



# New Horizons

May 2023



**Our Parish at  
worship  
work  
and play**



## *Pastoral Ponderings*

I greet you in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord and Saviour!

What a beautiful time of the year! We are in the last two weeks of the Easter season and are busy preparing for Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Season of empowerment and an invitation to the Church and each person to participate in the mission of God.

During our recent retreat walk in Stanthorpe, the retreat leader Rev Heather den Houting gave us a prayer written by St Teresa of Avilla to meditate on:

Let nothing upset you,  
let nothing startle you.  
All things pass.  
God does not change.  
Patience wins  
all it seeks.  
Whoever has God (or whom God has)  
lacks nothing:  
God alone is enough.



God is enough! What a comfort for those who believe.

As you contemplate this prayer with me, it will also give you reason enough to pause and breathe when anxiety, fear and trouble are near.

As a Parish, we have embraced the Project Plenty journey to a shared life and flourishing communities. Part of this mission is to establish Intergenerational worship services. Our pilot service takes place on the last Sunday of the month at 5:30 pm and it concludes with a light supper. The service is shared between all ages, and we are blessed that Rev Willie Liebenberg is also part of the team leading us with worship. During the April service, one of the congregation's activities was writing a hymn. The tune for Amazing Grace was used and three different groups wrote one verse each. It is with joy that I invite you to sing along:

1. God's cares for me  
Supplies my all.  
Quiet pools to rest beside.  
You've sent clean waters.  
To dry land and show me the way to go.
2. My days are long.  
My faith is strong.  
Not scared to step ahead.  
My safety lies in Jesus Christ  
Who's saved me from foes.
3. You pick me up day after day.  
Lord, you're a fair dinkum God.  
Every day we're amazed by the beauty you've made.  
We live in confidence with you.

It is timely for the Church to be intentional and focus on the Plenty that God has in store for us in this new VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) environment.

In my experience, I have found that although many congregations or individuals feel they have very little to offer, a wealth of reticent talent becomes apparent with encouragement and support. I believe that God is at work in ways that want to connect with people and want to make us aware of generosity, love, and abundance. The progress and renovations to the old manse are going well and we will have a blessing service to rededicate the building and pray for the Protea Place ministry that will continue in that place. Keep a look out for the dates and please support the initiative.

It is a privilege to come alongside God to participate in the mission of God. To help individuals and communities discover the richness and plenty of God. If we take the Priesthood of all believers seriously, we will know that each one of us can participate in the project!

Wherever or whenever we can discover what breaks God's heart or where God is at work, and if we can draw alongside God in those areas, we experience the fullness of what it means to be a disciple of Christ.

An intentional turning towards this truth is often needed to combat or counter a poverty (or rather a perceived poverty) mentality. I am so excited that we are in this place at this time in human history, that God chose us for a season such as this. It is a privilege, the promise that we are not alone, and the gift of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost is a symbolic rebirth opportunity for the Church!

God bless and we serve together in this beautiful place.

Ansie Liebenberg

## Thank you.

From March 2020 until mid- last year, we lived under the directives set down by synod and the State government regarding safe procedures while the COVID pandemic threatened our usual activities.

I accepted the role of COVID warden for our parish – to set up, communicate, manage and report on the procedures that were designed to keep us safe, and throughout that period I attended weekly zoom meetings with risk managers from synod and other COVID wardens from up to 40 different parishes. And while all of us at the meeting were trying to keep our parishioners safe, some encountered quite a lot of resistance, with considerable conflict over the safety measures we were expected to follow.

But at bible study on Wednesday, we were asked to discuss issues that arise when we're expected to live under authority and I realized that during the worst of the pandemic, our parishioners were compliant and respectful of all the directives set before us. While there was a bit of ill-advised hugging, by and large everyone accepted that these measures were for our collective good.

So, I'd like to say thank you – for your willingness to follow the procedures set down for us., with good grace and thoughts for the well-being of our whole community. While many of us have had COVID, we have remained careful and aware that the real threat of COVID will be with us for quite a while to come.

Sue Campbell

## ***Food for Thought....Story Telling***

As I write this, today is the most glorious, shining, perfect day that just sends thrills down your spine! I felt that same overwhelming awe quite a few years back when Meredith Heard and I attended a special Seminar at Albert Street Uniting Church. It was a day of surprises, and it had a profound effect on me as the various speakers opened up so many ways in which our listeners will not only hear, but also feel the wonder at the message being presented. It was hosted by the 'Storytelling the Bible' Group and of course I bought a couple of books, one titled, Faith and Imagination.

One group of presenters could narrate the Bible passages using the original words, learnt by heart, so they presented the reading with actions and eye contact. I did try that a few times with the stories of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan, learning the words as I drove to town from the farm. Of course, these were stories that Jesus told to get his point across, and listeners could interpret them in so many ways.

Then we saw how you can open some of the Bible Stories by expanding the action. Take the story of the Leper in Luke 17:11-19. One expansion went like this:

*If I could begin to tell you what it was like to watch yourself rot and ooze away for years, you might begin to see how amazed...how wild with glee...how crazed we were to be—suddenly—clean! Then you'd know why most raced headlong, nonstop, to the priests...looking at their hands and feet, so foreign! When I raced back to fall on my knees, to pour out my wonder on him, to adore this one who seemed a god in the flesh, he asked after the other nine, not like he was disappointed ....more like he was seeking news about friends.*

A good story has all the fullness of reality and becomes a part of our story. Take this one that illustrates love before law and uncovers something deeper in ourselves.

*Two monks were once travelling down a very muddy road. Heavy rain was still falling! Coming round the bend, they met a lovely girl in a beautiful silk dress who was fearful of crossing the road. "Come on girl," said one of them as he lifted her in his arms and carried her over the road. The other one was silent until they reached their lodgings. But then he could no longer restrain himself. "We monks don't go near females, especially young and lovely ones. It is dangerous! Why did you do that?" The first one replied, "I left the girl there. Are you still carrying her?"*

I could go on and on, story after story, but I think you understand the overwhelming effect a pertinent and relevant story can have as we put ourselves into the story and learn more about who we are and what we truly believe. Sharing our own story and the amazing story of God is a part of evangelising. That day, in Brisbane, Meredith and I were privileged to hear the story of a recently arrived refugee from Vietnam who told us of his faith while surviving the horrible atrocities of a re-education camp. He was so full of joy as he spoke that no-one moved...no one was untouched!

Let me finish with a fun story that underlines how we can be so misunderstood.

*Mrs Moskowitz was having her house painted, and, between the smell of the paint and the mess, she was finding life hard. So, it was the last straw when her husband forgot and leaned against the wet painted wall, leaving a distinct hand mark on the fresh paint.*



*She put on quite a turn until her husband pacified her by saying he'd get the man to paint over it the next day. However, she worried all night about the flaw. The next morning, the painter was barely inside the house before she was right beside him, saying, "I'm so glad you're here....all night long I've been thinking about you and waiting for you. Come with me...I want to show you where my husband put his hand," The painter gulped, stepped back, and said, "A cup of tea and a biscuit is all I want!"*

A story can always give us a good laugh! Now you know why I try to include a story when I preach!.....Shalom, Jean

## **Protea Place Progress**

Early in January this year we started work on the renovations necessary to restore our former manse to be fit for purpose as the home of Protea Place in Warwick – a day crisis centre for vulnerable women in our community.

Under the joint leadership of Ian Darnell and Ray Browne, a small, dedicated group of people - some parishioners and some from our community – have worked Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings to bring this home to the beauty it is today. Without the considerable generosity of many local businesses this just wouldn't have been possible.

Andersen's, GJ Gardiner Homes, local tradespeople, Bunnings, Betta Electrical, trade suppliers and individuals have donated goods and services that have been integral to the completion of this huge task.

The interior is nearly complete with the kitchen going in within the next month, but the exterior will require a great deal of preparation. Old rotten guttering is proving very slow to remove, old blistered and peeling paint and weathered boards need a lot of preparation.

There have been a wide variety of events planned and executed to raise funds for the operational expenses of Protea Place and I'd encourage you to join in these activities as best you can. Students from Assumption College organized a talent quest, young mums from Pademelons have organized an Infant Safety program and Sue Hamlet organized a creative afternoon and The Warwick Choral Society performed at Easter.

A lot of us are past climbing a ladder to paint – but attending a high tea or concert supports Protea Place just as effectively. So, I'd encourage you to keep an ear out for opportunities to show your support for this most significant support for vulnerable women in our community. Our goal for one year's operational cost is \$91 000 so every little bit moves us closer to this considerable total.

Sue Campbell



## **Courthouse Cuppa Encounters.**

Have you ever wondered about what happens at Courthouse Cuppa? Perhaps not what you expect. Sure, there are people who have been summoned to appear before the Magistrate for many and varied charges. These are not really our business! We are there to provide a cup of tea or coffee, water or cordial and home baked biscuits or slice. Sometimes there are over 40 on the court list often it is much less. Usually there are others in attendance accompanying those appearing in court.

At present, our roster is usually on Monday morning from just after 8.30am until about 10.00 o'clock but this time is flexible depending on how many are waiting and if we have many requests for a cuppa.

I have been on the roster since the commencement of Courthouse Cuppa and over the years there have been some very interesting characters. In the early years we often served a man who liked three spoons of coffee and six sugars. There was a man who would regularly walk by not going to court but appreciated the coffee and snack we offered.

Recently Alison Baistow and I have been on the roster on two Wednesdays because of the Monday holidays. These have been most interesting mornings. Just after Easter on the Wednesday morning, the court sitting was very busy, therefore quite a number waiting. As all those summoned are required to arrive before 9.00am, often it is quite a wait.

A man sat on the seat from us and began to regale us with stories of his childhood, how he was adopted into a caring family living in Tenterfield and the example of caring for those in need he learnt from his father., who regularly helped his neighbours by mowing their lawns and doing other repairs. His father was a truck driver who delivered fruit from Stanthorpe to the markets in Brisbane and would purchase six cases of apples from the farmer. On his return journey he would call at a catholic children's home in Ipswich to donate the apples for the children. However, he would distribute some of the apples directly to the children in case the nuns were not too generous! He also spoke of how at times he has left an amount of money at Gardens Galore to surprise someone by paying for their meal.

A little later, a man with an Irish accent was impressed that we offered our cuppa in real cups not just disposable ones, which suggested that we are environmentally friendly. As we talked his fiancé arrived with a not small but very well behaved dog. He told us she appeared on tv. On enquiring she told us she was on an animal rescue program on SBS working in Brisbane at a clinic treating endangered wildlife. Some of these are koalas from areas which are being cleared for development, and the challenges of returning them to suitable areas as koalas are very territorial. Before release, the koala is microchipped and sometimes equipped with a tracker. One koala was returned to the clinic seven times as he didn't like his new home which didn't have the correct eucalypt for his diet.

This last Wednesday was a much quieter day, in conversation with one of the Court officials, it turned out he had been at primary school with my son. and we could exchange lots of memories.

Courthouse Cuppa often provides interesting encounters. More people on the roster would be beneficial. If you would be able to help, please contact Alison Baistow who will be only too pleased to give you more information.

Angela

## **MARCH CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER**

What do you think happens at a Church Council meeting?

We have set the first 30 mins aside to look at who we are as leaders and how we lead. This can be a small group session and in March we looked at how we compare nationally with other Churches. This is ongoing for April – both the joys and the challenges, and a big thank you to those who filled out the NCLS survey forms.

We move to business, dealing with mail coming in and mail going out. Every communication is brought before Council and the action needed recorded.

We look at Task Teams and through the year, our Ministry Reports. These can involve requests to Council, updates on what is happening in each particular group. Again, all are recorded and discussed as needed. All are aimed at one thing – growing our mission in this place for Christ.

We finish the meeting with time allocated for prayer and the pastoral concerns for the Church.

Our big office news is that the office is leasing a printer as our current printer is wearing out and too expensive to repair. It has been a brilliant addition to the office, and we are looking forward to meeting the replacement.

Giving from the pews. You will have noticed the smart cards at the back of each pew, with a QR code that can be quickly scanned by phone to take you to a safe spot for offerings. Thank you, Lawrie, for setting this up.

We welcome Peter Campbell coming back as Chair of our FAR Task Team with Brad Beck stepping down as he takes on the role of Chair of our Council.

Property is getting organised to replace the fence and noticeboard at Freestone.

Jazzy Breakfast is on again, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and we promise great entertainment with our fabulous breakfast.

We have some volunteers from Council going to Red Cross for training as evacuation volunteers and being a presence for the Church in those situations.

All Church groups and activities seeking grants are asked to go through a FAR new section headed by Barbara Cutmore and copied into Sue Campbell. Both Barbara and Sue have valuable experience and success in obtaining funding.

### **Property News**

It's mostly about grants and applications.

We have a number of grant applications in the pipeline. Thanks mostly to Barbara Cutmore.

At Freestone we are waiting to see if we can install Solar on an open shed which would give us a shelter for outdoor events. It's overdue so may not be successful but it is government we are dealing with.

A grant for painting the exterior at Killarney appears to have missed this round due to a hiccup in the process. So, we are about to go for the next round.

For the Protea Place refurbish we have two grants on the go. One from Acconia (wind farm) for Security Cameras and Data and another through the Federal government for Security Screens.

We are about to put in for a grant for two air conditioning units from Qantas after receiving donations for two others.

We have prepared two application documents for Expressions of Interest to fund affordable housing projects - (one at Warwick (10 units) and one at Killarney (4 Units). Big thanks to Jenny Lane for the long hours she has put in on these.

Other news is that the replacement of the fence at Freestone will commence once hay making is over. The steel for posts and rails has been purchased. The palings can be salvaged.

Protea Place refurbishment is coming along, and you will see work commence of the outside painting now. The kitchen will be installed next week hopefully and the work on the new bathroom in a couple of weeks. We will have the inside finished in time for the start of operations in July with some works on the outside to be completed after it opens.

If we were not a church, we would say keep your fingers crossed but prayers are needed for all these grants to come in.

Ian Darnell

**Biggest Cancer Afternoon Tea**  
**– presented by Warwick Choral Society Inc.**  
**Saturday 20 May 2023 at 2pm**  
**Williams Hall, Guy Street Warwick**  
**Entry by donation**  
**Entertainment by choir members**  
**All welcome**  
**– come and bring your friends for a happy afternoon**

## **COMBINED SERVICES IN KILLARNEY**

After a trial period in Killarney of combined services on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, a survey was taken to discern the feeling of each of the three denominations who had previously been involved. It has been confirmed that the services will continue on a rotational basis.

The service on May 14<sup>th</sup> which is Mother's Day will be held in the Anglican Church at 8.30am. On June 11<sup>th</sup> our Killarney Uniting Church will be the host church and on 9<sup>th</sup> July worship will take place in the Catholic Church.

Fifth Sunday ecumenical services will also take place as per the roster.



**Thanks to Alison Payne for two heartwarming soup recipes.**

## **Pumpkin Soup Recipe**

### Ingredients

1 onion diced.

1 medium carrot diced, or half medium sweet potato peeled and diced.

1 clove garlic diced (Optional)

1 rasher of lean bacon chopped.

Oil

A piece of pumpkin (about 1 kg) peeled and cut into medium pieces.

2 heaped teaspoons chicken stock powder

Water

Pepper (1 shake)

1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley or teaspoon dried parsley.

Sugar (about 1 teaspoon) and/or extra chicken stock powder (about 1 teaspoon) as desired

½ cup milk or cream

### *Method*

1. Prepare vegetables.
2. Put oil in large saucepan, heat on low.
3. Add onion, bacon, carrot or sweet potato, and garlic to oil.
4. Stir ingredients till onion is just transparent.
5. Add sufficient water to just cover vegetables,
6. Bring to boil, cover, then simmer for 5 minutes.
7. Add pumpkin to saucepan and add more water till all vegetables are just covered.
8. Add chicken stock, parsley, and pepper.
9. Bring to boil, cover, then simmer for about 20 minutes or till vegetables are soft.
10. Remove from heat and allow to cool for about 10 minutes.
11. Add cups of soup, one at a time to blender, and blend till smooth.
12. Taste test soup and add sugar and /or extra chicken stock powder as desired.
13. Reheat soup and add milk/cream as desired.

## **Curried Choko Soup**

60g chopped bacon or bacon pieces.

1 tablespoon butter

1 chopped onion

3 peeled, cored and diced chokoes

3 tablespoons rice

1 tspn curry powder

6 cups water

3 crumbled chicken stock cubes

Salt and pepper to taste chopped parsley to serve.

1. Sauté the bacon in hot butter. Add the onion. Fry, stirring for a minute, then add the chokoes and rice. Continue to cook, stirring for a minute or two, then add the curry powder.
2. Fry for a further minute, then add the water stock, stock cubes, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for about 30 minutes.
3. Serve sprinkled with chopped parsley.





## ***Jumpers and Jazz in July 20-30 July 2023***

This year Church Council has decided to become more involved in the whole of the Jumpers and Jazz Festival.

The theme for 2023 Jumpers and Jazz is 'Pathways'.

The plan is for a walk through display in the Church to be focussed on 'the life of Jesus'.

This means we will need plenty of help to come up with good ideas for the displays and how to portray them incorporating knitted or crocheted items. Please volunteers to put the displays together. There could be changes as plans go ahead, but excitement is growing!!

***Our program now looks like this:***

***Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July: 9.00am-11:30am; Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> July 9am-11:30am***

*Church open for people to walk through our displays to Courtyard Coffee*

***Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July: 7:00am – 10am Jazzy Breakfast***

***★ Sundays will be worship days with musical focus.***

If you are interested in being involved: contact Rev Ansie, Cathy Ryan or Angela Lester.

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Pademelons Playgroup & Qld Ambulance

Invite you to INFANT FIRST AID

Percy Street Hall, Warwick Baptist Church,

14<sup>th</sup> June 6:30 pm

An informal information evening addressing important topics such as Button Batteries, Croup and Choking. A question and answer session will take place and infant

manikins will be available to practise CPR. See Noticeboard in Williams Hall for more information. Donations collected on the evening go to Protea Place

Book your free ticket at <https://www.trybooking.com/CHRBBC>

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“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control against such there is no law.”

Mothers wear so many hats; when someone is sick in the family, she becomes the nurse. When someone is sad, she covers them with her love and counsel. When we fail, she teaches us that God loves us and will forgive us and help us make better choices if you we ask. She is the world's best peacemaker. She is faithful, kind, and gentle. She cares about the needy and goes the second mile to help when there is a need.

Sometimes being a mum feels like a thankless task, but to your children there is no one else in this life who loves like mom does. A mother is a beautiful expression of the love of our Saviour and the faithfulness of His unconditional love.

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY TO ALL OUR MOTHERS.**