



No. 40

Harbinger

October 2011

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On Sunday 2nd October the Parish of St. John the Beloved celebrated the 30th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Priesthood of its Vicar, Father Frederick Shade. This coincided with the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels and was a high celebration. Leading the service was the Regionary Bishop The Rt. Rev. Graham Preston aided by Father Fred as MC and Deacons Alan Davis and Russell Cole. The organist was Marion Gilchrist and I was privileged to be Server. The sermon was delivered by Bishop Allan Bradley who acknowledged the wonderful work done by Father Fred over the past 30 years and his dedication to the Church over this long period. The Church of St. John the Beloved was in peril some years ago and it is only due to the dedication of Father Fred that it survives and thrives today.

In the congregation were four Bishops, the Rt. Rev. James White, the Rt. Rev. Pedro Oliveira, the Rt. Rev. Robert Gorlitz and his wife Watty, the Rt. Rev. Allan Bradley and his wife Trish, and the Vicar General, the Very Rev. Ivor Vivian. Also, apart from our usual congregation we were pleased to have with us Dr. Joan Wilkinson and Dr. Zillah Wooster, and Father Harry Aveling and friends of Fr Fred's from Perth.

The very distinguished congregation was due to the fact that, on the following two days, the Provincial Episcopal Synod was held in Melbourne. It was a great delight to have these treasured members of our Clergy in the congregation at the one time, an event that has not happened in many, many years.

After the celebration, a light lunch was held in the social room and stories were told of past experiences. After a cake cutting ceremony, many photos were taken of this historic occasion.

Members and friends of the Parish would like to give their grateful thanks to Father Fred and wish him many, many more years of good health and faithful service to the LCC.

Blanche White

MISSION TO CHINA SEPTEMBER 2011

Last month I was fortunate enough to be involved in the first Australian Medical Mission to go to China to perform surgeries on Cleft Lip and Palate babies. Little babies with these kinds of deformities are often deserted by their parents because they cannot afford the surgeries to repair their little faces. With the "one child" policy still in effect in China, such babies are also considered outcasts by some sections of the poorer areas and will be left on doorsteps, in bus shelters or at the gate of an orphanage. Cleft lips and palates are common and the medical opinion is that the cause is poor nutrition, a lack of folic acid during pregnancy and the general lack of hygiene and adequate prenatal medical care.

Such little ones that can be helped are sometimes taken in by the Starfish Foster Home in Xian in central China and properly nourished and nurtured so that they can have their physical defects repaired and eventually be adopted by a "forever family". The home is run by Amanda de Lange, originally from South Africa and educated in America who finally found her home in China. She is a member of the Mormon Church that has its headquarters in Utah and many of her volunteers are members of the Church. Volunteers come from all over the world to help in the Foster Home that is run entirely on donations from local people and overseas philanthropists.

There are currently 48 babies and toddlers in her care and I was the vanguard on this occasion taking vitamin D and other pre operation medications to boost their immune systems in preparation for their surgeries. There were 12 babies from the Starfish Home, 1 baby who was

brought to Amanda by her mother asking for help and 7 children from a very poor Catholic orphanage all scheduled for surgery which began on the morning of 26th September.

The surgical team consisted of a plastic surgeon and two scrub nurses from Geelong, a general surgeon, anaesthetist and post op nurse from Melbourne and the President of the Australian Chinese Medical Association of Victoria Dr. Low. This medical team regularly perform surgeries on children in Indonesia, Vanuatu and other places where there is no regular surgery available. They are a dedicated and talented team who all give their time and talents free of charge.

The Mission was organised by Dr. Siew Keng Chan, a GP who practices in Melbourne. She discovered the Foster Home 2 years ago during a trip to China with her family to revisit the village where her father was born. She has been back to Xian 3 times a year since and it was because of her influence that I was a part of this wonderful experience. It was my second time at Starfish, last year I was there for 2 weeks and promised I would return as soon as possible. It was rewarding but also heartbreaking as not all the babies survive and I have witnessed three little ones go on to "Higher Care" during my time there.

This is the first time I have witnessed the result of these surgeries. Some of the babies have such severe deformities that they would not survive without their mouth repair. Some have to be tube fed for months to get them to a stage where they are fit enough for a general anaesthetic. Sadly, one 6 month old baby, who had her lip surgery a few months ago and had her palate surgery during this session, died of post operative complications and this made for a very sombre time, especially by the surgeon who has never lost a patient in such a circumstance.

Most of these beautiful little children, all of whom have outgoing personalities because they are exposed to so many people and are full of self confidence, are adopted to families in the U.S.A and Europe. Two children recently went to Iceland where their families make sure they get together as often as possible. Similar reunions occur in America where there is a wonderful group of adoptive parents who ensure that their children have contact with their other "China family" most of whom have spent their early years in a group situation together. It is often very traumatic for them to be parted from their nannies and other children at the Foster Home so these reunions are very comforting for them.

I have such great admiration for Amanda de Lange and the work she does at Starfish for these little children who have been left to die and will continue to work for her in Australia by sending clothes and asking for financial help from corporations. The Global Development Group accepts tax deductible donations for various overseas charities and donated \$14,000 towards the cost of the hospital expenses for this mission and, without the assistance of such organizations, such miracles would not happen for these little children.

May God bless Amanda in her wonderful work.

Blanche White

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday 25th December – Holy Eucharist at 10.30 am.

Note: This is the only service for Christmas.

Officers of the Parish

Priest	V. Rev. Fred Shade	9459 2670
Deacons	Rev. Alan Davis	9509 1791
	Rev Russell Cole	(M) 0407 348 229
Assistant Minister	Mrs Blanche White	9803 0703
Deaconess	Mrs Marion Gilchrist	9511 4845
Property Manager	Rev. Russell Cole	(M) 0407 348 229
Parish Secretary	Mrs Libby Shade	(H) 9459 2670
	Email: lshade@melbpc.org.au	
LCC national website:	www.libcat.org.au	

Church Services

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 10.30 am.

All are welcome. The Church is directly opposite the Gardiner Railway Station in Glen Iris.

The Sacrament of Healing is available to all. Please contact the Vicar.

SAINT MICHAEL - ARCHANGEL

Christian tradition names four archangels - **Michael**, **Gabriel**, **Raphael** and **Uriel**. **Michael** is the messenger of divine judgement. It is he who will also hold the scales in which the souls are to be weighed. **Gabriel** is the messenger of divine mercy, of good news, and was thus the Archangel of the Annunciation and came to Mary with the news that she was to be the mother of Jesus. **Raphael** is the healing angel, the dispenser of divine mercy to the sick; while **Uriel**, the Fire of God, is the minister of prophecy and of the interpretation of God's will to our minds. The suffix "el" indicates an attribute of God, thus Michael means "the likeness of God".

Michael is the Divine Messenger, the Light Bearer for the Christ as well as chief of the Archangels. He was the Guardian of the Jewish Holy of Holies, and was the intermediary through whom the Divine revelations were received by Moses on Mt. Horeb in Sinai. St. Michael is recorded to have been at Bethlehem at the birth of our Lord.

The Archangel is the great patron of both Eastern and Western Churches, under the double name of St. Michael, and his prototype on earth, St. George.

There are several important references to St. Michael in Scripture. Firstly, in Revelations (12:7) we read: "And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought with his angels." In Daniel (12:1) we have: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people." Also, in Enoch (20:55) of the Apocrypha, it says: "Michael holds the secrets of the mighty Word by which God created heaven and earth."

In the "latter days" of the coming age, it is said that St. Michael and his hosts will be the preparers of the way for the Coming of the Christ in glory, to rule over the kingdoms of this world.

This icon shows Michael traditionally with wings, indicating his ability to go anywhere in the universe at God's command. He is also depicted holding an orb and sceptre, symbols of rulership and power.

C.W. Leadbeater wrote these words: "We have indeed reason to glorify God for the ministry of the Angels, and observe their festival with vivid enthusiasm, and to feel their splendour as an ever-present reality, enfolding us like the sunlight, ever drawing our thoughts and our hearts upwards towards Him Who is the King of Angels as well as of men."



The Icon of St. Michael Archangel was completed by Fr Fred Shade and blessed in his home on the Feast of St. Michael by Bishop James White.

INNER PEACE

Inner peace is hard to find at times of conflict and fear. We find it difficult to sit still when mind and feeling are in turmoil. It is easy to give up meditation at such times when it is most needed. So it helps to see that our meditation is not for ourselves alone. If it were, we are no more than religious consumers. When we have inner peace we go out to others in compassion. God is the love that casts out fear in our neighbor because, when we have truly met that love within ourselves, we can never do our neighbor harm.

Self-knowledge opens us to the mystery of human uniqueness - unity in diversity. Until we recognize and embrace our own uniqueness we can never relate to the universal. We remain trapped in the prison of egotism. Our own particular holiness must be realized before we can know the whole in which we have our being and where we most truly belong. The great error (and the sin of clericalism) is to pretend to have grasped the universal before we have come to self-knowledge. Trying to grasp the universal, to speak for it, to control it - these are the signs that we have still not been grasped by it.

What does the 'universal' mean? Jesus expressed it as the nature of divine love that bestows itself impartially on all that is. Like the sun it shines on good and bad alike. That means that God is beyond human morality. God never fights on my side against others. Like the rain divine love falls on the innocent and the wicked. That means God's justice is beyond any human attempt to be just. One love unites the persecutor and the victim. The first step in implanting the virtues that will eventually overpower the vices is to establish the foundational virtue of deep and regular prayer. Through this silent rhythm of prayer wisdom slowly penetrates our mind and our world. Wisdom is the universal power that brings good out of evil. As the book of Wisdom says, 'the hope for the salvation of the world lies in the greatest number of wise people.' The wise know the distinction between self-knowledge and self-fixation, between detachment and hardness of heart, between correction and cruelty. There are no rules for wisdom. Rules are never universal. But virtue is.

Excerpts from Laurence Freeman OSB

CHURCH CALENDAR

October

- Sunday 16th Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Spiritual Progress
- Sunday 23rd Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Christ as Truth
- Sunday 30th Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity
Day of recognition of other Religions
Intent: Tact & Tolerance

November

- Sunday 6th All Saint Day (Octave)
Intent: Serenity
- Sunday 13th Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Perseverance
- Sunday 20th Sunday next before Advent
Intent: Dispelling of Ignorance
- Sunday 27th First Sunday of Advent
Intent: Discrimination

December

- Sunday 5th Second Sunday of Advent
Intent: Self-forgetfulness
- Sunday 11th Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
Intent: Love
- Sunday 18th Fourth Sunday of Advent
Intent: Right Action
- Sunday 25th The Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Day)

January 2012

- Sunday 1st Solemnity of Mary & Octave of the Nativity
- Sunday 8th The Epiphany (Octave)