

INTERSECTION

MAY 2010

By Alana Pryor

A PLETHORA OF ARTS

On Sunday 16 May St Michael's becomes a haven of performing arts with dance, song and the chance to help make a difference.

The Trinity College Choir, Melbourne will perform a concert to raise funds for the Save Cambodian Children Fund.

The Trinity College Choir, under the direction of Michael Leighton Jones is a highly sort-after Melbourne choir and their presence at

St Michael's is something special. They have performed in concerts and festivals in Australia and overseas, from Asia to Europe. With a large number of live broadcasts and recorded CDs the choir has met with acclaim from critics the world over.

The concert experience is a fantastic opportunity to see a top choir while giving something to the cause of human rights.

The proceeds from the concert will go towards the save the Cambodian

Children Fund a non-profit organisation that aims to take a stand against sex trafficking and bring safety and security to children orphaned by the HIV Aids epidemic sweeping Cambodia.

In the lead up before the concert

there will be a traditional Cambodia dance demonstration and a chance to sample Cambodian finger food. Don't miss a chance to be a part of something different. The Khmer



Angkor Dance Group founded by Ms Sovandeth Hay who trained at the royal palace in Phnom Penh, is bound to impress. The grace of the elegant hand movements and elaborate costumes of this classical Cambodian dance style is remarkable.

For an afternoon of performance, St Michael's is the place to be on Sunday 16 May. A mix of Cambodian dance and food followed by a world class choral performance and an opportunity to give to a good cause.

REV DR MALCOLM SINCLAIR

In a couple of weeks we welcome to St Michael's Rev Dr Malcolm Sinclair of the Metropolitan United Church in Toronto.

He will be delivering three addresses on Sundays 16, 23 and 30 May.

Dr Sinclair comes to Melbourne with much experience. He has been invited to preach all over the world and has served four Toronto congregations over forty years.

His current congregation is much like St Michael's with progressive, intelligent ministers and members. His visit to St Michael's will be a great opportunity to hear what is being said on the other side of the world about faith, humanity and peace, to forge friendships and find support amongst like-minded congregations.

We invite you welcome Dr Sinclair and demonstrate to him, what a fantastic congregation we have here.

His hearty greeting can be viewed at: www.stmichaels.org.au



SAVE THE CAMBODIAN CHILDRENS FUND CONCERT

With the Trinity College Choir

Sunday 16 May at 12.30 pm.

Tickets: \$15/\$10 (available at door)

COMMON DREAMS 2 CONFERENCE

The Common Dreams 2 Conference was held from 15 – 19 April, drew people together “from many parts of the world to explore progressive religion.

Attending the event was St Michael’s member Simon McCall who wrote about the experience.

“I, along with around 500 others (including other St Michael’s people) attended the second *Common Dreams Conference* held at St Kilda Town Hall this year. The eminent Keynote Speakers, included St Michael’s Dr Francis Macnab and other theologians from all over the world: Rev Gretta Vosper of the United Church of Canada, Rev Dr Margaret Mayman of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand; Dr Val Webb; Rabbi Aviva Kipen a female

Rabbi in the Progressive Jewish World; Sherene Hassan Vice-President of the Islamic Council of Victoria; Father Peter Kennedy of St Mary’s in Exile Brisbane and Sir Lloyd Geering.

Proceedings commenced on the Thursday night with the Inaugural Francis Macnab Progressive Religion Lecture: *The Challenge Progressive Thinking is Making to the Church* by Gretta Vosper, and the next day the Conference was opened by Professor Gary Bouma, chair of the recent *Parliament of World Religions*.

There were many stimulating talks, some with pleasant surprises - Multi-Media presentations and even music. Gretta Vosper sang during hers (I guess if your Minister can sing

well it lessens the need for a Choir)!

Dr Macnab gave his lecture Saturday morning on the “*New Faith*” that’s *Needed and the “New Faith” that’s not Wanted*. This was then followed with a lively half hour ‘mini witness box’ a question and answer session, opened to the floor.

Personal favourites of mine were the talks by Fr Kennedy, Dr Val Webb and Dr Margaret Mayman.”



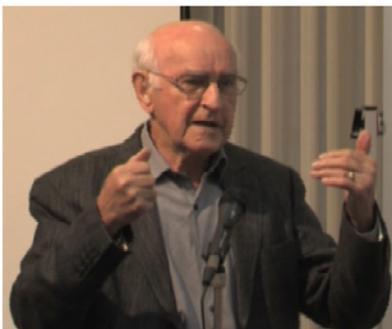
INSIGHTS AND EXPERIENCE

St Michael’s was very fortunate to host Sir Lloyd Geering, who brought his experience and knowledge to a large group at SAGE on Friday 23 April and to the service on Sunday 25 April.

His SAGE presentation *Wrestling with God and Myself in my younger*

years and old age was well received by an audience of over 100 people.

People who wanted to hear more



were able to listen on Sunday as he spoke with Dr Macnab during service and again after service. His talk

Jesus as rediscovered by Westar was highly interesting and attended by many. An open question and answer session finished the

talk and provided an opportunity to pick the mind of this leading voice in religious debate.

It was wonderful to hear ideas and insights from another theologian who has spent many years searching for an evolved spirituality.

LLOYD GEERING DVDS

Recordings of Lloyd Geering’s events are available on DVD.

SAGE - 23 April 2010 - \$10

SUNDAY 25 APRIL 2010 - \$10

Please order from the Recordings Table in the Hall after the service on Sundays or the St Michael’s Office. during business hours.

mingary
COUNSELLING SERVICE

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DYING WITH DIGNITY

The right to die with dignity has been a much discussed topic at St Michael's over April and May. We've seen rallies, Sunday services and discussion groups delve into this controversial topic.

It's an issue Dr Francis Macnab feels strongly about: you have a choice about how you can live your life but cannot choose how you die. In his experience as a psychotherapist he has seen people suffering, wishing to die, with dignity, but having these wishes denied when the time came.

He joined members and supporters of *Dying with Dignity Victoria* on the steps of Parliament house, Melbourne for the fourth annual Steve Guest Day Rally on Wednesday 14 April, representing the 85%

Australians who agree that it is time for a law reform that allows people to die with dignity.

On Sunday 11 April, Dr Macnab's address *Look for a Good Life. Decide on a Dignified Death* gave us food for thought. A second address *...More on Dying with Dignity. How we Choose to live. How we Choose to Die* followed on Sunday 2 May. Both

services were attended by many members of *Dying with Dignity Victoria* including Rodney Symes, former president of the organisation

and one of the seven distinguished speakers at the rally in April.

The conversation was continued at a post service discussion chaired by Dr Macnab. Large numbers crowded into the Waratah room to discuss this forefront topic. The debate continues and so too does Dr Macnab's support.

For more information The *Dying with Dignity Victoria* Newsletter is available from the

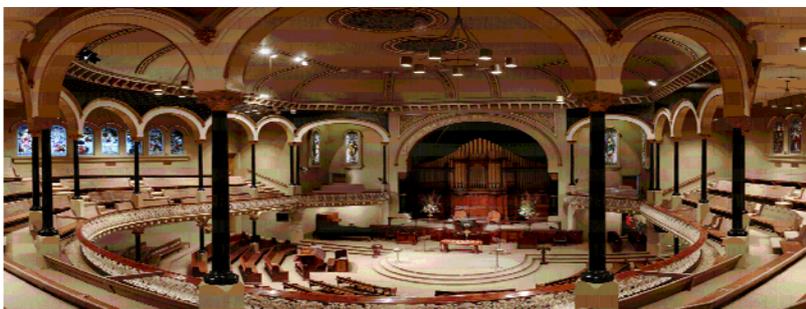
St Michael's Office during business hours and Information Table in the Hall on Sunday after service. Or you can visit their website: www.dwdv.org.au.



WELCOMING THE WORLD

Each year thousands of people walk through the doors of St Michael's. They come for many reasons: to marvel at this Collins Street beauty, for the special services held every Sunday, to peek into part of Melbourne's history, or maybe to take a moment of peace from the bustle of life.

We are pleased that so many have such a great interest in the church and in order to encourage this interest we open the doors on a regular week day basis, giving people the chance to visit. In order to do this we have wonderful volunteers, the Week Day Tour Guides who man the doors and regale visitors with the history and life behind the church.



Unfortunately, we do not have enough guides to ensure the church is open every week day. Every month the church is closed several days when we wish it to be open. This

means that every year there are hundreds of visitors do not get a chance to see our lovely church.

Being a tour guide is wonderfully fulfilling. You meet people of the world, make new friends and learn about the great history of the church.

As some guides say, they love the fact they know a part of Melbourne's history and enjoy watching the amazement flood the faces of those entering the church for the first time.

From tourists, to locals, brides to be and regulars, being able to deliver the beauty of this church into people's lives is something all guides enjoy.

We'd love to see the church doors open every day of the week and bring the beauty of St Michael's to many more visitors. Are you able to help?

If anyone is interested in guiding or has any queries, please contact the St Michael's Office during business hours.

SAGE

SUCCESSFUL AGEING, GROWTH AND ENJOYMENT

with Dr Lynette Kramer

FRIDAY 28 MAY

I KNOW I'M RIGHT SO DON'T ARGUE WITH ME!



Time: 11 am to 1 pm
Where: St Michael's Hall
120 Collins St,
Melbourne 3000.
Cost: \$15 inc. Lunch

For more information please
call Cairnmillar on 9813 3400

The Mingary Counselling service
has a new website. Take a look:
www.mingarycounselling.com.au

ARTS FOR RIGHTS

The *Arts for Rights* group at St Michael's is continually providing engaging programs and activities for those wanting to enjoy the beauty of the arts and find a philanthropic outreach. With an ever-changing calendar of various monthly activities it looks as though the *Arts for Rights* team have something to pique the interest of many.

Arts for Rights is a group committed to helping different causes that can improve the life of others. Each quarter the group selects an organisation to support. At each event, attendees give a small donation (often part of ticketing costs) which goes towards the chosen charity. This means that those involved in the program enjoy a wonderful outing, maybe a guided



tour of an art collection or the performance of a ballet, and are also donating to a worthy cause.

The program for May, June and July involve a visit to Beleura, a museum and historic garden in Mornington, the dress rehearsal performance of *Coppélia* by the Australian Ballet and visit to the *European Masters* at the national Gallery of Victoria.

All donations from these events will go to NAPCAN whose mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all of Australia's children.

For more information on the *Arts for Rights* events, pick up a brochure from the Enquiries table after service or contact the St Michael's Office.

THURSDAY ORGAN RECITALS

The Thursday Organ recitals at 1 pm have become a popular event in the St Michael's calendar.

Various musicians have lent their talents to the recital, many local performers but some from as far as Europe.

These recitals are a perfect lunchtime escape, bringing a little rest and musical rejuvenation from day to day pressures of life.

UPCOMING ORGAN RECITALS

- 13 May** – Christopher Trikilis
(organist of St Patrick's Mentone)
- 20 May** – Rhys Boak
- 27 May** – Rhys Boak
- 3 June** – Sam Allchurch
(Trinity College Melbourne)
- 10 June** – Rhys Boak
- 17 June** – Douglas Lawrence
(Organist of The Scots' Church
Melbourne)

ST MICHAEL'S

ON COLLINS - MELBOURNE

120 Collins St, Melbourne 3000

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