

Prayer of the week:

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARMINGATHA

Stories to Inspire

WEEK ENDING 19 JULY 2020



TWO FOOD MINISTRIES

Another great example of compassionate and collaborative ministry...

St Stephen's Richmond & St Bartholomew's Burnley

More than 100 people not eligible for government assistance have so far been supported by a food relief program established at St Stephen's, Richmond in response to the pandemic.

The Marjorie McGregor COVID-19 Relief Program, named after Archdeacon Marjorie McGregor who ministered at St Stephen's for many years, opened in early May to assist migrants, overseas students, hospitality workers, refugees & asylum seekers and others without means. The program operates on Friday mornings, staffed by volunteers from St Stephen's sister parish, St Bartholomew's, Burnley.

Rachael Terry, the combined parishes' community manager in food and beverages who oversees the relief program, said people needing help had been coming from many suburbs across Melbourne, as well the local area. Parishioners have generously donated both food and money to the program, which is run in partnership with Anglicare, she explained.



"We are able to give people enough food to keep them going for two weeks at a time," she said. Supermarket vouchers are also available, to help provide baby food and other specific needs people have. "So many people are very vulnerable at the moment. They often have to choose between food and rent and other essentials."

Rachael, who has an extensive background in hospitality both in her home country, England, and in Australia, where she has lived since 2008, is also managing the newly-opened social enterprise café at St Bartholomew's. The café is housed in a former office at the front of the parish buildings on Burnley Street. With the popular parish opportunity shop re-opened in the adjoining parish hall, both ventures are now engaging well with the local community.

The café will train people such as temporary visa holders who "need a bit of a hand", Rachael said. "It is very hard for any foreigner to get their first job," she said, recalling how hard she initially found it here. "Australian experience is very important to get started." After fulfilling the eight-week hospitality program and assessment, they will be given a reference letter to help them find work.

– The Reverend Matthew Healy

VACANT UNIT AVAILABLE

St John's Close – Retirement Village

St John's Close is a small retirement village associated with, and indeed beside, St John's Bentleigh. It has six units, and just one of these has three bedrooms. This three-bedroom and lock up garage unit is vacant and has just been refurbished. The location is convenient to shops and facilities and buses run past the door.

[Click here](#) for more information. Enquiries welcome. Please contact Tom on 0424 431 552 or via pickfordt@iprimus.com.au



CARRYING US THROUGH

Holy Trinity Doncaster

Hi Bishop Genieve,

I read your weekly stories, and to thank you for the reminder to come to our Lord Jesus to find rest.

At Holy Trinity Doncaster, we have just finished our series in the morning on Genesis, and again we were reminded in Genesis 50:20, where Joseph said "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplished what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Often, we can't see the good that God is doing in the midst of our adversity, and it only becomes clear much later on hindsight. Even so, God is working good out of this although we may not see it now.

I am also reading 2 Corinthians with two other brothers in Christ, and again in 2 Cor 1:4, Paul reminded us that God 'comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God'. So, it is good when we encounter troubles in our own lives and ministry, because it provides us with the empathy and knowledge we need to comfort others in future.



All this to say, the church at Holy Trinity Doncaster and St John's are going well. The members of the traditional service at St John's had 2 Sundays of face-face services in the last 2 weeks (20 people max), which they considered a treat to carry them through the next six weeks.

May the God of all compassion be the source of comfort for you, the Archbishop and the other bishops as you serve the Lord.

– The Reverend Mark Chew

REMINDER

Diocesan Crisis Relief Grant

The first round of applications for this grant are due by this coming Monday 20 July. Return to the Registrar, Malcolm Tadgell via registrar@melbourneanglican.org.au. For further detail on requirements for applications are found [here](#).

TALKING TO THE ARCHBISHOP

Essendon Archdeaconry

Archdeacon Vanessa Bennett and members of the Essendon Archdeaconry dialled in on Thursday to share in conversation with the Archbishop. Here are the stories to inspire that I heard during the gathering. Apology for forgetting to take a screenshot – be assured they are a good-looking bunch!

Managing being the focus of people's anxieties

Take away meals ministry

More take-up online for morning prayer, bible studies, spiritual cafe and Alpha. (An Alpha has morphed into a bible study).

Missing the face to face times with people that feed times on our own

Reading from the Patriarchs: adversity can destroy us or make us stronger

It feels harder this time around

Taking down the year planner

A focus on discipleship

Throwing out the vision action plan and asking: what are the priorities now? What works to connect with people if you can't gather physically?

Implications for ministry with 3 very distinct groups: those with no technology, those who can go online and young families

Loss of traction, momentum, growth which had been gained - especially with Parish Renewal

Tending the church with signs of living presence - the sanctuary lamp and pot plants

This time round looking at what we can do socially

Doing things which communicate the church has a future - physically and locally

Click here for this weeks' video message from the Archbishop

Please keep sending your stories to inspire...
+Genieve