

From Bishop Richard Condie

Dear Friends,

On Monday last week, a couple of us attended a meeting in Sydney to discuss the Anglican Church's participation in the Commonwealth redress scheme for survivors of sexual abuse. We are working hard together to find a way to serve the survivors of sexual abuse in the best way possible.

On Tuesday, it was a delight to commission the Revd Chris Duff as assistant minister and church planter in the Parish of Edge in partnership with BCA, to establish a new church in Brighton. It was a great celebration.

On Wednesday I had the privilege of seeing 13 boys from the Hutchins' middle school confirm their faith. Please pray for them that this will be a step to a lifelong walk with Jesus. Wednesday evening I spent with the Hamilton Parish Council, where we prayed and talked about the future of their ministry. Thursday the Diocesan Council met in Campbell Town for the final time this year. Please thank God for their faithful service. On Saturday, Helen and I hosted a Christmas party for ministry leaders and their families from across the Diocese. It was a great occasion and the rain held off!

Join me in giving thanks for:

- Good responses in the national church for survivors of sexual abuse
- Chris and Naomi Duff coming among us to minister in Brighton
- The 13 boys from Hutchins School who were confirmed last week
- The Parish of Hamilton, and their ministers Ellen Clark and Anne Whittle
- The Diocesan Council

Please pray:

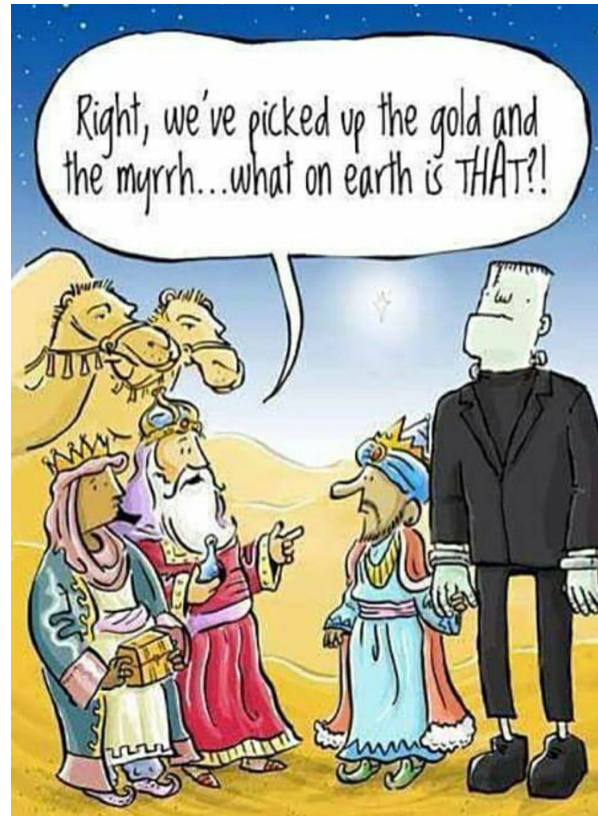
- For a continuing good response to survivors of Sexual Abuse, and an effective redress scheme
- For Chris Duff to lead the church plant in Brighton with vision and enthusiasm. Pray for a good team to join him.
- For the newly confirmed to grow in their faith in Jesus.
- That the Parish of Hamilton will find a confident path for the future.
- That our Diocesan ministry leaders will be sustained in faithful gospel proclamation over the Christmas period.

Just For Laughs

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures illustrating Biblical stories. The teacher walked by and noticed one little boy was drawing an airplane!

"Oh, what Bible story are you drawing?" she asked.

"This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy answered. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."



17th

December

riverlinks
Anglican Church

Information & Church family news

for the congregations of

St David's & St Oswald's

RIVERLINKS ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Growing a community of faith
committed to Christ and making him known**

What is Joy?

Joy is often connected to the joy of Mary at realising she has been chosen to be the mother of Jesus, but also a reminder that we can be joyful that the birth of Christ is near.

Most people see joy and happiness as the same thing, Happiness, however, is generally assumed to be a feeling connected to circumstances going our way.

Joy, on the other hand, comes from within and is not dependant on circumstances. It can be based in knowing that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. It gives us resilience to cope with life.

'Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.'
Karl Barth



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Praise for:

- † Riverlinks Together a farewell bbq was very well attended and a great 'send off' to the Oakley & Todd families
- † The terrific outreach of last Sunday's Carol service, and the great witness of Lindy at the Primary School

Pray for:

- † Jo would recover quickly from her latest fall
- † Jan's knee fracture would heal completely
- † James & Sally as they continue to search for a new home in Hobart, and that they would sell their house here quickly
- † We all have adequate rest and relaxation over Christmas holiday break, and don't become stressed with the many plans and thing to do
- † Missionaries worldwide who are away from their families this Christmas. Praise for their dedication and commitment to Christ and spreading the Gospel

Continue to pray daily for:

- † †Margot †Robin †Rona †Bill & Bev †Dick, Jo & Stephen †Betty †Alison †Emily †Roger & Julianne †June †Laurice †Marie †Ian, Helen & Sarah †Bill, Jan & Rob †Louise, Issy, Josh & Sarah; Martin; Tamara Lauren & Trish †Tim, Emma, Sophie & Jake †Paul & Jenn Cavanough

Jan, Anne & Mary wish all our church family a safe, happy & holy Christmas, and we look forward to spending many fellowship hours with you all in the coming year!

What's going on?

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve - 9pm at St Oswald's
Christmas Day - 9am at St David's

Launceston City Community Christmas - Monday 25th December, 11am to 2pm at the Albert Hall. Register to attend at www.launcestoncommunitychristmas.com.au or phone 6326 5551

New Years Eve Fellowship & Fireworks - 6pm for a 6:30pm start on Sunday 31st December at St Oswald's Trevallyn. Bring a main or dessert to share a meal and fellowship together and then watch the Launceston fireworks display at 9:30pm

Thank you & Well Done!

Many thanks to all those who helped set up and pack away, provided food, cooked the bbq, helped in the kitchen, etc. at last Sunday's carol service.

It was a smaller crowd of visitors, however all appreciated the carols and story time, the choir singing and the fellowship afterwards.

About 90 attended and \$185 was collected for Chaplaincy at the Primary School.

Thanks also to Lindy (Chappy) who trained the choir, James for the story-telling, and to Ian Chia & Stephen for the music.

We pray that the real meaning of Christmas will have impacted on those who came.



Services for the coming week:

Today

10:00 am Holy Communion at St David's

Wednesday 20th December

10:00 am Healing Service & Holy Communion at St Oswald's

12:00 pm Prayer Gathering at St Oswald's

Thursday 21st December

10:45 am Regis Aged Care Legana

Sunday 24th December

9:00 pm Christmas Worship at St Oswald's

Monday 25th December

9:00 am Holy Communion at St David's

Home Groups

All now in recess until February 2018

Riverlinks Future

MST & PC had two consultation meetings in November, firstly with Bp Richard Condie and then with Rev Sandy Jones.

After these two intense sessions of reviewing the past and present of Riverlinks Parish, and then a wide ranging survey of the what the future might look like, the Bishop has produced a lengthy document that sets out his understandings of all that was recorded throughout this collaborative engagement process.

Another meeting is proposed for February where discussion of different future models of operation for our Parish will be discussed.