SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

Over 20 people gathered on Thursday night to continue the conversation about Small Christian Communities. We thank those who came to share their thoughts on how our parish might look in the future, how faith and life can be reflected upon generally, at Liturgy and through participation in smaller gatherings.

One of the exercises of the evening was to take the three words: Small, Christian and Community and reflect on what they might mean. Here are the responses:

“Small”:
- to be known
- intimacy that deepens and is sustaining
- beginning and evolving
- family
- belonging
- cells - connected
- participation, involvement, ownership
- hearing each other’s story
- informal
- less structures
- nurturing
- listening
- conflict
- sorting through
- acceptance
- after process, and journey
- prejudice
- elitism
- connecting to the larger community

“Christian”:
- challenging
- serving
- continuing
- forgiveness/forgiving
- identity
- Gospel based
- reverence when people are at
- teaching
- trust
- respect for each person, positive view of each
- framework for making sense of life
- growing
- looking outwards
- where 2 or 3 are gathered there am I
- God
- Jesus
- love
- sent
- faith/doubt
- accepting other faiths
- finding good in other religions
- challenge positively

“Community”:
- build on the spirit there
- diversity
- common language
- belonging and interacting
- building up common stories
- offer and accept invitations to those outside
- depths/levels of belonging
- caring for and looking out for it
- active choice to belong
- personal freedom
- prayerful
- united by a common purpose
- resourceful
- regeneration, reinvention
- outward looking
- able to receive vulnerability
- humility
- nurturing and being nurtured
- guidelines to belong
- in/out of group
- being excluded
- healthy/unhealthy

There is one SCC ready to begin soon, and a number of people have expressed their interest in making a second group. Each SCC would meet once a month, reflecting on the Gospel in the light of life, and what is happening in the parish and the world. If you are interested in being a part of a group, please add your name to the list at the back of the bulletin, and at Mass. And of course, feel free to speak to any of the Parish Team, or the steering committee that will assist in this process: John, Maria, Kate O'Brien and Caroline Vaitkus.
Prayers for the Sick:
Ongoing prayerful support is also asked for Jacinta McRae, Sue Comarmond, Cathy O’Brien, Maria D’Agata, Joseph Escores, Edith O’Keefe, Stan & Carolyn Darnley, Elizabeth Rogers, Bruce Mitchell, Sr Cath Waucope, Dorothy Vzkuvalitis, Chris Awcock, Grace Johnson, Gayle Tanaskovic, Bianca Martinov, Marie Flynn, Sr Anne Halpin, Jim Stynes, Toni Vatta, Adrian Hunt, Mary Tudor, Isabelle Kelly

If you would like a family member or friend included on the prayer list please call Jane on 9531 6560 or jhearnes@netspace.net.au

Propagation of the Faith, 2009: The propagation of Faith appeal this year has a focus on the work of our “Home Mission Fund”. Often we are asked to be mindful of the great need of our sister Churches in other countries. Less well known is the great work achieved locally through the support Catholic Mission gives to our Home Mission fund, thanks to the regular support of the community during our Appeal time. We ask our parishioners to continue to support the Appeal – to be held at our churches next weekend – July 25th / 26th.

Baptism for Primary School Aged Children.
We have some families now beginning to prepare their primary aged children for the sacrament of baptism. Perhaps you have an older child, or children, who have not yet been baptised, been meaning to get around to it, but time has slipped away. If you’d like some information about helping them to prepare for initiation into the church, please contact Maria George/Jane Hearnes at Mass.

Thanksgiving Program. The remaining TG envelopes have been posted. Please call Jane on 9531 6120 if you have any questions.

July: A Month of Hope. An invitation to celebrate the one-year anniversary of World Youth Day 2008. An Evening of Prayer with Bishop Timothy Costelloe Wed 22 July, 7.30pm at St Francis’ Church, Lonsdale St. For more information in this Month of Hope, visit www.aoy.org.au or call 9412 3300

Way of the Spirit: What is Christian meditation? (Note new date). Many of us associate meditation exclusively with Eastern religions; we sometimes forget Christianity has a tradition of meditation stretching right back to the 4th century. Benedictine monk John Main (died 1982) has helped restore this practice to the rightful place it deserves. Join us this month as we listen to a CD talk by John Main on Christian meditation, followed by a short (20 minute) group meditation, suitable for beginners. We'll also share coffee and cake afterwards. "I do not know of any better method of meditation leading to the experience of the love of God in Christ than that of John Main" - Bede Griffiths. How: 2 Normandy Rd, Elwood (Parish Office). When: 7.30pm-9pm, Wednesday 22 July (now 4th Wed each month). Contact Andrew on 9563 5907 or at wayofthespirit@hotmail.com

Kairos: The latest Volume of Kairos is available for purchase at the back of the church.

Cleaning of Church (St. Columba’s).
We have a small but wonderful group of volunteers who help to clean the church at St Columba’s. New members to support the remaining team would be greatly appreciated. Each team is currently allocated three months during the year i.e. with cleaning only needed once a week during your months. (Feb, June, Oct allocation is vacant). The cleaning duties involve dusting, polishing and a few other light chores. No vacuuming is required. The cleaning can be shared between a few people and can be done at a time that suits you. Please contact Jane on 9531 6120 or jhearnes@netspace.net.au

Happy birthday to Yolanda Iarusso, who celebrated her 85th birthday on Tuesday 14th July, and to Harry Wylie, who celebrates his birthday this coming Tuesday, the 20th. And also a special birthday wish for Mark Hearnes, who was 50 last Monday. Mark is the husband of our Parish Administrator, Jane, and Mark has put together our photo boards for the Parish Team and Parish Council. Harry and Yolanda are long-time parishioners of St. Kilda and Elwood. Blessings to you Yolanda, Harry and Mark!

Spirituality in the Pub 2009
The Pumphouse Hotel 128 Nicholson St, Fitzroy
8.00pm Wednesday 5th August.

Not For Sale: Trafficked Women
Speaker: Shirley Wood from Project Respect. Hear how we can help to understand this issue or serious exploitation, and how it is happening right here in Melbourne. The Pumphouse Hotel provides a spacious and comfortable atmosphere. Meals available from 6-7.30pm. Remember: Support the Pub that supports SIP ï Dine at the Pumphouse!

A set of keys was found on July 5th on the steps at the front
ESBYTERY - ELLECTIONS WILL VING COLLECTION

Our first collection is the Thanksgiving collection, the second is the Presbytery collection. Any other special collections will be taken up as a leaving collection — eg Centacare, Propagation of the Faith, Caritas.

Parish Calendar

Coming Up This Week

- Sat 18th / Sun 19th July – First Eucharist at St Columba’s masses
- Wed 22nd July – 7.30pm Way of the Spirit Parish House
- Sat 25th July – 1st Rite of Reconciliation – 11am St. Columba’s
- Sat 25th 26th July – Propagation of the Faith Appeal
- Sun 26th July – 12.30pm Baptisms at St Columba’s
- Mon 27th July – SCC Meeting 7.30 – 9pm Parish House
- Mon 27th July – Finance Committee Mtg Parish House
- Sat 2nd / Sun 1st Aug – First Eucharist at St Columba’s masses
- Sat 2nd Aug – Centacare Sunday
- Thurs 6th Aug – Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm
- Sat 8th / Sun 9th Aug – First Eucharist at St Columba’s
- Mon 10th Aug - Baptism Preparation 7.30pm Parish House
- Wed 12th Aug – TAIZE Ecumenical Prayer 8-9pm Sacred Heart
- Mon 24th Aug – SCC Meeting 7.30 – 9pm Parish House
- Wed 26th Aug – Way of the Spirit Parish House
- Thurs 27th Aug – Sacred Heart Mission Board Meeting
- Sun 30th Aug – 12.30pm Baptisms at St Columba’s

First Eucharist Celebrations:

Thank you for your ongoing support for our First Eucharist children. It is wonderful to see how parishioners go out of their way to welcome the children, their families and friends, congratulate them and affirm their presence and participation. That kind of welcome into our community is important at any time, but especially so when those coming are sometimes non-regular Mass goers. It reminds us that we are an initiating community it is our job (not just the school, catechists, or even the families alone) to ensure that those coming to the sacraments understand and experience what its like to belong to this Body of Christ a place where all are welcome, where we together listen and respond to God’s Word, and share in his Body and Blood. We look forward to future celebrations over these coming weeks, and again in October, where we have the chance to keep affirming our Parish families and especially the children who are taking this step in faith.

Elwood St Kilda West Parish website: www.elwoodsikildawestparish.org
Please pray for... those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries are at this time, remembering especially:

Those who died recently:
Emmanuel Michailidis (11/7), Johan Mueller (9/7)

Those whose first anniversary occurs in July:
John Thompson, Tracey Ennis (25th), Kornel Vladislav (20th), Vincent Pierre Benoit (18th), Isobell Findlay (15th)

Those whose anniversary occurs in July:
James O’Connor 17/7/43, Libera Scotto 21/7/00, Philip Nolan 16/7/74, Allan Amad, Debly Amad, Alan Coleman

Acknowledging & remembering loved ones whose anniversary is occurring is an important part of Parish life. Please feel free to call or email Jane 9531 6120 or jhearnes@netspace.net.au if you would like a loved one included in our prayers.

First Eucharist
This weekend we welcome and congratulate;
Neve Kayes, Emma Landy, Alexander Martin, Ava Wraight, Elijah Kingsley, Twiggy Mercer, Jason Romagnesi, Marcus Romagnesi, Molly McLaughlin
Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 23: 1-6
The first reading provides an echo to the Gospel image of the good shepherd.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.

SECOND READING: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2: 13-18
For Paul it is Christ, our peace, who makes us one.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!
MY SHEEP LISTEN TO MY VOICE, SAYS THE LORD;
I KNOW THEM, AND THEY FOLLOW ME.
ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 6: 30-34
Jesus is the shepherd of his people.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND – 25th / 26th July 17th Sunday of the Year

Elwood Welcomes: TO BE CONFIRMED
Altar and Cleaning JULY: PAULINE GALBRAITH & EMILY MARTIN

St Kilda Welcomes:
11.00AM M: MARY ANNE CULHANE, JULIAN QUINN, JEANNETTE QUINN
C: KATHLEEN UPHOLD
L: HELEN FRERIS
BUS DRIVER: KIM THOMPSON
PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL: HELEN FRERIS

Elwood St Kilda West Parish website: www.elwoodstkildawestparish.org