

Parish Life



St Mary's
ANGLICAN CHURCH
MORWELL

Lent is a sacred season

It's a time to reflect, repent, and renew as we prepare for the joy of Easter. It is an opportunity to walk alongside Jesus, retracing His steps through the Passion and meditating on the profound love that led Him to the cross.

During Lent we are invited to reflect on the stories of Jesus' temptation, his nearing Jerusalem and his teaching, his crucifixion. It's a time to look again with fresh eyes on what it means for Jesus to be the Son of God. And then, what kind of follower of this Son of God will we be? Will we use who we are as Christians for our own benefit or the benefit of others? Will we use our prayers to ask God to intervene to help us in our own lives, or seek to find ways to transform the lives of others? Will we take shortcuts and easy routes – the equivalent of selling our souls to the devil – or live with integrity the life God has called us to live?

There are many people in the world who would like nothing more than to do tell who we should be, how we should act and what decisions we should make but the Jesus whom we follow is not one of them. He invites us to follow in his footsteps and in doing so to find those answers for ourselves and, then, to work out what they mean in practice. The season of Lent is a time that creates space – 40 days just like the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness – in which we can ask these questions of ourselves and of God. The season of Lent invites us to step aside, to take time in the hustle and bustle of everyday life, to reflect and to ask ourselves these deep, soulful questions. Who am I really? What kind of follower of Jesus am I? What kind of choices should I make to reflect that? How do I choose to live the precious life God has given me?

However as you observe Lent this year – whether you give things up or take new things on – may it be a time in which you can ask these deep questions, to hear the still, small voice of God declaring you to be a beloved child of God.

With love and prayers, Sue

The Anglican Parish of Morwell

St Mary's, 2-6 Latrobe Road
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suejacka@outlook.com

Associate Priest: Revd Kathy Dalton

Retired Clergy: Revds. Clem Watts, and Russell Jones

Rector's warden: Sandra Wagner
0402 351 612

Fossick and Find: 74 George St Morwell,
Mon– Fri 10am-3pm (03) 4120 0840



Shrove Tuesday: Enjoy a pancake meal! 6pm at St Mary's, \$10 donation to raise funds for our student at Modowa PNG.

Ash Wednesday service: 5th March, 10am. The start of Lent. Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes: a time to "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or "Repent, and believe the gospel".



Fossick and Find gets a facelift!



What is Bec up to?

Bec works 1 day a week in the co-operating parish of Churchill, Boolarra, Yinnar. She's done some pretty interesting things there such as the 'light a candle for a loved one' on Halloween and the Hymn Singalong as part of the Boolarra Folk Festival. Very generously, Bec continues to lead a Thursday in-person Bible study at St Mary's as well as an online version on a Wednesday evening. She has now been the 2 day a week chaplain at Federation University in Churchill for 18 months. She likes being involved in the student engagement events and works well with the residential wellbeing worker, Larrissa. Over O week, they provided breakfast, lunch and one dinner. She operates the food bank for students who are finding it tough having enough money to buy food. This is currently supported by the Churchill parish and Bec brings in extra from garden. Larrissa and Bec cook up meals and freeze anything left over. She runs a meditation group with staff and a Bible reflection group. The Nursing students have started to return and others will start March. Bec plans to hold a Christmas in winter again and also plans to participate in the Rwanda pilgrimage in August.

The Wednesday to Friday team at our op shop has been very busy. With the closure of Rockmans at Midvalley, they saw an opportunity to purchase quite cheaply the stands which display different types of garments. With new signs and many hours of cleaning and moving stock, Fossick and Find now looks fresh and fabulous. Well done ladies! We appreciate your work



Bec at her desk at Federation University.

Missions Projects

Bishop Jeffrey Diver, former bishop of Gippsland and Archbishop of Adelaide now lives in Bairnsdale. He spends a lot of his retirement assisting Modowa college make the transition into a modern university. He is encouraging us to support a student.



Our parish Council agreed to this last meeting. We need to raise \$1500 annually which will help the allocated student and his family has sufficient food, as well as with their studies.

The education side is supported by The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) and the formation of Modowa College is an exciting

development, spurred on by the PNG Government's requirement for tertiary providers to be accredited. Alongside the Theological School, the campus will also soon house the St Barnabas School for Healthcare Workers and a teachers' college.

Fr Leki Kambari, who graduated in 2024 with an Advanced Diploma says, "I personally think that Newton has prepared me very well for prayer life, pastoral work, and leadership."

Fr Leki said that donors could make a real difference to the training of those offering themselves for ordained ministry. Once ordained, they would be able to go out into mainly rural communities and help them to thrive, to strengthen them not only through proclaiming the Gospel, but also through leading and organising their communities, helping them to develop.

We will be allocated a student in March or April and we will learn more about our near neighbours and their churches.

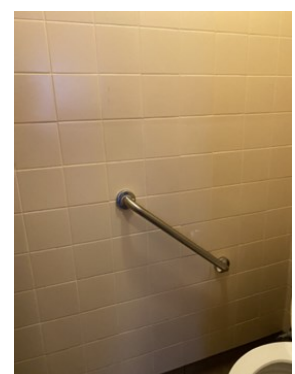


Above: Custody officers at Morwell were grateful for a large bag of clothes for people in custody donated by Fossick and Find. It's good to help people maintain their dignity.

Right:

The Boyd House renovations are progressing slowly as funds come in. The taps on the basins are hard to use so more arthritis friendly ones are planned to be installed. There are cracks in the lino in the toilets so we plan to replace it and the walls need painting, along with some tiles needing to be replaced. This project will cost about \$7,000. Rev Sue is looking for grant opportunities and donations from parishioners. If you would like to donate to this, please mark and envelope Boyd House toilets, or by direct credit, **BSB 083 785 Account 515946890. Reference: Boyd House toilets**

Alan Middleton has kindly installed grab rails in each of the toilets.





Above: some of the congregation on Carolyn's last day.
 Right: we presented Carolyn with a plant and card as a token of our love, appreciation and blessings.



Farewell Carolyn

Carolyn has reluctantly decided that she will return to the Traralgon Parish as she is finding the drive to and from different parish services and activities too taxing nowadays. She has contributed enormously to our parish with being a lay reader, taking services in aged care facilities, co-ordinating pastoral care at different times as well as being a genuine model of Christ's care and love for all. We will miss you greatly Carolyn—your thoughtfulness and apt comment, your love and generosity have been appreciated.

Blessing of a Civil Marriage on Saturday 15th February I conducted a Blessing of the civil marriage of Alex McGregor and Thi Bich Lein Nguyen known as Lily. Alex is our piano tuner who gave us good advice regarding the old pianos we had here. The wedding was held at his cousin's farm in Yinnar South. It was a wet and wild day so the ceremony was held in the beautifully decorated large farm shed. Fortunately the sun came out for some photos!



Joey is baptised. On March 9th our granddaughter Josephine Clare was baptised at St Michael's North Carlton. I am grateful for those who took the service at St Mary's in my absence. Joey is very amenable. When the family visited on 23rd February, a few people didn't realise she was there until Communion! Lydia was also baptised in the robe Joey is wearing.

Our church grounds are maintained by volunteers which enables us to use money given in the plate for ministry and mission purposes. Here Ross has been mulching the beds along the eastern boundary. The next working bee is Wednesday 5th March after the Ash Wednesday service. Could you spare an hour to assist?

