



No. 35 Harbinger March 2010

PARISH HAPPENINGS

Brisbane Visits

The Vicar was very busy during the month of December, visiting Brisbane on two occasions. The first visit was the meeting of the Provincial Episcopal Synod at which he was Secretary to the Synod. The second was for the celebration of 50 years as a priest of our dear friend Bishop Allan Bradley. This occurred on Sunday 27th December, the nearest Sunday to his ordination. Fr Fred was invited to be the celebrant at this high celebration and there was a goodly number of people present, some of whom interrupted their holidays to honour Bishop Allan. Fr Fred presented him with a card signed by members of the parish.

Parliament of the World's Religions

The Vicar attended this gathering in Melbourne in December. A brief report on this momentous event can be found in this newsletter.

Ash Wednesday

The beginning of the season of Lent, Ash Wednesday, is rarely, if ever, observed at St. John The Beloved. It was therefore decided to observe this event at the Sunday service following Ash Wednesday. This was duly done. Russell worked on the palm crosses used last year, burning and pulverising them in with pestle and mortar!

The ceremony was duly performed, and everybody proudly displayed the ashes on their forehead. Everyone agreed that it was a moving ceremony and that the words used in the liturgy are very significant.

STOP PRESS

Bishop Allan will be taking the services on 16th, 23rd and 30th May when Fr Fred and Libby are overseas.

LENTEN TALKS 2010

THEME: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Sunday, 21st February Talk No. 1 The Beatitudes
at 12.00 noon
Sunday, 28th February Talk No. 2 The Sermon
at 12.00 noon
Sunday 7th March Talk No. 3 The Lord's Prayer
at 12.00 noon

The Light of God surrounds me.
The Love of God enfolds me.
The Power of God protects me.
The Presence of God watches over me.
Wherever I am God is.
And so it is.
Amen.

(James Dillet Freeman)

*Posted up in the visitors' room, Palliative Care section
of St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.*

PARISH VESTRY

The first Vestry meeting for 2010 is scheduled for Thursday 11th March.
(Meetings are held on 2nd Thursday odd months.)

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 9th May 2010 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 2nd May. 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, 9th May 2010 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 2nd May. 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

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.**

EASTER SERVICES 2010

Friday, 2nd April	Good Friday 10.30 am Prime and Veneration of the Cross
Saturday, 3rd April	Holy Saturday 10.30 am Office of Prime
Sunday, 4th April	Easter Day 10.30 am Holy Eucharist

(Note: There is no Easter Eve service this year.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2010

Sunday, 9th May	Annual General Meeting of the Parish at 11.30 am.
Sunday, 9th May	Annual General Meeting of the Holding Company (the Trust) at 12.00 pm.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR BOTH AGMs.

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: lshade@melbpc.org.au	
LCC national website:	www.libcat.org.au	

PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

**Report by the Very Rev. Frederick A. Shade
Vicar, St. John The Beloved, Melbourne.**

Introduction

The 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions took place in Melbourne, Australia, from 3rd to 9th December 2009. The Parliament is held only occasionally (the last one being 1993) and this was the first time that it has taken place in Australia. The Convention programme publication is an A4 sized book of nearly 400 pages! It is therefore not possible to set down here everything that took place, who took part and my reflections on what I experienced. I can offer only a snapshot.

I attended only two days of the Parliament as the PES in Brisbane overlapped with it, as did my own church activities in Melbourne. However the two days I attended were an unforgettable experience. What was an additional pleasure was to meet there two members of the LCC – Rev. Robert Moore of Southport, Queensland, and David Slater of Canberra, ACT. We attended some of the same sessions.

The Parliament had in excess of 600 talks, taking place simultaneously in about 30 auditoriums! In addition to these there were numerous off-site events, especially in the evening, by various faith communities. There were 1500 presenters, 500 volunteers and about 5,000 participants. They came from all over the world. Many were in exotic dress, and there was an atmosphere of excitement, genuine respect for each other, a welcoming smile everywhere and a sharing.

Organization

The Parliament website is: <http://www/parliamentofreligions.org>.

Mission

The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions was created to cultivate harmony among the world's religious and spiritual communities and foster their engagement with the world and its guiding institutions in order to achieve a just, peaceful and sustainable world.

Vision

The vision of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions is of a just, peaceful and sustainable world in which (i) religious and spiritual communities live in harmony and contribute to a better world from their riches of wisdom and compassion, and (ii) religious and cultural fears and hatreds are replaced with understanding and respect.

Approach

The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions seeks to promote interreligious harmony, rather than unity. The problem with seeking unity among religions is the risk of loss of the unique and precious character of each individual religious and spiritual tradition; this understanding is key to its framework. (I think Liberal Catholics would agree with this view.)

Subjects and Speakers

I attended the following sessions:

1. A New Ethical Manifesto for the Global Economy

Renowned Swiss-German theologian Dr Hans Kung, President of the Global Ethic Foundation, discussed the newly launched manifesto titled 'Global Economic Ethic - Consequences for Global Businesses.' Coming in the aftermath of the worst global financial crisis in seventy years, the manifesto aims at laying out a common fundamental vision of what is legitimate, just and fair in economic activities.

2. ABC 'Compass' Live Recording

There were international speakers from a variety of religious traditions. Presenter Geraldine Doogue moderated the panel discussion. The program was aired on ABC TV on Sunday, 13 December.

3. Interpreting the Text: Apostasy and Homosexuality

The 20th century was marked by many scientific discoveries about human (and other species') sexuality. Drawing on his long experience as an Australian judge, Michael Kirby points to the occasional need to re-read sacred texts where they come into conflict with advances in contemporary knowledge and experience.

4. Enhancing Religious Leadership for the Future

A workshop in which all participated. It discussed the challenges for leaders, the qualities and skills required. A most informative session.

5. Interpreting the Text: Creationism, Intelligent Design and Evolution

In 2009, the scientific world celebrated 200 years since the birth of Charles Darwin and 150 years since the publication of 'On the Origin of Species'. The theory of evolution through natural selection caught the religious world, Christian and Muslim, by surprise. It led to the development of creationism and intelligent design as alternative hypotheses based on literal interpretations of scripture. This panel of scientific and scriptural scholars discussed the issues and the remaining challenges.

6. Towards a Shared Language of Religious Training: Interfaith Education for Religious Leaders

Increasingly, religious leaders are being called to speak in the public arena, where to many people they represent not only their own faith but religion in general. This session explored the possibilities for interfaith professional development for those in positions of religious leadership.

7. Closing Plenary Session

Presentations included a Buddhist group from Tasmania, Wurrundjeri Senior Elder (Melbourne), Final Blessings from different religions, Australian Girls Choir, Gyuto monks, the Dalai Lama, and others.

Conclusion

Attending the Parliament was a wonderful experience, and for us in Australia a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The obstacles to better interfaith and intercultural relations were not dismissed out of hand, but were accepted for what they are. I came away with a feeling of hope, also a sense of connectedness with so many good people from around the globe who are not just peace lovers but peace makers, people who are endeavouring to make this a better world in which to live.

(A fuller account of the two days attended, including notes taken at the sessions, may be obtained from the writer. The Vicar will be presenting a fuller report during the Advent Talks.)

CHURCH CALENDAR

March

Sunday, 7th
Sunday, 14th
Sunday, 21st
Sunday, 28th

Third Sunday in Lent
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Passion Sunday
Palm Sunday

April

Friday, 2nd
Saturday, 3rd
Sunday, 4th
Sunday, 11th
Sunday, 18th
Sunday, 25th

Good Friday
Holy Saturday
Easter Day. The Resurrection of Our Lord.
Second Sunday of Easter. Low Sunday.
Third Sunday of Easter
Anzac Day. Day of National Rejoicing.

May

Sunday, 2nd
Sunday, 9th
Sunday, 16th
Sunday, 23rd

Sunday, 30th

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Feast of the Ascension (Octave)
Whitsunday (Pentecost)
(Anniversary of St. John's consecration.)
Trinity Sunday

June

Sunday, 6th
Sunday, 13th

Sunday, 20th

Sunday, 27th

Corpus Christi (Octave)
Second Sunday after Trinity
Intent: God as Light
Third Sunday after Trinity
Intent: God as Ruler of Angels
Feast of St. Alban (Octave)
Patron Saint of the Liberal Catholic Church

July

Sunday, 4th

Sunday, 11th

Fifth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: God as Peace
Sixth Sunday after Trinity
Intent: Steadfast Service