

# The Gippsland Anglican

Volume 112, Number 5, June 2015

Published in Gippsland Diocese since 1904



## Participating in prayer

One young member of the congregation participating in intercessory prayer at the "in touch" multi-sensory service for families with children on the autism spectrum at St. John's Bairnsdale on Sunday 12 May. (See full story, page 3.)

## Language challenge

*Thoolo bunjil boonot njinde-a*

Heaven elder be with you

*Thoolo njinde*

And also with you



National Reconciliation Week was celebrated from 27 May to 3 June. This greeting was translated by Dr Doris Paton and brought to Synod by the Rev Kathy Dalton, who issued a challenge for Gippsland Anglicans to learn to say the familiar greeting in Gunai Kurnai language. NAIDOC Week, celebrating the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, will be from 5 – 12 July this year.

## Gippsland Diocese rated second for viability

The Registrar, Mr Brian Norris, reported at Synod that the Gippsland Diocese was rated second most financially viable rural or regional Anglican diocese in Australia.

This was the finding of the Diocesan Financial Advisory Group, appointed by General Synod, which has recently been investigating the financial viability of country dioceses.

Archdeacon Philip Muston commented later on some of the reasons that Gippsland was in a relatively good financial position: "Over the generations there has been responsible giving by Gippsland Anglicans, along with wise management of funds and investments, for example through the recent Global Financial Crisis". He said Gippsland diocesan registrars such as Brian Norris (current) and his predecessor, Peter Wallis, had managed temporal affairs ably, and

that through our history there had also been a few generous endowments, such as the A'Beckett, Collier and McNeilly bequests. But there would be a need for continued generosity in giving and good management if our relatively fortunate situation was to continue. "Saying that we are second most well off is not saying very much, given that many rural dioceses in the Australian church are unviable already, or verging on unviability", Archdeacon Muston said.

The Report of the Viability and Structures Task Force presented at General Synod last year described Gippsland as, after Armidale NSW, "the most stable rural diocese with strong diocesan endowment". The report also mentioned Gippsland's youth and Indigenous ministry programs, and noted that fresh expressions of church are being encouraged.

## Third Session of the Thirty-seventh Synod in Sale

– reports begin page 6



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy speaking at Synod

Photo: Les Ridge

From the Bishop

Index

From the Bishop 2

In touch with Jesus 3

Around the Parishes 4-5

Joyce Elliot took Cursillo to Melbourne 4

The risen Christ – Arthur Boyd mural may move 5

The Process comes to Cowes 5

Synod Reports 6-7

From the schools 8

Rich Lanham: Telling others 9

Synod 2015: The President's Address 10-11

From the editor 10

Faith at work: Brett and Phoebe Hicks 12

Diocesan Calendar 12

Late last year Australians watched on in horror as a group of people in a Sydney city centre café were the victims of a siege. In the midst of this one woman, Rachel Jacobs, who was travelling on a suburban Sydney train noticed that the passenger next to her began to remove her hijab as the train came into the station. As they alighted Rachel ran after the woman and said, “put it back on and I’ll walk with you.” The other woman hugged her tightly and cried for about a minute and then walked off.

All over the country people began a social media campaign reaching out to those who might be fearful of travelling alone. The slogans “I’ll walk with you” and “I’ll ride with you” were more than words. They were real expressions of care and concern for those who might become targets of community fear and racial violence.

Just recently news reports of men intimidating Muslim women on suburban Melbourne trains have emerged. They have included news of the response of



“I’ll walk with you”

those who are standing up to say no to such violence and anger. Across the world Christians, Muslims, women, children, people of various ethnic minorities and religious groups are victims of violence and prejudice and fear.

For those of us who claim friendship with Christ these

stories are challenging and confronting. Challenging because they ask us to consider again how we respond when faced with that seemingly deliberate and provocative question put to Jesus, “Who is my neighbour?” Confronting because they have the capacity to bring us face to face with

our own doubts and fears and mistrust.

These are both challenging and confronting times. When Jesus told the disciples gathered with him in the upper room that he no longer called them strangers but friends, it signalled God’s way of relationship between all who follow Jesus in the light of God’s new day that dawned on the first Easter morning.

The temptation to stay only within the confines of those we are sure know what it means to be called a friend by Jesus is real, especially in the face of fear. That wasn’t possible for Jesus’ first friends. It isn’t possible now. Being called his friend by Jesus means being prepared to be a friend to others. It means being prepared to have heard Jesus speak the reassurance that, whatever our situation, he will walk with us. This is the friendship we are also called to live.

In this Trinity time walk gently, be prayerful, dare to be a friend.

The Gippsland Anglican

Member of Australasian Religious Press Association  
Member of Community Newspapers Association of Victoria  
Registered by Australia Post  
Print Post Number 34352/00018

The Gippsland Anglican is the official newspaper of and is published by The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland, 453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria, 3850.  
www.gippsanglican.org.au

Editor: Jan Down  
Tel: 0407 614 661

Email: editor@gippsanglican.org.au  
Contributions are due by 15th of the month prior to publication

Layout by Devine Design  
Printed by Fairfax Media,  
30-32 Grandlee Drive,  
Wendouree, Victoria, 3355.

The editor reserves the right of final choice and format of material included in each issue. The Gippsland Anglican and the editor cannot necessarily verify any material used in this publication. Views contained in submitted material are those of contributors.

Advertising Rates

Please contact the editor for all advertising submissions, costing and enquiries, including about inserts in the newspaper. A full advertising schedule can be sent out upon request.

JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!

One of the many advantages of an Account with the Anglican Development Fund (ADF) is that access to your money is only a phone call away on (03) 5144 2044.

We can transfer funds from your ADF Account to your personal Bank Account the same day or arrange to issue a cheque for a specific person or company and post it for you.

Make deposits (\$100 minimum for Term) with the Anglican Development Fund, **save** with guaranteed security and **serve** the church at the same time. Our interest rates are competitive.

Interest rates for deposits with the A.D.F. are:

- 3.00% At Call**
- 4.00% Term Deposits to \$20,000**
- 4.25% Term Deposits \$20,000 +**

Consider also that there are No Fees or Charges to operate your Account with the ADF. **It’s Free!**

**Open an Account with the A.D.F. today.** Give us a call on (03) 5144 2044 or write to The Registrar at: PO Box 928 Sale, Vic. 3850, or you can drop in to the Diocesan Registry at 453 Raymond Street, Sale, for an Application Form to open your Account with the ADF.

**Note:** Neither the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland nor the Anglican Development Fund – Gippsland is prudentially supervised by APRA. Contributions to the Fund do not obtain the benefit of depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act 1959.



Be a part of supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

*The AMF exists to resource employment of Aboriginal people in ministry; training of Aboriginal people for ministry; development of Aboriginal ministry in the community; the planting of Aboriginal churches; education of the Diocese about Aboriginal issues.*

Be a part of achieving these aims.

Contact the Diocese of Gippsland  
453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria  
PO Box 928, Sale, 3853  
Telephone 03 5144 2044  
Fax 03 5144 7183  
Email registrar@gippsanglican.org.au

**Barry & Annette Lett**  
**FUNERAL DIRECTORS**  
We offer care, compassion and service with dignity, for the people of Gippsland  
Caring and personal 24-hour service  
Chapel facilities available.  
**67 Macarthur Street, Sale**  
**Phone 5143 1232**  
www.lettsfunerals.com.au  
Member Australian Funeral Directors Association

**SEMMENS FUNERALS**  
SERVICING GIPPSLAND  
*Col. Paul & Bead Semmens*

Maffra 5147 1954  
Sale 5144 1954  
Heyfield 5148 3354  
www.semmensfunerals.com.au  
24 Hour Service

*Our Family Caring For Your Family Since 1979*  
Member Of The Australian Funeral Directors Association



Branches of the Vine: a participatory sermon at the "In Touch" service.

## In touch with Jesus

### Jan Down

A first multi-sensory service at St John's Bairnsdale for families with children on the autism spectrum was a great success, meeting the deep needs of both children and parents. The "in touch" service will now be offered once a month on Sunday afternoons.

Twenty adults and twelve children gathered at 3 pm on Sunday 12th May. Some came after having been to the autism education workshops held the day before. One woman came with her child, after not having been to the church in years. Several families were represented, as well

as some adults who came without children.

The service was led by the rector of St John's, the Rev Tony Wicking, and Ms Von Dubbeld, who is both a parent of children with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), and a voluntary children and families worker at the church.

Mr Wicking explained that for children with autism, the normal church service was often *too* sensory. He said that even a stained glass window could be highly disruptive, or a PowerPoint presentation flicking from screen to screen. The standard service was also too verbal and required too much sitting still, with very little participation.

Ms Dubbeld said that it was not only the children who were stressed at the normal church service: "The stress of parenting ASDy kids in a typical church service left us as parents unable to effectively worship. So the only option left for us was to split up and never be able to worship together as a family again".

Mr Wicking said it was essential that the church meet the needs of these families. He also commented, "My sense is, it could become a very important outreach. I think we're on a cutting edge. This could become a very significant ministry".

### Grape mashing as prayer

"'In touch' is way better than normal church, because we were involved all the way through and I was comfy." This was the verdict from Von and Mick Dubbeld's thirteen year-old.

Some simple adjustments to the physical arrangements in the building made a big difference to the comfort of those present. At the back of the church was a Quiet Place with cushions, where children could withdraw if they needed to. The front two pews were moved to create a rectangular space where yoga mats, cushions and wooden chairs provided different options for physical comfort. All of the children were on the floor for the whole service.

The "in touch" service was multi-sensory, but moved from one sense to another, rather than engaging many senses at once.

As children entered the church, they were offered "sensory tools" to choose from a tub containing spiky balls and rubbery things to stretch or squeeze, to keep their hands busy while they settled in to the service.

Three "please" prayer stations were set up where people could light a candle, write a prayer on a paper grape leaf, or mash grapes – a very popular (and messy) choice. The grape mashing was about change. When grapes are mashed, they change into juice; intercessory prayer is about asking God to change something.

The participatory sermon, based on the gospel reading for the day from John 15, on Jesus as the vine, consisted of all those present weaving a yellow anchor rope between them to create a vine. Each person held on to the rope with one hand, while extending the other arm to become a branch. The whole story was acted out, with just a few judiciously chosen words from the minister.

When the time came for communion, the chatter died down, and there was a hush. Sitting with the vine on their laps, all were quiet and still. A fragrant loaf of bread, baked just before the service, was broken and passed around, again with the bare minimum of words. Mr Wicking explained how, like the vine, communion connects us with Jesus.

Afterwards, Ms Dubbeld's nine year-old was heard to say "I wish church was like that every week".

The parents were thrilled with the new service. Ms Dubbeld said " 'In touch' is a release for our family. Our kids can worship, stress-free. So we can worship effectively too. And all of us now are released to use our gifts to bless the church".

Ms Lana Searl, another mother at the service, said "It really helped my daughter having the visuals up, so we could keep checking on what was happening next. The lighting was calmer, it was good having a quiet area, and being able to sit on cushions or floor mats instead of wooden seats that she cannot sit still on... because of all this, for the first time, Ayla, who is six and has ASD, wants to go again".

Ms Tanya Killingbeck, who was also present, expressed her thanks to the church: "Thank you for stepping out in faith to try this new thing. It is such a blessing! I loved seeing the children smile and be engaged in worshipping God in a meaningful way without the fear of offending someone by their moving about or talking."

The Bairnsdale church is very keen to share the "in touch" concept and resources so that other churches are better able to serve the needs of families with ASD children.



### A LASTING GIFT: A bequest to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland or your parish

The Church, over the years, has been blessed with the generosity of Anglicans and others in support of its mission. One way you can support this ideal in a relatively easy way, is to make a gift through your will. In the first instance, of course, you will consider carefully the needs of your immediate family and friends before proceeding with a bequest to the church.

We offer a way of helping you to carry out your wishes. Your gift, through your bequest, will be very much appreciated. You may wish to support the Diocese of Gippsland as a whole, or your own parish, or for a particular purpose.

Making your bequest in your Will is a simple procedure, although in preparing or amending your Will you should always consult a solicitor. The Registrar of the Diocese of Gippsland has information to assist you in making a bequest, including the form of words you and your solicitor might want to use.

Telephone Brian Norris on 03 5144 2044, or go to [www.gippsanglican.org.au](http://www.gippsanglican.org.au) and search 'bequests'.



**Around the parishes**

**First wedding in 30 years**

**Cann River**

St John's Cann River was the setting for the wedding of Karen Pina Ibarra and Jesse Kalz on Easter Saturday. A time of great celebration for the Kalz family and St John's; this was the first wedding at the church since 1985 – 30 years!



**Vale Daniel Teed**

1933 – 2015

The Rev Daniel Williamson Teed, a minister in the Gippsland Diocese, died earlier this year. He was deaconed at St. Mary's Morwell in 1961 and priested in 1962, serving as Curate at Morwell from 1961–1964. He later had a posting as Assistant at St Paul's Cathedral under Dean Alexander. He was appointed Priest at St Paul's Bass with St. Augustine's, San Remo 1965–68. Mr Teed then went on missionary service until the mid 1970s. Later appointments in parish ministry were at Tongala and Castlemaine in Bendigo Diocese.

Photo: Rosalie Murphy



**Anne Connelly's embroidery**

Rosalie Murphy

On Easter Sunday and over the following week the Anglican Church of Drouin had a display of some of the embroidery work Anne Connelly has created over many years, including the robes made for her husband, the Rev Dr Jim Connelly.

Once again we had many visitors admire her lovely work. Anne is with her grandchildren, Simon and Lucy Connelly.

**Joyce Elliot took Cursillo to Melbourne**

The Rev Dr Jim Connelly remembers Mrs Joyce Elliot as "a shy and humble person" who nevertheless led the Gippsland Cursillo team that took the Cursillo movement to Melbourne.

Joyce Elliot died on 23 April, 2015, aged 84. The funeral service at Christ Church, Drouin on 27 April was attended by 180 people, both lay and clergy from across the Gippsland diocese. The Rev Jim Connelly led the service, with the Rev Tim Gibson and Bp Kay Goldsworthy.

Joyce was the wife of

Archdeacon Ray Elliot, who now lives at the Lyrebird Retirement Village in Drouin. Ray and Joyce have been parishioners at Drouin for the past 20 years. Ray and Joyce had four children, three of whom are still living.

Archdeacon Elliot ministered in many Gippsland parishes, was Dean of the Cathedral at Sale from 1974–1977, then Dean at Bendigo from 1977–1985. His last parish before retirement was Mirboo North, where he worked part-time from

1992–1994.

Joyce was a fifty-year member of Mothers Union, and at one time, Diocesan President. She also founded the Warragul Branch.

The Rev Jim Connelly said in his homily at the service, "The good things she did were not because she sought out goodness as a field of endeavour, but because they flowed naturally from her good nature...She will be remembered lovingly in the many parishes where she and Ray served".

**Benetas is ready for you to move in.**

Benetas provides aged care services that can give you and your family the support you need. We have rooms available today.

Benetas is a not-for-profit aged care provider, founded by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne in 1948, we offer a range of services including residential care, in-home care including day and overnight respite, and independent living. We are with you when you are ready to make the move to aged care.

Contact our Customer Centre to book a tour today.

**1300 23 63 82** [www.benetas.com.au](http://www.benetas.com.au)

[www.facebook.com/BenetasAgedCare](https://www.facebook.com/BenetasAgedCare) [@BenetasAgedCare](https://twitter.com/BenetasAgedCare)

Founded by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne in 1948



Call **1300 23 63 82** to book a tour today!

**T**he *Process* was brought to Cowes by writer/director Ian Robinson and Director Maggie Miller.

The play begins with a recording of a voice announcing, "Ladies and Gentlemen, please stand for the Australian National Anthem". The band played, the choir sang, most of the audience joined in. The first verse was sung; the second verse ended abruptly after 'We've boundless plains to share', and the play commenced.

Two actors, Sean Scully and Jessica Muschamp, each took more than one role. The play centred on the plight of a Tamil refugee, sensationally played by Ezekiel Day.

The Tamil refugee, a graduate with two degrees from the University of London, had fled Sri Lanka after witnessing the rape and murder of his wife and daughters. He had come by boat to Australia and was now in a camp while his application for asylum was being processed.

We listened to direct repeats of statements made by Ministers of Immigration from both the Labor and Liberal parties; we heard extracts from the Immigration Act and the sort of questions to which aspiring Australians should know the answer – apparently knowledge of Sir Donald Bradman's cricketing prowess is of great importance!

What was achieved by the whole immigration processing

## "The Process" – a play

La Mama, Canberra, Cowes

Margaret Hancock

Bass / Phillip Island

system? Despair! Still no real resolution, still one person locked up because he had dared to ask for help.

The play ended and there were minutes of silence followed by a standing ovation.

As I walked from the theatre with a friend from the Uniting Church, we shared our sense of shame at Australia's attitude to asylum seekers and at the lack of compassion demonstrated by our political leaders.

I told my friend that, when my forebears came from the British Isles in the 1850s, they came as what we now call 'economic refugees'. She responded that one of hers came because 'She had

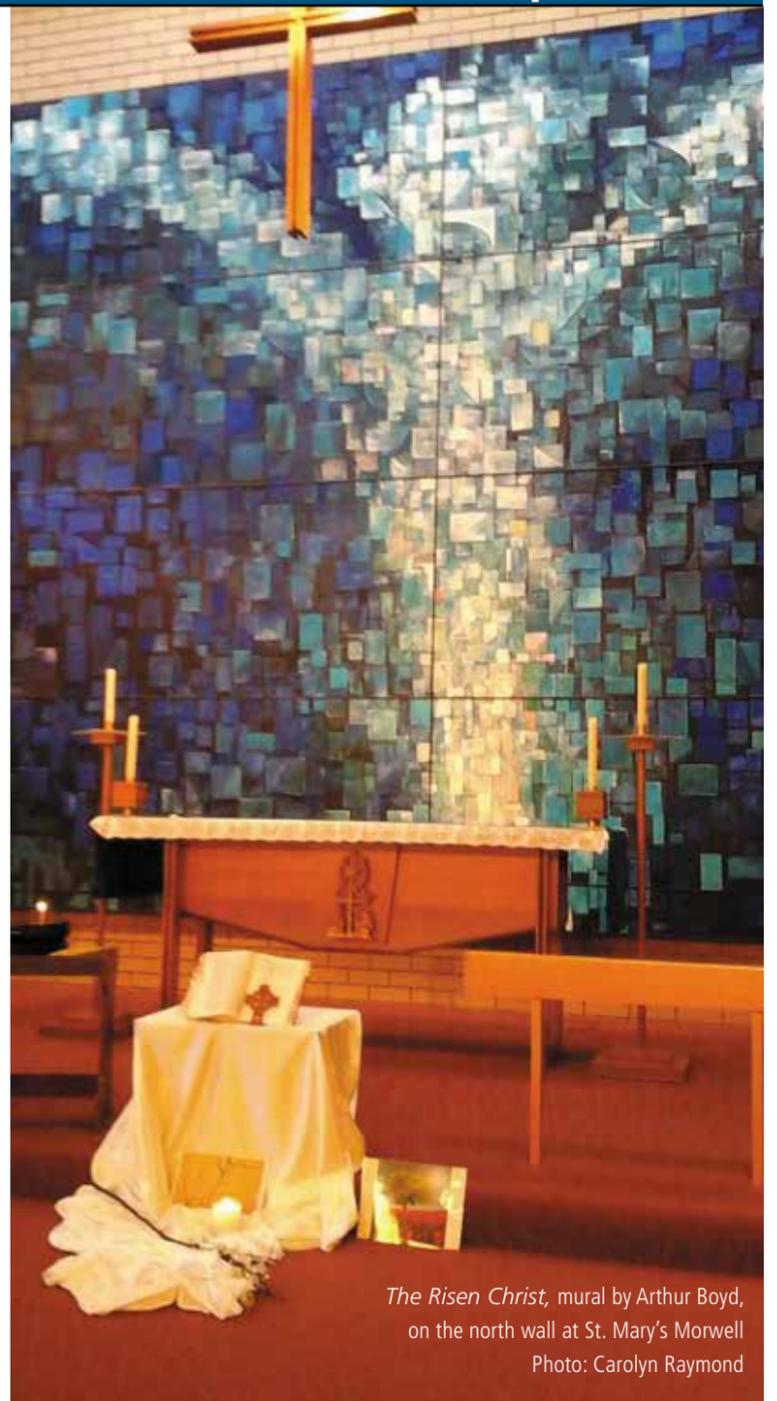
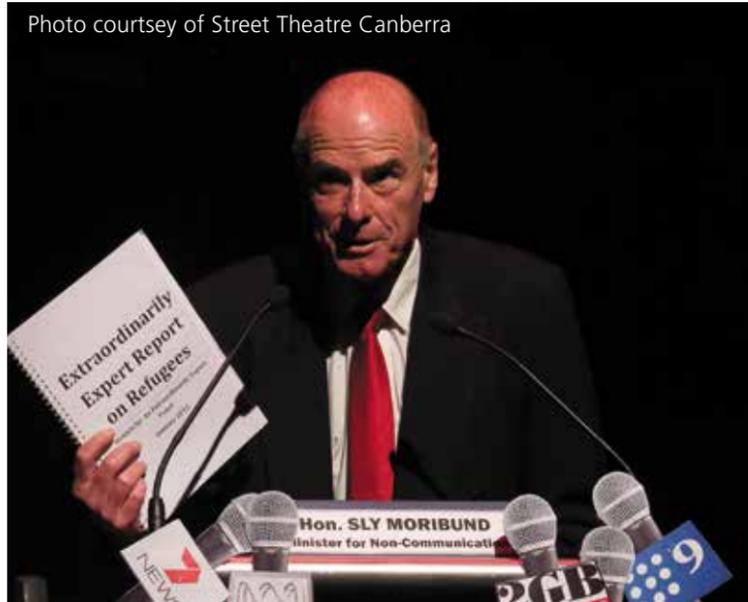
stolen a dress, but perhaps she was cold'.

How many of us in Australia today belong to families who would never have been accepted by the standards of today's Department of Immigration?

The Phillip Island Arts and Cultural Committee and Rural Australians for Refugees wish to thank all the people who supported and attended the performance of *The Process* at the Cowes Cultural Centre.

An amount of \$1,800 will be sent to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne. The Centre supports refugees and families who are living in the community.

Photo courtesy of Street Theatre Canberra



*The Risen Christ*, mural by Arthur Boyd, on the north wall at St. Mary's Morwell  
Photo: Carolyn Raymond

## The Risen Christ: Arthur Boyd mural may move to Canberra

Carolyn Raymond  
Morwell

**T**he Risen Christ, a very large, abstract mural by Arthur Boyd, fills most of the north wall behind the altar at St Mary's Morwell.

How did St Mary's come to have such a powerful and valuable painting?

In the 1950s Morwell was quite small. The larger town and church were in Yallourn. The Vestry of St John's at the time had decided to spend 800 pounds on this painting by the then comparatively unknown artist Arthur Boyd. So the painting was commissioned, purchased and mounted at St John's in Yallourn.

In the 1970s, when the State Electricity Commission decided that all the buildings in Yallourn would be removed or re-located, there were extensive discussions as to what would happen to the mural. After much consideration and consultation among

the parishioners, who by now had come to realise the value of this painting, it was decided to install the mural at St Mary's in Morwell, where it would also be accessible to former parishioners of St John's.

The mural is now owned by the Diocese and St Mary's is officially the custodian. Over the years it has been re-valued many times. In 2000 it was valued at \$500,000. There are many people who would consider the mural priceless. Neither the Diocese nor the parish is in any position to care for such a valuable and important art work.

The possibility of moving the mural to the Australian Centre for Culture and Spirituality in Canberra has recently been revived. If the mural is removed, we understand that the Centre would provide St Mary's with a life-sized copy of this amazing and inspiring mural.

## Come to The Abbey on Raymond Island

### June 19 & 21 – Planting

To minimise erosion and prevent further loss of remnant native bushland along the lake shore, we will be planting 600 plants (grasses and ground covers, shrubs and trees) in the area behind The Chapel and along the lake shore. We'd love some help ... just come on down to The Abbey, 1-25 First Parade, Raymond Island Friday 19 June – between 10:30 am and 2:30 pm. OR Sunday 21 June – between 2:30 and 5:00 pm to help with the planting or 5:00 pm to share in the BBQ

### July 13–31 – Half Price Days

All Abbey accommodation and facilities are half price – contact Anna to make your booking: (03) 51566580 or email: info@theabbey.org.au

### August 4 – 9 WinterFEST

We are trying something new ... all The Abbey Winter Work-

shops are now running as part of one Tuesday to Sunday event – The Abbey's own WinterFEST. This gives you a chance to come with your friends to the parts of the program that interest you most. Or you might want to come along for a week away at The Abbey and mix and match the programs that interest you. You can come by day or stay at The Abbey – for one day or for the whole WinterFEST.

More detailed information coming up, but we think even now it is looking pretty exciting and fancy you might want to plan to be involved.

### WinterFEST Program

#### August 4 – 9

- Tuesday 4th  
Body, Mind & Spirit: nutrition, music & movement, relaxation & massage, mindfulness & meditation, men's business

- Wednesday 5th  
The creative spirit...in written word and speech
- Thursday 6th  
The creative spirit ... in art, represented in religious art
- Friday 7th  
Island adventure: recovering pilgrimage
- Saturday 8th  
Celebration: fermented foods and wine appreciation
- Sunday 9th  
Breakfast and invitation to St Peter's by the Lake

Daily attendance includes lunch & dinner \$85; Accommodation – twin share with breakfast \$55 per person per night; single with breakfast \$90; Bookings for three days or more 10% discount.

MORE INFORMATION:  
phone Anna at The Abbey (03) 5156 0511,  
Email info@theabbey.org.au  
See also: www.theabbey.org.au

# Synod at Sale 2015

## Jan Down

The third session of the thirty-seventh Synod for the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland began on Friday 15th May with the generous hospitality of Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and her husband Jeri James, who hosted a welcoming dinner at Bishops Court, Sale, for all synod delegates.

During pre-dinner drinks on the verandah, the Bishop presented the Hon John Delzoppo OAM and his wife Elizabeth Delzoppo OAM with flowers and congratulations on their 60th wedding anniversary. Great food and fellowship was then enjoyed by 108 guests, seated across three rooms of the house.

The hospitality continued over the weekend, as the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, the Very Rev Steve Clarke, and parishioners welcomed Synod members to the Cathedral parish.

Synod members joined in lively and inspiring worship at the Synod Eucharist at the Cathedral at 8:30 on Saturday morning, during which the Rev Graham Knott was collated as Archdeacon of the Southern Region.

Members then met for business in the Lorna Sparrow Hall at the St Anne Campus of Gippsland Grammar School.

### The President's Address

With the Rev Kathy Dalton beside her, ready to assist with pronunciation if needed, the Bishop began her

President's Address in Gunai Kurnai language:

*Thoolo bunjil boonot njinde-a.*  
(Heaven elder be with you.)

*Thoolo njinde.*  
(And also with you.)

The Bishop went on to speak of the "long conversations" of the church – from the first Council of Jerusalem mentioned in Acts 15, to the first Gippsland Diocesan Synod in 1905, and up to this, the 110th Gippsland Synod in 2015. She suggested that the Diocese's current mission strategy, "Jesus Christ here and now for Gippsland", may not be so far removed from the aims of mission in Gippsland in 1905.

The Bishop acknowledged the ministry of Bp John McIntyre, and the grief and difficult time that followed his death in June last year. She expressed the thanks of the Diocese for the care and concern of Archbishop Philip Freier in the following months, and the deep appreciation of the diocese for the ministry of Archdeacon Philip Muston, who stepped in as Administrator.

Looking to the future direction of the diocese, the Bishop spoke of her desire to visit parishes and to hear about where each one is up to in planning, using the Diocesan Strategic Direction as a resource.

Synod business included the passing of three bills from General Synod. The first two bills related to amendments of the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia for the purpose of providing that the bishop of a diocese is not a member of the Diocesan Tribunal, thus allowing bishops to major on their pastoral role. The third was a bill to adopt a Canon of General Synod that amends the *Holy Orders, Relinquishment and Deposition Canon 2004*.



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy, Archdeacon Edie Ashley, Archdeacon Philip Muston, and newly collated Archdeacon Graham Knott, just after the Synod Eucharist

Motions of interest included:

- **Divestment from Fossil Fuels**  
– the Rev Sue Jacka
- **Asylum Seekers**  
– Mr Kim Easton  
(Motion not debated)
- **Abortion in Australia**  
– Mr Kim Easton  
(Motion not debated)
- **Authorised Congregations**  
– The Registrar, Mr Brian Norris
- **Synod – Sunday Sitting**  
– The Rev Tim Fletcher
- **Installation of Solar Panels – Funding** – Ms Margaret Hancock
- **The Charter for the Safety of People within the Churches of the Anglican Communion**  
– The Rev Brenda Burney
- **Viability of Parish and Diocesan Structures** – Ms Cynthia Grove

### Questions

Two questions were submitted to Synod. The first, from the Rev Graham Toohill, asked how many parishes had responded in the past year to the invitation to make contributions to a fund established to assist the Diocese of Gahini in Rwanda. The Registrar answered that three parishes had responded and that \$9,906 had been forwarded to Gahini.

The second question on Parish Positions, from the Rev Tony Wicking, asked about the ramifications, legal and otherwise, for churches and the diocese, if parish positions required by the *Parish Administration Act* are not filled.

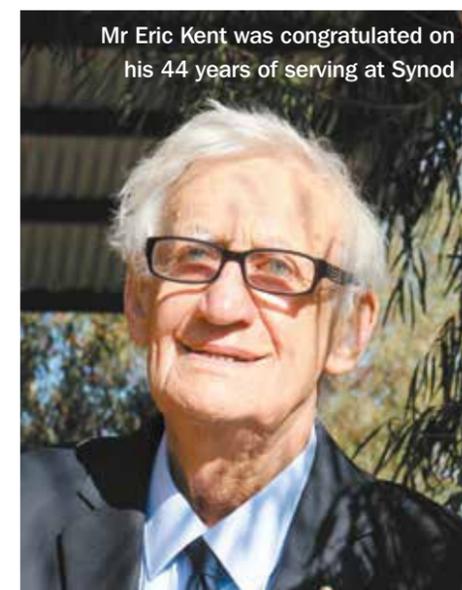
The Chancellor's Response explained that the acts of Synod are binding on bishops, clergy and laity. The *Parish Administration Act* requires the appointment of churchwardens, members of the parish council, a secretary and treasurer, as well as a lay representative of each parish.

### Other highlights

- The Rev Kathy Dalton, speaking to the report on Aboriginal Ministry, presented Synod with a challenge: to learn in Gunai Kurnai language the liturgical exchange, "The Lord be with you. And also with you"; and The Lord's Prayer. Cards with these printed words were given to all Synod members and Ms Dalton led Synod in a first attempt.
- The Registrar announced that Gippsland is rated number two for viability as a regional or rural Anglican diocese in Australia.
- The Bishop presented Mr Eric Kent with a gift to congratulate him on his 44th year of attending Synod. Presentations were also made to retiring clergy: the Rev Bruce Charles, the Rev Bevil Lunson, the Rev Brian Turner and the Rev Canon Amy Turner.
- Ms Val Jones moved a motion expressing the gratitude of the diocese for the ministry of Archdeacon Philip Muston in his role as Administrator of the Diocese over its nine months without a bishop. Archdeacon Muston received a standing ovation.



Ms Sue Fordham, Mr Robert Fordham AM, Ms Danielle Matthews at the Friday night dinner



Mr Eric Kent was congratulated on his 44 years of serving at Synod

# Debates – the long and the short

## Abortion not debated

Synod was divided on whether to debate Mr Kim Easton’s controversial motion, “Abortion in Australia”.

Mr Easton gave a strongly worded speech in support of his motion, saying that abortion is murder, and that it is a national sin, as every state and territory has legalised it.

Mr David Miller from Yarram parish then moved that the issue not be debated. When this was put to the vote, scrutineers were required to count the votes, as the numbers were so close. This motion was passed, with 52 in favour and 39 against. When debate of a motion is not allowed, the motion cannot be put to Synod.

Some Synod members were disappointed not to be able to discuss the motion, including those against it, while others were relieved that such a sensitive issue was not debated at Synod.

## Divestment from Fossil Fuels

The Rev Sue Jacka’s motion, “Divestment from Fossil Fuels”, generated considerable debate and was substantially modified before being passed by Synod.

The original motion requested that Bishop-in-Council, in light of the 5th Mark of Mission and in line with its current practice of ethical investment, “refrain from knowingly investing in any organisation that is dependent upon the destruction or wastage of non-renewable resources for which viable alternatives exist...” and also that BIC “consider divesting from all investments that are contrary to this”.

The third part of the original motion encouraged individual people of the Diocese also to divest from fossil fuels.



The Rev Sue Jacka

Photo: Les Ridge

The Hon John Delzoppo OAM moved an amendment to the motion, which he argued would give BIC “room to move and to rely on the good sense and judgement of the Finance Committee and the Trustees”.

Several members of Synod spoke in favour of this amendment. Mr Kim Easton argued that attacking the fossil fuel industries directly could lead to the use of nuclear power, which he was against. He also objected that we all depend on fossil fuels on a daily basis, and that therefore there was some hypocrisy involved in the divestment proposal.

Mr David Gittins, also in favour of the amendment, argued forcefully that we do not know enough, and urged caution. Ms Val Jones said that the issue is complex, and the amendment would give the Finance Committee “room to explore and review”.

The Rev Sue Jacka, judging it better to have the motion passed in its amended form, rather than lost altogether, then

urged Synod members to vote accordingly.

The following amended motion was passed: “Resolved that this Synod requests Bishop-in-Council to review the criteria for its investments and explore the removal of fossil fuel industries from the Diocesan investment portfolio.”

## Asylum Seekers

Ms Sarah Gover’s motion on asylum seekers requested BIC establish a working group to write and distribute to parishes a discussion paper on asylum seekers. This would provide both information and resources.

The Rev Geoff Pittaway, speaking in favour of the motion, said “People who come need to be given a fair go”, adding that he would like more information, and therefore supported the idea of a discussion paper.

After a brief discussion, the motion was passed.

## Other motions of interest

The Registrar, Mr Brian Norris, presented the “Authorised Congregations” motion requesting governance arrangements for emerging ministries that do not fit the traditional parish model, with particular reference to the 123 Ministry in Sale, led by the Rev Rich Lanham. The motion was passed unopposed.

The Rev Tim Fletcher’s motion requesting that Synod not meet on a Sunday, was debated at some length. The Rev Tony Wicking argued that the motion was clergy-centred, saying that lay people may lose a day’s pay if they had to take time off work. He also said that clergy should be training lay leaders who can take their place on a Sunday.

Other speakers agreed that Synod provided a good opportunity for lay leaders to lead services. The motion was lost.

Ms Cynthia Grove from the parish of Sale presented the “Viability of Parish and Diocesan Structures” motion which noted that the parish model received from our European ancestors may not be most appropriate for 21st century Australia.



Photo: Christine Morris

The Hon John Delzoppo and his wife Elizabeth were congratulated on their 60th wedding anniversary

The motion requested that BIC establish a working group to consider the effectiveness and practical viability of parish and diocesan governance structures as they relate to pastoral and missional effectiveness. The motion was passed unopposed.



The Rev Lyndon Phillips



Susan de Cann and Lorna Foster from Rosedale

*Latrobe Valley Funeral Services*

- Qualified, experienced and caring staff
- Modern chapels
- Refreshments and catering facilities available
- Secure, guaranteed, pre-paid and pre-arranged funeral plans
- Over 70 years of service to the Latrobe Valley

MOE 5126 1111  
MORWELL 5134 4937  
TRARALGON 5174 2258

Owned and operated by Paul and Katrina McInnes  
Proud member of the Australian Funeral Directors Association and the Australian and British Institutes of Embalming



PAUL  
McINNES  
Director



JOHN  
GALBRAITH  
Consultant



MARK  
RIDDLE  
Consultant



DAVID  
HASTIE  
Consultant

From the schools



Gippsland Grammar runners William Mwangiru, Cohan Wade, Sam Dunnett and Chance Doultree after being awarded gold at the Victorian All Schools Cross Country Relay Championships at the weekend.

# Cross Country Gold!

Gippsland Grammar won gold at the Victorian All Schools Cross Country Relay Championships.

The under 14 boys team, consisting of William Mwangiru, Cohan Wade, Sam Dunnett and Chance Doultree, came first in front of 25 other Victorian schools. Second was The Peninsula School and St Kevin's came third.

Gippsland Grammar's Under 16 girls Millie Dunnett, Ella Clydesdale, Ellen O'Brien and Erika Allen, placed fifth at the Cross Country Championships and, according to Gippsland Grammar's Jenny Dyke, competition was tough.

"A total of 43 teams contested the girls race; that's the strongest field I've seen in a very long time."

**Life FM**  
*Gippsland*  
103.9

Broadcasting Christian Music  
24 hours a day 7 days a week.

Uplifting, encouraging and empowering  
...that's our aim

204 Raymond Street, Sale, Vic., 3850  
Telephone: 03 5143 0355  
Fax: 03 5143 0388  
Feedback: 03 5143 0357  
www.lifefm.com.au

*Life changing radio..... 103.9*

**Stephen Baggs  
Funeral Directors**

Talk to us about our at-need, pre-paid or pre-arranged funeral services.

613 MAIN STREET BAIRNSDALE  
Call 24 hours on 5153 2150 or visit us at [www.stephenbaggs.com.au](http://www.stephenbaggs.com.au)

**Solar Panels**  
Mark  
03 5626 8476  
0425 716 848

## Commerce on show at St Paul's Grammar

As part of their Business Management studies, Year 10 Commerce students at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School recently presented 'Commerce on Show' to Junior School students.

The concept of Commerce on Show is for students to experience the processes involved in setting up and running a small business.

By setting up an activity for Junior students to select, the commerce students learn about business planning, cost analysis, obtaining resources, risk assessment (including OH&S), product/service branding and post-performance analysis.

Each student had to present a different activity and with around 27 business activities on show, some of the activities included Ten Pin Bowling, Rock Adoption, Jelly Fish Craft, Sock Puppets and a Chopstick Competition.



St Paul's student Jye Watson (Year 1) with Eddie Huang and his 'Chopstick Competition' stall.

**ABC Radio National's Religion Programs**

Frequencies: Bairnsdale - 106.3 FM (3ABC RN)  
Melbourne - 621 AM (3RN)

**Religion and Ethics Report**  
Wednesday 5:30 pm – repeated: Thursday 5:30 am  
[www.abc.net.au/radionational/program/religionandethicsreport](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/program/religionandethicsreport)

**Encounter**  
Saturday 5:00 pm – repeated: Wednesday 1:00 pm  
[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/encounter](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/encounter)

**The Spirit of Things**  
Sunday 6:00 pm – repeated Tuesday 1:00 pm  
[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/spiritofthings](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/spiritofthings)

**Rhythm Divine** (music program)  
Sunday 6:00 am – repeated: Monday 1:00 am  
[www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/rhythmdivine](http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/rhythmdivine)

You don't always tell people which footy team you follow, because you know that it may be cause for mocking or argument. You don't always tell people who your favorite band is, because you may have to explain why, or be told they are no good or old news. In fact I could write a whole list of things that people like or enjoy because of their personal taste and all of them would leave a person open to challenge, question, debate or ridicule.

Of course we regularly find people who have the same likes as we do; they often become our friends or social group. Personal taste is a very interesting thing, mainly because it *is* personal. You have your own likes and dislikes based on many factors – for example: natural attraction, environment, upbringing, experience, peer group and culture. But at the end of the day, what you like, dislike, enjoy or believe is your personal choice.

Now of course these choices and likes can be influenced. Everyday you are bombarded with information in the form of marketing and advertising from manufacturers, entertainers and even governments, solely designed to influence you into choosing or believing what they are saying or selling. This information isn't always wrong or bad; it's the reality of mass communication and marketing.

So what am I getting at? Well, simply that we won't always agree or feel the same way about things. This can be particularly challenging when it comes to our faith in Jesus. I guarantee that you will meet people who don't share your

## Telling others

Rich Lanham



Morning tea at the 123 Project in Sale, after Rich and Julie Lanham's farewell from the Cathedral parish. The Lanhams' mission work continues through the 123 Project.

views about God and Jesus. We know that Jesus tells us to preach the Good News to all people. That is, to tell people about Jesus, who he is and what he has done for us, and why we need him.

The Good News of Jesus is the most important message anyone can ever hear. The news that through Jesus, God restores us to himself and promises us new life. The news that faith in Jesus and belief in his death and resurrection saves us from the power of sin and death in our lives. It is now possible for anyone to receive salvation through a living faith in Christ. This is a message that we need to share with others.

Our ability to tell others about Jesus will be affected by a number of factors. These revolve around our personal relationship with God, our experience of faith in Jesus and our knowledge of the Bible.

But as well as Jesus saying to us that

we need to tell people about him, we will also be motivated by the change in our own lives; experiencing God's love, knowing his peace, trusting his plan and living by the example of Jesus as his followers. We might face disagreement or disbelief when we share our faith with others. But we are motivated not by our desire to feel good, but by our desire to love others even when it costs us, just as Jesus did. Because we know that sin destroys people's lives and Jesus frees people from the power of sin.

I think this is where preaching the Gospel needs to begin: with our own faith in Christ, and our choice to follow and believe in him. Our choices and values are changed as we desire to be like Jesus. As we receive and live into God's unconditional love, we begin to be freed from our understanding of deserving love. We begin to live into the

new life Jesus promises; a life where we are loved, restored, equipped and freed from the bondage and destructiveness of sin and self-centered living.

As followers of Jesus, you know what Jesus wants to do for all people. You know that they need to know that God loves them and has a great plan for them. You know that sin blinds people from seeing and believing that God is even real. You know you used to be this way. God has chosen to use us to communicate his love to others. To communicate that people need to be restored to him as their creator.

We are all created in God's image; therefore we are all image bearers. The people you know need to know this. They need to know that they were created for a reason, by a loving God, who wants to be reconnected to them, but sin is in the way. They need to know that faith in Jesus breaks the power of sin that prevents us from knowing God and experiencing the life that God desires for us.

### A PRAYER

*Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for showing me the way to live. Thank you for your example of faith and selflessness. Please help me to know you more and more every day. To trust you more and more every day. Give me courage to share your Good News with others as I desire to love people as you love them. Amen*

*The Rev Rich Lanham is Diocesan Youth Officer and Missional Priest of the 123 Project.*



## Helping IN HARD PLACES

There was nothing safe about Jesus' life. It was risky in every way. He was consistently found among people who were on the margins. His ministry of friendship expressed the value and dignity of all. This example continues to inspire those who walk in his path.

Many find it hard to accept what Jesus may ask of us. Frankly, it is hard to be a disciple. Some, however, have accepted the call to serve in hard places. They continue, year after year, to give of themselves in the face of enormous challenges. They remain faithful in their task, and are inspired by the way Jesus loves and affirms all people.

Many of Anglican Overseas Aid's partners are examples of this kind of faithfulness. Their stories show that new life and hope can grow in hard places.

**A donation to Anglican Overseas Aid's "Helping in Hard Places" appeal will support the work of our Anglican and like-minded partners as they work in hard places in Africa, India, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific.**

Find out more at [www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au](http://www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au)

Three easy ways to donate – all donations over \$2 are tax deductible

- 1 Online: [www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au](http://www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au)
- 2 By phone: 1800 249 880
- 3 By post: Helping in Hard Places Appeal, Anglican Overseas Aid, PO Box 389, Abbotsford, Vic. 3067

ANGLICAN  VERSEAS AID  
ANGLICORD

Anglican Overseas Aid is a member of

**actalliance**

# The President's Address

The following is an edited version of Bishop Kay Goldsworthy's first Gippsland Synod address.

**W**elcome to the Third Session of the 37th Synod of the Diocese of Gippsland.

*Thoolo bunjil boonot njinde-a  
Heaven elder be with you  
Thoolo njinde  
And also with you*

I thank the Rev Kathy Dalton for welcoming us in the opening Eucharist to Gunai Kurnai country, the country of the original custodians of this land. I pray that our footprint upon it will be gentle and our hearts tuned to the Spirit of reconciliation.

## Continuity through the Church's long conversations

This year marks the 110th year in which Gippsland Anglicans meet together in Synod. The first Diocesan Synod in 1905 was presided over by Bishop Arthur Wellesley Pain, the first Bishop of Gippsland. His photo sits on the wall of the downstairs hallway opposite the staircase in Bishops court. I have taken to acknowledging him and his wife Bessie as I land downstairs each morning and prepare to head into the challenges of ministry here in 21st Century Gippsland. The picture of Bishop and Mrs Pain is a daily reminder of the vision and commitment of the first Anglicans in this region to provide ministry and take their place in the apostolic mission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Just as we do, they dreamed and planned and discussed and debated and decided and acted to build up the church in this part of Australia. Perhaps our mission strategy, "Jesus Christ here and now for Gippsland" is not so far removed from the strategy and direction of mission back then. We say we want

- to be changed as we grow in our life in Christ
- to adopt new ways of living our

life in Christ

- to implement change in celebrating our life in Christ.

The photo of Bishop and Mrs Pain makes me aware every day that the ministry we have with each other in the household of Christ is a ministry through which God's wonderful, loving hospitality can be offered to others. A ministry possible only through the reconciling love of Christ.

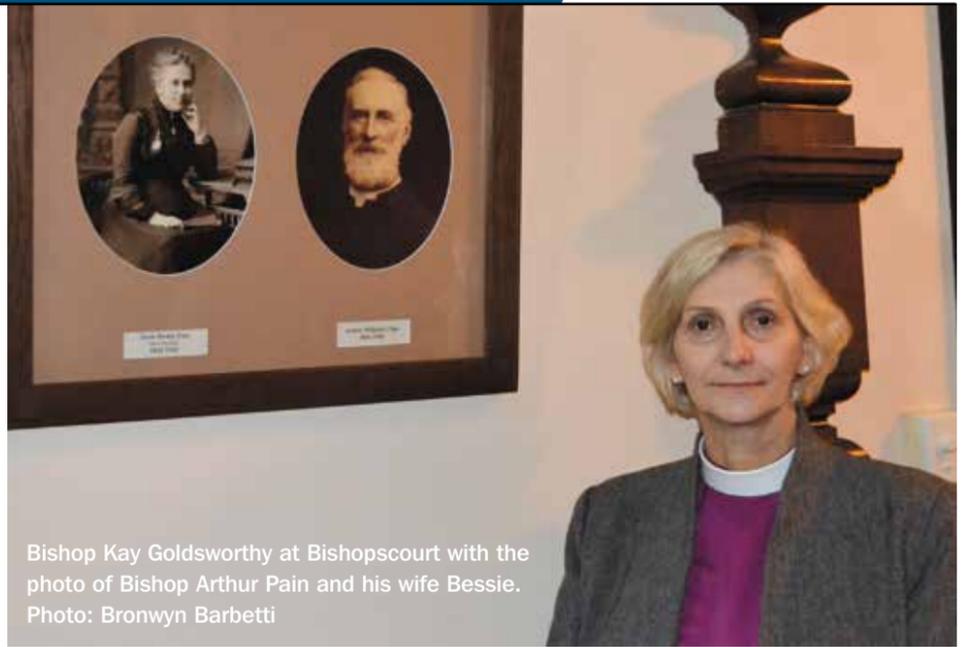
In speaking of funding for mission in the President's Address to Synod in 1905 Bishop Pain said, "The effect of this fund upon the spiritual work of the Diocese is direct and intimate. A little indifference on the part of two or three districts means the neglect of the souls of our people through inability to send them some living voice to tell them of the Saviour's love."

As we look back I give thanks for those pioneers.

The issues raised by the Synod of 1905 are similar and yet very different from those before us today. And it's not so great a stretch to look back across two thousand years to the first Council of Jerusalem in Acts 15 and see that our councils have always been about taking care to listen to the Holy Spirit in our midst; to be alert to the signs of God's presence with us in our own time; and to have the courage to be obedient to God's call to apostolic action here and now.

Synod meetings are often one stage post in what I call the Church's "long conversations". It's in the midst of these Synods that our study of the scriptures, our commitment to prayer, the gift and grace of each other as sisters and brothers in the household of God, and the desire to both discern and speak truth in love, remind us of our responsibility as ambassadors of Christ and ministers of God's reconciling love.

The picture Acts gives of the early church is dynamic, as diverse people



Bishop Kay Goldsworthy at Bishops court with the photo of Bishop Arthur Pain and his wife Bessie. Photo: Bronwyn Barbetti

learnt how to grow into the new life they lived as members of the resurrection community.

Throughout the history of the Church, in times of persecution, at times of theological dispute, when war was raging and when peace was flourishing, bishops and clergy and lay people have gathered together in Synods to take counsel with each other. In every generation we ask, as did the First Council of Jerusalem, What is right belief? What are we hearing the Spirit saying to the Church?

## Getting to know Gippsland

It's hard to believe that it is less than two months since my Installation as your bishop. We are enjoying a slightly slower pace of life outside a Metropolitan city. I am beginning to appreciate what people mean when they say Gippsland is very beautiful. That brings with it an appreciation of the concerns being expressed in various regions regarding coal seam gas exploration, the long term affects of mining and other industries on the environment and health.

## From the editor

### The Five Marks of Mission

The Five Marks of Anglican Mission, although created in the 80s and 90s, remain as relevant to the Church as ever, and have been adopted by other denominations. They were developed by the Anglican Consultative Council, beginning with the first four in 1984. The fifth mark, concerning care of creation, was added in 1990.

The Five Marks are:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom;
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers;
3. To respond to human need by loving service;
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation;

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Over the next few months, TGA will loosely base each edition on one of the Five Marks of Mission, beginning this month with the first: to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. An initiative such as the "in touch" service at Bairnsdale (see page 3) is one instance of good news being proclaimed in a way that can be heard by a people with particular needs. Rich Lanham's column (page 9) tackles the challenge of telling others the good news in the face of possible ridicule, while the interview with the Hicks family on page 12 shows how an openness to others and to God in the work-place can lead to sharing the gospel – with words or without them.

## Benetas is with me on my journey.

Starting the journey into aged care can be daunting. We offer advice and services to help make life better for you and your family. Benetas is a not-for-profit aged care provider founded by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne in 1948, which offers a range of services including residential care, in-home care including nursing, day and overnight respite, and independent living. Benetas is with you on your journey – whatever stage you're at.

Contact our Customer Centre for free aged care advice today.

**1300 23 63 82** [www.benetas.com.au](http://www.benetas.com.au)

[www.facebook.com/BenetasAgedCare](https://www.facebook.com/BenetasAgedCare) [@BenetasAgedCare](https://www.instagram.com/BenetasAgedCare)



So far Parish visits have included standing on the jetty at one of the oldest settlements in the Diocese at Port Albert, for the annual Blessing of the Fleet; and celebrating with members of the parish of Bass / Phillip Island and St John's Uniting Church in Cowes in the Creative Spirit Festival. It was exciting to be with a parish whose culture is one of permission-giving for imaginative ideas with the potential of making connection with young people, local artists and the wider community. As parishes lean into fresh possibilities for engagement with the community it's amazing how many people are only waiting to be invited to join in.

Besides parish visits I have been able to attend functions at both St Paul's and Gippsland Grammar Schools and am beginning to catch up with the story and work undertaken in parish communities across the region through Anglicare and the parish partnership programs.

At Port Albert the wind was what locals described as a gentle 'zephyr'. As winter draws closer I have decided to stop looking at the Perth weather report just in case I turn into a pillar of salt!

### Bishop John McIntyre

Many will be aware that at Synod last year Bishop John was already very unwell, yet determined to take his place among you. At my Installation I acknowledged his ministry among you and I am aware from listening

to various people how very hard the past 12 months have been. Bishop John had a biblical and spiritual focus on social justice – the heart of Jesus' ministry and therefore of Christian life. He was clear about the need to take seriously the place of Aboriginal Australians as Australia's First Peoples in both the life of the church and Australian society. He was passionate that Christians better live out the Anglican Communion's Fifth Mark of Mission "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth as citizens of God's world." All were hallmarks of his ministry in the Diocese of Gippsland.

Over these past weeks I have heard how some of those convictions brought the fresh, sometimes gusty, wind of the Spirit blowing against long held notions. Views of a different perspective sometimes discomfited. Sometimes this was cause for joy and celebration, and at other times it was hard. Sometimes this is the cost of God's grace at work in and for and alongside us. Sometimes the problem with God's grace is its ability to reach beyond our own limits and boundaries.

I record here the thanks of the Diocese for the care and concern shown by Archbishop Philip Freier over these many months and the deep appreciation of the Diocese to Archdeacon Philip Muston for his ministry in such a difficult time, both personally but also in the pastoral ministry and oversight of the diocese over the year.



Photo: Les Ridge

Retiring Clergy: The Rev Brian Turner; The Rev Canon Amy Turner and the Rev Bevil Lunson with Bp Kay Goldsworthy

### The road ahead

After nearly two months in the Diocese I am aware that there is a sense of expectation and wondering about just what will unfold as we look forward together.

I said in my sermon on the 21st of March that, "For my part this beginning isn't a sign of speed dating where people look each other over for about 5 minutes and then decide if they are worth time and effort. I want to get to know you. Some of the stories I have read in the Diocesan History 'Great Faithfulness' have been sign enough already, to persuade me that I want to hear the stories of your pioneers and meet this generation's characters in your district.

I'm looking forward to worshipping with you in the places and spaces in which God's grace and love first took root in your heart and mind and life.

I'm looking forward to seeing more of those places which are living postcards for the imagination of the world's creator. I'm looking forward to discovering beauty in those places that don't quite make the tourist brochures."

The recent outcry over the SBS reality documentary "Struggle Street" has highlighted once again that for the vast majority of people who experience a toxic mix of unemployment, poverty and disadvantage, these things carry stigma and often a deep sense of shame. There may not be many Mount Druitt's, or the same magnitude of problems we associate with big cities, for those living in the wide-open spaces of Gippsland, but there are several pockets of real disadvantage in this region. I give thanks for the commitment of clergy, lay leaders and members of church communities who are standing alongside those who are doing it tough, willing to be a hand up for people for whom life is a constant struggle just to get by. Charity is one loving step. Justice is another. I hope that we will continue to exercise both. Following Jesus requires nothing less.

In the coming year I will be taking time to listen to the story of your parish, your chaplaincy, your community, your school. I want to hear your story of

how God's grace is present in the place you live and work and worship, and in the lives of those who are finding faith through your witness. I hope that we will be able to strengthen our relationship with local communities by getting on with the plans for being a missional community.

I hope that you will encourage your communities – the faithful and seekers – to both attend and tend to, their spiritual lives and the goodness of God's world through participation in programs at The Abbey on Raymond Island.

And in the next 12 months I want to find out where parishes are up to in your planning, using the Diocesan Strategic Direction, *Jesus Christ here and now for Gippsland*, as a resource. In other words, what's your plan, and how are you implementing it in your parish?

The Strategic Direction 2013–2017 outlined in the *Jesus Christ Here and Now for Gippsland* vision speaks of "growing in Christ into the fullness of human life and inviting others to go with us on the journey". St Ireneus said that the glory of God is a human being fully alive. What a wonderful aspiration to have – that we might so grow into our own humanity – the very stuff that God chose to become in Jesus Christ as a reflection of the glory of the God of heaven and earth.

The intention of the Diocesan Vision is to develop and then share the plans of each parish in order to discern the next steps in the on-going journey of joining in with God's mission in the world. It is my hope that over the next year and a half we will be able to listen well, to celebrate with each other, to let go of what isn't working and to prayerfully attend to the prompting of the Holy Spirit for our future directions. We all want to be part of growing vital Christian communities of hope, healing and transformation.

We want, as did the members of the Synod of 1905, a living voice to send every town and district and region in Gippsland. "Some living voice to tell them of the Saviour's love."

# Handley & Anderson

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Servicing South Gippsland & Phillip Island

Scott & Sharon Anderson

*With care & dignity we serve  
South Gippsland and Phillip Island*

#### Main Office:

**WONTHAGGI/INVERLOCH (03) 5672 1074**

176-178 Graham Street, Wonthaggi, 3995

Fax: (03) 5672 1747

email: [randm33@bigpond.net.au](mailto:randm33@bigpond.net.au)

#### PHILLIP ISLAND

**(03) 5952 5171**

15 Warley Avenue, Cowes, 3922 (by appointment only)

*Pre-paid & pre-arranged funeral plans available.*

**CARING & PERSONAL 24 HOUR SERVICE**

[www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au)

MEMBER OF AUSTRALIAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

# Brett and Phoebe Hicks

## Jan Down

For Brett and Phoebe Hicks, running a café in Trafalgar is as much about community as it is about coffee. And they love both.

Phoebe says, “Brett jokes that when I’m at work I don’t do much ‘working’. I love people, love a chat and really enjoy the social side of the job. It’s a real privilege to be part of people’s routine: to serve them a simple coffee, remember their names, see them smile. Many times we’ve had someone open up to us about a challenge in their world or share something quite personal with us. It’s an honour that we are trusted with this confidence, because we have taken the time to really ask ‘how are you?’ and mean it.”

Brett explains the ethos of the café: “We started out with three C’s in our business plan: Coffee, Connect and Community. We saw a great opportunity to create a welcoming space where people could connect over outstanding coffee and food ... and where we could be part of small town culture to raise our family”.

The opportunity arose when Brett’s nephew invited them to join him in the business he had just started, about eight years ago. At the time, Phoebe and Brett were living in the city with their first child, and longing to give her a country town life, such as they had known themselves.

They were also lovers of good coffee and food, and enjoyed walking to cafés to eat out with friends. So the new work was a great fit, and they haven’t looked back. The nephew moved on to other things after about a year, and they took over the ownership of the business.

Phoebe and Brett now have four children: Zara, 9, Micah, 6, Asher 2, and Nyah who is just a few weeks old. They are members of St Mary’s Anglican Church at Trafalgar. Brett says “We weren’t fussed with which denomination particularly, but wanted a church that felt like home where our children could grow up learning about God”.

The day-time café is open Monday to Saturday (Sunday is church and family time) and employs six local staff. As a couple, Phoebe and Brett have shared out the café work in varying ways at different times, including periods when they have both been full-time. They now have a chef, which is allowing more balance between work and family life.



“We started out with three C’s in our business plan: Coffee, Connect and Community.”

Brett has a degree in commerce and Phoebe had some previous experience in hospitality. Suppliers of coffee beans offered training at the beginning, but Phoebe explains that they have mostly done their own research on coffee trends and “the third wave” of the coffee industry. The first, she says, came with the Italian migrants in Melbourne bringing espresso and cappuccino to the city. The second was the big American franchises such as Starbucks and Gloria Jeans. “This third wave is stripping back the flavours and focussing on the bean, the roasting and the pure tastes of the extracted coffee.”

Brett goes in early to make sure the coffee machine is warmed up and ready for early customers. He says “Often early in the morning I’ll listen to worship music while setting up, to keep my focus on God at the beginning of the day. I love the quote attributed to St Francis of Assisi: ‘To tell all you meet about God, and if necessary, use words’. We’re not in the café preaching with our coffee and food, but are open to opportunities God might present to connect with others and show his love through what we do”.

Phoebe describes how conversations in the café have sometimes had an impact. “We’ve often had the opportunity to extend an invitation to church activities and some have gone on to become regular Sunday church people who have reconnected with faith”.

There have been challenging times. Phoebe says it has been harder work than her “original romantic notions of café ownership, [but] the rewards of working and living in our small town outweigh any negatives. We are a good team and complement each other’s skills”.

Brett says that during the difficult times “We have really held on to the faith that God has his hand on our life, our family and our business, and until he tells us to do otherwise, we are to honour Him through our day-to-day café work. To show some of the love He has shown us – to the customers walking in the front door and the staff coming in each shift through the back door”.

*So what’s the secret of a good cup of coffee?*

Brett’s answer: “If you’re making coffee at home you can get a really good coffee out of a simple plunger and fresh ground coffee from a café or small batch roaster. You are better to spend money on a good conical burr coffee grinder and use a \$20 plunger than getting an expensive machine and using pre-ground supermarket coffee.”

## Diocesan calendar

First Saturday of each month: all welcome to walk the labyrinth at the end of Back Beach Road at San Remo, Phillip Island, from 10:30 am.

### June

- 13 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
Lay Reader Training Day at Bairnsdale.
- 14 – 20 Refugee Week, see: [refugeeweek.org.au](http://refugeeweek.org.au)
- 19 & 21 Help with planting at The Abbey, Raymond Island, details page 5
- 19 & 20 Clifton Waters Village Variety Club Fundraising Concerts at Clifton Waters Village: Friday 19th at 7:30 pm and Saturday 20th at 1:30 pm. This is to support ‘Didi’, a young local girl suffering from a very rare brain disease.
- 20 9:30 – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Quiet Day, St Mark’s Rosedale .

### July

Alpha Marriage Course – Friday nights for seven weeks at Warragul, for married couples of all ages. For details phone 5622 3503

- 5 NAIDOC Service at Lake Tyers
- 11 9:30 am – 3:30 pm  
Lay Reader Training Day at Sale
- 13 – 31 Half-price days at The Abbey – accommodation and facilities – see page 5
- 19 9.30 am – 4 pm Safe Church Workshop, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Leongatha

### August

- 4–9 WinterFEST: a week of workshops at The Abbey, Raymond Island – details page 5
- 8 9.30 am – 3.30 pm Lay Reader Training Day at Korumburra

For all Safe Church Awareness Workshops: BYO lunch. Pre-register on the website ([buv.com.au](http://buv.com.au)) or through Danielle Matthews at the Diocesan Registry Office: phone 5144 2044.



OFFICE OF THE | Director of Professional Standards

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

The Diocese is committed to ensuring all people in contact with the Church can participate in a safe and responsible environment. If you may have been harmed by a church worker, or know someone who has, please come forward.

The Director of Professional Standards, Cheryl Russell, is available, and will maintain confidentiality, on telephone 03 5633 1573, on mobile 0407 563313, or email [cherylrussell1@bigpond.com](mailto:cherylrussell1@bigpond.com)