

## Prayer of the week:

Loving Father, whose Son Jesus Christ has taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for him: give us the will to be the servant of others as he was the servant of all, who gave up his life and died for us, and yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

# MARMINGATHA

## Stories to Inspire

WEEK ENDING 27 SEPTEMBER 2020



## KIDS CHURCH

### St John's East Malvern w St Agnes' Glenhuntly

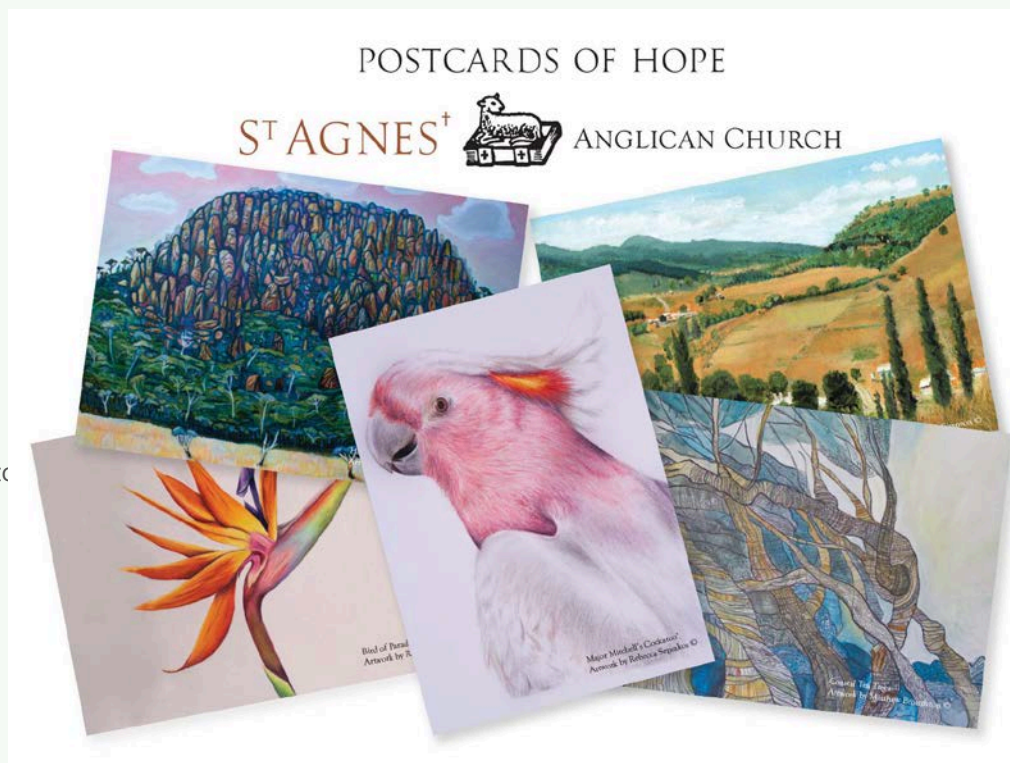
I'm keen to provide something of an update to some of the community outreach which is happening across our two churches. At St Agnes', I'm delighted to announce the formation of the 'St Agnes' Angels' - a small group of St Agnes' parishioners committed to maintaining and fostering connectedness in the local community. One initiative to come out of this is the creation of 'Postcards of Hope' - postcards with a message of hope which can be delivered or distributed around our local community and then 'sent on' to friends, loved ones and neighbours. If there are any artists in our parish who would be happy to have their work featured on the postcards - please be in touch! At St Agnes' we are also continuing to collect non-perishable items for distribution to Dixon House - items can be donated at any time to the front Vicarage porch (7 Finch Street, Malvern East).

I'm very pleased too to provide an update on the work of the Finch Street Community Fund, particularly to those who have generously donated. In total the fund has raised so far almost \$10,000 to support those who have been most affected by economic impact of the pandemic. I am hugely indebted to the small working group who have been fostering connections with local organisations and soliciting and assessing applications for disbursements. To date we have made 23 disbursements to individuals and families who have lost work and have been unable to find other sources of support. Disbursements range from cash assistance for utility bills, groceries and rent payments to part-payment of medical bills and the provision of tablet devices with internet connectivity for those most isolated. A large proportion of disbursements so far have been to international students referred through our connection with Monash University. The Fund has received many expressions of thanks and appreciation which I am pleased to pass on to those who have donated so

generously. One student writes, "I want to thank every one of you for doing such an incredible job. May God bless you all. Keep doing the good work and help everyone in need. Once again, I'm very grateful for the assistance."

There is just under \$3000 remaining in the Fund, with another 18 applications for assistance pending and more coming in each day. If you would like to make a donation to the Fund please **click here** - all donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. It is my privilege to be part of an engaged Christian community during this time and give thanks to God for our shared witness, even in isolation, to the one in whom we are forever bound together as one body, Jesus Christ our Lord!

- The Reverend Dr Alex Ross



## ALPHA ONLINE

### St Andrew's Aberfeldie & St Aidan's Strathmore

Last Tuesday evening I began Alpha Online at St Andrew's Aberfeldie. We had a total of 12 people (plus myself) taking part. Nine of the twelve are parishioners of St Andrew's while the remaining three are comprised of one of our Mainly Music mums, the adult daughter of one of our parishioners, and a friend of a parishioner who sometimes attends parish social events with that parishioner.

I was hoping and praying that I would have at least three people (not including me) taking part, so to have the number we had last week was wonderful! It was especially pleasing to have three people who don't attend church services join us for Alpha.

- The Reverend Michael Danaher

# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CONTINUES

## St Peter's Eastern Hill

St Peter's Eastern Hill Social Enterprise continues during current restrictions with "Heaven at The Hill" coffee caravan on St Peter's place, along with the International Student Meals Program & Barista training in the Parish Hall.

Since the launch of "Heaven at The Hill" Coffee Caravan in September 2019, we have employed a number of people from disadvantaged backgrounds: one full-time barista, two part-time

assistants, three casual baristas. We also have a barista training program, with 5 students currently being trained, and 5 on the waiting list. From 27th March 2020 we commenced the International Student Meals Program in partnership with RMIT University and State Parliament. Throughout the pandemic we have been operating Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 11am. Over that time we have distributed more than 40,000 pre-packaged meals.

The program is run by 37 student-volunteers. We distribute 250 meals each day to 50+ international students. For those who are unable to come and pick up a meal, we also have volunteers who deliver meals to those in need. Last month we launched the "student cafe" offering pay-as-you-feel takeaway coffee, for the international students coming to pick up meals. All "Heaven at The Hill" programs are overseen by the Social Enterprise Management Committee and, on a day-to-day basis, by our Operational Manager, Dr Ree Bodde.

- The Reverend Dr J. Hugh Kempster



Scene 1, Pick up from Parliament  
Delivery from parliament kitchens

Scene 2, Packing meals  
Volunteers putting meals into bags

Scene 3, Delivering Meals  
Volunteers delivering meals & bakery to students

Scene 4, Student Cafe  
Trainee Barista's making takeaway coffee

## BLESSED

### Holy Trinity Coburg

7 If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbour. 8 You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

We have been so blessed since the beginning of the Covid-19 restrictions have been applied. All the families and the members of our church are so happy and thankful. They can not only have the blessing of the Holy Communion in front of their houses but also can be provided with some food. We have distributed 45 bags of rice (15 K) each to each family in need. We were able to give some masks and clothes for women and children. Their reaction WAS AMAZING. Some of them said how wonderful it is to trust God Who provides all the time, "God is good all the time". We have an offer from one of the pharmacies in Dandenong to give free medicine with Description to any one from our church who cannot provide for buying his\her medicine. Every week we see God's hand working among the families and their physical and spiritual needs, among the youth and the children who deeply miss the church community. Remember us, O our God, for good.

- The Reverend Farag Hanna

Click here for this weeks' video message from the Archbishop



# KIDS CHURCH

## Oaktree Anglican

At Oaktree we have been creating weekly Kids Church videos on YouTube for families to watch before the main 10:30 Zoom service. These children's services have included worship songs, craft, Bible stories and a children's talk. Each week different puppet friends and toys have joined in, helping share the message. We have been exploring the book of Acts, looking at the impact of the Spirit on the early church and its mission, and how we carry this mission today empowered by the same Spirit.

As this lock down is continuing along with remote learning, we wanted to find a way which would best accommodate stretched families, making it as easy as possible for family discipleship and faith formation in children. So, we are now incorporating Kids Church videos into our main Sunday Zoom service with the kids talk focusing around the current sermon series. This is designed to encourage faith conversations in the home that focus around the weekly Bible passage and the applications it has in our lives. Each week children are given a simple craft, themed on the Bible passage to complete during the sermon. This is to keep little hands and minds occupied while parents have the chance to engage with the sermon and service, while at the same time creating an environment where the whole family can worship together.

- Jess Browne,  
Children &  
Families Pastor



Please keep sending your stories to inspire...  
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