



### The Angel's Story– Christmas Play

On 15th December 2019, our 12th Annual Christmas play was performed. This time the story was told by the angels; the message being that there are reminders of Jesus in the seemingly commercial side of Christmas. If you choose to see them.

In a world where Christmas has been commercialised, and we're all busy and preoccupied, its so easy to be swept away by the stress and anxiety that comes with the 'silly season'. People pay more attention to their decorating, presents and parties than to the true reason for the season. Our play related each of the traditional Christmas items to the birth of Christ;

The tree reminds us of the shepherds, the fairy lights of the Star of Bethlehem and presents of the gifts of the Wise Men. And finally the candy cane of the life of Christ; the colours are white for His righteousness and red for the blood He shed, the shape is a J for Jesus, or a shepherds staff representing that Jesus is our Shepherd.

The true reason for Christmas is hidden everywhere for people to see and enjoy; we can either look at everything with tired, pessimistic eyes and call it commercialism OR we can use each little Christmas tradition as a reminder of the joyous occasion of Jesus' birth. We each get to make that choice!



## Bushfire Appeal

We've all been devastated watching the bushfire situation unfolding around the country over the past few months. At church on Sunday 5th January there was a retiring collection in support of the Anglicare Bushfire appeal. In the words of Maren Rawlings who announced the figure, "you beautiful people" donated just over **\$1000**.

If you would like to donate to the Anglicare Bushfire appeal, visit [www.anglicarevic.org.au/donation/bushfireappeal/](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au/donation/bushfireappeal/)

We pray that God will send rain to relieve the situation and thank Him for the bravery, resilience and perseverance of all our emergency service, military and infrastructure personnel who are fighting the fires and helping communities recover.

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# Vicar's Message

## Twenty-20 Vision

Dear friends at St Mark's.

It's nearly time for a new Vision Statement for our church. For the last several years this has been our statement.

***St Mark's is working towards the future of God's church in the Templestowe community with twenty / twenty vision.***

There was a clever double entendre as we moved towards the year 2020.

It meant we were not getting too far ahead of ourselves; and it meant we sought to look clearly and objectively at ourselves and the changing demographics of our neighbourhood.

And now it is 2020. What's changing and what's staying the same?

**Staying the same** is our commitment to worship and care.

We are a church that teaches from the Bible God's good news of salvation. Sunday sermons and mid-week Bible Study seek ***to make the word of God fully known***. This is the motto of our Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

Our Sunday service programs of an 8am traditional prayer book and hymn service; a 10am prayer book service with a more varied music selection; a Café Church at 5:30pm which is an informal time set around a shared meal, once a month it is held in a private home to allow for; A monthly Taizé meditation at 5pm every third Sunday, Feb, to November.

We will continue conducting regular worship at 2 local retirement villages and 6 Aged Care homes.

## What is changing.

In response to a significant change in demographics we want to reach-out to the many new residents who are of Chinese descent.

We are commencing partnering with St Timothy's Bulleen to more fully utilize our facilities and potential. This will start with sharing leadership of our Monday Playgroup when Mandarin speaking volunteers join in to help with the Chinese families who come along.



Covering the provision of ordained ministry during locum periods at each church will be a real blessing; starting with our Summer Sundays at 9am across January. And finally investigating setting up a new congregation, Chinese speaking, here at St Mark's on a Sunday afternoon from 2pm. This service will be aiming to reach the many new residents of our community who speak Mandarin as their first language. We hope for a 2020 start-up.

I'm looking forward to developing our new Vision Statement.

And I'm looking forward to a new entrance being built to welcome the people of Templestowe to our church in 2020, like you did for Susie and me in 2012, and for yourselves however long ago you arrived here.

*Michael Goodluck*

# Pets' Blessing Service

On the 6th October we had our annual Blessing of the Pets service. We hold this service annually around the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals.

This year, each part of the service was specially tailored to be about our relationship with the natural world, from the collect, prayers, intercessions, confession and hymns. This meant that the service was special not just for the pet owners, but for everyone who attended. Each animal that was blessed also received a special certificate of blessing to take home as a keepsake.

The service was led by Sarah Heathcote (accompanied by Rosie the dog) who spoke about our responsibility to all creatures who rely on our care. Below is an excerpt of the address which was based on Genesis Chapter 1, verse 20-28.



*Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'*

God gave humans dominion over all animals

Not domination; the right to use and destroy as we see fit. But control and rule over the lands and creatures. Just as a king has dominion over his subjects, or a school principal has dominion over the teachers and students; these are positions of responsibility; to be carried out with respect for all those underneath them. These are positions that demand care and consideration. And rather than the typical negative connotation that 'domination' has, I prefer to think of dominion in the way that God has dominion over all of us; that he loves us, watches over us, protects us and wants us to be happy and healthy. And we are called in the same way to love, protect and treat all animals kindly in the world.

We must look to all the creatures of God's creation, and not just our pets. As Christians and stewards of God's creation, we must look beyond our own backyards and beyond our own well-tended pets, and we must consider those animals suffering in the world. As Christians, we must look towards our own heavenly protector, and mirror His example of stewardship. Then we must act. We must monitor our communities, showing care when we can, raising awareness of instances of mistreatment, and working with those in power to improve the conditions of all animals in our world. We must be the advocates for animals that cannot advocate for themselves.



The blessing of the pets service has a double meaning. Yes, we come to have our pets blessed as creatures of our Heavenly Father. But the day could also be seen as a celebration of the blessing, of the gift, of owing our pets.

To have the love and companionship of an animal is no small thing. We don't speak the same language, we're not of the same species but somehow we understand each other and love each other unconditionally. Our pets are faithful companions; they sense when we are hurting and provide comfort, they seek us out when they are scared and willingly crawl into our laps, knowing that we will respond with affection and protection;

And they love us, as we in return love them. What a blessing that is.

# How's Your Prayer Life?

How does prayer fit into your day?

Sometimes we are so busy that God can get thrust aside and we forget to pray. Quite often it's easy for us to pray 'on the run' so to speak. "Please God let me catch that bus/train" or "Lord, don't let that traffic light turn red, I need to get to my appointment/work".

In the Oxford Dictionary the definition of prayer is "a solemn request or thanksgiving to God."

Jesus was a great example of someone who took time out to pray in his busy life and there are many examples in the Bible; here are just a few:

Matthew 14:23

"After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray".

Matthew 26:36

"Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, sit here while I go over there and pray."

Luke 11:1

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples" and

Later on, in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians (1) 5:17-18, Be joyful always; pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

And lastly from Ephesians 6:18-20 -

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep praying for all the Lord's people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

These are just a few examples, pick up your Bible and head to the index and there you will find many more that you could read.

As Christians we need to make time to talk to God every day. Some of us find it easy to pray in the morning, while others might pray at night. Find the right time that suits you.

If you choose the morning, try getting up 10-15 minutes earlier. Find a nice quiet place, close your eyes and breathe deeply for a minute or so. There are some lovely hymns that you can say to yourself. To begin with, for example "Be Still and Know That I am God," x4

or

Spirit of the Living God fall afresh on me x 2

Take me, melt me, mold me, fill me,

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me."



## Prayer Cont.

Now start by acknowledging God as your Lord & Saviour and then bring to God anything that you have done or said that you want to confess. Then give thanks to God for (good health, medical issues, food, friends – these are just suggestions. Finish by bringing your cares or supplications to God. Use the prayer notes in our Pew Notes from church or buy a small notebook and write down people or things you want to pray for.

This form of prayer is along the lines of  
**A**-Acclamation; **C**-Confession;  
**T**-Thanksgiving and **S**-Supplications.

Of course, saying The Lord's Prayer is also a lovely prayer that can be used.

Once you are in a routine, you may like to add reading the Bible to your day as well. A suggestion is to take the readings (from the Pew Notes) and read those, or use one of the many guides that are available at Christian Book Shops or online. "Daily Bread" is the one that I use. Pray that your conversations will be 'full of grace and seasoned with salt' (Colossians 4:6). Have a look at Proverbs 3: 5 & 6 – 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight'. Bring before God any situation where you earnestly desire a particular outcome, but are anxious that it may not happen. Lay before God all the possibilities for action, and ask for wisdom for the way ahead.



Maurelle Thompson

## The Difference

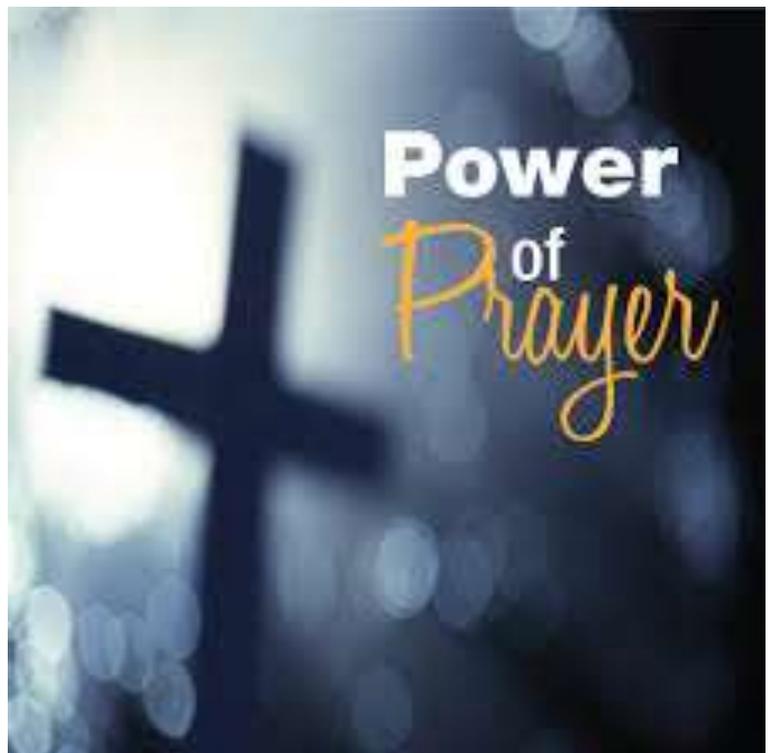
*I got up early one morning  
And rushed right into the day  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I didn't have time to pray.*

*Problems just tumbled about me  
And heavier came each task;  
Why doesn't God help me?"  
He answered, "You didn't ask",*

*I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
But the day toiled on grey and bleak;  
I wondered why God didn't show me,  
He said, "But you didn't seek."*

*I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys in the lock,  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock."*

*I got up early this morning,  
And paused, before entering the day,  
I had so much to accomplish,  
that I had to take time to pray.*



# Church Renewal

With the St Marks building well over 40 years there is always regular maintenance and repairs to be done. Two current efforts are worthy of note.

The windows on the west side along the memorial garden had some very bad wood rot due to the weather. It was imperative that they be repaired or replaced. As the cost of replacement was too prohibitive, Jim West volunteered to add the repair to his already big list of other jobs. He has been working on this for a few weeks now.



He has had to chip away all the rotted wood and put in new wooden inserts and wood filler. They are now ready to be painted. While not a permanent solution, this will no doubt buy us some time. We thank Jim for this excellent effort.

At the same time the mosaic tiles under all the windows had quite a few tiles missing. It was impossible to source similar tiles so the Parish Council agreed to Peter Quinton's suggestion to remove the old tiles from under the central window in the memorial garden, use these to fill in missing tiles in other windows, and then replace those under the central window with a new mosaic design.

Peter has completed this, using old tiles from his mosaic supply at home. We hope you like the finished colourful panel with cross motif.

*Peter Quinton*



## Garden Progress

A working bee was well organised by Peter Quinton, on September 19th with a good response from members of the garden group. Many weeds have been removed, trees and bushes pruned, and some planting done. The large eucalypt in the top garden has been removed, so that there is less leaf litter and debris to be swept regularly. The lower car park end garden, filled with Peter's supply of plants, is looking attractive now they have grown.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Peter Quinton, Graham Kane, David and Andrew Rawlings and Rev Michael Goodluck spent long hours spreading 10 cubic metres of mulch over most of the garden beds, greatly improving the look of the garden beds and reducing the weed growth.

Future plans are to place new sleepers along the vicarage fence garden (financed by SMAG).

Many thanks to the members of the garden group for maintaining the garden and grounds during the year.

### **HOWEVER, MORE MEMBERS are NEEDED.**

I have found it very difficult to fill the rosters for sweeping and watering during the year. Could you consider adding your name to the roster list in the Narthex, under the heading Gardening?



## St Mark's FaithLIFT Pot Luck Dinner

The essence of a Potluck Dinner is simplicity, where every dish is welcome.

We gathered on the last Sunday evening in November — 24 of the Church Family. Two long tables dressed simply with flowers were enough.

Hot dishes, big bowls of wonderfully fragrant rice and salads were happily delved into after Michael had said Grace.

Being together is what really matters. The serious discussions got going and there was laughter and chatter, catching up with people's lives. The things that cement our relationships happened around those tables.



Desserts, tea and coffee happened, and wonderful people did the dishes.

Thank you to the FaithLIFT Group who organised our potluck dinner.

**Judy Ward**

# The Life of Ron Gallizia

Roland Paul Gallizia was born in the town of Montbeliard (do not sound the 't' or 'd') in France in July 1937. Montbalird, is near the border of Switzerland. Roland had two sisters, Claude, who was two years older and Paule who was 11 years younger. Living in the family home with his mother Juliette and his father Paul was his grandmother who was a very strong decision maker. At school the Germans wanted them to learn German, but this did not eventuate.

Before the war his father owned a butchers' shop. However, when the war started, he joined up with the army. He ended up as a POW in Germany. During the war there were not many men in the town except for older men who were mainly grandfathers, as most had joined the army. When his father was released, he re-opened his butchers' shop which did well, but even so he decided to migrate to Australia in 1949. This was a bad mistake as he had no job, no English and no friends. But he became a cook (as well as being a butcher) and then he went on to become a chef. He lived in Albert Park and worked in the city.

The family joined him in 1951. Roland (Ron as many of us know him) was 13 when he and the rest of his family came to Australia. They lived in a shared house in East Kew and he went to Parade College in East Melbourne. He helped teach the senior kids to speak French so they could learn the language. After he left school, he became an apprentice butcher at the William Angliss College in Melbourne, where his father worked too. After completing his apprenticeship Ron worked in some of the William Angliss shops, finishing in Chadstone where he became a manager. Ron then opened his own shop in Braybrook which did well, so he bought another shop in Glenferrie Road Hawthorn. Later, he went into partnership with an Italian man in a carpet cleaning business in Carnegie.

During this time, Ron married and had two girls; Danielle who lives in Canberra and teaches music, trade subjects and life skills to the underprivileged and Janine who is an artist living in France. Ron always liked colours but had never painted until he went to night school. He enjoyed painting because of all the beautiful colours, and also that he found painting to be a very peaceful and relaxing pastime. This led him to attend further painting classes with an artist, which led onto them becoming good friends. He loves being a part of the Art Group at St Mark's where his friend Peter Quinton is Co-ordinator.

Sport has also been one of Roland's interests. He played basketball & did athletics at Olympic Park and was a runner with the Richmond Harriers (cross-country running) training with the famous Percy Cerruty. This all happened before Roland ran his businesses although he did coach Basketball for 10-12 years with the Bulleen Boomers, while his girls were players in the Junior team.

Ron's first wife is now deceased. He met Charmaine in Melbourne through friends which was good for them both. They have been together since 1991, first living in Dellfield Drive and then moving to Wood Street, in Templestowe. They have done lots of travel together, including the United States where Charmaine's children live.



*Interview by Maurelle Thompson*

# Heather Preaches on Hagar

It was with great pleasure that Michael Goodluck and the St Mark's parishioners welcomed Rev. Heather Marten to preach and officiate on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at both the 8am & 10am services.

Heather was Curate at St Mark's for 4 years and moved from the Parish 37 ago.

She spoke about Hagar, the Egyptian slave girl, who only appears in 2 reading in Genesis. (Ch 16: 1-17 & Ch. 21: 8-13). God spoke with Hagar and she named Him El-roi meaning "God of my vision". Hagar was given to Abram by his wife Sarai when she was unable to become pregnant. Hagar became the mother of Ishmael.

Heather linked Hagar's many trials and tribulations to the concerns of many women in the world today. Both then and now God meets us all in our darkest moments. Then Heather spoke about faith and it's opposite, not doubt but rather, fear. She reminded us that we are called to love – faith and hope are required.

In conclusion she read a poem by Thomas Merton about walking by faith. Heather shared a great time of fellowship after both services and she demonstrates great love and grace in all her ministries.

Her presence was a reminder that the Ordination of Women has been a great blessing to the Church.

*Penny Phillips*



# October Market

In October we ran a very successful market making well over \$3000. Thanks must go to Rosemary and the fundraising committee for their work in cooking, making jam and running stalls and for other church stallholders. Peter Quinton's plants (many of which were struck by him) were very popular and raised a fair amount. As usual the cakes and jam stall made the most profit. The soup, BBQ and Devonshire teas provided refreshment for stallholders as well as the public. The animal farm was as usual, very popular with the children.



We had some enthusiastic new stallholders who were very happy with their sales and the generally very happy atmosphere.



# Rotary Family Festival at Finns

What a lovely warm day this was, buzzing with activity with lots of people visiting the variety of stalls. St Mark's Kitchen stall was as usual very popular and sales of cakes and jams raised \$1768. Regular patrons flocked to the stall to buy for Christmas. We sold completely out of berry jams. Of the 39 boxes of jams taken to the market, only 9 came back to church, some of which sold after church recently for another \$409 and more will be for sale next Sunday.

Our own Brian Tyedin did a brilliant job as compere.



Thanks again to the cake and jam makers, stall helpers and particularly Rosemary Jones who puts in so much effort, travelling to buy the fruit as well as making jams and chutneys.

Our markets are one means of Outreach into the community and I am sure that those who visit the markets appreciate the warm welcome they receive at St Marks.

*Judy Cotterill*

## SMAG END OF 2019 BREAKUP

On Wed 27 Nov SMAG had their final session for the year and celebrated with a quick party before art.

We had a delightful finger-food lunch that we well organised by Ruth Butcher, Meryl Sparkes and Val Hill.

Thank you very much ladies for a superb effort.

The party was rounded off with the obligatory cakes for Ruth and Val who celebrated their respective birthdays that week.

**Peter Quinton**



## St Marks Fitzroy

Yesterday Rosemary Jones delivered a whole boot-load of donated Christmas foods to St Marks which were met with great enthusiasm from the coordinator there. They are extremely heartened by the 30 years of continued support from our Parish and thankful.

Thanks go to all of those who make casseroles each month and to Rosemary and Lyn Baxter who deliver these to the church.

*Judy Cotterill*

