



New Horizons

FEBRUARY 2015

Monthly Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney Parish



Pastoral Ponderings

As I am writing this letter on the 27th of January, I cannot help but reflect on Australia Day celebrated on the 26th of January! Incidentally, it was also the day that I officiated at the wedding of two beautiful young South Korean people, Jieun Lee and SeaChul Bae or better known by those who worship in Warwick and Killarney as Lynn and Sam. They met January 2020 at a church in Brisbane shortly after they arrived from South Korea.

The journey and life in Christ offer similar hope of a new life and a journey of excitement and adventure. As a bride and groom look at each other, so Christ looks at you and me! What a humbling experience to know that we are loved like that, that no one else is more important than the beloved and the Lover. Sometimes, we need to be reminded of what that love looks like and how privileged we are to share in this special intimate relationship.

The same way that this land and the marriage of this beautiful couple, offers hope, excitement, and adventure it also comes with flood, fires, drought and disasters. As we face an uncertain start to 2021 with COVID threats still hovering to disrupt our movements and interaction we may dread what the future holds. There are many of our loved ones and members who are feeling the heavy weight of mental health issues.

It is also affecting our home and as we try to make sense of the sometimes chaos and darkness around us. As we face a very uncertain future, we are having to remind ourselves of the loving gaze that the Bridegroom has for the bride, the assurance that the Lover will stay faithful and with us in this relationship and that nothing can destroy the love that God has for us.

I do not know what 2021 holds but I do know who holds 2021 and who has seen what is to come, and in that I have hope, in that do I put my trust.

The reason for my hope is in Christ, and therefore I am excited to start the new journey of praying and discerning the future of the Warwick Killarney Uniting Church for the next season of the journey. In leadership training we are reminded that in a time of such an unpredictable environment, that it is important to re-look at the priorities and strategies for the future. We have been on a journey together for the past five years, we have achieved much, we have suffered much and have faced victories and losses on the journey. However, whatever the future brings I have the assurance that God is going ahead of us and paving the way for a new season of ministry and worship in this place. And that is exciting! That gives me hope, that God is not done with us yet. We have so much to learn and to grow. Join us for our annual Parish meeting on 21 February at 2pm as we can start this new future and we pray and discern together the next phase of the life and work of God in this place.

Blessings *Rev Ansie*

Congratulations to Jieun (Lyn) and SeaChul Bae (Sam) on their marriage Tuesday 26th January (yes, Australia Day!)



It was a beautiful wedding with strong support from their workplace including many other young Koreans. Lawrie was able to stream the Service so their families in Korea could watch it happening live. Michele Wixted and Jenny Lane prepared a wonderful wedding breakfast.

From fun with the bride-to-be Monday night to the love and commitment of the vows in Church, thank you Jieun and SeaChul for this precious and happy start to our year.



Food for Thought.... Power...It's use and Abuse.

We all looked to 2021 with great hopes for a quite different year from 2020. Instead, it began with ominous reports of Covid mutating and becoming even more contagious in countries around the world with the reported world death toll rising above 2 million. While we in Australia seem to have been let off lightly, our hearts grieve for the colossal number of mourning families and the continuing trauma faced by those trying to save countless others. The power unleashed by this virus has brought countries to their knees.

Then we watched in horror on January 6 to see the hatred, violence and mindless fury unleashed in the Capitol Building while Congress was in session ...all incited by the words of the one still in power. Then witnessed the enormous lengths of security to ensure peace and calm during the inauguration of President Biden which I watched. A highlight of the ceremony was the power that flowed from the lips of an unassuming young poet. Words have power!

It all led me to meditate on Power and how it is used and abused by those in high places and even by those of us in all our activities. So, first I needed a definition! I've just purchased a new Bible (yes, another one!) with a concordance and found this meaning: *Power is the ability to act or produce an effect; it is the possession of control, authority or influence over others.*

In a book, titled 'A Box of Delights' I found some wonderful advice about power and leadership in a speech given by the President of Uganda in 1998 at a meeting of African Presidents held in Kampala. He outlined three significant precepts that Christ taught and modelled that should be the hallmark of all leaders: forgiveness, humility and love.

He said, "I have come to the conclusion that Christ's message on forgiveness is the only practical solution to healing a nation's wounds and bringing unity." Leaders of the USA take note! He continued by stating that humility is one of the most important attributes necessary to become a great leader. So often we see its absence when power begins to corrupt the leader as he/she fights to stay in the top position.

His final words, though written in 1998, are so relevant, not just for Africa, or the USA, but for each one of us as we live out our discipleship and leadership in our own little corner of 2021. He said, "If love for God and for one another were the rule and prevailing attitude in our nation and communities, all problems would move gradually to resolution." He concluded his speech thus: "Let us resolve to take Jesus Christ out of the religious setting in which we have imprisoned him and walk with him along the dusty roads of Africa where he feels much more at home."

Wonderful words of advice! As we start a new year in our Parish, our readings have been very much about Christ's call on our lives and we've been urged to consider where he is calling us to serve, both in the church and in the community. Wherever it might be, we have access to the greatest power imaginable as the Holy Spirit guides us into leadership and beyond. JB Phillips paraphrases Ephesians 1:19-20: *How tremendous is the power available to us who believe in God!* When we hold firm in our connection with God, his life and power flow through us and there will be no abuse of it!

May 2021 have an overflowing cup of blessings to each of us as we step out in any leadership in forgiveness, humility and love, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit..... Shalom, Jean.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK!!!!



During 2020, the question came up during a Bible Study about prayer and Parliament.

In November, Terry Smart wrote to the Prime Minister's Office emphasising the important part prayer plays in the lives of many in our society. The fact that many of those who come from overseas in part do so because of our Christian freedom, love and respect for one another. Which comes from our Christian heritage and faith.

Terry posed the question about a time of prayer in the Parliament each sitting day.

Just before Christmas Terry received a reply from the Prime Minister's assistant secretary on behalf of Scott Morrison.

The letter states that it has been the practice in the federal Parliament since 1901 for both the House of Representatives and the Senate to commence each day's sitting with the recitation of a Christian prayer.

The prayer recited by the speaker of the House each sitting day is as follows:

"Almighty God, we beseech Thee to vouchsafe Thy blessing upon this Parliament. Direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of Thy glory, and the true welfare of the people of Australia."

This is then followed by the Lord's Prayer. The President of the Senate opens with a similar prayer.

While over the years recommendations have been made to alter this procedure, they have never been successful. Thanks, Terry, for this information.

Caledonian Society Debutante Ball.

One of the very long traditions of the Warwick Caledonian Society is holding a 'Deb Ball' once considered a rite of passage as a young lady was presented to the community.



In 2021, the Ball will be held on Friday night the 14th of May at St Mary's Hall. Anne Coy, who has the challenging but enjoyable task of ensuring the girls can dance and curtsy, is thrilled that 15 girls have indicated their interest in taking part. The night is guaranteed to keep your toes tapping as the bagpipes entertain. The pomp and ceremony of the presentation of the Debs is an impressive occasion.

Call Anne Coy on 0488 466 646 For information for anyone interested in making their Debut at the Caledonian Ball.

Mark the date in your diary. Friday 14th May

CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 21st February at 2pm in Warwick. This is a time when we look back at the joys, challenges and achievements from 2020 and look forward to 2021 and how we will embrace the opportunities (and challenges) lying ahead. Please mark the Meeting as a must to attend. It is an important conversation to be involved in and your voice is needed.

Our leadership remains the same as last year, apart from David Cahill having leave from Council duties as he continues to preach, play and re-construct the organ. Thank you, David, for sharing your gifts so freely. May God bless you this year, even with a slightly lighter load as you live out your faith so actively.



I would like to share this important comment from the Synod Congregation Update we watch to advise on changes in Covid requirements:

‘Caring for volunteers We acknowledge that your volunteers have worked tirelessly in helping you resume activities. The role they have played during 2020 has been invaluable. This work needs to continue and for some volunteers, fatigue is inevitable. As we move into 2021, your congregation may need to seek additional volunteers from within the congregation to relieve or support those who have been serving supporting COVID-19 practice. As one church, we are each playing our part in keeping people safe and reducing opportunities for the virus to spread—thank you for all you are doing every day to support this. It makes a difference, and is appreciated by your congregations, communities, colleagues and families.’ This refers very strongly to our Hospitality Teams and our Covid Warden Sue Campbell and her Task Team. Let’s not take them for granted but thank them!

Presbytery Representatives: This is a way that our congregations get to represent us in our wider Downs Presbytery. The plus is that you get to know people from other churches in our area – what they are doing and how they are doing it. Everyone who has been in this position has recommended it as worthwhile and enjoyable work. David and Dianne Cahill have been our representatives for many years and are ready to pass it on to others, spreading the experience around.

Please talk to Dianne or David if you would like to know more. We would love to hear from you if you would like to take this on.

Market Days 2021

After the success of three market days held in 2020, it was decided to plan days across the year instead of one day when a few workers are exhausted afterwards. Hopefully, this will spread the load. In the report is a comprehensive review of the days last year.

The first planning meeting will be held on Thursday 25th February at 7.00pm. The time is to allow those in the workforce to attend. This is the opportunity to come and express your ideas and suggestions. The dates for the market days are listed on the next page along with the activities planned for each day.

2021 Dates:

- UC Friends Committee will meet in the Wesley Room on 1st Monday monthly at 4:30pm.
- Wesley Bowls has restarted. From Wednesday 3rd February play will start at 1:30pm trialling 2 mats.
- Selah Bible Study resumes on 3rd February, 3pm each week in term time.
- mainly music has already commenced in Killarney, each Wednesday 9.30am in term time and will be commencing Thursday 4th February at 9:15am in Warwick. This Christian musical program for babies to pre-school is lots of fun for all ages.
- Worship times for our 3 Worship Centres will stay the same for the next 3months.
 - Freestone will continue to meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 2pm
 - Killarney will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 8:30am
 - Warwick will continue to meet every Sunday at 9am.

Please be mindful that our Hospitality Teams are always looking for helpers, whether it is bringing along some morning tea or helping on a Saturday when we check our properties are safe, clean and attractive.
- Coffee, Craft and Chat are meeting for the first time on 13th February (Saturday), 1-5pm. All welcome to come and see what the afternoon holds.
- Terry Smart and Barry Kelly (our Warwick Congregation Chair and Secretary) are holding an Outreach Dinner on 22nd May 6-9pm. How does this work? Bring along a friend or person who does not come to church and get a free meal. Come by yourself and pay!
- Markets:
 - **Planning day 25th Feb 7pm**
 - 1 May – craft, plants, cakes, sweets, sausage sizzle
 - 14 August – Trash and Treasure, plants, cakes, sweets, sausage sizzle
 - 9 Oct – produce, books, cakes, sweets, sausage sizzle.
 - 16 Oct – plants, craft, collectibles, cakes, sweets, sausage sizzle

PASTORAL CARE.

Over the past few months, the Pastoral Care team has been busy. All but two of the Fire emergency kits have been distributed across the community from those who live high up on the Dividing Range to folk around Karara whose homes and land was threatened by the bushfires in 2019.

A number of vouchers were purchased from donations and others received from the Target Christmas Appeal. These have been given to 15 families including over 56 children to ensure each could celebrate Christmas, everyday living costs and assist with back-to-school expenses. We have also provided a delivery of water to a family whose household water tank was nearly empty.

Without your generosity through donations and the money raised by the 'after worship' morning tea, this community support would not be possible. Thank you to each one we cannot do it without you.

COURTHOUSE CUPPA 2021

We resumed Courthouse Cuppa this week on Monday morning, but there is still opportunity for new helpers to be involved.

Fancy a cuppa?



- How does Courthouse Cuppa work?
- The service operates each Monday morning when the **Magistrate's** Court sits. This is about twenty-five times a year – dates are available now.
- A roster is prepared for two people to serve on the trolleys (there are two of them) over at the Courthouse in the nook just outside the door.
- At present there are only 8 people available to serve.
- The more people on the roster, the fewer times each one has. At present most people would help about five times in the year.
- One of the two, or a separate third person, provides homemade goodies such as biscuits, slices, small cakes, etc, (nothing needing refrigeration), to be offered to those waiting their turn in court, and their supporters. This is all offered free of charge.
- Drinks such as tea, coffee, cold water and cordial are on the trolleys.
- There is a list of what to put on the trolleys.
- Helpers are invited to nominate their preferred dates, and when they are not available e.g., school holidays.
- You can choose to both serve and cook if you wish or do one or the other.
- On your day, you need to be at the church by 8.15am to set up the trolleys which are then taken over to the courthouse to be ready by 8.30am.
- How long you stay at the courthouse depends on how busy you become. Some days are very busy, others quite slow. Most mornings you would finish by 10.30am. Then you would return to the kitchen and tidy up as needed.
- One person on the roster is nominated to provide the milk – all other consumables (except the goodies) come from normal church supplies.
- If you are unavailable on your rostered day you can swap with someone else.
- It is desirable that all servers have completed the COVID TAFE Dine-In Course. Help is available if you have not done that, but please do not be put off by this.
- A COVID SAFE Plan is in place.
- The change to Monday is a challenge as it is also the time of the weekly Akooramak Service.

If you would like to participate or would like more information, please contact Alison Baistow on 4661 5173, 0427 534 159, or a.baistow@bigpond.com. This service is a real blessing to all who take part and is much appreciated by the Courthouse staff.

LECTIONARY

Date	First Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel
31 st January	Dt 18:15-20	Ps 111	1 Cor 8:1-15	Mark 1:21-28
7 th February	Isaiah 40:21-31	Ps 147:1-11,20	1 Cor 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
14 th February	2 Kings 5:1-14	Ps 30	1 Cor 9:24-27	Mark 1:40-45
21 st February	Genesis 9: 8-17	Ps 25:1-10	1 Peter 3: 18-22	Mark 1:9-15
28 th February	Gen17:1-7, 15-16	Ps 22: 23-31	Rom 4: 13-25	Mark 8:31-38

Lent: Ash Wednesday 17th February 2021.

PREACHING PLAN

	Feb 7	Feb 14	Feb 21	Feb 28	Mar 7
Killarney 8.30am		Brad Beck		Rev Ansie HC	
Warwick 9.00	Rev Willie	Rev Ansie	Rev Ansie	Rev May HC	Rev Ansie
Freestone 2.00pm		Rev Ansie HC			

