



St. John the Beloved
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

91 Carroll Crescent, (PO Box 193)
Glen Iris, Victoria 3146

No. 39

Harbinger

June 2011

Annual General Meetings Report

The Annual General Meeting of the parish took place immediately following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday 15th May. The usual annual reports were presented and the Vestry elected. The new Vestry is as follows:

Libby Shade	Secretary
Marion Gilchrist	Treasurer
Russell Cole	Property Manager
Alan Davis	
Blanche White	
Noel Wyndom	

The Vicar is ex-officio Chairman.

Thank you to all those who have accepted office.

The Annual General Meeting of the LCC (Vic.) Holding, commonly known as the Trust, followed that of the parish AGM. The reports from the President, Treasurer and Secretary were presented. There is no change in the Directors, and they are:

Blanche White	President
Russell Cole	Secretary & Public Officer
Libby Shade	Treasurer
Alan Davis	
Marion Gilchrist	

A special "thank you" to our Directors for continuing their work for the Church.

Ordination of Russell Cole

Russell Cole has been a member of the Liberal Catholic Church for 54 years. He was baptised in February 1957 at the age of 10. In 1961 he was admitted an altar boy serving under Bishop Sten von Krusenstierna. With only a few short spells away from the Church, he has been an active member of the LCC for most of his life. Since 1999 Russell has been a pivotal member of the Church in Melbourne, not only serving on the Vestry as Property Manager and People's Warden, but on the Board of the Trust as Secretary. His devotion has been above and beyond the call of duty and he is a most valued spiritual brother to each and every member of our congregation.

During his long association with the Church he has also attended services in Sydney, Brisbane and internationally. He has progressed through Minor Orders from Cleric to Acolyte, then Subdeacon, and has now been ordained as Deacon.

The service was held in the Church of St. John the Beloved, Melbourne on Sunday 29th May and was conducted by Bishop James White. Also in the sanctuary were Fr. Fred Shade as MC, Alan Davis as Crozier Bearer, Marion Gilchrist as organist and I was honoured to assist as Server.

As always, it was wonderful to have Bishop James in our midst again. He was accompanied by his wife, Joan and we were delighted to have her presence on this special occasion. Apart from the usual worshippers, also in the congregation were George and Gaylene Wester from Perth.

The service was followed by a light lunch and stimulating conversation. The highlight was Russell's story of assisting the Catholic priest in a make-shift celebration of the Mass while serving in Vietnam.

We wish our Brother in Christ, Russell Cole, our congratulations and warm blessings on his journey.

Blanche White

Vicar's Report

The parish has had a year of continuing liturgical work and fellowship. The peace, love and harmony that is very evident at St. John's is a delight to experience.

Services

The Holy Eucharist has been observed on virtually every Sunday during the past year. Occasionally, the Vicar has been away and the service of Prime, which always includes hymns, sermon and communion, has been conducted by appointed ministers.

The service of Ash Wednesday was observed for the first time in this parish, and this took place on the 1st Sunday of Lent. It was well received by the congregation and I have been requested to observe it next year.

The Easter Services – Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Day, enriched our spiritual life, and thanks must go especially to Russell Cole who conducted the office of Prime on Holy Saturday, something he has been doing for the past 10 years. Thank you Russell. (Russell is going to be ordained to the diaconate on Sunday, 29th May.)

A Votive Mass to the Earth was conducted for the first time during the year, a Eucharist service that incorporated special Collects, Readings and Gradual.

I am blessed with a wonderful Team to conduct these many services – Alan Davis, Russell Cole and Blanche White in the sanctuary, and Marion Gilchrist, our indefatigable organist, who enhances our services and lifts us up to higher planes with her music. Thank you all.

Visiting Clergy

During the year we have had several visiting clergy in the persons of Rev. Philip Kissick, Rev.Dr. Ian Hunter and Rev. Frederic Richter of Townsville. Their presence, and sermons, added further lustre to our proceedings, edifying our minds and inspiring us with their erudition. Thank you Philip, Ian and Frederic.

Talks

Three Lenten Talk were presented this year. The Theme was "The Search for Truth" and included reflections on Ecclesiastes (used in the

Requiem), Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden - its hidden meaning, and a report on the Parliament of the World's Religions.

Vestry and Trust

The Parish and the Trust held their Annual General Meetings last May and the members have all worked very hard for the parish. Thank you all.

A New Bishop

On 3rd October, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, a new bishop was consecrated for the Diocese of Indonesia within the province of Australasia (Indonesia is now included in our province). The Rt. Rev. Robert Gornitz was consecrated by our Presiding Bishop, Graham Wale, assisted by our Regionary (Graham Preston) and Bishop James White. There was a team of 20 in the sanctuary for this very special occasion, and the Vicar had the privilege of being appointed Master of Ceremonies. This province gives substantial and on-going support to Indonesia, where our parishes operate under some difficulties.

Pastoral

In my sacramental role, I have also conducted weddings, baptisms and funerals, and visited the sick. I am also pleased to report that Libby and I visited Miriam Bannister last month and she is well and in good spirits. Miriam is truly a marvel at 91!

Thanks

Each of us in this room, as members and friends of the parish, have worked tirelessly for the parish and for the needs of each other. This is what a parish should be. I could not carry out my work effectively if I did not have your support and encouragement. This is your church; we are all members of the body of Christ.

I wish also to express my special thanks and gratitude for the work carried out by our parish Secretary, Libby, whose encouragement and quiet witness has often enabled me to remove obstacles and get on with the work. Thank you Libby!

The challenge, which is ever-present, is to use our individual and collective energies to encourage others to attend our services. It has been observed by commentators that the Australian population can be divided into three categories: those who believe in God, those who are not sure, and those who don't care. We have a challenge, but it has always been there in this country. The information on the church website and advertising in journals are excellent ways of advertising our presence. But the best form of advertising and encouraging others to come is by our own personal witness, our own enthusiasm. Let's see what each of us can do in the coming year.

Fred Shade
Vicar

Quotable Quotes

Tend that flock of God whose shepherds you are, and do it, not under compulsion, but of your own free will, as God would have; not for gain but out of sheer devotion, not tyrannizing over those who are allotted to your care, but setting an example to the flock. And then, when the Head Shepherd appears, you will receive for your own the unfading garland of glory.

1 Peter 5:2-4 (NEB)

"The incarnation of God will only be completed when the divine child is born within every human heart. This is the mythological meaning of the Second Coming and the fulfilment of the "new creation" in Christ."

"What will be our answer to Job? Will we open our hearts so that the inner sacred marriage can take place? Will we open our minds so that a higher level of consciousness can develop? Will we work diligently to withdraw our projections of fear and hatred, and unite the opposites of light and dark within? Will we as a human race unite to resolve the terrible conflicts that are tearing us apart? I truly believe that our only hope for the future lies in our collective affirmative response to the numinous power of the "continuing incarnation of God" within us."

Cynthia Avens (article)

The Risen Christ

Today the pace, uncertainty and huge interconnectedness of the global tipping points - from food, soil and water to biodiversity and financial systems - confront us with the need for what Simone Weil called "a new holiness" as necessary to the world today as "a plague-stricken town needs doctors." She believed that "it is almost equivalent to a new revelation of the universe and of human destiny. It is the exposure of a large portion of truth and beauty hitherto concealed under a thick layer of dust."

To meet the risen, cosmic Christ is to be "in Christ." As is made clear from the resurrection stories, he cannot be grasped as an object or merely looked at. As soon as we try to do this he disappears. He needs to be seen and we can only see him from that level of consciousness that the phrase "in Christ" tries to describe. It is easier to describe the effects of this experience than how it happens. So, Paul who knew the experience first-hand and was, by his own account, transformed by it, tells us that: "if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come. The old has gone and the new is here." (2 Cor 5:17)

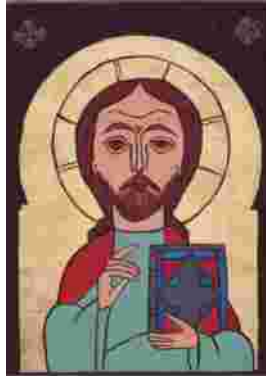
The resurrection sends us back to this world in a new way with renewed vision and understanding. The new creation is a way of living in the world, freed from the old compulsions, from addiction to violence as a way of resolving conflict and from the repeated patterns of oppression and exploitation that have culminated in our present crisis.

The challenge to a contemporary Christian is that identifying our crisis with the Christian mystery does not mean that we solve the problem by baptizing everyone. [...] The meaning of mission has changed for the modern Christian because of the ways the world has changes and the way it is headings. Whoever takes their part in resolving a crisis emerges from it changed. Christian identity also evolves - is enriched and elevated in fact - when we risk our faith in a real encounter with the problems of the world. To stand above the fray, judging from a position of superiority is to end with a fortress mentality, a fundamentalism and exclusivism which eventually destroys faith because it erodes compassion. To believe in a new creation rather than another creation, however, means that we can help to tip the collective crisis towards hope and positive change rather than into despair and catastrophe.

Laurence Freeman OSB

Blessing of an Icon

On Easter Day, the Vicar blessed an icon he had just completed – his first. It is known as the Pantocrator, and a photo of the icon and information regarding its significance can be found on the national website.



The Pantocrator Icon by Fr Fred Shade

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.

Church Calendar

June	
Sunday, 12 th	Whitsunday (Pentecost) Consecration of Melbourne parish
Sunday, 19 th	Trinity Sunday
Sunday, 26 th	Corpus Christi (Octave)
July	
Sunday, 3 rd	Second Sunday after Trinity Intent: God as Light
Sunday, 10 th	Third Sunday after Trinity Intent: God as Ruler of the Angels
Sunday, 17 th	Fourth Sunday after Trinity Intent: God as Love
Sunday, 24 th	Fifth Sunday after Trinity Intent: God as Peace
Sunday, 31 st	Sixth Sunday after Trinity Intent: Steadfast Service
August	
Sunday, 7 th	Seventh Sunday after Trinity Intent: Purity, a day of devotion to the Holy Spirit
Sunday, 14 th	Eighth Sunday after Trinity Intent: Wisdom
Sunday 21 st	The Assumption of Our Lady (Octave)
Sunday, 28 th	Tenth Sunday after Trinity Intent: Devotion
September	
Sunday, 4 th	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity Intent: Discernment
Sunday, 11 th	Nativity of Our Lady (Octave)
Sunday, 18 th	Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Intent: Good Works
Sunday, 25 th	Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity Intent: Renewal of Heart
October	
Sunday, 2 nd	Feast of St Michael and All Angels (Octave)
Sunday, 9 th	Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity Intent: Justice