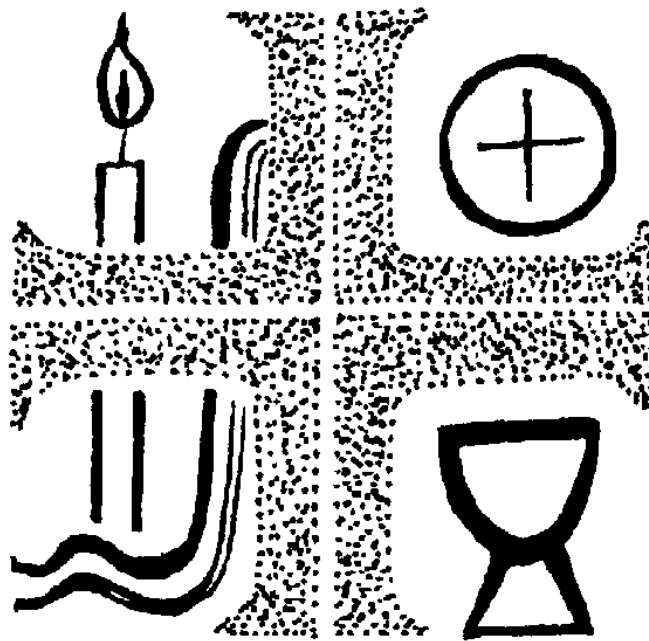




THE SUNG EUCHARIST

SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST

18 OCTOBER 2026

Order of the Liturgy and Parish News

TODAY'S CELEBRATION

*Welcome to Saint Mary's! The Order of Service begins on page 6
Calendar Dates, Liturgies and How to Donate – see p.2-5 & 24ff*

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

RUBRICS	These are instructions or descriptions of what is happening, and they are printed in <i>italics</i> .
	These also provide prompts and guides for posture and gesture.
OUR PART	The congregation's (people's) parts are printed in bold .
SINGING	Saint Augustine is reputed to have said 'those who sing pray twice'. We include the music, so it is easier for you to join in as you are able

THE LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

The liturgical colour today is red; the colour used for saints who were martyrs. Red is not only the colour of the blood spilt in their martyrdom but the colour symbolising the Holy Spirit that inspired their witness to the gospel and which permeated their lives and commitment to Christ right up to their earthly death.

Personal prayers can be made on either side of the sanctuary after receiving communion. Light a candle and pray. The light burns long after we leave as our prayers rest in the heart of God.

CELEBRATING THE LITURGIES TODAY

18 OCTOBER 2026 – SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST – STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Year A in the Three-Year Lectionary Cycle

8 AM	THE EUCHARIST	
Presider / Homilist	Fr Stuart Soley SMMS	
Reader	Jen Langmead	
10 AM	SUNG EUCHARIST	
Principal Celebrant	Fr Stuart Soley SMMS	
Homilist		
Priests Assisting		
Organist	Beverley Phillips	
Mass Setting	Christ Church Mass	Philip Matthias
1 st and 2 nd Readers	Helen McCallum	Katie Holmes
Servers	Chris Phillips, Peter O'Donoghue	
Welcomer	Anne Sunderland	
Introduction/Intercession	Sam Miller	
Live Stream / AV	Sam Miller	
Kids Cnr / Sunday School	Harriet Jenkins	Rosie Moloney
Morning tea	Michael Noble	Margaret Noble

FROM FR STUART:

LAST SUNDAY'S GUEST

It was good to hear Tony Rinaudo speak about how the Christian can make a difference in action to address climate change and degradation. You can read a brief account of the homily and the Delta Forum afterwards by Geoff Jenkins on page of today's news.



THE ARCHBISHOP'S STRATEGY: "FOR THE HARVEST"

Last week I mentioned, in brief, the archbishop's strategy for the diocese in which we participated, as a parish, early in the process. We did this in our own document "Towards a More Inclusive and Connected Anglican Diocese of Melbourne".

Last Sunday I drew attention to useful descriptions by the archbishop of his leadership style which I suggested equally applies to each community of faith. However, the main goal of his strategy is this: "A renewed church proclaiming Christ across Melbourne and Geelong, so that every person may encounter the love of God."

This is a good and worthy goal. He also affirms that there are many parts of the diocese stating that it is "Add up, not add-on. alignment, not uniformity". The strategy also states that "it will be worked out locally and differently across the Diocese".

WALL OF IDEAS

So, we have begun our work of responding to this call. Now, I am inviting you to contribute anything else you may wish on the sheets on the wall of the baptistry. What does Saint Mary's means to you and what you'd like to see that will last 50 or more years?

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Finally, let us pray that we may be good stewards of all that God has given us as individuals and the faith community under the patronage of Mary, the Mother of God. Be assured of my prayers for you all each week, and please, do pray for me also. God bless you all, *Stuart*

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The bell is rung and we stand for the entrance procession which is sung during the following hymn. The altar which represents Christ is revered and censed.



- 1** Come, raise a song of joy this day,
let all the earth applaud
the one whose gospel has revealed
the gentleness of God,
the gentle Luke whose careful zeal
probed deep into the past
and won from Mary's quiet mind
the mysteries of her heart.
- 2** In simple words Luke told the world
how Jesus was conceived,
how Zachary had doubted God
and Mary had believed.
He told how angels woke the night
and made the silence sing,
how shepherds came to David's town
to honour David's King.

- 3 He showed how in the heart of God
compassion wins the day;
the shepherd carries to the fold
the sheep that went astray.
He shows the joy that floods the sky
each time God's grace has won,
and in the Father's open arms
we see the contrite son.**
- 4 Luke told of one who on the road
walked with them to reveal
the nature of redeeming love
that burns that it may heal;
who stayed with them when darkness came
to be with them and dine;
who left them having broken bread
and having blessed their wine.**
- 5 O good physician, pray for us
that we may hear his word,
the word that burns that it may heal,
but heals when it is heard;
the Word the Father sent that we
in him might live as one;
the Word the Spirit speaks in all
who would receive the Son.**

**6 We praise you, Father, Lord of all,
we praise you, Christ the Son,
we praise you, Spirit, for in you
we may yet live as one;
we beg you for that gift of sight
to see in each your face,
that even now our world may know
the fullness of your peace.**

WORDS: Ralph Wright OSB b.1938 © 1989, GIA Publications Inc.

MUSIC: FOREST GREEN English traditional melody
coll., adapt. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958 (TIS 316)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

**✚ In the Name of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God,

**to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

THE CONFESSION

Merciful God,

our maker and our judge,

we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,

and in what we have failed to do:

we have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ABSOLUTION

The rite concludes with the absolution.

THE KYRIE

The musical score for the Kyrie is presented in three staves, all in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and contains the lyrics "Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy Lord, have mer -". The second staff continues the melody with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking and includes the lyrics "-cy. Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer -". The third staff starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic, followed by a diminuendo (*dim.*) and then returns to mezzo-piano (*mp*) for the final phrase "Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy." The score concludes with a double bar line.

THE GLORIA

Glo - ry to God in the high-est, and
 peace to God's peo-ple on earth, Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might - y God and
 Fa-ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for_ your
 glo - ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have
 mer - cy on us: you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
 Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Musical markings include: *f*, *mf*, *cresc.*, *f*, *mp*, *p*, *f*, *cresc.*, and *ff*.

THE OPENING PRAYER

The response to the prayer:

Amen.

We sit for the readings.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Sirach

Honor physicians for their services,
for the Lord created them,
for their gift of healing comes from the Most High,
and they are rewarded by the king.

The skill of physicians makes them distinguished,
and in the presence of the great they are admired.

The Lord created medicines out of the earth,
and the sensible will not despise them.

And he gave skill to human beings
that he might be glorified in his marvelous works.

By them the physician heals and takes away pain;
the pharmacist makes a mixture from them.

God's works will never be finished,
and from him health spreads over all the earth.

My child, when you are ill, do not delay,
but pray to the Lord, and he will heal you.

Give up your faults and direct your hands rightly,
and cleanse your heart from all sin.

Then give physicians their place, for the Lord created them;
do not let them leave you, for you need them.

There may come a time when recovery lies in the hands of physicians,
for they, too, pray to the Lord
that he grant them success in diagnosis
and in healing, for the sake of preserving life.

(Sirach 38:1-4, 6-10, 12-14)

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

PSALM 145

Andrew Moore



All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your mighty power.

I will bless you and praise you for ever, O God my King.

To make known to all peoples your mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures through our all ages.

I will bless you and praise you for ever, O God my King.

The Lord is sure in all his words
and faithful in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all those who are bowed down.

I will bless you and praise you for ever, O God my King.

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open wide your hand
and fill all things living with plenty.
The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and loving in all his works.

I will bless you and praise you for ever, O God my King.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Saint Paul's second letter to Timothy:

As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me in ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments.

(2 Timothy 4:5-13)

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Please stand to welcome the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Alleluia, **alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

(Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18))

Alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Luke:

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to set free those who are oppressed,

to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Then he began to say to them,

“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

(Luke 4:14-21)

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please sit

THE HOMILY

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,] *all may bow to honor*
and became truly human.] *the incarnation*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each section:

or:

or:

Lord in your mercy

Lord hear us

Let us pray to the Lord

Hear our prayer

Lord hear our prayer

Lord hear our prayer

After the prayers for the departed:

✚ Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine on them.

And at the end:

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

Grant that what we have asked in faith

we may by your grace receive,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

The priest introduces the Greeting of Peace:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.



THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS AND THE CENSING OFFERTORY HYMN



1. What does the Lord require
for praise and offering?
What sacrifice desire
or tribute bid you bring?
*Do justly; love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.*
2. Rulers of earth, give ear!
should you not justice show?
Will God your pleading hear,
while crime and cruelty grow?
*Do justly; love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.*

3. Leaders in wealth and trade,
for whom the worker toils,
think not to win God's aid
if greed your commerce soils.

*Do justly; love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.*

4. Still down the ages ring
the prophet's stern commands:
to merchant, worker, king,
he brings God's high demands.

*Do justly; love mercy;
walk humbly with your God.*

5. How shall our life fulfil
God's law so hard and high?
Let Christ endue our will
with grace to fortify.

*Then justly, in mercy,
we'll humbly walk with God.*

WORDS: Albert Frederick Bayly 1901-1984 *alt.* based on Micah 6:6-8

TUNE: SHARPTHORNE Erik Reginald Routley 1917-1982 (TIS 618)

OFFERTORY PRAYERS

Our response to the prayers is: **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Our response to the prayer is: **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

We stand throughout the prayer.

Celebrant *All*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *All*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant *All*
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The Prayer continues to the Sanctus and Benedictus
which are sung by all to the setting below.*

f Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,

God of pow'r and might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -

mf - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

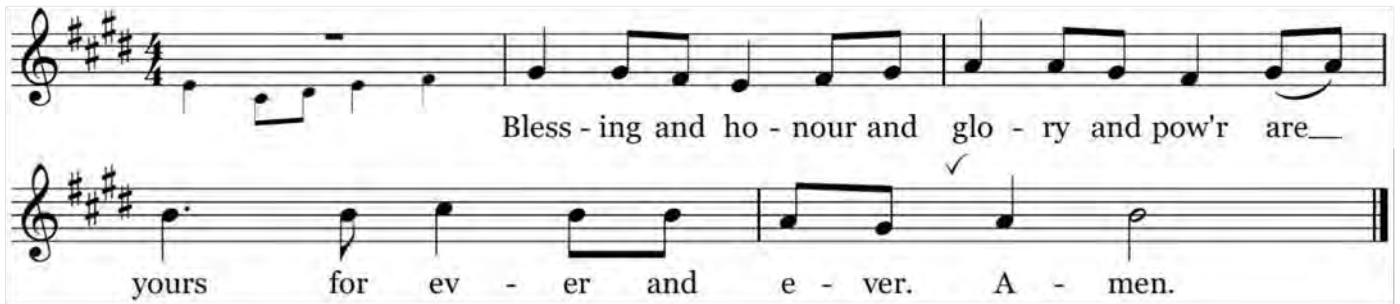
f comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Prayer continues

*After the elevation of the Host and the elevation of the Chalice, all may bow with
the priest in adoration of the real presence of Christ ... and all join in singing the
acclamation:*

mf Christ has died, Christ is ri - sen, Christ will come a - gain.

*The Prayer continues, ending with the celebrant singing:
... in songs of never ending praise:*



*After the Host and Chalice are placed back on the altar,
all may bow with the priest in adoration.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

The Agnus Dei is sung by all to the setting below.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have
mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have
mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world,
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

- ✚ Behold the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Fr Stuart administers communion to the servers and Eucharistic Assistants.

Feel free to sit until the following invitation to communion

Come! Draw near with faith
and receive the gifts of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God.

*Christ is the host at the altar here at Saint Mary's and welcomes all,
especially those who are communicant members of other denominations.
If today, you prefer to receive a blessing—please ask the priest or by crossing your
arms across your chest.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

"Give almes of thy goods"
Christopher Tye c.1505-c.1573

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

Our response to the prayer is: **Amen.**

Most loving God,

you send us into the world you love.

**Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit**

Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN



- 1 Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.**
- 2 Some march with events to turn them God's way;
some need to withdraw, the better to pray;
some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:
our world is their parish: their purpose is God.**
- 3 Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own:
they shame our complaining, our comforts, our cares:
what patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!**
- 4 Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:
the way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.**

WORDS: Frederick Pratt Green 1903-2000

MUSIC: PADERBORN Later form of German traditional melody 'Maria zu lieben'
from the 'Paderborn Gesangbuch' 1765 (TIS 470)

NOTICES

The priest may give some notices

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The Priest prays for God's blessing and reply **Amen.**

The dismissal is given.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE



PARISH NEWS

ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER

Preparations for the Annual Meeting and annual reports are underway. Reports from the following office bearers or committees will be included:

Vicar / Churchwardens / Secretary / Treasurer / Director of Music / Children's Ministry / Safe Ministry / Hospitality Committee / Climate Action Group / Synod Representatives

Could all those who are responsible for submitting a report please email their completed report to Alice Christofi at **before Sunday, 1 November**. Please email to: achristofi@stmarys.org.au. If there are any additional reports you would like to be included, please feel free to send those in as well. Thank you for your assistance and for helping us prepare for the Annual Meeting.

ARCHBISHOP'S DINNER

Wednesday 18 November 2026

Each year a joyful band of Saint Mary's parishioners make the trek up the road for this fundraiser for the Theological College. There is a discount for a table of 8 which we will enquire as to the value of that. It is a fun night with good food and wine, silent auction and so on. It would be good to support the College as we have always had a strong link with it. The evening's program is:

6.00 pm – 6.30 pm Evensong in the Chapel

6.45 pm – 10.30 pm Dinner in the ACC Farran Hall

\$120 per person

Bookings for singles, or for a discount for tables of 8

RSVP 11 November

AVE REFRESH

Saint Mary's parish magazine, AVE, is getting a refresh After many years of faithful editorial work, Rhondda Fahey has handed on the baton to Katie Holmes and we are introducing some new sections. From the next edition, AVE will be organised under the themes of:

In Depth: for longer pieces that explore a topic, or perhaps a sermon to share more widely. Guide: 2000-3000 words.

Spiritual Journeys: reflections on your journey of faith, your understanding of it, or questions about the mystery of God in your life. Guide: 2000 words (a little more if it has been a long and winding road!)

Parish Life: have you been to a parish event or involved in an aspect of parish life or service? Tell us about it. Guide 800 - 1000 words.

Further Afield: Travel stories have long been a feature of AVE and now a home of their own. Guide: 1000-2000 words.

Read, Watch, Listen: Read a good book, listened to a podcast or seen a film that you'd like to tell us about? Guide: 800 words.

Creative Voice: A place for poems and short stories up to 2000 words. We know there is plenty of talent in the parish.

Word counts are a guide only. To keep the layout clean, we ask for only one photo per article, so please choose the one that best conveys your experience.

If you have any questions, an idea for a piece or just want to talk through a possible contribution, please email Katie Holmes or catch her after the 10am Sunday service. k.holmes@latrobe.edu.au The deadline for our end of year edition is **Friday 4 December**. Please note that Katie will be away for 4 weeks from 9/11-7/12 but will be checking and answering emails.

JOIN A HOSPITALITY TEAM OF VERGERS / HOSPITALLERS

There has been increasing interest from various groups to hire the church for public musical performances, mostly on Saturday or Sunday afternoons. We are looking to establish a small team of people who may be willing, to open the church, be on hand should something unexpected occur and close at the end. We will provide orientation for the task and a modest honorarium.

If you have interest - please let Father Stuart know.

ST MARY'S KIDS UPDATE

There are two engaging opportunities for all our preschool and primary school-aged children to grow in faith, build friendships, and have fun.

First Sunday of each month – Sunday School

For primary school aged children. Bible stories, discussions, games, and activities that help them explore and deepen their faith.

Third Sunday of each month – Messy St Mary's

For preschoolers and inspired by the Messy Church philosophy. Hands-on, creative experience for children and their families to explore faith through crafts, activities, celebration, and community.

Please note: Everyone is welcome at both sessions! The suggested ages are a guide to help us plan. We look forward to welcoming all children as we learn, create, and grow together!

Harriet Jenkins.

ST MARY'S MUSIC AND CULTURE FUND

You can give money to enrich the music and culture of the parish via the Saint Mary's North Melbourne Music and Culture Fund. Gifts to this fund enable a tax deduction to be made.

Go to the Melbourne Anglican Foundation website and scroll down the page to the "Melbourne Anglican Cultural Organisation". Use the drop-down menu to select our fund.

TONY RINAUDO VISIT LAST WEEK

Last Sunday, we enjoyed listening to Tony Rinaudo of World Vision, an agriculturalist who spent 17 years working with small communities in Africa living on degraded land which had suffered from localised deforestation. Joined by his wife Liz, herself a force for creative responses to seemingly intractable ecological problems, Tony homilised and gave a presentation at our DELTA, where they also took questions.

For his homily, available on the parish's YouTube channel. See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCBbnx59EhY> [30:00-45:00 but watch it all!]

You can also view the DELTA Study on our YouTube channel. See:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6_fJNfZ_Ms

For a fine presentation and extensive detail, see tinyurl.com/tonyrinaudo

Essentially, Tony's story is about how all the benefits of having a forest—and these are social, ecological, financial – can derive from restored forests. Loss of forest leads to loss of climate resilience and loss of community coherence. A spiral of degradation results, and desertified landscapes on which no community can survive come about.

But here is the moment. Tony and Liz discovered that nurturing and protecting the remnants of a forest could quickly lead to the return of the original benefits of that forest for a community regaining its resilience. Recognising the vestiges of what was once there, and not so much starting from scratch with replanting, was the key to this process, known now internationally by its acronym FMNR, standing for farmer managed natural regeneration. As Tony likes to say, he represents a global movement for reforestation which does not involve planting trees!

Striking was Tony's second reason why as Christians we need to care about the environment: "We care for creation as an act of love towards our Neighbour". That could be a perfect lesson to derive from our Season of Creation.

HOW CAN I LIVE A FRUITFUL LIFE?

Archbishop Ric Thorpe



I have been deeply inspired by the extraordinary fruitfulness of Melbourne's first bishop, Charles Perry, and his wife Frances. Together they helped establish churches, schools, universities, hospitals and ministries of care that continue to bless this city.

Their 28 years here raise a question for all of us: How can I live a fruitful life? How can I make the most of my time and resources? How can I be a blessing?

At our Diocesan Synod this week, we focused on our vision to be a renewed church, proclaiming Christ across Melbourne and Geelong, so that every person might encounter the love of God. In John 15, Jesus tells us where such fruitfulness begins: "Remain in me."

1. Remain in Jesus

Jesus says, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener." Israel had often been pictured as God's vine, but one that failed to produce the fruit he sought. Jesus is the true vine, the faithful Son in whom God's purposes are fulfilled.

His Father is the Gardener. He plants, tends and prunes. The future of God's Church does not finally rest upon bishops, clergy, synods strategies, schools, agencies or congregations. It rests in the hands of the Gardener.

Then Jesus says, “Remain in me, as I also remain in you.” John repeats this word, remain or abide, again and again. To remain is to make our home in Christ. A branch has no life in itself; it receives life from the vine. In the same way, Jesus’ words nourish us, his love becomes our home, and his presence changes us from within.

Jesus always makes the first move. “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” He does not ask us to earn his love, but to live in the love he has already given. Some may be on the edge of faith, looking in, perhaps nervously or longingly. You may imagine that faith means becoming good enough for God. Jesus’ picture is the opposite.

A branch cannot give itself life. On the night Jesus spoke these words, he was walking towards the cross. He bore our sin and judgement, died for us and rose again, offering forgiveness, new life and friendship with God. His invitation is not, “Make yourself fruitful and then come to me.” It is, “Come to me. Trust me. Remain in me.”

What one deliberate step could you take this week to remain more deeply in Christ?

2. Be willing to be cut and pruned

Jesus says that the Father cuts away what bears no fruit and prunes fruitful branches so that they become more fruitful. The warning is real: detached from Christ, the source of life, we wither. But the surprise is that the Gardener also prunes branches that are already alive and fruitful.

Pruning can be painful. Plans unravel, doors close and familiar seasons end. We should not label every suffering as a direct act of God, but no suffering lies outside his loving care.

He can use even what we would never have chosen to deepen our humility, dependence, compassion and faith.

When I was 18, I stayed an extra term at school to sit the Cambridge University entrance examinations. I failed. I was embarrassed and my dreams seemed shattered. Instead, I went to Birmingham University, which felt like a lesser choice. Yet within weeks I became a Christian. There was the joy of salvation, a deep sense of being found by God, and a new purpose.

What felt like loss became the place where new life began.

Looking back, I can see God cutting away pride and giving me an entirely new centre of gravity. Now I am deeply grateful for his pruning in my life.

Is this a season of pruning for you? Perhaps resentment, hurry, self-protection, a mastering habit, or an activity whose season has ended needs cutting back. Pruning can hurt, but the hands holding the knife are the hands of the loving Gardener.

3. Aim for prolific fruitfulness

Jesus says, “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John’s Gospel repeatedly shows us the abundance of God: gallons of wine at Cana, baskets left over after the feeding of the five thousand, rivers of living water and life in all its fullness. Jesus intends his disciples to be prolifically fruitful.

This fruit is not merely institutional success, reputation, busyness or impressive numbers. It is answered prayer, obedience, sacrificial love, persevering faith and the joy of seeing others come to know Christ. It is what Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

This is our vision for the Diocese: A Renewed Church growing confident as missional disciples. Proclaiming Christ in our words and actions. Across Melbourne and Geelong including the margins, growth corridors and places where churches are few. So that every person might encounter the love of God because no one is beyond his reach.

That vision flows from remaining in Jesus. Renewal does not begin somewhere else, in a diocesan office, another parish or a future generation. It begins as each of us says, “It starts with me.” For Louie and me, that has meant responding to God’s call to Melbourne, leaving family in England, and seeking to love you and lay down our lives for you.

Our prayer is that this offering will bear much fruit. Your calling will have its own shape, but the source is the same: the life of Jesus flowing through a life offered to him.

So remain in Jesus. Let his words settle deeply within you. Allow the loving Gardener to prune what hinders his work. Then ask boldly that his purposes might be fulfilled in your life, your church and our cities. This is to the Father’s glory: that we bear much fruit and show ourselves to be disciples of Jesus.

You will be given a card with our Prayer for the Harvest. Please take it home, keep it where you will see it, and pray it regularly, for yourself, for your church and for our Diocese. And to help us allow Jesus’ words to remain in us, I have also prepared a Bible study to follow this talk, in partnership with the You Version Bible App. I encourage you to use it personally, with a friend or in a small group, so that together we may remain in Christ and bear fruit that lasts.

So let us pray that prayer for the harvest:

*O Lord of the Harvest,
whose Church is bought by Christ
and whose Spirit gives life:
Give us great confidence
in the work of your Son and Spirit.
Send workers into the harvest.
Grow us as disciples.
Raise up leaders to shepherd your people.
Renew your Church in faith, hope and love.
We ask this so that
every disciple, leader and church
will take faithful steps of ministry and mission,
for the glory of your Name
and for the benefit of this world,
which you love and which we serve.
Amen.*

A FEW POINTERS FOR YOUR PRAYERS

FOR THE CREATED ORDER

For right use of the resources of the bountiful earth in changing climates
For a proper distribution of the wealth of the earth

FOR THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD

For an end to war and violence in every land and for the work of those who bring aid, and all who pursue peace, for all peoples | For the United Nations and a renewal of international cooperation and justice

FOR THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

For our parish and its ministry in North Melbourne.
For Pope Leo, Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury
For Ric, Archbishop of Melbourne and his assistant bishops
For Megan, Ben and Nigel newly ordained as bishops

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

Dawn, Susan, Edith, Audrey, Susanne, Jan, Fr Tim, Graham, Pope Leo, Vasu, Cecilia, Peter, Isaiah, Kingsley, Chips and Susan, Max, John, Andrew and family

FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Roger Sharr (priest), Peggy Hooper, Rosemary Crumlin, Jean Penman (priest), Judith Barnard

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND OCCURS THIS WEEK

Glad Kavanagh, James Aaron Brooks, William Charles Shoppee, Timothy Conigrave, Eduardo Moreno, Robert Willis (priest), Gustavo Gutierrez (priest), Michael Mayne (priest)

IF YOU HAVE PRAYER INTENTIONS

If you'd like a name to be included, please email Fr Stuart on:
contactfrstuart@gmail.com (Names will be listed for 1 month unless otherwise specified).

FINANCIALLY SUPPORT SAINT MARY'S LIFE & MINISTRY

Your continuing financial support of the Parish is greatly appreciated.

There are two ways to donate to Saint Mary's:

PayID® One off or recurring payments are best made with PayID® from your banking application or website. PayID® makes sending money fast, easy and you'll know your money is going to St Mary's before you hit send.

Our PayID is our ABN - 91 426 837 132

Our PayID Name is ST MARYS ANGLICAN CHURCH NORTH MELBOURNE

QR Code Using your phone camera, scan the barcode it opens a link in your browser to donate to the parish.



THINKING OF THE FUTURE: BEQUESTS

A bequest also helps the parish into the future. You can speak with the Treasurer in confidence about how to incorporate St Mary's into your estate planning.

THINKING OF NOW: THOSE IN GREAT NEED:

We donate foodstuffs to Anglicare Victoria / St Mark's Community Care.

You can make tax deductible donations also so please visit:

<https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/maf-donation-page/> - 'Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society' - 'St Mary's North Melbourne—Relief Program'

CHILD SAFETY COMMITMENTS



The Anglican Diocese in conjunction with St Mary's Anglican Church North Melbourne does not tolerate abuse, harassment or other misconduct within our communities. If any person has concerns about behaviour of a church worker, past or present. The Diocese of Melbourne is committed to doing all that is possible to ensure that abuse does not occur. All complaints of abuse are taken very seriously, and we do all we can to lessen harm. We offer respect, pastoral care and ongoing long-term support to anyone who makes a complaint. St Mary's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is on our noticeboard and can be downloaded from our website www.stmarys.org.au

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Celebrating the Liturgy Next Sunday *Who's doing things!*

25 OCTOBER 2026 – THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year A in the Three-Year Lectionary Cycle

Readings of the Day	First Reading	Deuteronomy 34:1-12
	Responsorial Psalm	Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
	Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 2:1-13
	Gospel	Matthew 22:34-46

8 AM

THE EUCHARIST

Reader

Rhondda Fahey

10 AM

SUNG EUCHARIST

1st and 2nd Readers

Robert Gribben

Fabien Nunes

Servers

Alice Christofi, Anne Sunderland

Welcomer

Sam Miller

Introduction/Intercession

Jen Langmead

Live Stream / AV

Geoff Jenkins

Kids Cnr / Sunday School

Harriet Jenkins

Rosie Moloney

Morning tea

Helen McCallum

David Keuneman

Flowers

Helen McCallum

Sunday 18 October – Stewardship Sunday

8 am – Eucharist | 10 am – Sung Eucharist – as always

Contemplating our giving to God through God's Church

Sunday 1 November – All Saints' and All Souls' Sunday

8 am – Eucharist | 10 am – Sung Eucharist – as always

PARISH GROUP MEETINGS

CLIMATE ACTION

To be advised

HOSPITALITY

Friday 6 November in the vicarage

PARISH COUNCIL

Meets in person after Sunday Eucharist – Sunday 25 October

WARDENS

TBC

LITURGIES & ACTIVITIES AT SAINT MARY'S

EVERY SUNDAY

8.00 am The Eucharist
10.00 am Sung Eucharist

EUCCHARISTS DURING THE WEEK

12.00 pm Thursday

MORNING PRAYER – Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8.30 am

Click the link: <https://bit.ly/499l0N4>

Meeting ID: 826 4665 0345, Passcode: 464706.

CHOIR

Our choir sings at the Sung Eucharist each Sunday. They practice on Tuesdays. Speak to Beverley Phillips if you would like to join our parish choir. Her contact details are on the back of this booklet.

DELTA STUDIES

Occasional series on various theological and topics concerning social justice or current affairs. These are held after the Sunday Eucharist.

GARDENING GROUP

A group of parishioners care for the gardens surrounding our church. If you would like to assist, please contact Margaret Noble or Helen McCallum.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

This group meets regularly to plan social and fundraising events in the parish.

SERVERS

A group of parishioners assist at the altar. Talk to Fr Stuart, or Alice or Anne.

Want to keep in touch?

You can fill this form in and tear it off or this page and give to a person on the door, Fr Stuart or one of the servers. You may wish to tick an option below.

NAME

.....

EMAIL

.....

PHONE

.....

☐ *I would like to volunteer* ☐ *Add me to the mailing list* ☐ *I would like a visit*

SAINT MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

PARISH OF NORTH MELBOURNE

*We are a faithful, inclusive, sacramental community
in the Anglican Catholic tradition in this part of Melbourne since the 1850s.*

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather and
worship, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respects to their
Elders, past and present, who have cared for Country for generations. We are
grateful for their ongoing custodianship and for their generous invitation to join
them in caring for Country.*

Vicar:	The Reverend Fr Stuart Soley SMMS contactfrstuart@gmail.com 0409 949 956
Assisting Clergy:	The Reverend Professor Fr Russell Goulbourne The Reverend Professor Emeritus Robert Gribben AM The Reverend Fr Luke Hopkins
Director of Music:	Beverley Phillips bphillips@melbourneanglican.org.au 03 5286 1179
Children's Ministry:	Harriet Jenkins and Rosie Moloney
Wardens:	Anne Sunderland mail4annes@gmail.com Malcolm Elms Susan Brennan
Parish Council:	Wardens and Alice Christofi (Secretary), Andrew Barnard (Treasurer), Andrew Gador-Whyte, Harriet Jenkins, John Blanch
Parish Administrator:	Vacant office@stmarys.org.au
Office Hours:	None at present during the vacancy

HOW TO CONTACT US

Street Post:	430 Queensberry Street, North Melbourne VIC 3051
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Check our pages on Facebook & YouTube

