

December Diary:

- 4 Thur Mission Support Officers' Meeting – Hobart
- 7 Fri Diocesan Council – Launceston
- 9 Sun SALT (in addition to usual services) 10.30
 Parish Council – 7.00 (Short meeting with refreshments)
- 13 Thur Parents and Toddlers – 10.00 at St David's
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- 13 Thur Regional Mission Consultation – George Town
 SALT evaluation and planning – 8.00
- 17 Mon Cadorna House – Holy Communion – 2.30
- 20 Thur Tamar Park – Holy Communion – 1.45
- 23 Sun Carols at St David's
- 24 Mon Carols in the Trevallyn Park – 6.30 onwards
 Carols and Holy Communion at St Oswald's – 11.00 pm
 Christmas Communion at St David's – 9.00 am

JANUARY – SPECIAL EVENT

Saturday 13th – An evening of Celtic Music and Scottish Dancing
Max Fry Hall - 6.30 onwards

Editorial for December Echo

THE DEATH OF REV ROY BROWN, FORMER RECTOR OF THE PARISH

On Thursday the 15th November, the funeral service of Roy Brown was conducted in St Oswald's Church. Rick Cartledge, Rector of the Parish of South Launceston conducted the service, Robert Legg – Vicar General and former Curate of the Parish gave the Eulogy and Ross Flint, the present Rector, assisted. Members of the family presented various cameos of Roy's very colourful and memorable life.

The service was a fitting tribute to his life and brings to a close a historic ministry within the Diocese.

We thank God for his dedicated ministry to God and this parish.

WAR AND PEACE

The latter part of this year has brought to us a new form of warfare – a so-called “War against Terrorism”. But is that what it really is?

If it really was a war against “terrorism, wouldn't we expect the USA (+ their little friends Australia and the UK) to send air strikes and troops to the other places where terrorists operate – Northern Ireland, Israel and the Middle East, Sri Lanka, Spain and so on? I can't help but feel very cynical when war against terrorism is a *very selective* one.

A better way

As I wrote back in October's edition of the ECHO, “The old law about ‘*an eye for an eye*’ leaves everyone blind”. Unless there is a whole-hearted commitment to address the root causes that bring about such *terrible* events as “9.11”, and alternative ways than to “fight war with war”, we can only expect more of the same in the future.

The answer to these dilemmas is now two thousand years old. Yet few have really given themselves to the way of Christ – *the Prince of Peace*. In our own time, we have had three outstanding individuals who embraced the way of the Prince of Peace – Mahatma Ghandi, Martin Luther Jnr. (both who were assassinated) and more recently Nelson Mandela. All three changed the face of the world! Do we really believe that there is a power called “weakness” that is stronger than “might and violence”?

As we enter the Season of celebrating the birth of this *Young Prince of the Universe*, as C.S. Lewis called him – our Lord Jesus – let us celebrate this year with both joy and intercessory prayer and with an intention of embracing the way of Christ.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR YOURSELF AND A FRIEND

Soul Survivor

Whilst on holiday, Judy and I read *Soul Survivor* by Phillip Yancey. **Essential Reading!!** It will expose you to the lives of some of the most significant and influential lives of the past two-hundred years. You will be challenged, inspired, appalled, saddened – changed.

Spiritual Classics

We have also recently commenced working our way through *Spiritual Classics* edited by Richard Foster and Emilie Griffin. *Classics* open up a wealth of writings from Christian writers past and present, accompanied by commentary, scriptural quotations and exercises. It contains 52 devotional readings based on the 12 classical spiritual disciplines – Meditation, Prayer, Fasting, Study, Solitude, Simplicity, Submission, Service, Confession, Worship, Guidance and Celebration. What we have found so helpful is the exercises. They bring us into the *practice* of the disciplines that place us before God where he can change us.

Can you think of someone with whom you would like to spend a year (or two or three ...) in making a journey of spiritual formation? Buy a copy for them and yourself for Christmas and invite them to journey with you on the greatest adventure you could imagine – growing into the likeness of Jesus!

I promise you, you won't be disappointed!!

Pax Christi (The Peace of Christ)

RKF