

Parish Life



St Mary's
ANGLICAN CHURCH
MORWELL

Confirmation at St Mary's

On Sunday 6th February we were able to hold our long awaited Confirmation service. COVID restrictions and lockdowns did not stop it this time! We welcomed Chelsie, Kiah, Vanessa and Ray as they made their Confirmation. It has been wonderful to share their journey of faith and to get to know each of them. Bishop Richard was happy to allow us to use a variant to the 5th form of Great Thanksgiving Prayer to include some of Aunty Lenore Parker's 'God of Holy Dreaming' prayer.

The Anglican Parish of Morwell

St Mary's, 2-6 Latrobe Road
Office: 4109 1423 (new)
morwellanglican@outlook.com
Rector: Rev Sue Jacka, 0409 757 170
suejacka@outlook.com
Associate Priest: Rev. Kathy Dalton
Deacon: Rebecca Hayman



Left: The Bishop prays for the candidates
Above: The candidates have their first Communion.



Above: The confirmees read a paragraph each of the Great Thanksgiving Prayer
Right: Revd Kathy taught the congregation to sing 'Jesus loves the Little Children in Gunaikurnai language



Praying for disasters

We have all been horrified by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Possibly you know some people who have emigrated from Ukraine and are now fearful for the safety and welfare of their friends and relatives. Christians are encouraged to pray for peace, to bring these difficult and complex situations before our God who is the author of peace and who can work miracles to protect people. Closer to home Southern Queensland right down to Sydney has been affected by flooding. Again it is good to pray for all affected by for this terrible event. It is also helpful to give— and a good Lenten practice. Anglicare North Coast is a partner in disaster recovery at many Emergency Evacuation Centres as well as resourcing parishes and schools. Anglicare North Coast: BSB: 705077 A/C: 00041320 'Lismore 2022' Donations are tax deductible. Most aid organisations have opened appeals for people in Ukraine.

Here are some prayers I have found helpful:

Sovereign God,

we pray for the nation of Ukraine, its leaders and people.

We pray that you would make your presence known to them at this time of strife.

We pray for their protection and for an end to the Russian invasion.

We pray for the innocent, the frightened, the dispossessed, and those who have lost loved ones, homes and family.

We pray that you would bless the endeavours of those who work for peace and an end to this conflict.

Have mercy, we pray, on Ukraine.

May your peace rule in the hearts and minds of all.

Continue to stir up the leaders of the world to work together for the good of all.

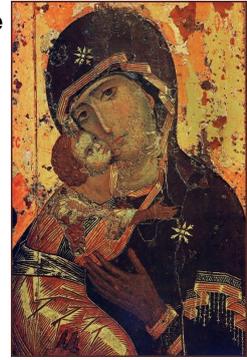
We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Archbishop Geoff Smith, Anglican Primate of Australia

Vale Helmut Strini

Our thoughts and prayers are with Felicity and her family as Helmut, her long time partner, has died. After a long period of declining health and various times in hospital, he passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on the 21st of February 2022 aged 76. Our prayers for God's peace and healing love go out to you and Frank and Mary, Mark and Julie and grandchildren Zac and Sarah, Jake, Jordan, Marcus, Danielle, and Annalise. Helmut was also great Opa of Hudson.

Fossick and Find was closed on Monday 28th February to allow Felicity's co-workers to attend the memorial service. Helmut was born in Austria where there are still a lot of his family. A Mass was also said for Helmut in his old home town in Austria so family members could mourn him there.



"I No Longer Pray For Peace"

By Ann Weems

On the edge of war, one foot already in,

I no longer pray for peace:

I pray for miracles.

I pray that stone hearts will turn

to tenderheartedness,

and evil intentions will turn

to mercifulness,

and all the soldiers already deployed will be snatched out of harm's way,

and the whole world will be astounded onto its knees.

I pray that all the "God talk"

will take bones,

and stand up and shed

its cloak of faithlessness,

and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might

sit down together and share

its bread and its wine.

Some say there is no hope,

but then I've always applauded the holy fools

who never seem to give up on

the scandalousness of our faith:

that we are loved by God.....

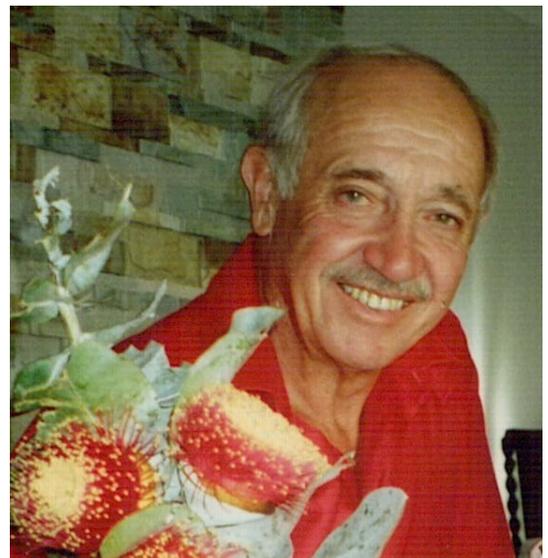
that we can truly love one another.

I no longer pray for peace:

I pray for miracles.

Byzantine Orthodox Icon (1132)

known as "Our Lady of Kyiv"



From the Rector: Our Lenten journey begins

A couple of items I have found thought provoking:

Simple Gifts

It's a gift to be simple, it's a gift to be free
 It's a gift to come down where we ought to be,
 And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
 It'll be in the valley of love and delight.
 When true simplicity is gained,
 To bow and to bend we will not be ashamed,
 To turn, turn will be our delight,
 Till by turning, turning we come 'round right
 Old Shaker Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jt-Oal7Rbjk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiFjxRdzujc>

A Lenten Collect from Bp Richard:

God of life and death,
 from the fullness of yourself you have created all that is;
 through the power of your love you call us towards you;
 in the giving of your Son our salvation has been wrought.
 Our flowering and our passing,
 all the seasons of the vine, belong to you.
 Bless us now and in all our days,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lent at its most helpful is a time of new beginnings, where we leave past sins, failures, grudges and conflicts with God and move on in the incredibly deep love and forgiveness that Jesus offers us. God does not need Lent, but we do. The rhythm of fast and feast taps into some elemental need of ours, where denial creates longings to be satisfied so that we come to deeper appreciation of God's great gifts. If this rhythm has not been part of your annual observance, I encourage you to give it a go this year and see if the practice deepens your faith. Lent is about allowing the Holy Spirit to bring to mind whatever it is that we need to repent of so that we become more and more Christ like in all that we do and are. Of course, it is helpful to come before God in confession whenever we know that we have done or said something hurtful. I like the Scripture that says, 'Don't let the sun go down on your anger.' (Ephesians 4:26) The same can be said of guilt or feeling shattered when we have been sinned against. Bringing these to God allows us to start the journey of repentance- fixing things up in humility- as much as we are able. It also allows God to heal our hurts. May God bless you this Lent! With love, Sue Jacka

Bec's Report

Thanks everyone for making Mike and I feel so welcome. We are slowly getting to know people and finding our way in the community. The ordination ceremony was a special morning for me—totally overwhelming of course but really meaningful. It was a great encouragement to have so many come from both All Saints Greensborough and from St Mary's to support me. Since then I have been learning my role as a deacon. As I am sure you will have all noticed, many of my duties are new to me and I have much to learn. Thanks particularly to Sandy for her kindness and patience! In terms of the missional side of the deacon's role, I have attended one service so far at St Hilary's and expect to become more involved in this ministry, and there are other ideas that are being explored such as the Saturday evening fellowship and possibly a community meal.

Saturday Group

There have been ideas and discussions floating around about forming a group of a Saturday evening that would have a more contemporary feel to it and include more singing and a meal. We are feeling our way with this group because we want its form and identity to be shaped by participants. For starters, it needs a more catchy name than 'Saturday Group'! Our first meeting will be on 12 March at 5.30pm. This date happens to coincide with the long weekend and a group of young people from All Saints Greensborough will be staying with Bec and Mike. The group have been invited to join us and will help provide music. Everyone is of course invited to attend but the style is designed for those less familiar with Anglican traditions so please think about who you could invite that would enjoy this style of gathering.

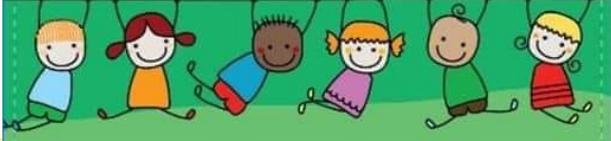


Parish contacts:

<https://www.stmarysmorwell.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysmorwell>
morwellanglican@outlook.com
Rector: Rev Sue Jacka 0409 757 170
Associate priest: Rev Kathy Dalton
Deacon: Rebecca Hayman 0467 023 363
Rector's warden: Sandra Wagner 0402 351 612
Fossick and Find: 74 George St Morwell,
Mon– Fri 10am-3pm (03) 4120 0840

Morwell Music and More
A developmental playgroup for young children and preschoolers
Teacher designed and run
Music, craft, free play and afternoon tea included

Wednesdays, 1-2.30pm
St Mary's hall, 6 Latrobe Road, Morwell
0409 757 170, morwellanglican@outlook.com



Pancake Day celebrations.

Ross and Mike cooked an amazing amount of pancakes which were consumed with great gusto. And savoury or sweet a pancake is a delight! What a wonderful array of fillings to choose from. And how good that our Slimmers Club members joined with us!



At *The Abbey*, Raymond Island



The Abbey is appealing for donations for the much needed external painting of the Chapel which hasn't been done since it was moved from Bundalaguah in the 90's!

This is tax deductible. Payments can be made to 'Anglican Earthcare Gippsland Inc. – 'Public Gift Fund' and forwarded to PO Box 77 Paynesville Vic 3880 or BSB 013 795 Account Number 206 078 399. Email details of your donation info@theabbey.org.au to obtain a receipt.