

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST MICHAEL'S

INTERSECTION

MARCH 2013

Images of Opening of Programs 2013



Top left: Bill Morgan (Dean of Household) and Roger Hersey (iPads Teacher, St Michael's Council Member) enjoying the day.

Top centre: Executive Minister Dr Francis Macnab with Council Member and Programs Facilitator (Poetry Group and Men's Shed) Dr Peter Kingsbury.

Top right: Janette James of our Interfaith Committee, looking inspired.

Centre left: The people gather for a barbeque lunch in the courtyard to celebrate the Opening of St Michael's Programs and The Centre for Wellbeing for 2013.

Above centre: Dean of Contact and Care Lyndell O'Brien with Council Member Maree MacDonald.

Above right: Melissa and son hanging out at the festivities.

Left: Assistant Deans Evelyn and Alan McLaren with Council Member Helen Hardham at the welcoming table.

Men, women and churches

An excerpt from an article appearing 'Transit Lounge', written by Amy Goodhew:

A proposal by the Anglican Church for a wife to promise to 'submit' to her husband in her marriage vows has caused a furore in the Australian media.

The liturgical panel of the church's Sydney diocese has proposed the word 'submit' as an alternative to the traditional vows that use the word 'obey'. The Bishop of South Sydney, Robert Forsyth says the choice of the word 'submit' is based on the New Testament which talks about the church submitting to Christ.

In Christian faith, the (contested/dubious) concept of 'headship' has been the justification for this arrangement. The idea is that men and women were created for gender specific roles – men for leadership and women for 'helping' the man in his leadership and accepting his superior position.

Bible verses such as Ephesians 5:22 (NKJV) 'Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord' are often cited in support of this position. This justification has received short shrift from Australian women.

Kate Galloway, a lecturer at James Cook University, observed in Women's Agenda "If the Church wants to facilitate a rite in which consenting couples submit to each other, it is free to do so. But when it is acting as the agent of the state to solemnise an institution of the law, it must be held to contemporary standards of justice. Validating women's submission to men fails to meet this standard".

The outcry is a reminder that our work towards equality is not yet finished. Particularly in religion, gender relationships can be uneasy. In many different faiths, women have been relegated to a 'helper' role, blamed for bringing sin into the world while considered a possession of a man and carrying responsibility for all of the other 'possessions' in his life (home, children, property).

Julia Baird, Fairfax journalist and herself part of the Anglican Church in Australia wrote in the Sydney Morning Herald "The problem with the doctrine of headship has long been this: how do they explain the fact that women can be leaders in the business or political world - or even queens, the heads of the entire communion - and yet must only act as subordinates and

helpmates in the church? What would Anglicans think, say, of a female prime minister or governor-general?"

For the record, the Uniting Church in Australia does not require women to promise to 'obey' or 'submit' to her husband in marriage. The Uniting Church also ordains women and supports women in leadership. This understanding is taken from Jesus' ministry and the new community of justice and equality he speaks of. These kingdom values call for equality between the genders at home, the workplace and the church. In the foundational document of the Uniting Church, the 'Basis of Union', particular emphasis is given to recognising the gifts and calling of both men and women. The Uniting Church Paper 'Why the UCA ordains men and women' says "ordination of both men and women is a fundamental implication of the gospel. We believe that to deny ordination to a person on the grounds of gender alone is to deny a basic feature of this gospel, which reveals God's love for all human beings without distinction".



Musical magic

In February St Michael's morning services were again enriched by visits from guest artists Geoffrey Payne of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and soprano Greta Bradman.

The ever popular lunchtime organ recitals will also host special guests over the coming weeks. On March 14, Sydney Braunfeld (horn) will join organist Rhys Boak at 1pm, and on April 4 soprano Shu-Cheen Yu will return to St Michael's for the free 1pm recital.

English conversation

The Centre for Wellbeing is pleased to offer a new educational and community building initiative in the form of English conversation groups for overseas students and migrants wishing to meet with a group of friendly Australians for a coffee and a chat.

If you know anyone who would benefit from the group please don't hesitate to give them the group information (**right**).

The English Conversation for Overseas Students (ECOS) Group will meet each month on the last Sunday of the month in the Waratah Room, 1st floor St Michael's Centre, 120 Collins Street Melbourne.

A donation of \$2 is requested and tea/coffee and biscuits are provided.

Enquiries about the Group: 9654 5120 or www.centreforwellbeing.org.au

ECOS

English Conversation with Overseas Students and Migrants

This is an opportunity for international students and migrants who want to enjoy English conversation and meeting Australians in a friendly environment. It is relaxed, friendly conversation while sharing tea, coffee and snacks.

Fee: \$2 (Refreshments provided).

When:

The last Sunday of most months

Commencing February 24: 11.45am – 1pm

Then: March 24, April 28, May 26, June 30, July 28,

August 25, Oct 27, Nov 24

Where:

The Waratah Room, (St Michael's Uniting Church)

1st Floor, St Michael's Centre, 120 Collins Street

Melbourne, 3000

No need to book – just come along!

Enquiries:

W: www.centreforwellbeing.org.au

E: wellbeing@stmichaels.org.au

T: 9654 5120

wellbeing@stmichaels



Revisoning seminary

This is an excerpt from an editorial by John Buchanan published in 'Christian Century' March, 2013:

In this annual theological education issue, Will Willimon observes that the most effective clergy he knows are finding creative ways to start communities of faith—but seminaries are not teaching them how to do it.

"Seminaries have changed less in the last 100 years than vibrant congregations have changed in the past 2 decades" says Willimon.

I don't think Willimon goes far enough. I don't believe that theological education has changed in its basic assumptions and structures for *centuries*.

I am a grateful product of those structures and assumptions and as resistant to the idea of change as anyone. But it's time for bold, creative experiments in preparing women and men for the unique challenges {of 21st century America}.

Seminary curricula must continue to provide the basic intellectual rigour that thoughtful ministry requires as well as opportunities to work in hands-on residencies and to observe experienced ministers and gain concrete experience.

Seminary administrators and teachers are among the smartest people I know. I wish they would all gather in a room, acknowledge that the current seminary model is out of date and come up with a vision for theological education that equips ministers for the 21st century—a vision that then continues to change and emerge.

ian gawler event

St Michael's has been working with Ian Gawler to host an event on Surviving Cancer.

Hear, learn and be inspired as four remarkable cancer survivors share their stories and insights

Many people these days have heard stories of people who have recovered from cancer against the odds. Always inspiring, were these people "just lucky", or did they do something we can all learn from?

Recent research is confirming what our speakers' stories attest to — there is the potential for healing within each one of us that when tapped into can combine with the best of what modern medicine has to offer and achieve remarkable results.

In this rare opportunity, four remarkable cancer survivors share their stories and present the essence of what they have found to be most helpful.

A compelling evening for everyone affected by cancer, their families and friends, as well as all health professionals. The event coincides with the launch of a book on the subject.

Date: Tuesday 5th March

Light supper and book signing from 6.30pm; 7 — 8.30pm

Venue: St Michaels on Collins, 120 Collins St, Melbourne

Cost: \$20, with concession for Health care cards and students \$15

Enquiries: St Michaels 03 96545120

Bookings: Not necessary; pay at the door on the night

Presented in conjunction with St Michaels,

The Gawler Foundation and Insight Health Services

All proceeds from the evening will support the work of The Gawler Foundation



Ruth McGowan has known the stresses of being a mayor, wife and mother of three; along with the ambition of defying cancer



Scott Stephens is a long-term survivor of widespread melanoma with a powerful message of hope



Ian Gawler has helped thousands to regain & sustain health and to find real inner peace



Jess Alnsough is well-known as The Wellness Warrior – cancer thriver, blogger, passionate about the healing properties of food

Heavenly sounds concerts

St Michael's is pleased to once again be involved in hosting the Heavenly Sounds series of Melbourne concerts which showcase talented young Australian music artists in inspiring and beautiful churches.

For details of Heavenly Sounds Concerts and booking enquiries please visit:

www.heavenlysounds.com.au

Below: Heavenly Sounds at St Michael's in February.



Holocaust memorial service

The SHOAH - HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE

Thursday 18 April 2013 7.30 pm

St Michael's Uniting Church

120 Collins Street , Melbourne,

(Corner of Russell Street)

Christians and all people of good will are invited to reflect...to pray...as we remember the destruction of six million Jews in the Holocaust.

After the service you are invited to share kosher light refreshments and conversation in the hall.

An ecumenical initiative of:

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne,
Melbourne Archdiocesan Sub-Committee
for Catholic-Jewish Relations &

Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and
Tasmania Working Group on
Christian-Jewish Relations.



Raul Wallenberg
Toronto, Canada

what a waste

About half the food produced in the world is wasted, according to a study by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, based in the UK.

The waste is the consequence of unnecessarily strict expiration dates, Western consumer demand for cosmetically perfect food, poor agricultural practices and poor storage facilities.

Up to half the food purchased in Europe and the US is thrown away.

Wasted food also wastes resources used to produce it, including water.



Programs

LIBRARY LOUNGE

Tues 10.30-2.30

MEDITATION

Sundays - immediately after service

POETRY GROUP

Every 3rd Sunday - after service

MENS SHED

The last Sunday of the month

GLOBAL CONCERNS

Sundays - after service in the Hall

ARTS FOR RIGHTS

Activities held monthly

WALKING GROUP

2nd Saturday of the month.

BIBLICAL STUDIES ON RESILIENCE

Commences April 14

FRENCH CONVERSATION

The second Sunday of the month
Starting April 14

IPAD ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

The second Sunday of the month

IPADS BEGINNERS COURSE

Tuesdays 6.30pm

YOGA

Thursdays 12.30— 1.15

SAGE

Friday March 22, 11am

STORY TELLING/WRITERS GROUP

Sunday March 3

LAST TUESDAY BOOK GROUP

Last Tuesday of the month

TAI CHI

Fridays 1 -2 pm

CHARTER FOR COMPASSION GROUP

Third Sunday of the Month

CONVERSATIONS WITH LIZ

Last Sunday of the Month from March 24

Visit www.centreforwellbeing.org.au

or the St Michael's website for details:

www.stmichaels.org.au

Or

'Like' us on Facebook for regular updates

Possible dreams international choir

High atop the Lubombo Mountains of Swaziland there is a choir.

A choir composed of young people from the most remote and rural areas of the country.

Some of them are orphans, some of them HIV positive: all of them are united by a single purpose – Compassion.

The Possible Dreams International (PDI) Choir sings songs of hope to those living affected by extreme poverty and HIV/AIDS in the rural regions of Swaziland.

When PDI builds a house or helps grow a vegetable garden for a destitute family, the choir is there to herald the new chapter in the lives of these people with song and dance.

When a patient is bed-bound in their hut due to terminal AIDS or virulent tuberculosis, the choir gathers round the walls of the home and sings of hope and quiet joy in the face of adversity.

In a country with the highest prevalence of AIDS in the world, where 10% of the population are orphan children and over two thirds of all people live in conditions of extreme poverty, the Possible Dreams International Choir is a voice of vibrant hope in the darkness.

Armed with music, humility and a belief in the dignity of every human life, this is a choir which seeks neither adulation nor fame....

They want only to be Voices for the Voiceless.

The Choir performs at St Michael's on Sunday March 24.

Tickets are available from www.tickethost.com.au

For a list of the Choir's other performances:

www.possibledreamsinternational.org

mingary COUNSELLING SERVICE

Professional, confidential counselling for a broad range of personal issues.

Low cost service

Female and male counsellors

Monday - Friday: 9 am - 5 pm

Due to popular demand,
free memory testing continues
to be available.

Consultations by appointment only.

Please call 9654 5120

www.mingarycounselling.com.au

St Michael's Place

120 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

new staff members

We welcome two new staff members to St Michael's.

Zara studied a diploma in Business Management at Macleay College and majored in events management. She is St Michael's new wedding coordinator.

Olivia Shiels studied a Bachelor of Arts at The University of Melbourne and majored in creative writing. Olivia is our new administration assistant.

In addition, Mingary Counselling service has this year welcomed nine new students and 6 new psychology interns to their staff.

Through the work of the interns and students, Mingary is able to go from strength to strength in providing low-cost counselling services to the people of Melbourne.

We are grateful to the students and interns for their significant contributions to helping the service to expand and reach a growing number of people.



Letters and feedback

A message of heartfelt gratitude

Dear Friends,

Many, many thanks for the kind words, flowers, visits and calls from all of my friends at St Michael's during my illness and time in hospital. I have felt uplifted by your kindness and caring.

The support of St Michael's people had a healing, quietening and strengthening effect on me while I have been unable to live life in the usual ways, which is challenging.

I have felt part of a large extended family of the Church and grateful for all of the caring. I look forward to seeing you all again on my return.

Many thanks and love to you all,

Alma Hexter

Emails received:

Hi there,

Yesterday a companion & I flew from Adelaide to Melbourne for the day.

We made time to visit your church at 1pm for the Organ Recital as we both love good music.

How glad we were that we had come! What a treat!!!

As soon as Miwako & Rhys began playing I closed my eyes, & I felt as though I was the only person there.

I felt as though I was in Heaven!

Thank you so much for a wonderful ministry. I was truly blessed during that time in your church.

Blessings on you & your work

Thankfully,

Wendy Ridge

"Wow, exciting Prospectus. Not enough days/hours in the week to participate in all the classes/courses/lectures."

Luba via the web

February 2013

SAGE update

S.A.G.E

Successful Ageing for Growth and Enjoyment

TIREDNESS



A SIGNAL TO RENOVATE YOUR LIFE.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Presented by Dr Francis Macnab

Friday 22nd March
11am-1pm
\$20 including lunch
Bookings are not required

St Michael's Centre
120 Collins Street,
Melbourne 3000
PH: 9654 5120

ST MICHAEL'S
BY CHURCH • TRADITION

Cairnmillar
INSTITUTE
Treatment | Education | Research

In February we were pleased to welcome 40 new faces to SAGE including the gentleman who wrote this email. NB: Due to Easter, SAGE next takes place on March 22.

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

On my behalf could you please convey to Dr Macnab my appreciation of his presentation this morning at the SAGE event? I found it particularly helpful as it revealed to me how I had loaded too much emotional energy on a family member I care for and guided me to focus on others and engage more with my areas of interest and social activities.

I am planning to be more involved with the programs of St. Michael's.

Yours gratefully,

CAIRMILLAR GRADUATION

Every year the Cairnmillar Institute Graduation is an exciting shared event. 2013 will be no exception.

This year's guest speaker at the event will be Dr Ranjana Srivastava, author of *Tell me the Truth* and an oncologist.

Ranjana has joined us before at St Michael's for Dr Macnab's 40th year celebration lectures, and we warmly welcome her back amongst us as an engaging and knowledgeable speaker.



THE JOHN WATERS SCHOLAR

This year the John Waters Scholarship will be presented to Anita Juhasz from Hungary.

Anita has a strong interest in ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and children's mental health in general. She is passionate about helping children to find their strengths and talents despite ADHD.

Anita was awarded student of the year at The University of Budapest in 2012.

In addition she was elected Regional Co-ordinator of the Youth in Action

Program of the European Union.

Another of her interests has been working with people and horses in therapeutic interventions through the Kapcsolat Horse Assisted Therapy Centre in Hungary.

We welcome Anita and look forward to introducing you to her on the night.

We acknowledge the work and ongoing generosity of Mrs Gwen Waters in making this scholarship possible, in the memory of her late husband, John.

All are invited to bring family and friends to this year's Cairnmillar Graduation.

This prestigious ceremony will be held on Wednesday 20th March, at 6.00pm at St Michael's Uniting Church.



EASTER 2013

Easter can be a time when there is a high level of expectations, a great deal of pressure, possible meetings of family members you haven't seen in a long time or it could be filled with questions.

One question that comes to mind is:

'What's it all about—the festive eggs, the celebration of the Sunday, the sadness of Good Friday?'

Come to St Michael's at Easter time this year to make some more sense for yourself of the themes and ideas that surround us at Easter.



EASTER SERVICES

**Maundy Thursday, March 28th
at 7.00 pm**

**Good Friday, March 29th
at 9.00 am**

**Easter Sunday, March 31st
at 10.00 am**

St Michael's

ON COLLINS - MELBOURNE

120 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

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