



December 2017

Discover Jesus

The Diocese of The Murray has launched a theme for the next twelve months, which aims to give people hope that there is more to life than day to day living.

The theme “**There must be more to life... Discover Jesus**” is an attempt to give all people hope that Jesus Christ gives them in their lives on earth and beyond.

The diocesan theme comes at a time where many people are questioning about what “life is all about,” particularly those who are struggling in meeting their day to day needs, and those who are falling to prey to drugs and alcohol.

Bishop John Ford says people are looking anywhere for hope, happiness, fulfilment, love and acceptance.

“This hope is found in discovering who Jesus is for all people in the world; in showing his love for the world by dying on a cross for humanity but rising again to show that there is eternal life for all those who believe in him”.



Death of Bishop Graham Walden



Bishop Graham Howard Walden died at Dubbo on the 27th November 2017, aged 86 years.

He was the second Bishop of The Murray from 1989 to 2001 and is remembered fondly by those who knew him during those years.

Bishop Graham was both a distinguished scholar, having studied Philosophy at the University of Queensland before being invited to continue his studies at Oxford; and a caring pastor whose ministry ranged from the East End of London to outback New South Wales.

Before coming to The Murray he was Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Balarat.

In an interview in 2011 at the time he was celebrating his eightieth birthday and thirty years as a bishop he said that the key to an effective ministry was “A lot of visiting, visiting was the key, listening to people, talking to people.”

“I think it meant a great deal to the people, that they had somebody to—the keynote word was listen.

“And as you listen, you find the clue as to how they themselves were seeing things and you may be able to help people in their understanding of their own lives and careers.”

Earlier this year Bishop Graham’s book, “Self-knowledge: A challenge” was published in Canberra. The book is a challenge as well—as the author says, “This book attempts to relate self-knowledge to an understanding of the Holy Trinity.”

CHRISTMAS WHERE
THE Angas Flows

Friday 15 December

Christmas Pageant
Starts 6.30 pm
Organised by Community Living Australia

Carols and Entertainment
Starts 7.30 pm
Organised by Strath. Inter-Church Council

Rotary Fireworks Display
Starts 9.30 pm

Advent Season

Advent means “Coming” and it is seen both as a preparation for the celebration of Christmas—the Festival of the coming of God’s Son Jesus Christ into the world—as well as a reminder that we should be prepared for the “Second Coming” of Christ—when those who are faithful will be called to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

When Jesus spoke of the day when the Son of Man would come in clouds and with great power and glory to gather his chosen ones from the four winds he said that even he did not know when that day would be (Mark 13: 32).

He therefore exhorted them to be ever ready, always alert, on the watch at all times, as they await the revealing of the Lord Jesus Christ. They were to be like the doorkeeper and the servants of a householder who has gone on a long journey.

They do not know when he will return, it will be very late before he gets back, but they are to stay awake so that they can greet him and serve him whenever he should arrive.

We who have been baptised have been given the grace of God to live our lives in his service, to have knowledge of his love and to make our testimony to that love in what we do and say.

Will we be found faithful when we are called to give an account of our stewardship?

New SMG Patron

Rev Dr Lynn Arnold AO, former Member of the SA State Parliament, Minister of Education and Premier, was announced as the inaugural Schools Ministry Group Patron today by Ms Angela Jolly, Executive Director of Schools Ministry Group (SMG).

"SMG provides over 340 schools across South Australia with a Chaplaincy Service, it offers seminars and interactive workshops for primary and high school students, and contributes to the positive wellbeing of children with its Community Services.

"In addition 1000 volunteers providing over 700 hours each week, support the Chaplaincy Service by helping in their local schools with breakfast clubs, lunchtime activities, mentoring and many other programs," stated Ms Jolly.

Rev Dr Arnold said, "I have been honoured to be asked to serve as Patron of SMG. Through close contact over a number of years with the SMG team, I have been able to observe them at work in schools and in the community.

"I have always been impressed by their sense of calling, their passion for pastoral care and their belief in the capacity to make a difference in the lives of those under stress or anxiety."

"The focus of SMG is on students and the work of its Pastoral Care Workers in schools for over twenty five years has been widely respected, as its continued growth attests; in addition, the wider communities in which SMG-supported schools are located have also benefited from the work of the SMG team.

"In an age when there are so many negative threats and pressures in our school communities and the wider community, SMG is an important part in helping build resilience and self-confidence," Rev Dr Arnold shared.

Rev Dr Lynn Arnold AO served as SMG Chairperson from 2015 to 2017, and launched a new SMG program earlier this year 'When Disaster Strikes' providing Chaplaincy Services to children, young people and their families during disasters, emergencies and other critical incidents.

Diocesan Prayer

Lord Jesus,
you call each one of us
to be your disciple and friend;
help us to journey with you
on the way of life toward the Father.
Enable us by the Spirit to discover
not only the fullness of who you are,
but also the fullness of life
you offer to each one of us.
Amen.



Sixty Years a Deacon

Alex Stone is celebrating the sixtieth anniversary of his ordination to the Diaconate on Sunday 15 December 1957 by Bishop W. H. Johnson, the Bishop of Ballarat, at Christ Church, Warnambool—the parish in which he had grown up. At the time he was a student with the Society of the Sacred Mission at St Michael's House, Crafers.



Celebrating Christmas



Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday 17 December

7.00 pm Lessons and Carols

Christ Church, Strathalbyn

Advent 4 / Christmas Eve

Sunday 24 December

8.15 am Eucharist

St John's, Langhorne Creek

10.00 am Eucharist

Christ Church, Strathalbyn

4.00 pm Children's Crib Service

Christ Church, Strathalbyn

7.30 pm Christmas Eucharist

St Mary's, Milang

Christmas Day

Monday 25 December

8.30 am Christmas Eucharist

St George's, Meadows

9.30 am Christmas Eucharist

Christ Church, Strathalbyn

Sunday After Christmas

Sunday 31 December

10.30 am Eucharist

Christ Church, Strathalbyn

The Anglican Parish of Strathalbyn

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