

# The Gippsland Anglican

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## Brian Norris ordained priest

Jan Down

The Rev'd Brian Norris, former Diocesan Registrar for Gippsland, was ordained priest by Bishop Richard Treloar on Saturday 24 August, the Feast of St Bartholomew, at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.

Brian was Registrar for the Gippsland Diocese for sixteen years before retiring from this position at the end of June this year. Prior to this, he was Registrar in Canberra for 19 years.

Of late, Brian has been involved in the recently established Safe Ministry Authority (including making two presentations) and the Vocations Panel. He has also been a member of the GARLL Board (Gippsland Anglican Retirement Living Ltd) and is part of the clerical team at the Cathedral.

When Brian was ordained deacon almost two years ago, he described it as "the fulfilment of a 50 year journey", having begun his theological training at the age of 19 at St John's Theological College at Morpeth, New South Wales.

Following his ordination to the priesthood, Brian commented, "It was a wonderful day for Kerrie and me and the family and friends who gathered for the occasion. I was so pleased with the representation from the Diocese and the community, particularly Rotary and SES, both of which I am a member. I am also grateful to the Bishop and the Dean for their support and encouragement during the period leading up to the ordination."

Archdeacon Graham Knott preached on the Gospel reading from John 1:45-51, the call of Nathaniel. Graham explained that the apostle and martyr, St Bartholomew, is thought by some scholars to be Nathaniel. His name means "God gives", or "God has given", and Graham noted, "Priests are called to be those whom God gives to the world and the church ... not to be shaped by but rather to become shapers of a radically different way of life – a life poured out for others... The priest is the one who is called to make incarnate the unconditional and all-embracing love of Christ."



Photos: Christine Morris

The Rev'd Brian Norris cuts the Cathedral cake following his ordination

Graham then addressed Brian: "Brian, you have always been among us as God's gift and we hold you as special in our hearts because of that; but now in a very special way you are called to pour yourself into the pain of others with the healing love of Christ. Priests are set in the midst of people to suffer with them, to be alongside them, to set before them new ways of forgiveness, healing and hope. There is no greater call."

About 100 people attended the service to support Brian and to celebrate with him as he took this last step to the priesthood. One of the highlights of the service was the pop-up choir, led by Jenny Batten, singing in harmony during communion.

Brian's daughter, Linda Morris, brought down from

Canberra a superb mud cake in the shape of St Paul's Cathedral, made by Erin White from Signature Cakes. Linda wrote on the Cathedral Facebook page (with a touch of humour), "I was literally dodging kangaroos and pot holes and battling snow

storms and flying branches from gale force winds to get it here safely".

The catering team led by Ann and Iain Miller and Jeannette Henwood provided a feast for all to enjoy over fellowship in the Delbridge Hall following the service.



### ARPA Gold

TGA wins gold twice at the Australasian Religious Press Awards: Best Regional Publication and Best Original Photography for last year's Christmas cover image by the Rev'd Chris Macaleer. (See page 4)



The winning image on TGA's December 2018 cover

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# Counting our blessings

It is with heavy hearts that we acknowledge this edition of *The Gippsland Anglican* as Jan Down's last in the Editor's chair. And yet we have so much to be thankful for since she took over the publication six years ago.

Jan has – in her gentle and thoughtful way – adjusted the lens of our diocesan newspaper: pulling back, as it were, to a wider angle. She has drawn our focus outward – to social and environmental issues, and wider ecclesial movements – without ever compromising the richness of reporting on news and views around Gippsland. Indeed, in awarding *TGA* gold for the Best Regional Publication for the second year running at this year's ARPA awards in New Zealand, the judges commented: "The open format of this tabloid invites the reader in, and it covers a wide range of topics".

Thank you Jan, for all that you have invited us to reflect on, and congratulations on the recognition your skills and dedication have received. Our readers have been blessed by you, and we pray every blessing on you for the next chapter of your ministry.

The art of "inviting others in" is at the heart of our mission.

It delights in the diversity of human experience as part of the God-given plenitude in creation. It is the fundamental instinct of catholicism, which pertains to the whole. It makes visible the radical inclusion of the Gospel. And it calls us to count our blessings in the fellowship of each and every other.

There has been much discussion in Anglican circles and the wider community about the possibility of pronouncing God's blessing – formally and liturgically – on civil marriages between persons of the same gender, as may be done following civil marriages between a man and a woman.

This has arisen most recently in response to the decision of the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta to approve a form of service for use – according to conscience – to bless such a civil union. The Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, Archbishop Philip Freier, has referred this legislation to the Appellate Tribunal for an opinion as to whether the regulation adopted by Wangaratta Synod is constitutional, and whether it conforms with the relevant canon concerning services.

The response of the Tribunal to these questions will be helpful in shaping the mind of the church as we seek to maintain unity while working through a complex set of issues.

Ultimately, the mind of the church, or the *sensus fidelium*, is not formed and re-formed legislatively, but theologically and devotionally: through the ceaseless interplay of Scripture, reason and tradition; in worship and discipleship; under the guidance of Holy Spirit, who is always leading us into truth, inspiring no less the communities which read the Scriptures today than those which first received them, or from which they first emerged.

It would be easy in this process to focus solely on whether marriage *per se* between those of the same gender is orthodox. Might we also ask if that is the only – or indeed the most important – factor in resolving the question "to bless or not to bless" a marriage? What is our theology of blessing? How do we understand blessing to operate in the lives of individuals and faith communities?

Biblical scholar Dorothy



Bishop Richard Treloar

Lee reminds us that – among other things – blessing implies covenant. By virtue of his covenant relationship with God, Abraham is blessed in order to be a blessing to others.

Do not those whose baptismal covenant leads them to seek God's blessing on their lawful nuptial covenant (same-gendered or otherwise) do so primarily as a means of experiencing and expressing God's faithfulness?

To seek blessing is to be open to grace, to acknowledge our need of divine providence, and to be an instrument of blessing to others. In Abraham's case (whose polygamous marriage was unorthodox by our standards) the blessings were literally countless, as numberless as the stars. When it comes to blessing civil unions, will ours prove much easier to count?

+RM

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## Prayer Diary: around the parishes

"That we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith..." (ROMANS 1:12)

### TRAFALGAR WESTERN REGION

St Mary, Trafalgar  
St Mark, Yarragon  
St Mark, Thorpdale  
Rector: The Ven Sue Jacka

Trafalgar and Yarragon are growing towns while Thorpdale, like many farming communities, has a small but now stable population. Strong community spirit exists in all three towns, although many newer residents from city areas find it difficult to feel like part of the community. The churches have a positive role in developing a sense of belonging.

Prayer points: that our JAFFAs kids' church continues its lively ministry with children; families and helpers who often don't worship on Sundays (Thorpdale's started in February); for Youth and Family minister Josh Hasan;

that our worship services may be vibrant and enable new people to find a spiritual home; for creative, engaging ideas for our Sunday School teachers; for our Opp Shop as a place of welcome; for new energy for our long running *mainly music*; and for creative ways to connect with and support older adults.

### TRARALGON WESTERN REGION

St. James, Traralgon  
St. John, Glengarry  
St. David, Toongabbie  
St. Stephen, Traralgon South  
Rector: Canon Jeff Richardson / Associate Priest: The Rev'd Marilyn Obersby

We pray that our Parish will continue to live up to our motto: "To know Christ and to make Him known" and we thank God that through our worship we can reflect a spirit of love and peace to those who attend.

Our fortnightly Taizé service offers an additional opportunity for people to share in worship.

We give thanks for the helpers who support our monthly community lunches and bi-monthly community breakfasts, along with the team who work in the Op Shop and storage shed, offering fellowship to the local community.

Pray that God will lead a suitable person to fill the role of a families and youth minister; and that God will equip us with wisdom and insight as we consider the future of St Stephen's Traralgon South (currently owned by the Uniting Church), the cost of painting St John's Glengarry, and major works at St James Traralgon.

### WARRAGUL WESTERN REGION

Warragul Anglican Church

Rector: The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen

This is an active church seeking to minister to the growing community of Warragul, especially to the pre-retirees, families and single parents moving into the area. Currently there are two main congregations: a traditional Anglican communion service at 8:00 am with about 30 people and an all-age service at 9:45, with about 100 people. There are also occasional youth services in the evening.

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen commenced as Rector in October 2018. Please pray for Tracy and her husband Sven, along with with all the brothers and sisters in Christ in the church. Pray for success in their mission to live by faith, to be a voice of hope and to be known for their love in the Warragul community. Pray for faithfulness in living distinctively Christian lives and for growth, in maturity and in numbers.

# New ordinand for Gippsland

Jan Down

**B**elinda Seabrook, currently full-time Assistant Minister at St Peter's Leongatha, has been accepted as a candidate for ordination in the Gippsland Anglican Diocese.

Belinda is a local; she grew up at Leongatha, left at 18, then returned about 10 years ago after living in Melbourne and Queensland. She worked as a remedial therapist for eighteen years.

Her background is in the Roman Catholic Church, but a serious event and encounter with God led to her coming to St Peter's.

After a childbirth experience that was life-threatening and traumatic, Belinda was taken by a friend to prayer ministry in Melbourne, where she experienced healing and "a total mind-blowing shift of theology and understanding about God... that I could have a personal relationship with God and have access to all of him", rather than thinking of God as unreachable, "up in the clouds".

That shift, "snowballed into an insatiable appetite for the Lord" which has led Belinda towards ordained ministry. The same friend introduced her to St Peter's, where she has been ever since.

At St Peter's, Belinda has been commissioned as a Prayer Evangelist, with responsibility for three areas of ministry: prayer and healing; welcoming; and outreach to the local community. She has been on the staff for two and a half years.

A significant part of Belinda's role in the church is the strategic development of ministry, in line with the St Peter's Vision: "Preparing the way for the love of God to reach all people".

**GIPPSLAND DIOCESE  
VACANCIES**

**SOUTHERN REGION**

Mirboo North

Yarram

Wonthaggi

Belinda attends both the contemporary and the traditional services each Sunday, being Worship Leader at the contemporary service and Coordinator for the four main bands. She plays guitar and sings, enjoying both traditional hymns and contemporary Christian music.

Asked which service she is personally more comfortable with, Belinda says "Both. I have a foot firmly in both camps, and I feel like

currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Theology at Charles Sturt University, studying by correspondence.

Being academically inclined, Belinda finds the challenge of study enjoyable and rewarding. With two young children at home, Katherine (8) and Eleanor (6), and living in the country, studying by correspondence is convenient.

One of her passions is for Christianity to become normal

feels it is crucial that as well as engaging new generations in worship, it's also important that they are introduced to the "beautiful rich history and traditions of the Church, not just the passing fads of contemporary sensationalism".



Belinda Seabrook



Photo: Hugh Chisholm

Dayna Robert on violin, Alan Steenholdt on bass, Belinda Seabrook playing guitar and Bruce Campbell, recorder

I'm only half-done if I only go to one." The traditional service, as well as being familiar, is also the one where she can better receive spiritual sustenance, since she is usually more involved in leadership at the contemporary service.

Belinda's sense of calling started in her youth, and there followed a long period of discernment. She has participated in discernment group meetings for over 12 months and attended Selection Conference, finally being accepted as an ordinand.

She already holds a Diploma and also an Advanced Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology from St Mark's Theological College in Canberra, and is

again. "My generation just don't go to church", she says, but for her parents' generation it was normal for churches to be full. "We've turned away from God", she adds, to such an extent that people in their twenties have recently asked her "What is a priest?" That generation sees the Church as having no relevance. She is disturbed by the individualism in society, with people being "self-empowered and serving themselves... it's about their pleasure and basically people making themselves gods".

Belinda finds it terribly sad to see churches in small rural communities closing down because their aged congregations are dying and



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# Ann Greenwood's embroideries inspire

Carolyn Raymond

St Mary's Morwell was pleased to host the Anam Cara Quiet Day on Saturday 14 September. The Rev'd Ken Parker, visiting speaker and facilitator for the day, brought with him two series of the amazing embroideries by Ann Greenwood.

These stunningly beautiful creations were the focus for the day. Ken said he hoped that their presence would encourage our "spiritual gardening".

The Rev'd David Head welcomed everyone and the day began with time for fellowship as many had travelled from different parishes. There was also a time of worship with music, prayer and silence.

Ken then shared with us Ann Greenwood's journey and showed us two of Ann's embroidery series: *The Garden*

of *Eden* and *The Peacock Garden* (the Peacock being a symbol of Christ).

Ann's embroidery was beautiful, the textures subtle. The colours were powerful, the colour changes delicate and full of meaning. Ann created symbols to express her spiritual understandings.

Ken encouraged us, as one of us said, to "Look at them as we would look at an icon, seeing through them to the truth expressed". We shared what was revealed to each of us, so sharing from our personal and individual spiritual journeys. As Ken said, the day was not a "one man band", but an orchestra, as we all were prepared to share our vulnerability and personal revelations in this place of prayer.

We thank Anne Greenwood for lending us the embroideries and Ken for encouraging us on our spiritual journeys.



Peter and Margaret Down with their presentation from East Gippsland AMUA President, Merrolyn Wiles

# Celebrating Mary Sumner Day

Jan Misiurka

Each year on 9th August members gather to celebrate the life and vision of the founder of Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner, who continues to inspire us as we serve God as a movement in the 21st century.

Mary Sumner was a woman of deep faith, with a heart for prayer and a determination to make a difference in the lives of others. She listened to God and acted upon his call. We too, in our day, want to follow her example as people of faith, by listening and acting upon the call of God.

Our plans for travelling to Bairnsdale on Friday 9th were thrown into disarray due to the most unfavourable travelling conditions and the day was postponed until Friday 19 August, meaning unfortunately some people were unable to attend.

Following a service led by our Chaplain, the Rev'd Thelma Langshaw, those who came shared in many ways, including discussing with passion the upcoming MU / St Barnabas Family Retreat, viewing the new Christmas cards available for this year and fellowship enjoyed over lunch.

Peter Down, who had spoken to MU members previously on the Hope Restart Centre, joined us again with Margaret and spoke about how the vision was being fulfilled, providing an update on the project. A group of MU members went by minibus to see the site of the new drug rehabilitation centre outside Bairnsdale and were very impressed with the size and scope of the development.

This was such a wonderful example of people listening and acting upon the call of God to be shared on Mary Sumner Day and an encouragement to us all.



David Miller, Sandy Johnson, the Rev'd Ken Parker and Veronica Gribble

# Gold awards for TGA

Sue Jacka

For a second year, TGA has won gold for Best Regional Publication in the ARPA awards.

The judges commented that TGA was a standout due to the inviting open format, the wide range of topics and diversity of genres: devotional reflections, social issues and well-written news stories from around the diocese, accompanied by well chosen photographs.

This is a wonderful recognition of the dedication, skill and hard work brought to the editorial task by Jan Down for the past six years. Jan will be vacating the position due to her changing family circumstances and we take this opportunity to congratulate and thank her for her leadership and insight

which has led to our current TGA being so well recognized – as well as a very good read!

Congratulations also to Juli Devine for her significant contribution in creating the layout for the paper each month, a task she will continue with after Jan leaves.

Readers will no doubt recall the Rev'd Chris McAleer's imaginative photo on the front cover last Christmas. Captioned "Light to those who sit in darkness", the gold-winning photo depicted an image of Jesus being projected onto St John's Church, Nar Nar Goon, with fireworks behind. The judges remarked: "The creativity involved in producing this photo is outstanding. As a cover photo it would attract the reader to enquire further for the background



and subject matter. Photographically the point of interest (overhead) and the individual (lower left) are well positioned and composed." Well done Chris!

TGA also won three awards this year: gold for Best Cover (newspaper) and Best Review; silver for Best Original Illustration.

Archdeacon Sue Jacka is a member of TGA's Editorial Committee, Archdeacon of the Western Region and Rector of Trafalgar.

# Stalwarts of St John's

Glenda Amos Yarram

Two special birthdays were celebrated recently with a special afternoon tea at St John's Port Albert. Gwen Fraser celebrated her 100th birthday and Graeme Ireland celebrated his 90th with friends from the Yarram Parish.

Gwen was an active member

of the Guild until about 10 years ago and regularly attended services at St John's. She also has a great knowledge of the history of St John's Port Albert and Christ Church, Tarraville.

Graeme has been a quiet achiever of St John's, also attending services regularly and recording all the special events with his photography.



Front row: Graeme Ireland, Miriam Stackhouse (Rector's warden), Gwen Fraser and Greg Fraser (son)



Diocesan Retreatants on Raymond Island

## Theologian and poet at Diocesan Retreat

Susanna Pain

“Alone and Together” was the theme of the Diocesan retreat held 30-31 August at the Abbey on Raymond Island, this year led by the Rev'd Dr Jane Foulcher, Senior Lecturer in Theology at St Mark's National Theological Centre, and acclaimed Australian poet,

John Foulcher.

Jane began our time together after drinks and dinner on Friday evening with a story about Frog and Toad, and Frog's need to spend time alone. It was a delightful beginning to the weekend.

On Saturday morning Jane led us in the chapel in Morning Prayer, then John spoke about Julian of Norwich, reading a pertinent passage from

*The anchoress* by Robyn Cadwallader.

Before lunch, Jane spoke of St Bernard of Clairvaux and St Benedict's Rule of Life. After a delicious lunch, participants found a partner or two to walk with around the island, sharing our reflections on the weekend. We closed our time together with Holy Communion. It was a sacred time of “alone and together”.

*The Very Rev'd Susanna Pain is Dean at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.*

## Date Nights at St Peter's Leongatha

Peter Finlayson

This year nine couples recently enjoyed The Marriage Course running each Friday night for seven weeks.

Our parish hall was especially decorated for each evening with lots of subdued lighting, candles and especially painted canvases with messages of love. Each couple had their own table to savour a delicious supper served by a dedicated team of helpers while listening to the DVD presentations of The Marriage Course by Nicky and Sila Lee.

Holy Trinity Brompton in London produced The Marriage Course and we have been presenting it here in Leongatha for the last 15 years. The course gives couples tools to help build up strong, healthy marriages that last a lifetime.

The first topic is “Building Strong Foundations”, then “The Art of Communication”. Resolving conflict is the next subject which leads onto the following week's discussion on “The Power of forgiveness”. The final three sessions cover family and parents-in-laws, sex life and lastly love in action.

All the discussions are solely between the couple seated at their private candle-lit table with some soft music playing in the background to enhance their privacy. Many participants have greatly appreciated this course because it is so practical and useful. Interviews on the DVD demonstrate the great variety of couples' experiences.

The DVD regularly presents a question for thought and discussion. This then leads each couple to share their own story with each other. The course manual is a helpful resource and each person can record their own thoughts and feelings for sharing

with their partner and also for later reference if needed.

In our society marriage is under enormous pressure. This course is very valuable and accessible to help encourage couples to keep investing in their marriages. It can be used for small or large numbers of participants. We highly recommend it.



Spectacular desserts prepared for The Marriage Course couples to enjoy, made by Jackie, one of St Peter's youth group leaders

## Vale Fred Morrey



Bishop Arthur Jones, Archdeacon Emeritus Fred Morrey and Bishop Richard Treloar at the celebration of Fr Fred's 60th year of priesthood on 1 May this year

Archdeacon Emeritus Frederick Albert Morrey died on 21 August, just four months after celebrating his 60th anniversary of priesthood.

The Requiem Eucharist for Fr Fred was held at St Luke's, Moe, where he was Rector from 1978–1985. It was also his home parish in retirement.

Bishop Richard Treloar presided at the Requiem Eucharist, while Bishop Arthur Jones, Fr Fred's close friend, was the preacher and officiant at the graveside.

In his welcoming remarks, Bishop Richard asked, “How could Fr Fred's funeral be anything other than a Eucharist? The Lord's table was the centrepiece of Fr Fred's spirituality ... and it was also the foundation of his extraordinarily generous pastoral ministry these last 60 years and more”.

Bishop Richard, recalling Fr Fred's diamond jubilee of priesthood, also celebrated at St Luke's, noted that “He presided that evening with his characteristic reverence, distributing and receiving the Sacrament as he did on a daily basis wherever possible throughout his ministry, including here to the very last with his faithful fellow priest Fr John. Like many of us, and many more who cannot be here, that is one of the ways we will always remember him: at the altar.”

One of the tributes received on the news of his death was from Fr Scott Lowrey, who described Fr Fred as “generous to a fault, kind of heart, thought and mind, prayerful, wise and joyful in service. An icon, a window into the image of God present to all in Word and Sacrament”.

Fr Fred trained at Ridley College and St John's Morpeth. He was ordained deacon in 1957, serving as a curate at East Maitland (Newcastle) and then St Mary's Morwell. He was ordained priest at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, by Bishop David Garnsey, and served in the parishes of Bruthen, Myrtleford, Alexandra, Mossman, Frenchville, Blackall, Moe, Bunyip, Korumburra and Heyfield, including terms as Archdeacon of South Gippsland and Chaplain to Bishop Arthur Jones.

### ABC Radio National's Religion Programs

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

#### 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: Thursday 12 noon and Saturday 3:00 am

#### God Forbid

James Carleton Sunday 6:00 am  
– repeated Sunday 10:00 pm and Monday 2:00pm

For more details: abc.net.au

**AVON**

**Gail Wager**

On a delightful sunny late winter's afternoon, Saturday 31 August, the Anglican Parish of Avon held its Op Shop Fashion Show in the parish hall at Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stratford.

The guests were greeted and treated to "bubbles" and hors

d'oeuvres as they moved in to take their seats. Volunteers and parishioners alike had put in many hours of hard work to ensure the afternoon was an entertaining and fun event.

One of the op shop volunteers, skilled in fashion, worked with volunteers in selecting both outfits and people willing to model, resulting in a high-octane fun



*Modelling "Father of the bride"*

show which included pet dogs accompanying their owners along the cat-walk!

Many people came to support the event with very few spare seats for late-comers. A bubble show and song accompanied the opening procession of children, one of whom was dressed as Spiderman.

Our priest, the Rev'd Dave Perryman, delighted everyone with his modelling skills and as a grand finale, accompanied a party of models wearing wedding outfits.

A sumptuous high tea was served at the conclusion of the show and many enjoyed eating out on the decking in warm sunshine. Attendees were invited to purchase any of the clothes afterwards.

With over 100 people present, the event was deemed to be such a success that the organizers are already planning a bigger and better show next year.



*Photos: Vic Ferguson*

*The Rev'd David Perryman in full regalia as the priest officiating for a wedding*

**LEONGATHA**



*"Angel mannequins" at St Peter's Leongatha*

**Peter Finlayson**

Eighty plus parishioners and visitors were shown a wonderful range of fashion garments at St Peter's Anglican Church on the evening of Wednesday August 14.

The church was transformed into a fashion house of glitter and lights with the sanctuary steps part of the cat-walk and background music creating an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation.

This fashion production was presented by St Peter's Mothers Union, with the garments coming from

The House of Opportunity (St Peter's op shop).

The ten angel mannequins were trained and dressed by the Coral and Kaye Agency, managers of St Peter's op shop. They were transformed from their daytime activities into the glamour world of fashion, assisted by their experience of being parish helpers at the op shop, and through their own hidden talent.

Many of the garments were sold that night and admission donations went towards the cost of the Family Retreat at the Abbey.

**KORUMBURRA-POOWONG**



*Models at the Korumburra-Poowong Fashion Parade*

**Sue Wilson**

On Tuesday 10 September, the Mine Road Op Shop was pleased to present its first Fashion Parade in the Anglican Parish Hall to perhaps 50 ladies. Or possibly 48 ladies, as there were also two noble husbands.

Often when we are working in the op shop some item of clothing might catch our eye, but on the whole those who work there don't have the time to really look closely at what is on the racks. However, over the past weeks, management has done the job for us and set aside many outfits to try in preparation for the Fashion Parade. We discovered that there is truth in the idea

that you cannot judge an outfit until you try it on.

Our models arrived in good time on the evening to set the clothes in order on hangers and add shoes and jewellery. Our first call was "Casual" and we all walked out together. Safety in numbers gave us confidence for the solo performances later in the evening. The audience was very supportive and enthusiastic and we thank them for it.

Back in the change room there was a rush to pull clothes off and line up the next outfits. "But that suits you so well," or "You look terrific!" were comments we made to one another, and followed by, "I think I might buy this one."

We worked our way through the dressier numbers with an eye to the upcoming racing season, moving into formal wear for that special dinner invitation or even for the mother-of-the-bride, and ending with a laugh as the braver ladies went out with nighties, dressing gowns and teddy bears.

Our MC did a great job of keeping track of the comings and goings and we all enjoyed the music which kept the models bopping along. The evening concluded with a wonderful supper.

We thank all who attended the evening, the many who purchased off the racks, the models, cooks and organizers.

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# Yarn the sea

## Croajingolong



Leanne wearing Heather's octopus beanie

*There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number (Psalm 104:25)*

Leanne Wicks and Kate Cowden in the Parish of Croajingolong are spinning yarns: both fleece and stories.

St Peter's, Mallacoota, overlooks Bottom Lake, Bass Strait and the Cape How Range – plenty of inspiration for the community to gather and use yarn to knit, crochet or spin.

Recent attendee, Sandra, commented, "This is the most relaxed I've been in ages." The quiet rhythm of spinning wheels, the gentle boil of the urn and sharing of skills for a few hours on a Saturday afternoon satisfies many.

Free needles, yarn and patterns are available to make beanies for the Mission

to Seafarers, Eden. We are aiming to make 250 before our Sea Sunday Service next April.

Leanne's project has been to knit her way through the birds of the area including pelicans, little pied cormorants and sooty oyster catchers.

Kate has been dyeing fleece in turquoise, sapphire and gold. The skeins of sea colours she then uses to make beanies. Kate's daughter, Heather, has created novelty beanies and a shell bag.



Sooty oyster catcher, made and photographed by Leanne Wicks

# Restoring gardens after bushfire

## Tim Green Bunyip

As the disastrous fires in Queensland and New South Wales have been so much in the news lately, it is easy to forget the fires around Tonimbuk in March and the damage they did.

An enormous amount of work has been achieved by groups of people, to rebuild fences, remove wire and truck loads of old metal. Thanks must go to the members of BlazeAid who for weeks worked to replace burned fences and so on.

On Sunday 8 September, the parish of St Thomas in Bunyip held its latest Bunyip lecture, with several speakers telling of various aspects of the recovery process underway.

One of the speakers was Daveena Veenstra, who led members of the Bunyip District Community House in setting up a program called "Green Thumbs" encouraging local people to donate pot plants in order to help rebuild and re-establish the gardens in and around Tonimbuk which were destroyed in the fires.

This group has now morphed into the Longwarry Lions Club

Bushfire Recovery Group. The group was established under the leadership of Shirley Higman, who talked at length about the work of the Bushfire Recovery Group and the staff at the Tonimbuk Hall.

In the near future, many simple tasks need to be undertaken, such as pruning of fruit trees that survived and replanting new trees and native shrubs.

Plant donations have come from many communities and from companies such as Fleming's who donated a large number of bare rooted fruit trees. There are plans to build a shade house near the Recovery Centre to grow more seedlings over time.

Meg Platte from Garfield community garden talked about the importance of revegetation, composting, the work of the community garden, and about indigenous plants and animals in the district.

We are grateful to our guest speakers who were very informative. The afternoon was finished with drinks and a table full of tasty delights.



Plants for re-establishing gardens after the bushfires

# Catholic Church to hold Plenary Council

## Dean Spalding

It was my privilege on 13–14 September to represent Bishop Richard as an Observer at a Diocesan Assembly for the Catholic Diocese of Sale, held at Marist-Sion College in Warragul.

Diocesan Assemblies held across Australia are one preliminary part of a synodal rarity in the Catholic Church in Australia – a Plenary Council – "Plenary" used in the sense of it being a council of the "whole" church – not just bishops or clergy, but laity included. I say "rarity", because the last time the Catholic Church in Australia (CCA) held a Plenary Council was in 1937!

The Australian Catholic Bishops have called for a Plenary Council in two parts for May and October 2020. With papal approval, legislation from the Plenary Council will be binding upon the Catholic Church in Australia. Questions being examined under the guidance of the Holy Spirit include: What is God calling them to do? Who are they called to be? How do they need to change?

In preparation for being an Observer at the Diocesan Assembly I have been reading recent writings of

Pope Francis on his vision of a Synodal Church, where together, Catholics discern the will of God, through the Holy Spirit, in determining their way forward for the future.

Another commentator I have found inspiring is the Catholic Bishop of Parramatta, Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv, who as a boy came to Australia as a refugee from Vietnam. Bishop Vincent's address to the staff of the ABC General Secretariat, Canberra "Working for the Church in the Time of Perceived Irrelevancy" is worthwhile reading for all Christians, regardless of denomination.

The facilitator of the Plenary Council, Lana Turvey-Collins spoke at Warragul and was also utterly inspiring. Bishop Patrick O'Regan, Bishop of Sale, was most encouraging to his Diocese for their full engagement of discernment and contribution to the Assembly in the lead up to this momentous synodal opportunity.

Please pray with our Catholic brothers and sisters as they seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in making decisions about the future of the Australian Catholic Church.

*The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding is Rector of Drouin.*

## Sale Confirmation



Nick Riley (back row, left of Bishop Richard) was confirmed during the Wednesday Service in the Lady Chapel on 28 August.

# Activities for Advent and Christmas

Now's the time to start looking for kids' ministry activities for Advent and Christmas, so here are a three great resources created by Kate Spalding, who runs the SCAMPS program for pre-schoolers at Drouin.

## Christmas tree

You will need:

- a cone (cardboard or polystyrene)
- crepe paper, or tissue paper of desired colour
- glue
- stickers: stars and little gemstone stickers work well
- scissors

How to make:

The Christmas tree is made from a cardboard cone available from places like Reverse Art, Ringwood, in bulk. You could also use a polystyrene cone or make your own cone from thick card, both available from craft stores such as Spotlight or Riot.

Cut strips of tissue or crepe paper about 1½ cm wide. The length is not so important but the longer the better, as it wraps around the cone. Cut regular straight cuts half way through the width of paper to create a feathered / leafy texture.

Put glue on the cone.

Wrap the paper around the cone, starting from the base and layering slightly as you go up. Continue until you reach the top. Decorate with stickers in a fashion reminiscent of a Christmas tree.

## Paper plate angel

You will need:

- paper plate template
- scissors
- stapler

How to make:

Use the template on this page to trace onto a paper plate. Adjust if size is different. (Ed: You could photocopy and enlarge.)

Cut along lines. Bring the two widest parts of the base around behind and staple together.

If overbalancing, try trimming the wings down.

Decorate if desired.

## Sand art

Instead of the usual colouring activity, it can be a lot of fun to decorate pictures with coloured sand.

You will need:

- Coloured sands (available from craft shops)
- Glue
- Picture copied onto heavy card. (Heavy card is necessary to cope with the weight of the glue and sand)



Christmas tree made from cardboard or polystyrene cone

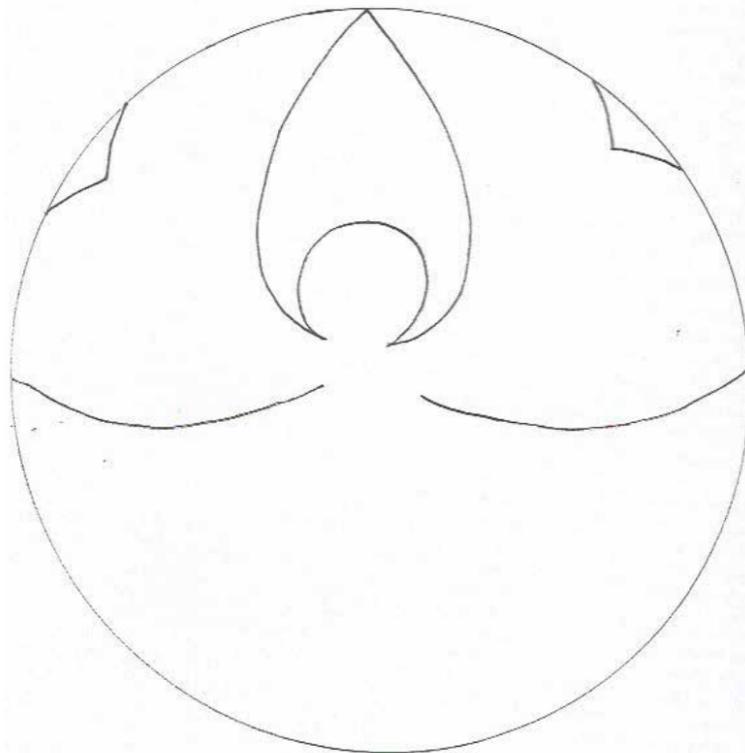


Angel made from paper plate

How to make:

Place glue only onto the area where you want the colour to be. Gently sprinkle the appropriate coloured sand onto the area, agitate paper

to move sand around the glued area, then pour sand off. Repeat process until picture is finished. Allow to dry.



Paper plate angel template



Nativity blackline master by Kate Spalding



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Photo: Kirill Zdorov (Dreamstime)

# Grab hold of what God thinks of you

The high school environment can be tough. Through all of the challenges, how can you grow into a resilient, servant-hearted, God-loving young adult?

Firstly, let's consider the Word of God. There are many examples in the Bible of young people being used by God in amazing and powerful ways. There is the well-known story of Joseph, son of Jacob, and his "technicolour" coat at the conclusion of the book of Genesis.

Later, in 1 Samuel 16 we can read about the anointing

of young David who went on to become the King of Israel. There is Josiah, King of Judah, who came to the throne at age eight and by the time he was 20 had initiated a campaign to purge the southern kingdom of idolatry (2 Kings 23:25; 2 Chronicles 34:1-3).

Fast forward to the New Testament and there is Mary, who was entrusted in her early teens by God to be the mother of Jesus, the Saviour of the world! (Luke 1:26-38) Feeling inspired? Then there is Timothy, the young close friend of the Apostle Paul.

In Philippians 2:20 Paul

writes "I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare". Amazing words of affirmation and respect for young Timothy.

One of the ways to navigate the challenging high school years is to use your energy, creativity and God-given gifts to serve. God does not discriminate against age. Grab hold of what God thinks of you and not what the world thinks.

In 1 Timothy 4: 12-14 the Apostle Paul writes to his friend Timothy:



*Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid hands on you.*  
(English Standard Version)

This is an encouraging passage for both youth and

adults. Firstly, youth: even though you are young, set an example in the way you act and behave that is worthy of trust. Learn all you can and know that your identity is in God alone, a God who is looking to use you for mighty things.

And secondly: adults and elders, do not despise, discourage or overlook someone for being young. Instead, see and champion potential, have patience and be willing to bless a young person in stepping into what they are made for under God.

## Anglicare Fare Connecting in Bairnsdale

Cathrine Muston, Anglicare Development Officer, Parish Partnerships

Recently the Bairnsdale office of Anglicare hosted an afternoon tea for clergy from the local Anglican parishes. The Reverends Brenda Burney, Philip Muston and Edie Ashley attended to hear about the programs offered from the Bairnsdale office and get to know staff.

The Bairnsdale office has a small but dedicated staff who operate several programs to service East Gippsland. Leonie Cooke is a Financial Counsellor, specializing in Family Violence;

Phil Owen facilitates youth justice conferencing and Sascha Karner is a lawyer with the Gippsland Community Legal Service.

The QEC Cradle to Kinder program is also co-located with Anglicare in the office and Deb Burns provides support to young mothers under 25.

Over tea and cakes clergy and Anglicare Victoria staff were able to share some of the challenges and issues in the community. They discussed ways to be more connected,

and how they may be able to assist each other collectively, alongside their community.

All attending were able to gain a new level of understanding and bridge the gap between Anglicare Victoria staff and clergy. Bringing together the skills and knowledge of this group of people will provide the greater East Gippsland Region with a more comprehensive network for better outcomes for the more vulnerable members of our community.



Connecting Anglicare with clergy in Bairnsdale: Wendy Ammitzboll (Financial Counselling student), Brenda Burney, Leonie Cooke, Deb Burns (seated), Edie Ashley, Philip Muston, Phil Owen

### Parish Partnership Grants – Reminder

Parish Councils should have received forms for applying for Anglicare partnership grants. The deadline for applications is Monday 7 October.

For more information and ideas for connecting with your local community, contact Cathrine Muston on 5136 9112 or 0407384973.



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# Dare to dream – “The Orchards of St Francis”

Lyn Williams

A fresh vision of church, an idea dangled before us at Synod. We dare to dream of a renewed vision of Christ’s Church: mission, evangelism or, in more contemporary images, outreach; making connections with the community, with the church having a visible presence.

There is nothing quite like being thrown a challenge. The idea of a fresh vision resonated for me, with a ministry project already evolving where I looked around my backyard to explore how I could further make community connections.

During the past year or so I’ve been fortunate to be able to offer folk some fresh produce from my small veggie garden. It has been a delight to see people’s faces as they’ve received fruit or veggies, and there was one lovely moment when a mother asked if she could take a little more fruit to bake an apple pie to give to someone else.

The seed was planted, an idea was growing and bearing fruit (sorry about the pun!).

And so “The Orchards of St Francis” project has been born – to grow and distribute fresh produce among people in the community. I am so pleased that a number of people are also excited about this idea and the possible potential.

I and a small team are working on a “business plan” to present to

the Cathedral Chapter seeking their endorsement. A variety of fruit trees have already been planted and are coming into blossom as I write. A watering system is soon to be installed; a little fertilising and mulching, and we wait for the harvest. In the meantime, we continue working on establishing community connections, with ventures such as Monday Tucker and School Breakfast Programs for distributing fresh produce.

To the team of volunteers – Kerrie Schmidt, Brian Norris, J Reilly (from Melbourne) – thank you for your enthusiasm and work thus far, and for your work tomorrow. My thanks also to Dean Susanna for her support and encouragement.

Just like the mother who took extra apples to bake the pie, a remarkable chain reaction may happen even from seemingly small gestures to fellow human beings. This brings to mind a passage from Matthew’s Gospel: “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to another in my name...”

May this project stand beside the vast variety of ministries offered at the Cathedral. The vision is for The Orchards of St Francis to be a visible presence of the Church as we reach out to people around us all in the name and to the glory of God.

*The Rev’d Lyn Williams  
is Associate Priest at  
St Paul’s Cathedral, Sale*



Photo: Jan Down

## EDITORIAL

As editor of TGA, I’ve been so privileged to work with Bishop John McIntyre (all too briefly), Philip Muston, Sue Jacka (the latter two providing continuity on the editorial committee right through the last six years), Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and Bishop Richard Treloar.

It’s been a delight to work with Juli Devine, who has managed the layout of the paper cheerfully and competently, often going the second mile to accommodate last minute changes.

Through TGA’s partnership with TMA, I’ve also enjoyed collegiality with Roland Ashby (former editor of TMA), Emma Halgren and Mark Brolly.

I am deeply grateful to all of these people and thank the Diocese of Gippsland for what has been the most extraordinary privilege and adventure.

Attending the ARPA conference has been a highlight each year. This year’s conference in Christchurch, New Zealand, was a particularly moving one, with its focus on how Christian media can provide a “hope-filled response” in times of change, pressure, disaster and recovery.

Every speaker who talked about the Christchurch earthquake disaster had to choke back tears, nine years after the February 2011 quake. Buildings and hearts are still being mended. The huge gaping hole in the Anglican Cathedral seems an apt metaphor for the brokenness, while the daffodils flowering everywhere, juxtaposed with cranes and scaffolding, show the resilience and hope.

Good things have come out of that tragedy. People discovered they could come together and make a difference after a disaster, and this knowledge has gone deep. So after the mosque attacks this year, they came out again to offer support. The Student Volunteer Army, formed after the quakes, continues to help people at critical times in NZ and around the world.

We have no shortage of opportunities to make a difference after a disaster. In Gippsland we’ve seen people rise to that challenge after the bushfires earlier this year, during the drought and hard times for farmers, amongst other things.

In an over-heating world, still on a trajectory for a disastrous three to four degrees of warming, the language of emergency seems accurate and appropriate. Fifty-four local governments in Australia and 1039 jurisdictions around the world have declared a climate emergency. Mostly, this is matched by an action plan. (For more information and the rapidly growing list, see: [climateemergencydeclaration.org](http://climateemergencydeclaration.org)) At the time of writing, Bass Coast is the only Gippsland shire on the list.

When it comes to reporting on disasters, the message from the conference was to tell the truth – be real – but do it also with love and compassion, in a way that builds community and inspires hope.

Declaring a climate emergency is about telling the truth so that our action accords with the science. May we speak that truth in love, with a positive vision: may God’s kingdom come and his will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Jan Down

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# Warragul Anglican Church runs the new Alpha Course



Photo: Photoeuphoria (Dreamstime)

## Tracy Lauersen

It's a cold wintry Monday night, but instead of the church sitting dark and unused, it's lit up and its windows are fogged from all the cooking going on in the hall kitchen. We're expecting 53 people to turn up for dinner followed by a video segment and discussion over dessert as part of the ALPHA course we're running.

This an evangelistic course which seeks to introduce the basics of the Christian faith through a series of video-based talks and discussions. It is described by its organizers as "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life". I should be getting excited about the course, but I find myself worrying about how we will get the smell of dinner out of the building and its carpets before Sunday!

We ran the ALPHA course in May and June this year. It was originally designed to be a Confirmation Preparation Course for Holy Trinity Church in Brompton, London (HTB) in the late 1970's by the Rev'd Charles Marnham, but the current format was developed by the Rev'd Nicky Gumbell, an Assistant Curate who then became Rector of HTB in the 1990's.

The videos for the course have recently been reshot and are stunningly good, featuring interviews

with people of diverse views, ages, and ethnicities, and are shot all over the world.

It's a terrifically engaging course for seekers and judging by the course evaluations, the attendees thought the same.

Although the videos are a stand-out, the real strength of the course is the non-judgemental environment it creates. Participants are expected to bring their questions. Group leaders are discouraged from giving pat answers. An assistant group leader's main role is to make sure everyone in the group has a go at asking questions and that questioners aren't stifled.

The video segments contain engaging short homilies on various faith topics and they

also raise questions and legitimise doubts about faith, opening the door for good discussions after watching the video. The provision of some nice food and hospitality create the atmosphere needed for free-flowing conversations about faith.

There is an upbeat feel to the course and the MC (yours truly) is encouraged to tell a few jokes each week. The videos also contain some funny stories and illustrations that break the ice on some serious topics about faith.

Our course ran from May to July, after about 6 weeks of advertising at church, with a free vinyl banner supplied by ALPHA, a video on our website and on our Facebook page. We pulled a team together and hoped and

prayed that people would come along. We had 53 people there most weeks, including four children.

There are many roles for team members in an ALPHA course: MC, group discussion leaders and co-leaders, prayer leaders, a team of cooks. We didn't have any budget allocated to running the course, so it was with optimism alone that we prepared for a crowd, including buying the participant booklets for the course. We did not charge any course fees but mentioned that people could donate towards costs if they wanted to. We ended up in a surplus position and now have the funds to buy participant booklets for the next course we run.

Quite a lot of people in our Church did the course, wanting to go over the basics of faith and to find out what ALPHA was like. Members of the church also invited their friends, colleagues and neighbours. Six people made a faith commitment to Christ at the end of the course.

It was great to see our lay people leading discussions and serving in a variety of roles. The course has led to further conversations about faith by some of the participants and to a spin-off course at one of our local retirement homes.



The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen

Here is our recipe for success: prayer, willing helpers, people willing to invite friends along, good food, a big screen, and a bit of advertising. The ALPHA organization makes it as easy as possible by supplying good discussion materials, free videos, lots of "helps" for people running each part – even a joke book for the MC!

Having said that, an ALPHA course does not need to be BIG every time. A small group can use the materials in their lounge-room over a cup of coffee and cake. Size does not seem to be the correlating factor for results, with some small courses having great results and some bigger courses not. Who knows the mind of God except the Spirit of God? Nevertheless, we are all called into God's mission to invite people into his kingdom and ALPHA is a great way to do that.

"...the real strength of the course is the non-judgemental environment it creates."

The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen is Rector of Warragul Anglican Church.

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Wy Yung  
(Bairnsdale)

I've been asked a couple of times lately, when did I first start to write. Probably back in my short time at school. I loved doing essays or compositions, as it allowed me to play around with words that even then kept coming to my mind. As a youngster I was an avid reader and still am.

Later on I discovered that from my mind, through my arm and hand to a biro, then onto paper, there appeared many words that fell into sentences, though often misspelt, which became an outlet for the good, the bad and the ugly that was in me and life in general; put into verse, prose, short stories and whatever else runs through my mind.

As a youngster growing up I loved listening to the jokes and stories tall and true from the old men and became a story and yarn teller myself. So I started to put the yarns down on paper.

There have been many changes and learning curves in my life with one of the biggest being Cursillo Men's 5 in 1990. That's where I had to unlearn a lot of stuff I had learnt and realize what real life was all about.

We hadn't been long back in church when my wife Linda and I were very fortunate to meet the Rev'd John White and the Rev'd Ron Chidgey at Bruthen. It was through my sister Marge that I went to Cursillo. She used to sell Amway. This particular day she had a new badge on. I asked "What Amway badge is that for?"

"It's not Amway," she said, "it's a Cursillo badge."

After trying to explain it to me, she waved the red flag saying, "Why don't you go and find out?" She became my nominator and John White encouraged me, so I went to Men's 5 in 1990, not really knowing all that much about church life as it was then. What an eye opener that was to become for me.

You see, I had seen church how it was, how it is and how it could be. Sure, we cannot and must not change the gospel to suit our purposes, but let's present it in a way that all can understand. Let's not try to live the traditions of the past but create something for the now and the future.

# A writer set free

Bill Davies – Clifton Waters Retirement Village



Photo: Judi Hogan

Bill Davies

One of the main things I learnt out of Cursillo is that the past is dead and gone; it's the here and now and the future to grab hold of with both hands. We cannot, we must not, hang on to past visions, but have new visions and dreams of what the future could hold for each one of us as the Body of Christ.

Cursillo was where I saw men from many different walks of life have a life-changing experience. That's where I saw the saying "big boys don't cry", thrown out the window, with men sharing the ups and downs of life and tears flowing freely as they hugged each other. That is where I learnt about the love and forgiveness of Christ and felt for the first time the real presence of the Holy Spirit who was set free amongst us.

Later on, being on Team meant I had to put my thoughts and feelings on to paper in the talk I was to give and when I had the experience of leading Men's 17 – what a time that was. So much so, I may have

been the leader, but the Lord was in complete control and I can honestly say it was one of the easiest things I've ever done. This was when the gift of writing came to the fore.

There is much written in note books and printed matter in our house and still coming from my mind. It seems never-ending, and I give thanks to the Lord for the gift He has given me. I must add, I only do this for the enjoyment that I and others get out of what comes from my mind, through my arm and hand into a biro and onto paper.

It has also been ministers like John White, Ron Chidgey, Gordon Cooper and Ted Gibson among others, who have been a help and friend in my walk with the Lord and being where I am today.

*Note: Bill has a book of short stories coming out before Christmas.*

*For more information, email: linda.s.davies@gmail.com*

"... it's the here and now and the future to grab hold of with both hands..."

## Diocesan calendar

### October

- 6 10:00 am Blessing of the Animals at Holy Trinity Stratford
- 6 12 noon St Thomas' Bunyip: Blessing of the Animals in honour of St Francis, with a BBQ lunch
- 7 – 10 Clergy Retreat at Palotti College
- 11 2:00 – 4:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Refresher) at Koo Wee Rup Church, 348 Rossiter Road
- 12 8:00 am Garden Bus Tour, Avon Parish. Bus departs from the Stratford Railway Station
- 12 9:30 am – 3:00 pm The Fifth Annual Moe Antique and Collectables Fair at Albert Street Primary School Grounds, Moe \$5.00 entry, children free. Stall holders welcome – enquiries: 5127 2929.
- 12 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Full) at Koo Wee Rup
- 12 2:00 – 4:00 pm Traditional High Tea at St Mary's, Trafalgar. Tables can be booked; entry \$10
- 24 11:00 am Anglican Mothers Union Australia: Gippsland Annual General Meeting, Wonthaggi
- 26 9:30 am – 3:00 pm 114th annual Flower Show at St Thomas' Bunyip, with stalls, BBQ
- 26 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Lay Readers Seminar, Sale. Presenters: the Rev'd Jenny Ramange and the Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding on Gil Cann's *Red Alert: Does the future have a church?* Details: Jenny: 0407 369 486
- 27 12 noon Flowers of Remembrance for an All Soul's Eucharist at St Thomas' Bunyip

### November

- 5 12 noon: Melbourne Cup Luncheon in the Anglican Parish Hall, Stratford
- 15 2:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Refresher) Morwell
- 16 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Full) Morwell
- 23 11:00 am Anam Cara Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 24 10:30 am Christ the King service at Christ Church, Tarraville
- 30 9:30 am – 3:30 pm: Quiet Day for West Gippsland with Bishop Richard, "Ruminating with Ruth" at St Thomas' Bunyip

### December

- 7 10:00 am – 3:30 pm Walking the Labyrinth: an Advent threshold experience led by Christina Rowntree at Delbridge Hall, 149 Cunninghame St Sale. Suggested donation up to \$40, Concessions available. To book: 5144 2020 / 0418 637 469 or email: susanna.pain@gmail.com
- 8 2:00 pm A Bunyip lecture with Jim Connelly at St Thomas' Bunyip: "Christmas at Garfield in past days" and "A funny thing happened on the way to St Mary's Garfield"



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