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No. 31

Harbinger

March 2009

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## PARISH HAPPENINGS

### A Special Birthday

Mrs Beatrice Shade, mother of our Vicar, celebrated her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on the day, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December, at St. John The Beloved. Although Beatrice requires the aid of a wheel chair, her mind is as sharp as ever, and we all enjoyed some birthday cake with her after the service. Congratulations Beatrice!

### Music of the Angels

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January, Ruth-Mary Love journeyed to Melbourne and then to Gardiner station by train, bringing her harp with her. Her music for meditation during and after communion was a special experience. And on this day the Vicar formally admitted her to membership of the parish of St. John The Beloved. This was greeted by all with acclamation. Welcome Ruth-Mary!

### End of an Era

It is with sadness that we report the passing of our Bishop Christopher Bannister. A report of the services held, the eulogies presented, together with some biographical information has been put together by the Vicar as a Tribute to our beloved bishop. This publication is available through the parish Secretary. Excerpts from this publication are printed below. Farewell Bishop Christopher, "thou good and faithful servant."

## Tribute to Bishop Christopher

Christopher Bannister lived a long and productive life, spanning some 98 years. He was born in Queensland, near Warwick, on 17<sup>th</sup> July 1910, but was brought to Sydney as a baby and lived there until 1934. His father died of typhoid fever in 1926, when he was only 16 years old.

His parents became members of the Theosophical Society and Christopher attended Morven Garden School at Lane Cove, Sydney for several years.

He attended the services of the Liberal Catholic Church in Sydney with his parents and was soon recruited as an altar boy. He was Confirmed by Bishop Leadbeater in 1922, and in December of the following year he was admitted to Minor Orders with a number of other boys.

Christopher was ordained Subdeacon in 1929 and Deacon in 1933. In 1936 he sailed from Brisbane to London via Sydney to further his architectural experience. And while in Sydney he was asked to come to the Manor Chapel. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Tweedie.

At a Theosophical Camp in Sydney in 1946, he met his future wife Miriam, who lived in Melbourne. They were married in December in the same year by the Rev. John Farquharson at The Church of the Holy Spirit, Melbourne.

Early in 1972 Christopher received a call from the then Presiding and Regionary Bishop Sten von Krusenstierna, the result of which was his consecration to the episcopate on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1972 by Bishop Sten, assisted by Bishops William Hill and Charles Wicks. The service took place in Melbourne at The Church of the Holy Spirit. He became Regionary Bishop for the province of Australia and held that position with great distinction from 1975 to 1983.

In recent times Christopher and Miriam moved to Melbourne and took up residence in a retirement village in the outer eastern suburb of Berwick. They attended the Melbourne church, St. John The Beloved, and from time to time Christopher would be the celebrant of the Holy Eucharist until his health deteriorated. He ordained a number of priests during his long period as a bishop, including the present Vicar of St. John The Beloved, the Very Rev. Frederick Shade (1981).

Although Christopher was no longer able to attend St. John's owing to health problems, he was always very positive about life and his mind was razor sharp as ever. Conversations with him were very special. Further health difficulties were experienced by him during the past year with several visits to hospital. He passed away peacefully on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

#### Report on Funeral and Requiem Services

The Funeral Service was conducted on 30<sup>th</sup> December at the Springvale Necropolis with our Regionary, Bishop Graham Preston, as Celebrant. There were about 80 people present, many of whom were current or former members of the Melbourne parish.

Eulogies were delivered by Bishop Graham, MaryAnne Haines (who travelled from Sydney for the service) and Bishop Christopher and Miriam's son Michael. These were followed, at Miriam's request, by a flute solo performed by the Vicar, who presented Miriam's favourite piece Syrinx by Claude Debussy.

At the conclusion of the service, we were invited for morning refreshments in an adjacent hall, and this enabled us to meet the family and also friends whom we had not seen for some time.

The following day, 31<sup>st</sup> December, a Requiem Eucharist was conducted at St. John The Beloved with Bishop James White as Celebrant. He was assisted by Russell Cole (server) and Fr Fred Shade (MC). Bishop James also delivered a brief sermon and it reflected on the work of Bishop Christopher as a priest, bishop and Regionary of the province.

There were approximately 40 present and after the service we adjourned to the Social Room for refreshments, so beautifully presented by Noel Wyndom and his team.

Bishop Christopher's contribution to the Church over more than 80 years, as well as his life as a husband and family man, were covered in different ways at these services.

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#### Victorian Bushfires

The Parish of St. John The Beloved made the 1<sup>st</sup> March service as a day of special Intention for those who had suffered from the bushfires. The collection for that day will be donated to the bushfire appeal. Other parishes have also observed a day of prayer for the bushfire victims and we in Melbourne appreciate very much your support. The Vicar wrote two special Collects for the day and they are printed below.

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#### **DATES FOR YOUR 2009 DIARY**

##### **Lenten Talks**

**Theme: The Philosophy of Jesus**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 12.00 noon**

**1<sup>st</sup> Talk - The Four Great Questions**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 12.00 noon**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Talk - The Paradoxes of Jesus**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 12.00 noon**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Talk - The Ethics of Jesus**

The teachings and sayings of our Lord are full of paradoxes. The Vicar will explore some of these, commencing with a discussion on philosophy and the four Great Questions of Life. The second Talk will explore some of the paradoxes presented by Jesus. The final Talk ventures into the ethical system that Jesus sets out in his sermons and parables.

All are welcome to attend these Talks.

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## Easter Services

- 10<sup>th</sup> April**            **Good Friday**  
Prime & Veneration of the Cross at 10.30 am.
- 11<sup>th</sup> April**            **Holy Saturday (Easter Eve)**  
Blessing of the Fire, Renewal of Baptismal  
Vows, Midnight Eucharist commencing  
at 10.30 pm.
- 12<sup>th</sup> April**            **Easter Day**  
Prime & Holy Communion at 10.30 am.

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### Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Parish

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the parish of St. John The Beloved will take place immediately following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday 3rd May 2008 at 11.30 am. (There will be no sermon.)

Nomination Forms for positions on the Vestry can be collected from the table in the Social Room or by contacting the Parish Secretary. Nominations for Vestry must be lodged with the Parish Secretary by no later than 26<sup>th</sup> April. All members and friends are welcome to attend the meeting.

Libby Shade  
Secretary

### Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Trust

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the LCC (Vic.) Holding, commonly known as the Trust, to be held at the conclusion of the parish AGM on Sunday, 3rd May 2008 at 12.00 pm. Nomination Forms for positions on the Holding Company as Directors may be obtained from the table in the Social Room or from the Company Secretary. Nominations for the Holding Company must be lodged with the company Secretary by no later than 26<sup>th</sup> April All members of the parish are welcome to attend the meeting. Please note that there will be a short meeting of the Holding Executive immediately prior to the parish A.G.M.

Russell Cole  
Secretary

## LIFE BEYOND

'TIS ours to live and die; uprise and shine  
As once the Lord ascended from the Mount:  
We, too, are mingled human and divine;  
Hence, in the end our spirits will surmount.

God is our Father, we His kingdoms share:  
Some day we'll rise like to the butterfly  
No more a worm — rise freed from every care;  
Since we are part of God we cannot die!

Think not we've friends now buried 'neath the sod:  
We all should know, clad in the angel's dress —  
We may next instant join those now with God —  
May live in realms prepared for happiness.

Here we may antetaste the joys above;  
Have glimpses of the heavenly Source of Love.

William Little 1839 – 1916

*(William Little is the great grandfather of the Vicar.)*

### SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THE BUSHFIRES SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2009

#### Collect 1

All things look to thee, O Lord,  
to give them their food in due season.  
Look with love and compassion, we pray,  
upon thy people and hear our prayers for those  
whose lives and possessions have been affected by fire.  
Assist us in the healing of the people who have suffered  
and aid us in the restoration of the land as we rebuild  
the communities devastated by the recent bushfires.  
Guide and bless thy people, that they may enjoy the fruits  
of the earth.  
With grateful hearts we give thee thanks for all the blessings  
we have received from thee. Amen.

## Collect 2

Almighty God, who art the Creator of all things,  
the Sustainer of all things, the Healer of all things,  
we give thanks for our preservation and for all the blessings  
we have received from thee.

We give thanks also for the dedication and heroic acts performed  
by our fire fighters, civil authorities and community organisations  
during recent days and weeks in the State of Victoria.

We pray for the healing of those who have suffered injury,  
loss of family, friends or property, that thou wouldst  
enfold them in the light of thy love.

We pray for those who have lost their lives, that they may  
find peace and rest in thee.

We also pray that thou will aid, comfort and protect the communities  
that need to be rebuilt, and that the plants  
and all flora may recover and the animals may return  
to their habitat in due time.

We ask these things through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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## OFFICERS OF THE PARISH

Priest	V. Rev. Fred Shade	9459 2670
Deacon	Rev. Alan Davis	9509 1791
Assistant Ministers	Mr Russell Cole	(M) 0407 348 229
	Mrs Blanche White	9803 0703
Deaconess	Mrs Marion Gilchrist	9511 4845
Property Manager	Mr Russell Cole	(M) 0407 348 229
Parish Secretary	Mrs Libby Shade	(H) 9459 2670
	Email: <a href="mailto:lshade@melbpc.org.au">lshade@melbpc.org.au</a>	

LCC national website: [www.libcat.org.au](http://www.libcat.org.au)

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### March

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup>

First Sunday of Lent  
Intent: Self-examination

Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup>

Second Sunday of Lent  
Intent: Control of Speech

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup>

Third Sunday of Lent  
Intent: Understanding

Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup>

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
(Lætare or Refreshment Sunday)

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup>

Intent: Spiritual Refreshment  
Passion Sunday

### April

Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup>

Palm Sunday

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup>

Good Friday

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup>

Holy Saturday

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>

Easter Day

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup>

Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup>

Second Sunday of Easter: Low Sunday

Third Sunday of Easter

### May

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup>

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup>

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup>

Feast of the Ascension (Octave)

Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup>

Whitsunday (Pentecost)

Anniversary of Melbourne Church

### June

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup>

Trinity Sunday

Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup>

Corpus Christi (Octave)

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup>

Second Sunday after Trinity

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup>

Intent: God as Light

Feast of St. Alban, Martyr (Octave)

Patron Saint of the L.C.C.

### July

Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup>

Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup>

Intent: God as Love

Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Intent: God as Peace

*A complete Church Calendar is posted on the noticeboard at church.*