



April 2017

ORDINATION

As a result of the adoption by the Diocesan Synod of the "Ordination of Women to the Office of Deacon Canon 1985" of the General Synod it is now possible after thirty years experience in other Australian dioceses for a woman to be ordained Deacon in this diocese.

We are therefore delighted that Margaret Holt has been accepted as a candidate for ordination and will be made Deacon at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Murray Bridge on Saturday 22 April at 11.00 am.



We hope that a good number of parishioners will be able to attend the ordination and support Margaret with their presence and their prayers.

Pancake Day in Strathalbyn



We had nearly a hundred people come on Shrove Tuesday to the Memorial Gardens for free pancakes and drinks.

Nearly \$500 was donated to support the Pantry Club which helps those in need. Thanks to the ICC members from all the churches and Lions who helped make the evening a great success.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES

Wednesday

9.30 am Christ Church

Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm Christ Church

Good Friday

8.15 am St Mary's
10.00 am Christ Church

Easter Eve

7.00 pm St Mary's

Easter Day

8.15 am St George's
10.00 am Christ Church

Baptism at St George's



On Sunday 22 January Bishop John presided at the Eucharist at St George's Meadows during which little Lucy was baptised by the Rev'd Sarah Gibson and welcomed into the Church family by the congregation together with her family and friends.

Sarah is an Army Chaplain at the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra and the Daughter-in-Law of Kate and Lindsay Gibson. Lucy is the daughter of their niece.

Thanksgiving Sunday

On Sunday 21st May, the week before Synod, each and every worship centre around the Diocese is being encouraged to celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday.

This will be a day to give thanks to God for all that is so good in our lives and to pray for the Church.

We will especially ask for guidance in our way ahead as God's family, seeking to be his missionaries in the mission-field of daily life.

We are promised that some exciting and creative resources will be provided for us before this important event.



PANTRY CLUB

We were delighted to welcome Paquita Wise to our service at Christ Church recently and to hear about the caring ministry of the Pantry Club which is based at 2 Chapel Street, just across the road from the Church.

The Pantry Club supports members of the community who are financially struggling by supplying basic food for a minimal membership fee, which in turn will cut down their expenses.

The Pantry Club, by nature, empowers people as it offers its members the opportunity to further help themselves and their families and households, rather than to simply provide a 'handout' or 'quick fix'.



The Pantry Club is now being supported by our gifts of food and other necessities which are dedicated before the Eucharist each fourth Sunday of the month.

We were also able to make an immediate contribution to the ministry of the Pantry Club as Eileen Smith presented Paquita with a cheque for \$300, the proceeds of the Harvest Festival Auction.

Making Tracks



Back in September last year the Franciscan group had the privilege of being part of the unveiling of the new walking tracks on Gerry Thompson's property between Milang and Clayton.

The tracks go through very different types of vegetation on the property—there is a Mallee walking track and a Woodland track which features pink gum.

It is a beautiful area to walk through and enjoy both wildlife and the native bush. Gerry is a keen and knowledgeable ecologist and hopes that this special place may become a spiritual haven for quiet days and retreats and any who love to spend time closer to nature.

Thanks Gerry for an amazing vision and for allowing us to be part of its coming to life!

Diocesan Prayer 2017

Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love so that we are wholly yours and may love each other and grow as a community of faith.

Fill us and use us to share your healing power with those with whom we work, live and worship.

Ignite within us a passion for your Gospel so that we can be beacons of love, justice and mercy using our gifts and talents for your glory.

Open our hearts and our minds to your truths given to us in Scripture and to the needs of others. Strengthen us to share these truths with our community, that we may produce a greater harvest for your kingdom.

Come Holy Spirit; renew and empower us so that we can face all things with courage knowing that you are with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Written by Christine Irvine, Murray Bridge

Carols in the Park

Shown below is part of the large crowd of people who attended last year's "Carols in the Park". This was organised by the Strathalbyn Churches and Margaret Holt gave the address.



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