



# LION TALES



September 2010

The Quarterly Newsletter of

**St Mark's Community Centre**

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

250 George Street, Fitzroy, Victoria. 3065.

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## "ACHIEVING SALVATION"

Jesus bore the suffering  
and Jesus bore the pain,  
Jesus was the offering,  
and for all man's sin was slain.  
Now God's Kingdom to enter,  
all from sin we must repent,  
Accept Jesus as our Saviour,  
immortal life of great content.

*From Colin Gist, our resident poet.*

## "SERVICES"

*- in honour of Fr. Philip*

Today there's gospel readings,  
great messages to hear.  
From a true and faithful servant,  
dedicated and sincere.  
This will be his final sermon,  
but his influence lingers too,  
Ministering here or other parish,  
Christian message "to imbue".

## ROBIN ELLWOOD WRITES:

In the last Lion Tales I wrote about changes at the Centre in that we hoped to concentrate our services on supporting homeless people and Asylum Seekers, and this has been the case since 01 July. We do this in partnership with Anglicare Victoria at Mission House in Napier Street, also in Fitzroy who concentrate on working with families and people living in Ministry of Housing properties.

The transition has worked very smoothly and means that we are able to offer an improved response to those with the greatest need. Instead of a monthly food parcel, we are now giving food on a weekly basis which is far better for clients who have nowhere to store things and who carry all their possessions with them.

The atmosphere at the Centre has also changed for the better and we have all commented in the sense of camaraderie amongst the clients as they gather together to enjoy a cuppa or whatever other refreshments might be on offer. We were given a television and an old three piece suite so we are gradually making the place more home like. We hope to expand the services even further with opening for longer hours and on more days in future months through our partnership with Anglicare, so watch this space! We will need even more support and the generosity of volunteers to make

this happen. We also hope to be able to offer a more holistic and comprehensive approach to our outreach to the homeless through addition services such as podiatry, the Royal District Nursing Service, mental health nursing, disability & employment services plus other recreational therapies.

We are still awaiting news on our application to build a new kitchenette in the main hall but were successful in our application to **Woolworths** to buy a 'sneeze counter' which means that we can display and store foods in a more hygienic manner. We have also received some generous donations from the **Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation** and **The Marian & E.H. Flack Trust**.

As always, Monty Stevens and the staff & students from Brighton Grammar School came up trumps recently with their quarterly donation of food and other necessities and as the hall was required for the General Election, were very efficient in helping us to both count and store the goods for later use.

Thanks to **VicRelief**, **Second Bite** and **Fare Share** who make considerable efforts to prevent good foodstuffs from being wasted and going into landfill sites. Centres such as our own reap the benefits of the **Feed Melbourne Campaign**.

We are grateful 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.

Thanks as always, to **Lyn Wilson** for editing Lion Tales, especially as she is

on holiday in W.A. and looking after her grandchildren at the moment.

## CHRISTMAS PARCELS:

Dare I mention how many shopping days there are left until Christmas?!! Some of the bigger stores already have already their Christmas stocks in, although these were competing with Fathers' Day gifts recently!

Last year people were very generous, but often we were given items that were too large for our clients. Now that we are concentrating on **single homeless people** and **Asylum Seekers**, we would like to distribute parcels made up of the following **smaller** items:

- 340g tins of Ham or Turkey
- 100g Christmas Puddings (*cheapest brand*)
- 100g Christmas Cakes or packs of Christmas Cake Slices (*e.g. Mr Kipling*)
- Packs of 6 Mince Pies
- Small pack of Teabags
- Small jar of Coffee
- Small pack of Sugar
- 200ml carton Milk
- Packs of Sweets/Lollies
- Chips/Chocolate/Soft Drink
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Flannel/Soap/Shampoo
- Razor/Shaving cream/Comb/Talc



When I lived in Jersey (*Channel Islands*) the local St. Vincent de Paul Society always had a **Giving Tree** to assist them in the making up of Christmas Hampers. They would hang labels each listing one item such as those above on a Christmas tree in each of the island churches. In the weeks prior to parcel distribution, people would take some of the labels and then bring them back with the wrapped items attached – it was a great way to get the whole community involved and

very popular with the children. Perhaps this is an idea you could adopt in your own parish or school community??

#### **GOODBYE/HELLO:**

Recently our students **Rico Lin, Brian Jian** and **Karen Kan** completed their total hours of community service at the Centre. We will miss their contribution and their assistance in interpreting for the Chinese clients. We welcome **Kirk Vandergrift**, an American student from Melbourne University who will be studying here this semester.

Of course we also said 'Farewell' to Fr. Philip with a soiree of past and present Centre and Opp Shop staff and volunteers on 10 September (see our Facebook page for photos). We will miss his daily visits to the Centre to offer support, but as he will also be working with homeless young people in the Northern suburbs, we hope to return that encouragement with Fr. Philip's new venture, **Catchment Youth Services**.

Whilst the parish is awaiting a new permanent appointment, we will be in the capable hands of **Fr. Jim Pilmer**, who with his wife Rosemary, is a regular supporter of the Centre and its work.



#### **FROM FR. GRAHAM REYNOLDS - DIRECTOR OF PARISH PARTNERSHIPS, ANGLICARE**

##### **VICTORIA:**

I would like to pay tribute to Fr Philip's rôle as Vicar of St Mark's and for the very strong support he has given to the Community Centre. We all wish him well in his new rôle working with the young who are homeless.

As we settle into our partnership we can look forward to new developments.

In the coming months we are planning to be open on more days and begin to offer more services to our clients. Our new C.E.O. Paul McDonald is authorising the purchase of a 12 seater bus to use with our homeless programmes. This will allow us to take advantage of more recreational opportunities for our clients. Also some basic refurbishment of the Drop in Centre will take place in the coming months which will brighten up the place and make it more cheery.

Next Sunday is Social Justice Sunday - I look forward to seeing many of you at St Mark's for Mass and sharing with you the Gospel insights into God's call for us to "love justice" both as individuals and as a parish community.

God Bless you all,  
Graham Reynolds

#### **FROM PAUL MCDONALD – THE NEW CEO OF ANGLICARE VICTORIA:**

It's a great pleasure to write for "Lion Tales" for the first time.

As the new CEO of Anglicare Victoria, I have been very impressed with the commitment and approach of Anglicare Victoria's staff and its programs to assist the most vulnerable children, young people, adults and families in Victoria.

I have worked in the community welfare and government sector for many years, including the areas of child protection, homelessness, drug and alcohol and family services, and it is a privilege to arrive at Anglicare Victoria and witness the great work being undertaken by the organisation for those most in need. In particular I have been greatly impressed in the recreation, drop in centre and emergency relief initiatives that have been developing within the St Mark's program.

Our St Mark's program is an important part of our profile of services, as they directly target our homeless and disengaged adults. To create an environment where people feel they can belong to a community, have the opportunity to participate in an array of activities and services to develop necessary life skills in an easy and friendly manner, is important for those most marginalised in our community.

I am keen to develop further at St Mark's our work with adults. The programs through ReLink, its drop in approach and the different services that operate out of the centre are great foundations to build on for our work with the men and women who frequent the centre. I see St Mark's as our 'go to' drop in centre for homeless and displaced adults in the

inner city. I am interested in better connecting our Lazarus Centre and St Peter's Eastern Hill initiatives with our St Mark's services, so as to provide an interconnected array of services for those on the street.

With this in mind, we are in the process of purchasing a mini bus so that we can commute our clients to activities and services that they wish to participate in. Also, I am interested in looking at what array of services of a recreational, social and health nature we should try and attract into the centre.

Over the coming months we will be thinking about the next steps for our St Mark's programmes and I look forward to participating in this journey with you.

FOR YOUR  
DIARY

- **Vicarage 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 24 September**
- **Social Justice Sunday – 26 September – 9.30 a.m.** Solemn mass for the work of the Community Centre celebrated by Fr. Graham Reynolds followed by Guild shared lunch & sale.
- **AGM & Lunch – 25 November** after the 11a.m. mass

#### **SPORTING EVENTS - TIM CLARK:**

St. Mark's has put on sport in a number of areas throughout the late winter and early spring. In bowls we decided to do indoors in late winter and played at the Darebin International Bowls Centre in Thornbury. This centre as used for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. Once the weather improves our players will return to outdoor bowls at the Fitzroy Club. Here several of our players, who are members of the club, will start the Pennant Season soon.

Our football team, the Collingwood Knights, recently played in a grand final against The Living Room at the famous old Victoria park ground in Collingwood. Because of good skills and fitness we prevailed on the day. We received a trophy and each player was awarded a medallion.

Pool ended up in late July with our team again in the finals In a tight 'tussle' with St. Kilda Drop-in Centre we went down narrowly by one game and were unfortunately eliminated. This year was really encouraging. Skills and attitudes improved and new players were 'blooded'! Cricket started on 08 September with Laneway Cricket in Union Place in the City near to Bourke Street. With only six players on each side, the action is fast and furious - this the players really enjoyed. After Laneway Cricket we go onto Indoor Cricket, then 20/20 cricket with the Clem Briggs Junior Cup and after Christmas the Super Eights.

*A big 'thank you' to Tim for all he does in mentoring and supporting the clients plus the hard work of co-ordinating with ReLink and the other agencies.*

### **OPPORTUNITY SHOP REFIT:**

A big 'thank you' to **Trevor Whittaker, Andrew McComas, Robin Croton** and all who have worked so hard to refit the Opportunity Shop which was formally opened on **Friday 17 September** by Jenny O'Keefe, Presenter of The Breakfast Spread on PBS 106.7 FM.

If you haven't already been to see the newly refurbished shop please do so. We are now open on Mondays in addition to the five days we were already open so are able to offer a more credible service to clients and customers alike. Please keep the good quality stock coming in. As well as supplying the clients with good quality clothing and household goods, the shop is a major source of income for the Centre.

### **OPPORTUNITY SHOP – ROBIN CROTON:**

The last month in the shop has been dedicated to renovations. A lot of the work has been simple painting, but like many makeovers, starting on one area often shows flaws in other areas. So it was in the shop, beautiful clean white walls suddenly drew attention to those horrible old wires clumped together behind fading pictures.

Over many years the shop had broken mirrors that we had not felt we could throw away and cork tiles on the floor were curling up their toes in each of their corners and becoming a danger to customers who could trip on them. Our fading lights gave the sense of walking into a dungeon where one hoped to find hidden treasure.

But one of our biggest obstacles was our own state of mind. Most of us felt that because all the stock was donated to us we didn't really have the right to decide that some of it was un-saleable and dispose of it. But the reality is that some donors do a massive clear out of their houses or even a relative's or friend's house and they gather up all the items. They may not be in a position to decide what to keep and what

to donate or they may not have a say as to where the goods are to go. All charities face this problem but the renovation has given us the chance to look at this problem and make some decisions.

Goods that we believe we will not be able to sell in the shop we have found organisations who will buy most of them. Although we will not make a great deal of money from this source it does allay our worries about dealing with un-saleable items.

Sharyne has made a great difference by ensuring all clothes are priced before they are put in the shop. She has moved all our winter stock upstairs and is in the process of moving summer stock into the shop. This has involved a lot of work of moving stock up and down stairs as well as cleaning the upstairs area and labelling all the goods.

Behind all this work has been Trevor ably assisted by Andrew. Together they have worked the miracle that is the new shop. Both of them have worked every day and night that was possible. Trevor has also done a lot of the purchasing of everything from paint to clothing racks and had the vision to give a very bright yellow back wall. Not a yellow brick road but certainly as good.

*Thanks also to Robin, Sharyne and the great team of volunteers who manage the shop, and for working through the chaos of the building works. The shop no longer has that jumble sale appearance, but looks like a High Street store. As fast as things are put out on display, they seem to go, which is what it's all about – raising much needed funds for the Centre. We have been given some extremely good items to sell which of course improves both the image of the place and the takings.*

*As always, we are in need of more volunteers for the shop – if you can't manage a whole day can you manage half a day, or even two hours on a regular basis?)*

### **The shop is now open from**

**Monday to Saturday,  
10.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.**

Do you have any of the following items which are always in demand for the shop??

- Picture frames
- Vases
- Plants
- Perfumes
- Blankets
- Books
- Bags
- CD's, DVD's and
- Videos
- Luggage



- Shoes
- Jackets
- Belts
- Kitchenware
- Hats
- Reading glasses & Sunglasses
- Jewellery
- Shopping trolleys
- Wallets
- Lampshades
- Small items of furniture e.g. bookcases, bedside tables, chairs
- Posters, Prints, Paintings

Our homeless clients often ask us for tin openers so if you have any spare, do please pass them on. Thanks.

### **CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS:**

A few weeks ago we had the company of eight members of the **National Australia Bank's Events & Sponsorship Team** (*Business Banking Strategy & Marketing*) who spent a day at the Centre, the Opportunity Shop and joined the sports team for lunch at St. Mary's House of Welcome and Indoor Bowls at the Darebin International Sports Centre. They wrote afterwards:

*"A BIG THANK YOU for your email and for giving our team the opportunity to volunteer at St Mark's - we all found our volunteer day extremely educational, insightful and rewarding. We all separately reflected on our experience and spoke about it to all our family and friends over the weekend."*

NAB hope to continue their involvement in the next few months, especially in the run up to Christmas. If your company would also like to get involved at St. Mark's, either for one day or over a period of time, then please let us know – we are always happy to welcome new people to the Centre.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:robin@stmarksfitzroy.com).

### **HAVE YOU VISITED OUR FACEBOOK PAGE?**

This is directly accessible from our web page: [www.stmarksfitzroy.com](http://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.

## ON-LINE BANKING

With the new St Mark's/Anglicare partnership, we have a new bank account, so should you wish to make a donation via your bank rather than sending cash or a cheque, the procedure has changed:

1. Go to the Anglicare Victoria website: [www.anglicarevic.org.au](http://www.anglicarevic.org.au)
2. Click on 'Get Involved'
3. Click on 'Donate online'
4. Complete the 'Major Appeals Donations' page
5. In the box marked: Where did you hear about Anglicare Victoria? Click on 'Other'
6. And on: 'If other, please specify' type in "St. Mark's Community Centre"

**A receipt will be issued as is the current practice. Rest assured that all monies intended for St. Mark's will come to us here and will not be sent to a general pot for other programmes.**

## ABOUT DONATIONS

### DONATION ENVELOPES:

If you have given a donation recently, or do not wish to contribute at this time, please ignore the form below. The enclosed envelope may be used:-

- For a donation
- To notify us of a change of address
- To request removal from our mailing list, or
- To forward names & addresses of others interested in our work.

Many thanks.

**TO: The Co-ordinator, St. Mark's Community Centre,  
250 George Street, FITZROY, Victoria. 3065**

**[Tel: (03) 9419-3288; Fax: (03) 9417-5398; Email: [robin@stmarksfitzroy.com](mailto: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 and above are tax deductible)

Name: .....

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/Packs of Pasta Meals

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

(Hotel/in-flight type toiletries are always useful)

**[NO BABY FOODS - thanks]**

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

Email: [robin@stmarksfitzroy.com](mailto:robin@stmarksfitzroy.com)

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

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

Our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/stmarksfitzroy](http://www.facebook.com/stmarksfitzroy)) 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

NEW ABN: 97 397 067 466