



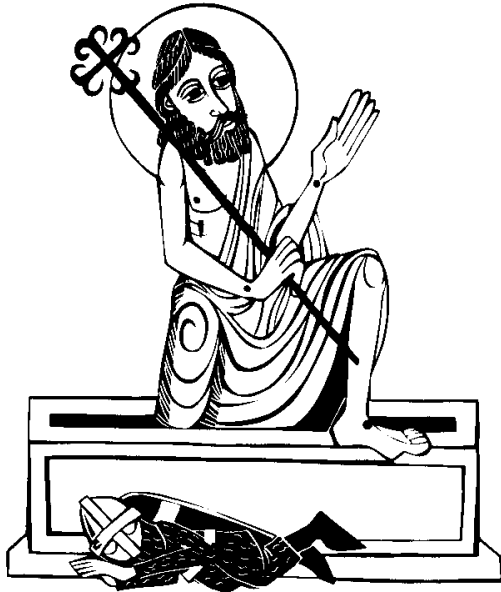
LION TALES



April 2010

The Quarterly Newsletter of
St Mark's Community Centre

(A partnership between St. Mark's, Fitzroy and Anglicare Victoria)



THE CRUCIFIXION

THE CRUCIFIXION - A REMINDER OF EXTREME SUFFERING AND PAIN

THE CROSS – JESUS PUNISHED, FOR MAN'S SIN, "GREATEST SHAME"

THE RESURRECTION – IT REALLY HAPPENED

BUT FREE FROM SIN WE CAN REMAIN

WHEN ALL EMBRACE "TRUE REPENTANCE"

IMMORTAL LIFE – "GREATEST GAIN"

[Written by one of our clients, Colin Gist]

FR. PHILIP MURPHY WRITES:

After some fifteen months of discussions, the Memorandum of Understanding between Anglicare Victoria and St Mark's Fitzroy was finally signed on Sunday 11th April at the Parish Mass.

As the Memorandum itself says, this venture is 'in response to the Christian calling to "be concerned for one another and to help one another show Christian love" (Hebrews 10:24).'

I believe that this is not only one of the most important moves we have made at St Mark's Community Centre in recent years, but is also of mutual benefit to the Community Centre and to Anglicare Victoria.

We certainly could have continued to run the Centre without having this Parish Partnership. However, just because we 'could' does not mean that we 'should' have continued to work in isolation.

Already we are seeing the benefits of this partnership, for our staff, our volunteers and most importantly for our clients as we strive to improve our response to the needs of those who are not supported by existing welfare or service agencies within the regional community.

And yet all this is (through the Parish Partnership Scheme) possible without losing our identity and link as a project of the Parish of St Mark, Fitzroy. The level of support shown on the day of the signing of the Memorandum by parishioners is evident of the fact that here at St Mark's we see the Community Centre as a vital part of our purpose here in this place.

What happened on Sunday 11th April may have been the result of much discussion, but it certainly is not the end of the journey. Ahead of us is now the possibility for an expansion of the programmes which we provide, a closer working with other agencies in the area and an improved service to our clients.

None of this would have been possible without the support we have had in the past and the work of our staff and volunteers over the years. None of the vision ahead of us will be possible without that same support from those who have been so generous in the past, *and our dedicated staff and volunteers today.*

I thank you for your continued support of the Centre and pray that we can continue to "be concerned for one another and to help one another show Christian love".



Pictured the photo shows:

Left to right: Fr. Philip Murphy (Parish Priest); Canon Ray Cleary (CEO of Anglicare Victoria); John Neale, Ellen Green and Rod Conn (Church Wardens, St. Mark's); Robin Ellwood (Centre Co-ordinator) and Tim Clark (Sports Co-ordinator). More photos on our Facebook page.

THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Some Points

- Anglicare agrees to take on the responsibility for the role played by St Mark's Fitzroy provided that the new role in the parish is broadened to address additional identified and agreed community needs including provision of programs for the homeless, children, youth, families at risk and disadvantaged persons who are not supported by existing welfare or service agencies within the regional community
- This Memorandum of Understanding shall operate for a three year period. The terms and conditions on which the project shall continue following this period shall be negotiated after an evaluation of the Co-operative venture for its first three year period.
- Either party to this declaration of intent may request a review of the declaration of intent prior to the expiry date.
- The Co-operative venture is established in response to the Christian calling to "be concerned for one another and to help one another show Christian love" (Hebrews 10:24). The Cooperative venture relationship is based on mutual support and growth, and aims to offer opportunities for families and individuals to reach their full potential. The activities and services of the Co-operative venture shall be:
 - Assist the homeless and the vulnerable to live with dignity, strengthening their self esteem and helping them live free from discrimination and disadvantage.
 - Provide information, support, education and counselling services;
 - Bring together the resources of Anglicare and the Parish to create a caring environment for people of the parish.
 - Provide opportunities for volunteerism.
- All staff of the Co-operative venture shall be employed by Anglicare in accordance with the personnel policies, practices, and management reporting lines of Anglicare.
- Anglicare will be responsible for the management of all programs and activities. Anglicare will be responsible for training. The Parish Management Committee will continue to provide advice to Anglicare. The committee will be responsible to assist with fundraising, preparation of budgets and a work plan that needs to be approved by the Committee and Anglicare. The Committee will meet at least 4 times per year. The Committee will include the Vicar, a Church Warden or their representative, a Vestry representative, the Program Coordinator, a representative from the supporting parishes, the Opportunity Shop Manager, a Client Representative (if available), the CEO of Anglicare – Ex Officio, and the General Manager Parish Partnership and Community Development.
- The Parish will support the joint partnership, by the provision of the buildings currently used by the programme and in-kind support as appropriate from time to time.
- All maintenance expenses, not connected with the programme, are the responsibility of the parish.

A copy of Fr Ray Cleary's sermon appears on our Facebook page – see links from the web site: www.stmarksfitzroy.com

BEQUESTS:

Have you considered making St Mark's a beneficiary in your will? When writing or updating your will, please consider furthering the work of the Centre in the longer term with a bequest.

ROBIN ELLWOOD WRITES:

Regulars at the Centre will know that I was fortunate enough to visit Cape Town recently where my niece was married. I last visited Cape Town 25 years ago, just before I started my priestly training when South Africa was a very different place. Having said this, the Cape always had a more relaxed air about it than the oppressive atmosphere of Pretoria where my sister and her family were stationed for over 21 years. At that time in the Cape, I was able to travel on the bus with people of all races, even those who spoke with clicks rather than words, which were fascinating to listen to.

Despite the many changes in post Apartheid South Africa, the black townships and squatter camps still remain and are hardly far from sight as one travels around. The ANC constructed nearly one million new dwellings (these mostly look like garden sheds to you and me), and the rows and rows of portaloos are a strange sight to behold, as are the electric cables reaching from the telegraph poles to the squatter camps.



In some parts black and white seem to sit happily alongside one another - working, socialising and living together in what were formerly 'whites only' suburbs; in other areas one would question whether there has been any change at all as you still pay the black man SAR2 (40 cents) to 'mind' your car whilst you park. Still, there is great hope currently as South Africa prepares to host the FIFA World Cup later this year. All around, in each of the major cities, there is a hive of activity and excitement as arrangements are made and the finishing

touches are applied to the stadia, the public transport systems and the other tourist attractions as they all prepare for the onslaught of extra visitors. Needless to say, we could have brought back plenty of World Cup souvenirs!

I liken that sense of hope and achievement in post-Apartheid South Africa to the Easter message – when the disciples of Jesus buried him in the tomb, they were in personal danger and thought that their mentor and leader had gone forever. Despite all of his profound teaching and the insight on the Transfiguration experienced by a few, most of this had gone over their head - they had scattered and given up hope. Only on seeing the Risen Lord after the Resurrection were they able to make some sort of sense of it all. For us, brought up with the knowledge of the Resurrection since our earliest days, it is something we can take for granted. That hope sustains us in sad times, especially on the death of a loved one. I wonder how I would have coped with my father's death 10 years ago without such faith. Sometimes, when working as a priest, it was hard to comfort those with little or no faith when a family member had died. For them, death really was the end.

It is with that sense of hope and love that we run the Centre here at St. Mark's. Despite the tragic circumstances of many of our clients we try to create a safe place for them to gather and to feel accepted and loved (that Christian concept of love). Little things most of us take for granted can mean so much to a homeless person of modest means. The other day I was thanked for the parcel of toiletries a client had received at Christmas – as it was a woman, I said I hoped she'd not been given shaving foam or a man's razor! She said it wouldn't have mattered if she had as it was the sheer joy of having a present to open and the fact that someone had thought enough to give her something.

SPORTING EVENTS – TIM CLARK:

St. Mark's has put on sport in a number of areas throughout the late summer and early autumn. In cricket we played in the ReLink Super8's Competition with eight other teams. The games were played on the beautiful Banyule Flats grounds at Heidelberg, which are maintained by the Banyule City Council. Incidentally, since 1994, Banyule CC has given ReLink free use of the grounds for both ReLink competitions, which has been a huge help. We are grateful to them. As for the cricket, skills and attitudes were good. We played in the B Grade Grand Final and only lost narrowly. It is worth noting that in making the B Grade Grand Final, we finished in the top four teams overall.

Lawn Bowls continues weekly at North Fitzroy. In mid-March we travelled to Ballarat

to play in the next of the series of ReLink Bowls Tournaments. Coming up against Outer East A, our team won convincingly and won for the second time in a row the trophy for the best team. It is also worth noting that a number of our bowlers are playing pennant on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Here, most importantly, they are having contact with the local club members.

COMING EVENTS:

Bowls Competition, Lilydale 16th April

Football season starts 21st April

Pool season starts 23rd April

Thanks to St. Mary's House of Welcome for their help with the minibus throughout the season.

(Thanks to Tim for all he does in mentoring and supporting the teams, plus the hard work of co-ordinating with other agencies. RE).

OPPORTUNITY SHOP – JOHN NAUM:

At the shop we welcome new volunteers Denise, Tim and Rico who have generously offered their time. Denise arrived from England in January when her husband was transferred to Melbourne by his employer for two years. Tim is studying communication, has formed a band with friends and has offered to help out on a Wednesday. Rico, who is a welfare student and works part time as a masseur also assists at the Community Centre and finds time to help us on a Tuesday.

We are still in need of more volunteers. Anyone who is interested can contact **John** on **9417 2965**, or drop into the shop at **298**

Smith Street, Collingwood and have a chat.

The shop continues to thrive thanks to our volunteers and the generous donations from St. Mark's Community, the general public, St. Bartholomew's, Burnley and St. Agnes, Blackrock. We look forward to your continued support, and please keep those donations coming.

(Thanks to John, Sharyne and the team of volunteers who work so hard to run the shop - this is one of our main sources of income. Can I echo John's request for more volunteers both for whole and part days.

If you haven't already visited the shop, do please come in and have a browse – you never know what sort of bargain you might find!)

CAN YOU HELP A YOUNG PERSON LEARN TO DRIVE?

Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services are looking for volunteers to help learner drivers aged 16-20 who are unable to access traditional supports to accrue learner driving experience. Safe vehicles, training, insurance and ongoing support are all provided. Further information from **Julie** on **(03) 8412-7316** or visit: www.goodshepherdvic.org.au.

PARISH HARVEST FESTIVALS:

Please let us know if, when you are having Harvest celebrations, you will be bringing the fresh produce to St. Mark's so that we have some idea of what other fresh produce we will need to order in at the time. Thanks.

We don't do this job for rewards, but it's when you are on the receiving end of a 'thank you' you know you are on the right lines.

WELCOME . . .

. . . to new helpers Rico, Brian and Joy, who have joined our team of volunteers at the Centre. They are all college students from China and have offered their time as part of a community service module in their courses. We still have plenty of work for new volunteers – if you would like to know more, please contact Robin at the Centre.

We also welcome to the Centre Kent's new dog 'Chino' who made his first visit this week and hopes to become a regular member of the team, even barking at those who raised their voices at the staff!!!

A BIG THANK YOU . . .

. . . to Alan Phessey, who came out of retirement to manage the Centre in my absence. The clients caused him some entertainment when asking questions such as: Did you have a nice holiday? (He's been gone for nine months!!). He concluded that as long as someone is signing cheques or prescription letters, it doesn't really matter who is in charge!

Thanks also to Meigs Ghent who also came out of retirement to assist Alan in processing a large food delivery from Brighton Grammar School.

Thanks too, to Monty Stevens, the staff and students of Brighton Grammar for their quarterly delivery of foodstuffs and other goods – without them we really would struggle to feed the clients at times.

Mention must also be made to VicRelief, Second Bite and Fare Share who make valiant efforts to prevent good foodstuffs from being wasted and going into landfill sites. Centres such as our own reap the benefits of their far-sightedness.

Thanks to the donors of our new tumble drier and bar fridge. The tumble drier particularly is of great benefit to the

homeless who can not only wash, but dry their clothes whilst on site. This will be of added benefit during the winter months. Thanks too, to John at the shop for providing us with a supply of dressing gowns for the clients so they can now wait, with some decency, for their clothes to dry.

To Ryan Sherbrooke and his team at Anglicare Victoria for recently refurbishing and decorating our Food Preparation area – they made valiant efforts to get the job started and finished in Holy Week. Their thoughts being that we could work in Easter Hope in more pleasant surroundings.

As always, thanks to the many individuals, parish communities, schools, organisations and trusts who support us on a regular basis, both with foodstuffs and financial donations. Most importantly, thanks, too, to those who assist us both at the Centre and the Opp Shop with their time – a very precious commodity these days.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

We are currently investigating the possibility of some funding towards the construction of a kitchenette near the pool area in the big hall, plus some floor to ceiling storage cupboards. This will be a major expenditure, but will allow for a healthier place for the clients to make refreshments and provide much needed storage, not just for the drop-in centre, but also additional welfare groups such as Narcotics Anonymous.

Recently one of our freezers has just received a death sentence – it could be weeks, it could be months, so if anyone has a tall, upright freezer looking for a new home, please let me know.

Together with Anglicare, we will also look at other improvements to the Centre, to provide a better environment for the clients and the staff to gather. Just because people are homeless, they shouldn't have to exist in less than ideal conditions when they visit us – we want to give them that sense of hope when they come to see us.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Monday 26th April** 11am (Public Holiday) - Solemn Mass for St. Mark's Day, with Father Richard Seabrook (Administrator of the Diocese of The Murray) preaching.
- **Sunday 9th May** - St. Mark's Harvest Festival at the 9.30 a.m. Mass
- **Sunday 23rd May** – Robin Ellwood preaching at the 9.30 a.m. Pentecost Mass

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR FACEBOOK PAGE?

This is directly accessible from our web page: www.stmarksfitzroy.com - so why not become a Fan of St. Mark's? There are some up-to-date photos of recent activities to view, including the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

LION TAILS BY EMAIL:

Don't forget that you can now receive your copy of Lion Tales by email which helps us at St. Mark's by saving money on the postage. Please let me know by sending an email to: robin@stmarksfitzroy.com.

ON-LINE BANKING:

A number of our supporters have asked about making payments to St. Mark's via internet banking. This is of course possible.

The required bank details are:

Bank: Commonwealth Bank

BSB Number: 063-123

Account Number: 1012-2989

A/C Name: St. Mark's Com. Centre
Opp Shop

SWIFT CODE CTBAAU25

Please ensure that you include your name as a reference so that we can acknowledge your donation and issue a receipt.

ABOUT DONATIONS

TO:

St. Mark's Community Centre, 250 George Street, FITZROY, Vic. 3065
Tel: (03) 9419-3288; Fax: (03) 9417-5398; Email: robin@stmarksfitzroy.com

*"INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN,
YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME." [Matthew 25:40]*

Here is my gift of \$..... to support the work of St. Mark's Community Centre
(Gifts of \$2.00 and above are tax deductible)

Nam

Address:

..... Post Code:

If you do not wish to contribute at this time, please ignore this form.



ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY CENTRE, FITZROY

The following items are always welcome contributions for our food parcels:

Weet-Bix type Cereals

400g Tins of Baked Beans/Spaghetti

400g Tins of Vegetables, Tomatoes, Fruit etc.

400g Tins of Soup/500g Tins of 'Chunky' Soup

400g Tins of Stew/Curry/Bolognese/Pies etc

Tins of Fish/Meat

Packets of Cuppa Soup

Bags of Pasta/Spaghetti & Jars of Pasta Sauce

Packs of Flavoured Noodles

Bags of Rice

Own brand Coffee/Tea/Milo/Sugar – for the Lounge

Long life milk – for the Lounge

Soaps/shampoo/toothbrushes/toothpaste/razors

(and hotel/in-flight type toiletries are always useful)

ST MARK'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

(A partnership between St. Mark's, Fitzroy and Anglicare Victoria)

250 George Street, Fitzroy, Victoria. 3065.

Telephone: (03) 9419-3288; Fax: (03) 9417-5398;

Email: robin@stmarksfitzroy.com

Websites: <http://www.stmarksfitzroy.com>

<http://www.anglicarevic.org.au>

Our Facebook page can be accessed directly from the parish website and includes photos from the Centre

OPPORTUNITY SHOP:

298 Smith Street, Collingwood, Victoria. 3066 Telephone: 9417-2965

ABN 35 967 059 134



Squatter Camps, post Apartheid South Africa
(Enlargement, Robin Ellwood's photo)
See his article, above.

