



July 2015

Love Your Neighbour is the Key to Outreach

Every Sunday at the conclusion of the Eucharist we are told to “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord” and reply, “In the name of Christ. Amen”.

How does Jesus want us to serve him? There are two ways mentioned in the Gospels.

At the end of Matthew’s Gospel the disciples are told to “go and make disciples of all nations”.

In John’s Gospel chapter 15 Jesus gave us the command “to love one another as I have loved you”.

In both cases this involves us in loving our neighbour because as we give our friendship and our help to others we are showing them what it is to be a follower of Christ.

In a wonderful way it is possible for both parties to find Jesus in a loving relationship. We give to Jesus when we help others and those we help may find Jesus in our expression of his love and come to follow him.

Mothers’ Union Chaplain Commissioned



The Mothers’ Union Diocesan AGM and Council meeting was held at Christ the King in Mount Barker on Monday 13 July.

Before the meetings Bishop John presided at Holy Communion when he dedicated a MU Stole made for The Murray Diocese MU Chaplain by Mrs Doreen Rushbrook of Victor Harbor.

He then commissioned Father David Price of Mount Gambier to be the new Diocesan Chaplain.

Bishop John's sermon stressed the importance of Baptism, expressing his wish that the Mothers' Union members in this Diocese would assist clergy with Baptism preparation and continue to visit families after the Baptism.

He also challenged parishes to run a MU Parenting Education Programme, open to all parents, grandparents and people in the community.

The service was followed by a shared lunch before the meetings.

No elections took place at the AGM as 2015 is the middle year of a three year term and at present there is a full Executive with Mrs Eileen Smith as the Diocesan President.

The photo shows Bishop John with Eileen and Fr David Price.

Nursing Home Ministry



Our Pastoral Care Team is working well, doing home and hospital visits, and taking Holy Communion as needed. Thanks to Barbara, Margaret, Jan and Fr David.

Fr Alex conducts church services at Kalimna, ACF High Street and Estia Health (formerly Falling Waters) as part of an Ecumenical Roster. He is helped by members of the congregation including Tiny (canine pastoral assistant) who brightens everyone’s day.

Church, a Chat and a Cup of Char



On Wednesday 8 July the usual mid-week Eucharist at Christ Church was held at the later time of 10.00 am in order to make it possible for parishioners to attend who find it difficult to get to our usual services.

There was a good attendance and we then enjoyed a special morning tea in the Parish Hall and the opportunity to exchange news and views.



Several members of the parish have been mentoring children at the EFS - Strathalbyn R-6 campus. This is the age group where self-esteem and values are learned and academic skills are acquired.

One church, one school, one child, one hour, a simple idea that may change lives. We have a lot of fun, craft, gardening and relationship building within the hour but as each child is different so is the way the hour is structured.

Each mentor has a prayer partner for support but no confidential details are issued to them.

We have found this to be an effective and compassionate way for our church to reach out into the community as well as build a long-term relationship with our local school.

The service used was taken from the green book, "An Australian Prayer Book" and there were large print copies of the service available for those who need a little extra help when reading.

The general opinion at the end of the morning was that it had been a worthwhile occasion and the service should become a regular event each month.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Ladies' Guild is supporting 'Operation Christmas Child' this year by making up Shoeboxes to send overseas. Because of completion dates we will now be packing boxes at our meeting on 22 September.

In 2014 over 300,000 shoeboxes were sent from Australia as gifts for children around the world who daily struggle with war, poverty, famine and disease.



Strathalbyn Churches Working Together

The Strathalbyn Inter Church Council with members from the Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Uniting, Church of Christ and Emmanuel as well Anglican churches provides an opportunity for the members of the local Christian communities to work together.

Last year a major project was the organisation of the entertainment for the Town's **Christmas Pageant** when more than four thousand people attended and were reminded of the message of the Season as they were entertained.



A continuing priority of the Council is the support of the **School Chaplains** (now called Pastoral Support Workers).

Although they receive some Government financial support this is not enough to provide the hours needed for a comprehensive chaplaincy program and the Council asks for all the churches to help make of the deficiency.

The Auction and Quiz Night on the 1 August is an opportunity to raise funds for the chaplains while having an enjoyable night out.

The Anglican Parish of Strathalbyn

Website: <http://strathalbyngallicans.org.au/>

Email: help@strathalbyngallicans.org.au

Telephone: 8536 2030