

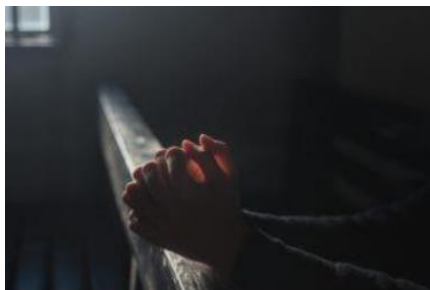
GRACE

ANGLICAN PARISH OF BENALLA
SEPTEMBER 2021

PARISH LIFE

Dear friends in Christ,

What a time it's been these last few weeks! I can't remember a time with more distressing news stories. The situation in Afghanistan has been a nightmare, after decades of nightmares. The people of Haiti, who have already suffered beyond belief, have had to deal with another earthquake. The global pandemic shows no signs of letting up, and here in the Aus, in NSW, we see the possibility of hospitals overflowing. Here, in Vic, we are told that we have the harshest lockdowns in the world. Fires and severe weather patterns continue to grow worse around our world. Add to that the ongoing news of violence, oppression, and scandal, and it can easily become too much to bear.



What are we Christians to do in the face of impossible problems and insurmountable suffering? I believe our response begins in prayer. And we should not just start there. Praying without ceasing is never the wrong thing to do. Prayer on its own can change things, and prayer can certainly shape our own hearts. Prayer is action, but it's not the only kind of action.

As the old saying goes, if you feed someone, you're not changing world hunger, but you are changing one person's hunger. That's simplistic, and there are all kinds of problems with this approach. It's also not wrong.

So one person can change the world, one life at a time starting with our own. There are lots of small ways we can respond to the suffering in the world beyond our prayers (and I hope we always pray!). We can contact politicians to seek policy changes. We can donate money to reputable non-profit organizations who are working in the places about which we're concerned. We can look at our own behaviour and encourage behaviour changes in our friends and colleagues. We can be bearers of grace and mercy in a world that often lacks both.

Whenever I'm not sure where to begin, I pray. Since this pandemic started I've been joining in with a livestream of a Sunday from one of the historic churches of Sydney. Not everybody's style of worship, I have to admit. Since the latest Sydney lockdown started, that church has been doing a Monday to Saturday Zoom Morning Prayer and Eucharist, and I have been finding it a wonderful and disciplined way to start every day in prayer. But it's not the only way to pray, of course. The daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer have always been the Church's staple, but there are other avenues. The Great Litany (page 188 APBA) might be a good starting point. And then following on from that for the next thirty pages there is a wealth of prayer material.

Other than prayer, don't overlook the benefits of talking with wise friends who may also be seeking to offer a compassionate response to what we see in the news.

The worst thing we can do is to accept evil, suffering, and sin as inevitable. We must make no peace with oppression, violence, degradation, or inflicted suffering of any kind. After all, we follow a Saviour who defeated the forces of might and evil in his day by his death and resurrection on the third day. God's love is always stronger than the evil of this world.

With love and prayers.

Fr Bill.

MINISTRY IN THE PARISH

During June, July and August, we were fortunate to have Fr Alan Jarrad take services for us in the parish. We thank Fr Alan for his ministry with us and for his good advice and support to Parish Council. We have now welcomed Fr Bill Squire as our locum from mid-August and we look forward to having him in the parish.



OP SHOP NEWS

We are so close to being open for business!!! An opening date will be set for the near future. Many thanks to all those who have worked so hard to organise the fittings and all the items for the store. Many thanks to the coordinator Susan Mann, the committee and all those who come in each week, COVID permitting, to work to get things ready. If you would like to help, please contact Susan on 0468 619 198.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

The group has resumed as of the beginning of the month and are currently doing a study on the gospel of Mark. The group is very relaxed and friendly and the study is very interesting. They meet on Wednesday evenings via Zoom at 7:30pm. If you'd like to be involved or find out more, please contact Heather Lloyd on 5768 2536 or Lesley Hupe on 0412 111 397.



POSTPONEMENT OF DE-CONSECRATION OF ST PAUL'S

Due to COVID restrictions at the time, the service of thanksgiving and de-consecration of St Paul's Goorambat was postponed. We wait to hear from the Bishop about a new date.

POSTPONEMENT OF ST AIDAN'S CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

With our COVID world having no normality, the parishioners of St Aidan's have made the difficult decision to postpone their centenary celebrations until 2022.

The Church commemorates St Aidan of Lindisfarne, bishop and missionary on August 31, so here's a little bit of information about him.

He was born in Ireland and died 31 August, 651 in Bamburgh, Northumberland, England, apostle of Northumbria, monastic founder, first bishop of Lindisfarne, or Holy Island, off the coast of Northumberland.

Aidan was a monk at Iona, an island of the Inner Hebrides in Scotland, when King Oswald of Northumbria requested that he be made bishop of the newly converted Northumbrians. Consecrated in 635, Aidan settled on Lindisfarne, where he established his church, monastery, and see near the royal stronghold of Bamburgh. Under his direction and that of his successors, Lindisfarne flourished as a leading ecclesiastical centre until the Danish invasions began in 793.

From Lindisfarne, Aidan evangelized northern England. He founded churches, monasteries, and, on Lindisfarne, a school for the training of ministers, among whom were Chad (first bishop of Lichfield), his brother Cedd (who converted the East Saxons), and Eata, abbot of Melrose. The Anglo-Saxon historian and theologian Bede praised Aidan for his learning, charity, and simplicity of life. After Oswald's death in 641, Aidan's protector became the next king, Oswin. He died soon after Oswin's martyrdom (Aug. 20, 651).



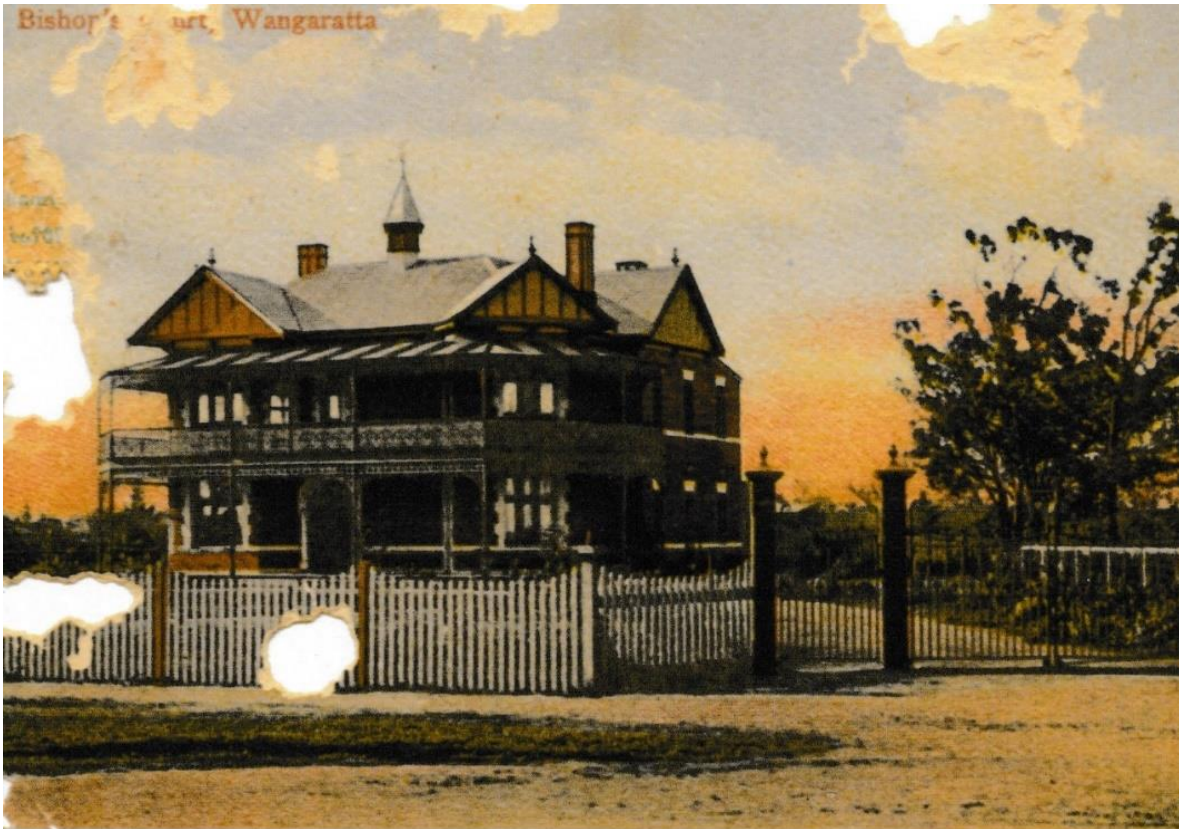


HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS

With the recent outbreak of COVID 19 in Shepparton our Parish saw a need to help. GVCares is running a huge project around supporting those in quarantine. We sent \$700.00 to help feed the 20000 people in home quarantine.

Parish Council.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Bishop's Lodge Wangaratta

This photo was taken from a post card sent to a Miss Abbott of Benalla. I found it in old correspondence books of the Parish. There were also three of the interior and exterior of the Cathedral, that are a bit too dark to be included in the newsletter.

Bishop's Lodge was built in 1904 as the residence of the first Bishop of Wangaratta, Thomas Armstrong, and was originally known as Bishop's Palace.

As you can see the original post cards were unfortunately attacked by silver fish.

Dawne Tonks

Also from the archives, on the following page is a very old picture of the **interior of Holy Trinity, Benalla**. When Conservation Studios did their buildings report on the precinct in Benalla, this photo was part of the report. Though seen in not as good a copy in the parish centre, this really lets you see what Holy Trinity once looked like – some things are still the same, but much has changed.



In mid-August Parish Council contacted all parishioners about our deficit and asking if people would be able to support us in being able to cover it and the response was immediately overwhelming! Thank you, so much, to everyone who has been able to help the parish.

Thank you also, to everyone who is helping in our parish, during these difficult times, whether that be cleaning (church and COVID), counting, doing the pew sheet, reading, intercessing, gardening, serving, ushering, COVID wardens, musicians, morning tea, flowers, getting things ready for the Op Shop, its really wonderful to have all these jobs being done. If you would like to help in any area, we are always happy for more people to help out, then please contact one of the wardens.

AN ABM APPRECIATION OF THE LIFE OF BISHOP DAVID MCCALL

ABM gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Bishop William David Hair McCall (29 February 1940 to 7 May 2021). David gave distinctive and life-long service to ABM and exemplified the mission of Christ in his life. David's funeral liturgy was held in St Peter's Cathedral Adelaide on 19 May 2021, and in lieu of flowers, gifts were made to ABM's work with Newton Theological College in Papua New Guinea.

David McCall was the son of Theodore Bruce McCall (1911-1969) who was ordained in 1936. Theodore served as Home Secretary of the ABM from 1953-1959. He then became Bishop of Rockhampton, and then Wangaratta until his death in 1969.

Bishop David and his wife Mrs Marion McCall OAM retired to the Diocese of Adelaide and continued to minister in parishes and assist the Archbishop. In conclusion, in reflecting on the occasions when David and Marion McCall would fly in their plane on the diocesan mission, these words from the wartime poet John Magee seem appropriate: 'Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth and danced the skies on laughter silvered wings . . . put out my hand, and touched the face of God.'

Some people may remember Marion, as she attended one of the Benalla Ladies Group meetings as a speaker many years ago with Valerie Beale, the wife of Bishop Robert Beale.

MOBILE MISSION MAINTENANCE

Its always wonderful to hear about people taking on mission projects to help other. Read below about one such organization MMM Australia.

MMM Australia (*Mobile Mission Maintenance*) partners with local churches, schools, and missions to provide building repairs, maintenance, and construction through volunteers. Their motto is to 'serve those who serve'.

As a volunteer organisation they continue to do this through the generous support of individuals and churches who contribute to our financial support through the Grace of God and through faithful prayer support for our teams.

The graphic features a red stylized logo at the top left, a grey brushstroke below it, and the tagline 'serving those who serve' in the top right. The background is a light yellow with a faint image of an airplane's wing. Two blue boxes with white text contain the vision and mission statements.

MMM Vision Statement

To see the Church operate with adequate facilities for people of every nation, people, and language to worship the living God, and to see believers empowered, equipped, and mobilized to fulfil the Great Commission.

MMM Mission Statement

MMM exists to spread the Gospel by building, renovating and maintaining facilities used in Christian outreach. It supports and encourages Christian work and workers while creating awareness of global missions and challenging people to become involved.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Please feel free to contact Fr Bill, his number is 0429 626 334

To contact our wardens:

Molly Craig 0417 058 567

Dawne Tonks 0427 185 711

Lesley Hupe 0412 111 397



DIRECT DEPOSIT FOR THE OFFERTORY

If you wish to pay your offering directly into the Parish bank account, you can do so by using the following information:

National Australia Bank

Anglican Parish of Benalla Account

BSB 083541 Account No. 51 568 8430

GRACE is the newsletter of The Anglican Parish of Benalla

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St. Paul's, Goorambat

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Find us on Facebook at Anglican Parish of Benalla



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