

Parish Life



St Mary's
ANGLICAN CHURCH
MORWELL

Christmas Hope

I love the theme of hope which runs through the Advent and Christmas narrative. Hope of a newborn baby for Elizabeth and Zechariah, hope in the angel's amazing announcement for Mary and Joseph, hope of new life and salvation for the shepherds and the wise ones! Today we certainly need hope. The world situation with wars, climate issues, droughts and increasing divisions between people can make us feel depressed and hopeless.

I hold onto the stories of positive change that happen when ordinary people are prepared to share their time or resources. I think of the children who will get gifts from the Anglicare appeal or in those shoeboxes we sent overseas. I think of the remote village which now has access to clean water because of Christian giving.

And I think of the personal hope and new life we find when we choose to place our worries, our difficult situations and our hopelessness into Jesus' care. I am continually encouraged by the stories we tell each other of changed lives. I am so encouraged when people tell me that they are finding they can connect again with people after a terrible tragedy. It's often a 'one day at a time' journey, but the Christmas message is that Jesus really does bring us new life and hope if we take that small step towards him in faith and trust.

The Anglican Parish of Morwell

St Mary's, 2-6 Latrobe Road

Office phone: 4109 1423 (new, use Sue's mobile in preference)

Email: morwellanglican@outlook.com

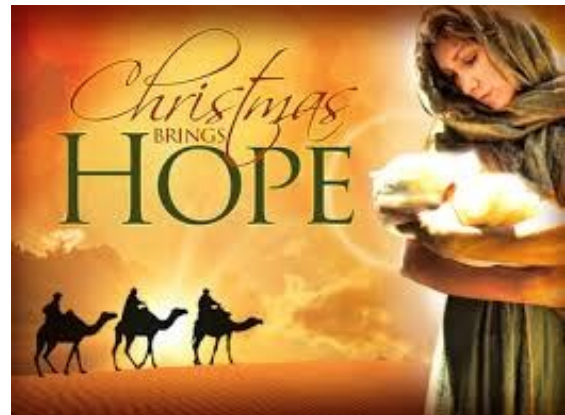
Rector: Revd Sue Jacka, 0409 757 170
suejacka@outlook.com

Associate Priest: Revd Kathy Dalton

Retired Clergy: Revds. Clem Watts, and Russell Jones

Rector's warden: Sandra Wagner
0402 351 612

Fossick and Find: 74 George St Morwell,
Mon– Fri 10am–3pm (03) 4120 0840



**You are invited to our
Community Christmas Carols**

Date: Sunday December 8th, 2024
Time: 7:30 - 9:00 PM
Location: St Mary's Anglican Church, 2-4
Latrobe Rd, Morwell
Featuring: The Morwell Citizen's Band,
soloist Steph Morgan, supper
Entry by donation to support the
Christmas Bowl Appeal

St Mary's Christmas services:

Sunday 8th Dec 7.30pm

Carols with the Latrobe
Citizens band, supper

Tuesday 24th Dec

**6pm Carols and Nativity
(kids can dress up)**

11pm 'Midnight Mass'

Christmas Day 25th Dec

9am Christmas Day service

Christmas giving

This year our parish has again supported the Anglicare Christmas Toy and Food appeal with a large donation of toys and Christmas delicacies. The staff were very grateful for these donations which will make Christmas a happy occasion for people doing it tough.



The offerings from our Christmas services will be given to the ecumenical Christmas Bowl appeal. If you would like to make a tax deductible offering/donation, please see the article on the right for details. You might also like to put out a small bowl for donations at your Christmas gatherings. Refugees from war and disaster areas are in great need at this time as your guests will be aware.

You May Have Heard It Said'

The Anglican Church of Australia has launched a social media campaign to tackle the root causes of domestic violence. The 'You May Have Heard It Said' campaign echoes the words of Jesus and contrast the unhealthy attitudes that can lead to domestic violence with healthy ones. For example, 'You may have heard it' said that a man has the right to control their partner, however, Jesus repeatedly challenged the unjust treatment of women, teaching that both men and women are created equally in God's image. An image bearer of God is to be respected.' The campaign coincides with the United Nations initiative 16 days of activism gender-based violence from 24 November to 10 December. It reflects the churches commitment to prevent and address domestic and family violence affecting its members and those in the broader community.

"The Anglican Church is determined to be a part of the solution to the national problem gender-based violence and support victims and survivors of intimate partner violence," Primate of the Anglican Church, Archbishop Geoff Smith said.



Above: Here are some of our donations at the Morwell Anglicare office.

Share God's love through the Christmas Bowl



Thank you for joining with churches across Australia as we share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Since 1949, the Christmas Bowl has brought together committed Australian Christians with dedicated local partners around the world to give hope to people uprooted by conflict and disaster. By sharing this tradition, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



We all need to be alert to instances of such violence and stand with the people affected. The Orange Door 1800 319 354, just around the corner in Commercial Road, provides an 'all-in-one-place' support and people can just drop in without a referral. Check out the Facebook and Instagram posts.

Gender-based violence is often hidden in plain sight and happens in all our communities.

Unite in 16 Days of Activism.





Blue Donation Bins

There has been an increase in the problems with our blue donation bins at the rear of the car park. There has been such a mess left when unknown people come, mainly at night, to pull out the bags of donations and sift through them to take what they want. Some of these people have been captured on our video surveillance cameras climbing in and out of the bins.

They have left a terrible lot of work for our volunteers to clean up and many otherwise useful donations have been rendered worthless when it rains and they get muddied.

An executive decision was made to remove the bins after we learned from our insurers that we are liable if one of these people causing problems is injured in their escapades. This decision is also to care for our volunteer drivers who do an amazing job and do not need the frustration of all this extra, dirty work.

Donations will only be possible via friends or through 'Fossick and Find' when it is open.

Left: this mess is typical, but certainly not the worst we have seen. It has become an almost daily occurrence.

Vale Ian McArthur

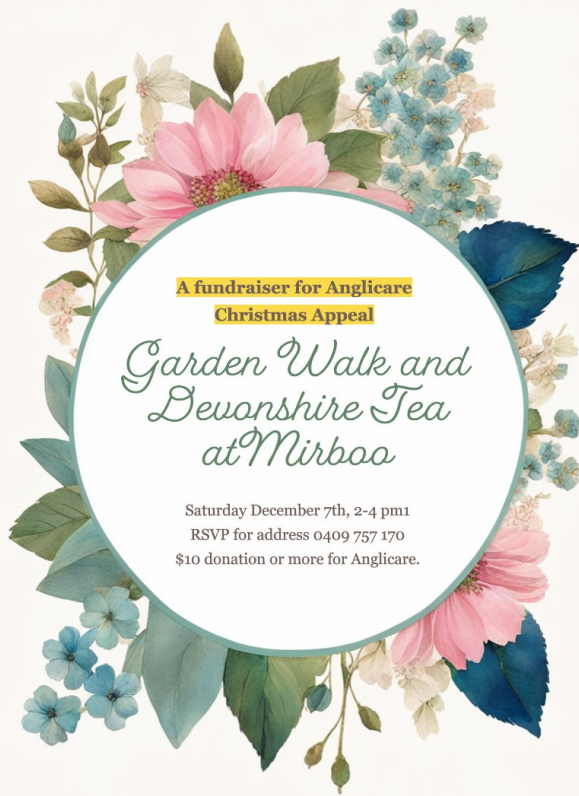
We farewelled Ian McArthur on Thursday 14th November at the Latrobe Valley Funeral Services, Traralgon. We celebrated his caring and long life. At 92 he often said that he was the last one left of his generation of family and that many of his friends had died before him. Ian's death has come as quite a shock to many as he was a man quite engaged with life and people despite his increasing dementia until quite recently. I want to acknowledge the thoughtful care given by Marilyn and other family members which enabled Ian to stay at home, either in Morwell or Metung until the last few weeks of his life when he had a short spell in hospital and then some respite care.

We offer our support to Marilyn, Lisa and John, Sue and Ian and grandchildren Jack, Xavier, Allannah and Sarah in their time of grief.



Top: Ian at the family house in Metung, Above: The McArthur family.





Save the dates

Saturday Dec 7th 2-4pm Garden Walk and Devonshire tea at 1295 Boolarra South Mirboo North Road, Mirboo. (Sue and Ross' place) 2pm, \$10 or more if you'd like (supports Missions and Anglicare)

Sunday 8th December:

Christmas Carols with Morwell Citizens Band. 7.30pm

Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve:

6pm Carols and Nativity, St Mary's

11pm 'Midnight Mass'

Christmas Day 9am Holy Communion

Kids and family activities program- stay tuned for the dates in January

*This Christmas may your home be filled
With the Joy Jesus brings,
May your heart overflow with love,
May there be laughter in your life
And may there be warmth and Hope in your
soul.*

From Sue, Ross and Miriam



Mowing the church lawns will now be so much quicker with a ride-on mower. One similar to this is being donated by Ross and Sue Jacka.