes. Bob made a presentation to Graeme Liersch on behalf of Bush Church Aid.

Bikers' service at St Mary's Trafalgar



Photo: Mick Lewis

Rev'd Sue Jacka

The Longriders Christian Motorcycle fellowship has entered into a partnership with Trafalgar Anglican parish, which is now making available their buildings for

a monthly service and twice monthly Bible studies. Mick Lewis, who has attended St Mary's from time to time and teaches at the Yallourn campus of GippsTAFE, has been the link between this outreach

and the parish.

Mick is passionate about reaching out to bikers who may never walk into a church building. He has a great story of God's healing and provision of his own. At the age of 7, Mick's son Jesse was diagnosed with

leukaemia and was very ill. The parish and many other people across the world – including Mick's motorbike friends in America – prayed for healing, and Jesse recovered.

When COVID restrictions had relaxed somewhat, the

Longriders were able to hold their first worship service at St Mary's, on Saturday 30 January. It was followed by a barbecue dinner, and the bikers enjoyed both the service, with its relevant message and style, and the fellowship afterwards.



Book sale coordinator Christine Morris with a selection of the Giant Book Fair items on offer

Cathedral Giant Book Fair worth the wait

Jan Down

“Would you have any textbooks on quantum physics?” the young man at the entrance to the book fair enquired doubtfully. He was directed to the textbooks and some time later emerged with his arms loaded high. Whether or not he found what

he’d come for, he certainly discovered books he wanted.

A dad and three children all pulled up on their bikes and disappeared into the building. An elderly woman on a walking frame was driven to the door. All age groups were represented amongst the hundreds of customers (80–100 daily) who came to St Paul’s Cathedral Giant

Book Fair, held over three weeks in January (instead of the usual one week in winter).

So many happy people came out the door with large bags of books, saying “I’ll be back!” and they were – many of them again and again. With over 13,000 thousand books all organised into categories and well set out, it would have been hard not to find something you wanted.

One woman wrote to the *Gippsland Times* to thank the volunteers, saying they did “an outstanding job”. She said, “It was so well arranged and an incredible number of books, CDs and DVDs were on offer at extremely reasonable prices”.

Book sale coordinator, Christine Morris, noted that funds raised “greatly exceeded expectations”. Being held in the school holidays, there was plenty of through traffic, with signage clearly directing people to the cathedral. All COVID-safe guidelines were carefully followed, giving people confidence to enter.

One volunteer remarked on how refreshing it was, seeing so many people keen to read books. Several customers admitted that they could find nothing to watch on television any more, but they had read all their books in lockdown and were desperate for more.

The book fair was cancelled last year due to COVID, but the collection of books continued to grow over the intervening months. Christine and the team worked many long hours carting and sorting books,

setting up the fair and then assisting customers. More people helped at the end to put away 80 trestle tables and bin many remaining books to be shredded.

Leftover boxes of books (21 of them) were sent to Metung for their book fair, while the New Life Books and Archaeology bookshop in Mooroolbark collected another 15 boxes. (All funds raised by this Melbourne second-hand Christian bookshop go to mission, including a refugee camp of a million tents in Cameroon, where a Bible college has started. See www.facebook.com/nlbaa.)

Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral, Susanna Pain, commented, “We aim to engage with the community in relevant and inclusive ways, and the book fair certainly did that. There were conversations with so many people, and a warm atmosphere encouraged connection. Many wandered into the cathedral and enjoyed the prayer-filled space and sunlit stained glass windows. The book fair was more than a fundraiser. It was a very successful community building exercise.”

Remembering Samaritan’s Purse

Alison Goetz

At the end of our Sunday service at St John’s Bairnsdale on 31 January, Merrolyn Wiles presented a large, hand-crocheted blanket, which she had designed and made, to Peter and Margaret Down for the Odyssey House Victoria Hope Centre. She gave it wishing God’s blessing and with her love and her hope that it will bring comfort and inspiration to whomever it enfolds.

Not long after the Hope Centre became a reality, a group in Drouin donated some hand-made blankets and quilts for the comfort and care of residents – a tradition that had developed at Odyssey House in Melbourne. Other groups, local and from further afield,

followed suit and soon Peter and Margaret had a number of boxes of blankets stored on their property to be ready for when the centre was completed and residents admitted. Tragically, those precious donations were lost when the Black Summer bushfires swept through Sarsfield, and Peter and Margaret’s property. But something exceptional had been started and Merrolyn’s gift was another in a steady trickle of new blankets that have been donated, some from as far away as Darwin.

Merrolyn explained that her blanket commemorated the Samaritan’s Purse volunteers, both Australian and international, who had assisted with the bushfire recovery effort in east Gippsland from January to late February 2020. During that time there was a local

ecumenical agreement, fostered by Archdeacon Brenda, that local churches would each provide a weekly, home-cooked evening meal to the volunteers. Merrolyn coordinated St John’s contribution to this plan and got to know the volunteers quite well, learning much about their selfless and tireless disaster relief efforts around the globe.

As part of the presentation, Merrolyn described each aspect of the colours she had used in the blanket. In the centre of the inner white rectangle is the logo of the Samaritan’s Purse organisation, in blue. Around the white are orange squares representing the colour of the volunteer uniforms, with a single row of white around each square for their hi-vis stripes. The squares in the



Merrolyn Wiles (centre) presenting her hand-made blanket to Peter and Margaret Down for the Hope Centre

next row are black for the burned areas where they worked, with each square edged with the green of nature’s recovery. The outer border is blue, representing the far horizons to which the volunteers travel for their mission.

As well as being a

thoughtful and generous gift to a worthy organisation, it was a poignant and timely reminder of the tragedy of the fires that took such a toll around Australia, including Peter and Margaret’s home, and the amazing and generous response from people around the world.

Confirmation at St John's Bairnsdale

Alison Goetz

On Sunday 7 February 2021, Melody Jefferis was confirmed by Bishop Richard at St John's Bairnsdale. Her mentor and teacher, Archdeacon Brenda Burney, and Melody's mother, Serena, father, Mark, and sister, Enola, were with her. With the general easing of COVID restrictions, her church family was also well represented, suitably masked and socially distanced.

During the service, I couldn't help but recall my own confirmation in 1970, and how different it seemed. I was one of a group of 12, including eight girls, one boy

and three women. It was an evening service, not part of the regular Sunday morning service and was followed by a formal supper. We girls, all around the same age, were all dressed in white and had white veils. We had attended formal lessons in the months leading up to the confirmation, complete with homework and learning various things by rote. It was a rite of passage and, for many of us, it was what you did when you reached a certain age, or in that era, when you reached high school. Most of the candidates had been attending church with their families since they were



Melody's blessing by Bishop Richard, in the presence of her family and Archdeacon Brenda Burney

infants and confirmation was part of the development of Christian faith.

The service itself has changed very little, although the language has changed. The promises, those generally made by parents and godparents at the candidate's baptism, and confirmed by the candidate, are the same.

The blessing of the confirmee(s) is the same, the prayers said for the confirmee(s) are the same. The preparation may be less formal, but it still covers the same ground. The confirmee is a member of the body of Christ through baptism. The time taken to get to this point may be longer, and not along the same route of past

tradition, but it is still a rite of passage and an important part of the Christian journey.

Different or not, it was a very special occasion. Bishop Richard was, as always, eloquence, charm and kindness personified, and we were all as excited as Melody as she took the next step (or was it skip?) on her journey of faith.



Elizabeth MacAulay with her mum and Rev'd Jenny during the baptism service

Baptism at Christ Church Tarraville

Rev'd Jenny Wicking

The usual fifth Sunday of the month at Christ Church Tarraville was chosen by Jess and Gus MacAulay for the baptism of

their daughter, Elizabeth. We gathered with the MacAulay family at the oldest church in Gippsland and welcomed our newest member, Elizabeth Jean MacAulay, into God's family as we baptised her on 31 January. Elizabeth's

parents, Jess and Gus, along with her godparents, grandparents and family friends, gathered around the baptismal font and witnessed this very special event. Her brothers, Luke and Fergus, assisted the Rev'd Jenny Wicking and Lay Reader David Miller with various parts of the service.

The service was followed by a parish picnic in warm sunshine and even warmer fellowship among those who stayed. Some of the more senior members of our family particularly enjoyed the sound of the children's laughter and the running of feet throughout the church. It was a day of sunshine, laughter and fun enjoyed by all.

Gail Wager

Last year, one week before the commencement of the COVID lockdowns, the first meeting of our Women's Fellowship and Craft Group took place in the Anglican Parish Hall at Holy Trinity Stratford. However, that was to be the one and only meeting for the year.

Fortunately, the group was re-launched and met for the first of its monthly meetings for this year on Saturday 30 January. The organisers were pleasantly surprised when a group of 10 'crafty' women walked in at 10 am to settle down for a time of craft and fellowship, albeit with COVID restrictions in place.

Everyone brought their own morning tea and lunch. Card-making, particularly birthday cards, was a big feature of the day, plus knitting, crochet and sewing projects. Acquaintances were renewed and new ones made. The consensus was that it was a fun time, and those who attended are looking forward to the next meeting on Saturday 27 February.

The group plans to meet on the last Saturday of each month, from 10 am onwards, in the Anglican Hall, 26 McFarlane Street, Stratford. BYO lunch and a craft project of whatever kind. Entry is by gold coin donation, and tea and coffee are provided. Contact Sandra (0406 983 503).



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Reaching out to Latrobe communities

Jane Anderson

I am pleased to be given this opportunity to reach out to Latrobe communities through *TGA* and other community publications to provide updates and information from my office. I have recently released my quarterly update for the period October to December 2020 and would like to share some highlights of this report with you as we move into a new year.

COVID-19 continues to impact us all and Victorians have recently found themselves experiencing another disruption. For some, this is hard to manage but I have heard from

communities in Latrobe that it's important to observe all the rules and to care for each other.

Better mental health was again among the aspirations most spoken about this quarter. Young people and people from the LGBTIQ community have expressed their concern about the lack of mental health services and supports in the region. The Latrobe Health Advocate has consistently heard that it makes a difference when people feel a sense of belonging, and where there is a holistic approach to health that includes physical, mental and spiritual care.

Young and older people alike have shared their concerns with the Advocate about how they can maintain

a healthy lifestyle in Latrobe. The Advocate heard about the importance of nutritious food and how COVID-19 restrictions had impacted both the physical and mental health of older people in Latrobe.

The Advocate continues to hear from people about their frustration at not being able to get in to see the GP of their choice and that, while access to telehealth is good, it is not always appropriate for every health issue.

My office continues to hear from communities who share their goals, barriers and suggestions and how they want to be engaged by governments and services across Latrobe. Insights from my engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were published in December and made available on our website. During this quarter I heard from young people

aged 12–25 years and am inspired by the number of young leaders in our community who are ready to take on the challenges that life can present us. I am also encouraged by their long-term goals and their capacity to care for others. I look forward to sharing the insights of this engagement with you in a new report due out shortly.

For the full update, please go to www.lhadvocate.vic.gov.au/publication/quarterly-update-october-to-december-2020. You can also follow us on Twitter and Facebook @LHADvocate.

If you would like to share your experiences with me, please contact Kylie on 1800 319 255 and we'll make a time for us to catch up. This can be done face to face providing COVID restrictions can be maintained, or we can chat over the phone or via a video chat if you prefer. I look forward to hearing from you.

Jane Anderson's role as Latrobe Health Advocate is to provide independent advice to the Victorian Minister for Health on behalf of Latrobe Valley communities on system and policy issues affecting their health and wellbeing.

Jane welcome opportunities to meet with community groups and individuals to listen to your concerns and your aspirations for sustainable health and wellbeing.



Photo: Tatiana Syrikova/Pexels

Support for parents

Cathrine Muston

It is universally acknowledged that 2020 was a difficult year. It was perhaps particularly so for those with children and teenagers at home. With parents juggling working from home alongside children learning from home, stresses in our households have increased. As we head into 2021, it is good for parents to remember that they are not alone and that there are supports available for managing the everyday juggle of children, household, work and school.

Anglicare's ParentZone program has continued to provide parenting workshops and courses online via Zoom. Webinars and workshops such as *Raising Teens Online*, *Dad's Matter* and *Breaking the Cycle* (for those experiencing violence in the home from their adolescent children) are available from anywhere in Gippsland. For those who prefer the support of face-to-face forums, the *Let's Talk about Parenting* groups meet weekly in Warragul on Tuesdays and east Bairnsdale on Wednesdays during term time.

ParentZone has also made

available an @home edition of resources and ideas to support parents. Full of fun recipes, activities and helpful links, this edition has something for parents of children of any age.

Dads may also be interested in the Fathering Project. Founded in 2013 by Dr Bruce Robinson in Western Australia, the Fathering Project aims to deliver resources, programs and events that are particularly specific to the engagement of fathers as parents. Weekly tips, videos and events are available, designed to enable men to be the dads they want to be.

One of the best ways to find support for parents of preschoolers is through playgroups. ParentZone has several supported playgroups operating in Morwell and Churchill as well as an online Storytime on Tuesdays for families in the Latrobe area.

In our parishes there are also *mainlymusic* groups that provide music and fun for pre-schoolers. Although some of our *mainlymusic* groups have chosen not to reopen in 2021, the parish at St John's Metung are preparing to open their doors to a community playgroup for preschoolers and their carers on 1 March. For details about this new venture, contact Michelle Plant (0425 700 171).

With such a wide offering of fun and engaging ways for parents, carers and children to learn and grow, there is sure to be something that will suit you or someone you know.

ParentZone mailing list:
parentzone.gippsland@anglicarevic.org.au or 5135 9555

The Fathering Project:
www.thefatheringproject.org

mainlymusic:
<https://mainlymusic.org/pages/join-a-group>

Cathrine Muston is Community Development Officer, Anglicare Parish Partnerships

Parish Partnership Grant applications now open

If your parish has an activity or program that engages the local community, with a special emphasis on families, children and young people, you may be eligible to apply for a Parish Partnership Grant.

Grants of up to \$5000 can be applied for through the Anglicare Community Development Officer, Cathrine Muston. In the past, grants have supported parishes setting up *mainlymusic* groups, after-school clubs and activities, and the Poowong Community Garden. Application forms have been sent to all parishes with the deadline of 6 April 2021.

For further information, contact Cathrine Muston, 0458 450370 or cathrine.muston@anglicarevic.org.au.



(L-R) Neighbour Day ambassadors Andrew Heslop (also founder), Natalie Ahmat and Costa Georgiadis

Neighbour Day

Connected people connect communities

Samantha Robinson

Neighbour Day was founded in Melbourne in March 2003 by Andrew Heslop after the remains of an elderly woman were found inside her suburban home. Andrew Heslop is a community activist, social commentator and well known Australian.

Mrs Elsie Brown had been dead for two years – forgotten by her neighbours, her friends and her family. While Andrew did not know Mrs Brown, he was shocked by the apparent ease with which the world had left her behind.

Widespread media interest followed, and it was this coverage that prompted Andrew to suggest a ‘National Check on Your Neighbour Day’ in a Letter to the Editor in *The Melbourne Age* in 2003. Andrew’s concept was refined, renamed, and on 30 March 2003 the first Neighbour Day was observed.

After a decade of running the campaign single-handedly, on 1 January

2014 Andrew passed on the stewardship of Neighbour Day to Relationships Australia, given the natural fit between Relationships Australia’s values and the goals of Neighbour Day.

Since 2003, Neighbour Day has progressed from a reminder to connect with elderly neighbours to an annual celebration of strong communities and friendly streets. People of all ages participate because everyone, everywhere is a neighbour, no matter where you live or your personal circumstances.

Neighbour Day is Australia’s annual celebration of community, encouraging people to connect with their neighbours. Neighbours matter (whether near, far or online), and now, more than ever, is the time to make creative connections and to stay connected.

Neighbours can help and support each other in times of need, as we have seen during the numerous challenging times over the past year. A neighbour is no longer necessarily defined by location alone and can be someone in your street, or the wider community,

your workplace or online. They might be in Australia, or perhaps overseas. Neighbours are those in our geographical and selected communities who show they care and perhaps offer a hand when we need it most.

Knowing your neighbours, and your broader community, is important and we’d like to encourage you to help celebrate Neighbour Day 2021. Traditionally celebrated on the last Sunday in March annually, the theme for Neighbour Day 2021 is ‘Every day is neighbour day’. This year, we are encouraging Australians to help break down loneliness in our communities by building meaningful and sustainable social connections with the people around them.

People experience loneliness across the age and social spectrum, including young people, people living with their families, and even people surrounded by others in the workplace. For Neighbour Day 2021 we are asking everyone to get creative, reach out and encourage social connection.

Connected people connect communities

Neighbours connect and provide support to those living next door and to those further away. We have the capacity to build communities beyond our physical locations.

Now is the perfect time to organise your ideas and plan your connection opportunities.

Whether through a cuppa, a picnic in the park, or a message of support, Neighbour Day is the perfect opportunity to reach out and connect with your neighbours.

I had always wanted to have a caring, connected neighbourhood but didn't really know where to start. Neighbour Day gave me ideas, tools and an excuse to get on with it. Many people

say they have been meaning to get to know their neighbours, but just don't get around to it. Neighbour Day provides a timeframe and the support to do just that.

(Neighbour Day host)

Everything you need to help organise your Neighbour Day event is now available at www.neighbourday.org. You can also connect with Neighbour Day via Facebook, Instagram or Twitter to share your neighbourhood stories and creative plans. You can download the Neighbour Day campaign sign from the Neighbour Day website for selfies and post your neighbourly pics on your favourite social media platform and subscribe to Verandah by Neighbour Day e-news for up-to-date information.

If public health advice doesn’t permit traditional gatherings, then we encourage people to get creative and find alternative ways to reach out to your neighbours. Neighbour Day shares 50 #CreativeConnections tips on their website, with more ideas on social media to get your creative neighbourly ideas flowing. They even have COVID-19 safe versions of connection and calling cards free to download.

Neighbour Day is brought to you by Relationships Australia, a national not-for-profit organisation that believes in the power of the Australian community to support its most vulnerable, to tackle loneliness, and to work together to ensure healthy and safe relationships throughout the pandemic, and beyond.

Samantha Robinson is National Neighbour Day & Campaigns Manager.


neighbour day

Every Day is Neighbour Day

To creatively connect with our neighbours we've established a 'giving tree' on the boundary fence between both of our properties. A place where we can deliver jams, excess fruit or vegetables, anything we would like to share.

Mel. VIC

#CreateConnections
#CreativeConnections tip




The home of Neighbour Day



10 Creative Connections tips to try

1. Leave a friendly calling or connection card for your neighbour. Include your phone number and say they are welcome to call you for a chat – and remember to be COVID-19 safe. These cards promote kindness in times when the community connection needs to take a different approach. Physical distancing versions of these cards are available at neighbourday.org/resources/connection-cards.
2. Be that person. Smile at someone when they pass you in the street. Join an online network for your community. Write a cute note to your neighbour. Leave a chocolate on your neighbour's doorstep. Add another member to your herd.
3. It's still ok to smile and wave at someone (from a distance) – even when wearing a mask. It will probably make their day!
4. Drop off a bag of virtual hugs to your neighbour. You decide what that actually looks like – a friendly note, a drawing, some treats, a flower, a toy, a smile. Just remember to be COVID-19 safe!
5. If someone in your neighbourhood is unable to have a pet, maybe you could take yours for a visit. Having a pet is a well-known boost to wellbeing.
6. Check in on the people you don't think need checking on.
7. Help out those who are vulnerable, self-isolating or quarantined and offer to collect pharmaceuticals, groceries, or their mail – and leave it at their door.
8. Take a walk 'with' a friend who is somewhere other than where you are! Set up a time. Take your smartphone. Give them a call and you can walk and talk together – AND keep your distance!
9. Set up a buddy system to support vulnerable neighbours (with social physical distancing of course!).
10. If in doubt what to do in these uncertain times, be kind. That's it! Throw it around like confetti!

Living out the art of good neighbouring

Rev'd Ben Johnson

Moving to our new neighbourhood was difficult. My home office had a commanding view of the street, with houses all around. I remember sitting there late one afternoon, watching the cars drive. As I sat and watched, I noticed the many garage doors open and then close; families coming home from their day. Time after time these roller doors engulfed the families that lived there. I remember sitting there at my desk, watching the garages open and close, suddenly feeling an intense loneliness and isolation. How do I be a good neighbour when I don't even know my neighbour's name?

Jesus once told a story (Luke 10:25-32) about an unexpected act of kindness from an outsider. This outsider wasn't a Jew (God's chosen people), but a Samaritan. This Samaritan sees an injured man needing assistance, and then goes to great effort to ensure he receives the care needed to heal. Maybe you've read the parable before – an upside-down story where the unlikely of people (the Samaritan) demonstrates what it really looks like to love one's neighbour.

Both Neighbour Day (28 March) and Harmony Week (15–21 March) are fast approaching. As we seek to live out the art of good neighbouring, may we learn from the ways of the Samaritan. May God fill our hearts with compassion for those around us. May our eyes be open to those in need. May our hands be prepared to bring healing and restoration to a broken world.

Moving into a new suburb, we learned to be on the lookout for those in need around us. As we noticed other families in desperate need of community, we formed a playgroup that ran out of our living room for a number of years. We invited our neighbours over for dinner, attempting to break down the invisible barriers formed by those ever-closing garage doors. Most of all, we noticed the Good Samaritans around us, those who were outside of our community, yet noticed our need, and stepped in to serve us. I remember taking the kids for a walk one day, only to have a neighbour (a few doors down) call out, offering us some beautiful furniture they noticed we might need. Their lovely rug still lies upon the floor in our lounge, as a reminder of their generosity.

This coming month, here are a few ways that you could seek to be a blessing to those in your community. As you walk through your neighbourhood, pray a blessing over the houses and businesses that you pass by. If you're wanting something a little more practical, why not invite a neighbour over for a meal, or deliver a care package to their doorstep? Finally, you could be attentive to those around you who seek to serve and bless you. Maybe God is already doing something in and through them, and your role is to simply be present in that relationship. Good Samaritans come from the unlikely of places!

*The Rev'd Ben Johnson
is Lead Pastor
at Mirboo North.*

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Catholic Health Australia calls for equal access to health care

Catholic Health Australia says it's more vital than ever to heed the central message of World Day of the Sick and deliver 'trust based care' during the pandemic.

With the vaccine rollout fast approaching, Catholic Health Australia's CEO, Pat Garcia, says it's essential that care is delivered to the most marginalised and needy people in society and that there is equal access to health care across the country.

"The pandemic has demonstrated that there are certain sections of the community that have been hardest hit. We must address this and ensure we take better care of the elderly, the vulnerable

and people with complex health needs," said Mr Garcia.

The Catholic Church's World Day of the Sick is held on 11 February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. It's seen as an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities.

Mr Garcia said: "In Australia we have been very fortunate to be spared the very worst of what the pandemic has thrown at us. However, it has demonstrated there are great inequalities in health care around the world, and that even here in Australia there are some who have been harder hit.

"This year's World Day of the Sick should remind us all that we should place great value in caring for the frail and the needy."

Mr Garcia said our leaders and the public should heed the words of Pope Francis, who wrote: "The COVID-19 pandemic has made it obvious to everyone that elderly, weak and vulnerable people are not always granted access to care, at least not in an equitable way. This is the result of political decisions, resource management and a greater or lesser commitment on the part of those holding positions of responsibility."

"Investing resources in the care and assistance of the sick is a priority linked to the fundamental principle that



Photo: Muskan Anand/Pexels

health is a primary common good," Pope Francis wrote in his message, which was released by the Vatican.

Achieving "a trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick" should also be viewed as a goal all healthcare providers should aim for, especially in an era of growing

anti-science sentiment.

Mr Garcia added: "If we are ever to get on top of this pandemic we need all Australians to continue to place their trust in our safety measures and get fully behind the vaccine program."

Courtesy Catholic Health Australia

Across the ages

Sod-turning launches St Paul's Traralgon expansion to VCE



Darren Jennings, Chair of the St Paul's Anglican Grammar School Board (front), Cameron Herbert, St Paul's Principal, and Bishop Richard at the Futures Centre launch in Traralgon

St Paul's Anglican Grammar School is set to begin construction on a new \$6-million plus Futures Centre as part of a broader planned \$40-million capital investment into campuses across Traralgon, Warragul and Drouin.

Principal of St Paul's, Mr Cameron Herbert, said that St Paul's is excited to begin this major expansion of the independent school's education offering in the region.

"We are delighted to announce the launch of our new Futures Centre as part of our growth in the Latrobe Valley, which will lead to the delivery of Years 11 and 12 from our Traralgon site for the first time in 2026," Mr Herbert said.

"Importantly for our students and their families, St Paul's quality independent VCE education will soon be available in the Latrobe Valley for the first time

without the need for long bus travel.

The announcement of our Futures Centre signals the first step in our significant plans, which will see major and ongoing investment in the Gippsland region over the next decade."

The Futures Centre will be a striking multi-level building with outstanding performing arts facilities, a modern secondary library adjoining a large spacious open cafeteria, a community hub and a range of student learning and gathering spaces, both large and small. Following on from the building of the Futures Centre, from 2025 consecutive stages consisting of specialist and general classrooms will be built to cater for the delivery of a high-quality VCE curriculum.

St Paul's has an ongoing commitment to the Gippsland community, demonstrated by its broader expansion plan from Drouin through to Traralgon over

the coming decade. This will see an investment of \$40 million in capital works, as well as an increase in employment and business opportunities that will boost the local economy.

The sod-turning event was held in February at the Traralgon Campus of St Paul's on Cross's Road. The launch event was led by Mr Herbert, and in

attendance were Chair of the Board, Mr Darren Jennings, current Year 6 students (who will be the first cohort to continue their education through to Year 12 at the St Paul's Traralgon Campus), past students of St Paul's, Bishop Richard and local dignitaries.

Courtesy St Paul's Anglican Grammar School

Focus on 'servant leadership' at Gippsland Grammar

The induction of St Anne's Campus Captains took place during a special Fellowship (assembly) in the Lorna Sparrow Hall at St Anne's in Sale on Friday 12 February.



St Anne's Campus Captains for 2021 Louis Lazzaro and Mia Goold (centre) after their Induction Fellowship, with Tisdall Hotham House Captains Maizy Duck and Daniel Neilan, Bishop Richard, Heads of St Anne's and Garnsey Campuses Mr Jie Van Berkel and Mrs Kate Ray, and State Member for Gippsland South, The Hon. Danny O'Brien.

Shirley Doris Koschade (Long)

26 NOVEMBER 1928 – 4 JUNE 2020

Longtime parishioner of St Thomas' Bunyip, Shirley Koschade was lost to these shores last year at the age of 91. Although born in the Melbourne suburb of Heidelberg, Shirley is known to a good many of the older folk of the Gippsland Diocese.

Shirley met Walter, a returned serviceman, when they were both working in the CSL laboratories. He struck up a conversation with the line, "Haven't I seen you at the League of Youth meetings?" They married in 1950 while Walter was still completing his Medicine studies and Shirley was nursing at the Alfred Hospital.

Following a lengthy stint in the Goldfields town of Dunolly, in 1963 they packed up the essentials and their four young children and made the leap of faith to the northern shore of Papua New Guinea. Wewak Hospital was a setting where Walter and Shirley's abilities were both very much utilised in a challenging and remote setting, with the barest minimum of amenities. They had close ties with Mission Aviation Fellowship personnel frequently visiting mission outposts, and relied on them for air transport. After a two-year stint, it was time to return to the Geelong area, where their fifth child was born.

They moved from Ocean Grove to Bunyip in 1968, where Walter took on the position of local doctor and they both became much involved in the local parish. It was at the time a small community, and so close friendships and fellowships were also formed with local Uniting, Catholic and Baptist brothers and sisters. One resultant joint project, in 1979, was the YAC (Youth Activity Centre), a drop-in centre in the old recently redundant Methodist Church in High Street (later in the old green shed on Longwarry Road). Shirley was quite a driving force of this project.

Walter and Shirley were both long-term members of Parish Council and Vestry (remember those?) with a succession of rectors, and later they both also served

as Synod representatives (Walter more frequently). In the early 1980s Shirley served as a member of Bishop in Council, making the monthly drive to Sale in 'Rosie', her little red Hillman.

Shirley remained involved in her Know Your Bible group right up to her last few years, and also had fellowship in the form of singing with the CWA choir (later known as the Bunyip Singers).



Shirley Koschade with her granddaughter

Things I learned from my mother

(with varying degrees of success)

Waste and extravagance are mortal sins.

Wasted time is included in the above.

Arriving early equates to wasted time (see above).

It's not worn out or broken unless stickytape, wire, string or glue is not available.

Kindness is not an option, but mandatory.

It's not about what other people think.

Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today! Unless you can get distracted by some other thing, which is probably more interesting anyway. (Actually, I've had a fair bit of success with that one.)

Manners are important.

It is good to whistle.

If someone is a "so and so" they have behaved very inconsiderately.

The utterance of "wouldn't that rotate you!" can be expectorated with such ferocious conviction as to make strong men tremble and swearing troopers blush.

Talk to the animals, and they will talk back to you.

Music is to life as the sun and the rain are to the forest.

The inevitable consequence of throwing something out, that has lain gathering dust and spider webs for the past 38 years on some obscure shelf, is that it will, suddenly, have been the perfect solution to an unforeseen pressing situation the very week after it is recklessly cast away.

There is no gain in taking more than you need.

Food that has been taking an absolute age to cook, in or on a slow combustion stove, will consistently and mysteriously and inexplicably transform from not quite ready to practically smouldering in the apparent blinking of an eye.

The thump of a dog's wagging tail on verandah boards is a revelation of the simplicity of joy.

Feeling sorry for yourself is, like most luxuries, not good for you.

One's eternal destiny is of more consequence than one's earthly comfort.

Music was one of Shirley's great loves, and although her sight was greatly limited in later years she could sing all the hymns from memory.

Shirley moved into Hillview Hostel in 2018, Walter having died in 2009. Her death followed a short illness preceded by a decline – that of the many who experienced minimal outside

contact during the first COVID lockdown.

Fittingly, her funeral was in the very familiar setting of St Thomas' church on A'Beckett Road Bunyip.

*He goes ahead of them
and his sheep follow him
for they know his voice.*

(John 10:4)

Tim Koschade

EDITORIAL

More than next door

As I type this, the sound of my keyboard is echoing around the room – most of my books and other items are boxed and waiting for the removalist to take them to my family's new home on the coast of northern NSW. A sea change has been a collective thought in this household for a while, but several opportunities and the prospect of another Warragul winter prompted us to take the plunge.

Sunday 28 March is Neighbour Day, and a few weeks back I emailed the campaign manager at Relationships Australia, which hosts this national day, in search of a story. Sam Robinson responded by telephone, saying that it's a good idea for an organisation supporting positive and respectful relationships to pick up the phone once in a while. I liked her sense of humour straight away, and we talked for a while, including about my move. We soon realised that my new house is about half an hour's drive from hers. Given I'll be moving about 1300 kilometres, I feel that we'll be almost be neighbours. That's a pretty good feeling because at first I won't know a soul outside my house except for a few real estate agents.

Because Sam decided to pick up the phone, we were able to make a stronger and perhaps more enduring connection, and I'm hoping to meet her in person sometime soon.

On the Neighbour Day website, Relationships Australia says, "... now, more than ever, is the time to make creative connections and to stay connected." COVID is not over but with low case numbers in Australia I sense a cautious but growing confidence to explore safe ways to unfurl.

Although Neighbour Day is just one day each year, Relationships Australia reminds us, "don't let that stop you being neighbourly every single day." Sam and her organisation offer a range of ways to connect with the people around us.

Thinking more broadly about neighbours, many people from the Pacific Islands and South-East Asia now call Australia home. On page 9, the Rev'd Ben Johnson writes about Harmony Week (15–21 March), which celebrates cultural diversity.

You can read more about Neighbour Day, including its origins and some creative connection tips, on page 8. My favourite is the last (but certainly not least): "If in doubt ... be kind. ... Throw it around like confetti!" What a joyous idea.

I am very happy that I will be able to continue as editor of TGA from a distance. One of many things that COVID has taught me is how versatile people can be. I'll continue my editorial work each month, and try out some of the Neighbour Day tips in my new community.

Sally Woollett

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Photo: Courtesy Stan



Bump

by Claudia Karvan and John Edwards
stan.com.au

Cathrine Muston

The birth of a baby can throw the most prepared families into a spin. The new Stan series *Bump* follows a 16-year-old high-achieving student as she manages the unexpected birth of a daughter and the

subsequent impact it has on her family, friends and ambitions. Olympia ‘Oly’ Davis-Chalmers (Nathalie Morris) feels things deeply, and since primary school her goal has been to work at the United Nations to save the world. However, her plans are derailed when she

unexpectedly gives birth to a baby and is confronted with a very different trajectory. Oly has to reframe her understanding of who she is and what she wants to achieve, while her family is crumbling around her. Oly’s mum, Angie (Claudia Karvan), and her father, Dom (Angus Sampson), are at a crisis point in their

marriage, both struggling to remain connected with one another and their children. Add to the mix Santiago Hernandez (Carlos Sanson Jr), the father of Baby J – who is also dealing with the grief of losing his mother and his father’s subsequent remarriage – as well as Oly’s long-term boyfriend, Lachie (Peter Thurnwold), and you have a rich seam to mine. The idea for the series was that of Kelsey Munro, a senior analyst with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, and it was produced by Claudia Karvan and John Edwards. As a window into the issues and concerns of young people and the complexities of navigating the world as a millennial, this is an intelligent series that does not patronise even if it must, at times, oversimplify. Adolescence is portrayed in all its messiness and

contradiction, from cultural norms to gender fluidity, drug-taking and sex. The performances of the young actors are, without exception, excellent. Nathalie Morris gives a believable performance as the conflicted and earnest Oly, while Carlos Sanson Jr portrays Santiago with sensitivity and intelligence. A supporting cast of school friends and family provide each storyline with plenty of diversity and conflict. Today, it may seem unthinkable that people give birth without knowing that they are pregnant, but this is the case in an estimated 1 in 2500 live births. *Bump* is an exploration of what can happen when your world is turned upside down like this. It is not about perfect plans but rather the character that is built in imperfect situations.

Lenten Quiet Afternoon of Prayer

2–4 pm, Sunday 21 March
Online from St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale

“This is the covenant I will make with them,” says G-d: ‘I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their G-d and they shall be my people.’
Jeremiah 31:33

In Lent we pause, we rest, we soften, we pray, we turn to God again in community.

We gather on zoom, pray together, listen to a short reflection, spend focused time in silence. Sit in prayer, walk, journal, draw, be, then gather again for a short reflection and to share our experience led by Susanna Pain.

Please contact Susanna to register your interest and receive a Zoom link. susannapain63@gmail.com

Other Quiet Afternoons of Prayer

- 18 April, 2–4 pm: Quiet Afternoon in the Park, with Jenny Batten
- 23 May, 2–4 pm: Pentecost Quiet Afternoon online, with Susanna Pain
- 20 June, 2–4 pm: Quiet Afternoon with Art, with Jenny Batten

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Religion and Ethics Report

Andrew West
Wednesday 5:30 pm – repeated: Thursday 5:30 am and Friday 11:00 am

Soul Search

Dr Meredith Lake
Sunday 6:00 pm – repeated: Wednesday 11:00 pm and Thursday 12 noon

God Forbid

James Carleton
Sunday 6:00 am – repeated Sunday 10:00 pm and Monday 9:00 pm

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The Gippsland Anglican

Q: Is there a faith question you’re afraid to ask?



A: Chances are others have that question too!

Send your question to the editor at gippsanglican.org.au or 0407 614 661 and we will publish an answer from a clergy person. (Your details won’t be shared or published.)