

**From the Rector**  
**Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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**Forthcoming Important Events**

I would appreciate the support and participation of parishioners with each of the following important events...

**Back to Church Sunday (19<sup>th</sup> February – Feast of Transfiguration)**

First I wish to encourage all parishioners to invite others to come along to one of our services on 19<sup>th</sup> February. You may know a family, a couple or an individual who used to attend parish services or who used to attend church more generally at some time in the past. Alternatively you may wish to ask a friend who has no church history or connection. It must be said very specifically that this is not an exercise in sheep-stealing.

We will re-badge the day **Special Invitation Sunday** so that **our focus is upon our intentionality on this day to reach out personally and to be very specific about our hospitality on that day.** Personal invitations and deep caring are most potent tools in evangelism.

The worship schedule for the 19<sup>th</sup> February will be ...

**7.30am** – Sung Eucharist

**9.30am** – Family Eucharist (this is a Trinity Band Sunday)

**6.00pm** – Sung Eucharist

**Each occasion will be followed by tea and real coffee**

**Parishioners attending each service are asked to bring a small plate.**

**Ash Wednesday - 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2012**

**Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes**

**Service Times for Ash Wednesday ... 7.00am, 10.00am, 7.00pm**

## **Forthcoming Important Events - *continued***

### **Lent**

**Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues until Easter Eve** (7<sup>th</sup> April) – that is a period of 40 days and 40 nights.

This extended **penitential season** is a time in which the church calls us to time of very focussed **worship and prayer, fasting and reflection**.

In part, our corporate reflection is practised in **Lenten Study Groups**. I am hopeful that many parishioners will join a study group. I am presently researching possible texts. I further hope that group times will be available midweek, Friday morning and Sunday afternoon.

To help with planning I have placed a survey form in the gathering space in which I would appreciate parishioners indicating a day and time which may be suitable for individuals needs and preferences.

The possibilities include **most week day evenings** (from 7.00pm until 8,30pm), **Wednesday** at 11.30am, **Friday** at 11.30am and **Sunday** afternoon at 3.00pm.

It is likely that of these possibilities only some will be sufficiently popular for viable groups to be formed. Tuesday evenings will be excluded given other regular parish meetings which happen on that evening.

It would be appropriate for parishioners to place their names in all time slots that would be suit so that individual needs can be accommodated. This in turn may help maximise the opportunities for Lenten Study Groups to form.

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### **Parish Council**

**Your Parish Council met last Tuesday.** Among other business Councillors walked through the grounds of Holy Trinity as Peter Hancock reported on the many initiatives he and his team are working on, including garden maintenance and development, developing the outbuildings and surrounds at the eastern end of the property and, in particular, developing the Candle House. Thus this detail...

### **Parish Council – the Candle House**

Of the latter, parishioners may be aware that Fr Warren Croft has kindly gifted to the parish some equipment for safely melting candle butts and then recycling this wax in various candle configurations. The new candles can then be sold, thus generating funds to maintain resources for the Candle House and to contribute to our parish working account. **Parishioners have already been advised that there will be a gathering at the Candle House site on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January between 1.00pm and 4.00pm to help us all understand how this ministry will work and to encourage participation. All are very welcome.**

It remains for the Parish Council, in consultation with the emerging Candle House ministry team, to set up management protocols for the supervision and maintenance of the building, equipment and funds. Fr Warren's extensive experience of this Candle House project demonstrates that it can be a very satisfying 'hobby' and ministry for the manufacturing team and a helpful adjunct to our capacity to generate income for parish ministry generally.

### **Parish Council - Gardens and Grassed Area**

Peter Hancock was able to report that parishioner response to the garden maintenance project has been very heartening. Surely **we are all very grateful to those who are caring for various sections of our extensive grounds.** Under further consideration are ways that we can reduce the maintenance demand of our grounds. This may suggest progressively replacing some of the ground cover with more user-friendly ground-cover and converting some of the awkward and high maintenance grass strips with low-maintenance, attractive ground cover. It is instructive that last year we expended \$3700.00 on mowing.

Given our serious budget constraints, then the need to consider strategies to reduce the need for paid mowing, without compromising on aesthetics and utility, is indicated.

### **Parish Council – Solar Panels and Air Conditioning**

Whilst inspecting the grounds and plant at Holy Trinity, **the Parish Council also noted the recent installation of the solar panels on the roof of the gathering space.** Keith Watson advises that this 10Kw installation will be commissioned on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February.

## **Parish Council – Solar Panels and Air Conditioning - *continued***

Once operative the solar-panel generated electricity will first be available for our use at Holy Trinity and then any excess will be sold to the grid. Projections indicate that the parish will save very significantly on our recurrent power bills. And we are making a real statement about taking seriously our environmental responsibilities to access and consume energy wisely.

Parishioners are reminded that this projected has been funded by the parish capital works trust and that this initiative represents part of the last stage of the Holy Trinity building works. The replacement of the aging electronic organ and installation of air conditioning in the Op Shop, Kitchen and Office space will also be funded, at least partially, from that capital works trust.

### **Parish Council - Op Shop Storage**

As part of the Parish Council inspection of our grounds and plant Peter Hancock reminded us of **the critical shortage of storage space available for the Op Shop**. We have a problem, given the small amount of space available, the generous amount of quality stock which is being donated and the need for storing bags of clothing for later use or storing bags being held temporarily, awaiting Samaritans collection. The Parish Council needs to explore the possibility of discretely establishing waterproof and vermin-proof storage, perhaps adjacent to the northern wall of the existing storage area. If funds permit this additional could also be provided, at least partially, from the capital works trust.

### **Parish Council – Pipe Organ and Rectory**

Parishioners would be aware that there is much detailed work required to plan and implement decisions made in principle. And given our budget restraints much of this work has to be done by parishioners generously giving of time, talent and expertise. These realities sometimes mean that we have to proceed gently so that our planning is effective without generating burn-out amongst those kindly taking on very significant tasks which are additional to the legitimate demands of professional and personal life.

The complex matters of a Pipe Organ and a Rectory belong to this quandary.

## **Parish Council – Pipe Organ and Rectory - *continued***

Concerning the Pipe Organ, the latest letter from the Diocesan Property Approvals Board (P.A.B.) has been printed in a recent pew bulletin. A sub-committee has been working on variations to the plans last submitted to the P.A.B. with a view to responding to the concerns expressed by the P.A.B. The January Parish Council requested that the sub-committee report as soon as practicable so that the February Parish Council could consider a further submission to be lodged with the P.A.B. It should be noted that this on-going process has demanded a good deal of time and effort by our parish volunteers.

**Concerning the Rectory, the January meeting of Parish Council looked again at a possible site for a Rectory if such a building was to be located on the Holy Trinity property.** A most likely site is at the eastern most end of the property amongst the stand of trees. However even this location imposes a number of challenges including the proximity of the existing transpiration pit, providing access for vehicles and essential services (notably power, telephone and water), and working harmoniously with environmental regulations (and notably fire risk and preservation and maintenance of trees). Having looked at the site on Tuesday last and having clarified the timetable for resubmission of the Pipe Organ proposal, Parish Council noted that parish personnel should be available by March to investigate the possible building of a Rectory on site.

This investigation will then facilitate a more informed comparison of possibilities for the long-term provision of parish accommodation for your parish leader.

## **Parish Council – Budget Preparation**

**A budget projection was presented as part of the Parish Consultation of last September.** Since that time the Parish finance team has been working on the state of our accounts and the parish budget which is to be presented at the 2012 Parish General Meeting. As a result of this ongoing and rigorous process the Parish Council has had to make some very difficult decisions to consolidate the ground for a balanced budget for 2012. **I wish to affirm that the Parish Council has sought to find a right balance between our responsibilities to ensure the financial viability of the parish and at the same time to be sensitive to any pastoral consequences of decisions that have to be made.**

## **Parish Council – Budget Preparation – *continued***

**First, the Parish Council spoke with Fr Roy Heazelwood. It was affirmed that the parish genuinely recognises and values the many years of faithful ministry which Fr Roy has given this parish. There are many parishioners who have experienced Fr Roy's wisdom, humility and great sense of humour which comes of many years of experience in loyal parish ministry and leadership. We are most grateful that Fr Roy has agreed to continue to serve this parish and accepts that the parish will not be able provide any allowance. We are delighted and humbled too that Maureen and Fr Roy regard the parish of Terrigal as their parish family. May we long treasure our relationships.**

**Secondly, the Parish Council had to look carefully at our expenditures to endeavour to deliver a balanced budget. We were aware that the parish effectively had been in deficit throughout 2011. Our financial survival was achieved through transfer of cash reserves (halving that resource, which now stands at around \$6000). An improved income from freewill giving and the achievements of the Market Day team and the Op Shop personnel has allowed us to complete the year without further cash transfers. However with all of that taken into account the budget projections for 2012 still indicated a loss. Accordingly the Parish Council had to make the very difficult decision to reduce our paid parish clerical position by half. I am most grateful to Narelle Mortell for the gracious manner in which she accepted this decision, for her expressed affection for this faith community, for her intention to continue in the position and for her faithful service to the parish already exercised over many years. I am grateful also to our Parish Treasurer (Terry Rowe) and Parish Secretary (Trevor Williams) for the sensitive and caring manner in which they approached our responsibilities in transacting this sensitive matter.**

### **Parish Planning**

There is much to celebrate in the life of this faith community. We share a life-changing journey with so many precious people. There are wonderful opportunities to share worship and fellowship. Our financial circumstances may well be a challenge at this time however we can be very intentional in making plans to release the potential and the latent vitality our parish ministries. First I would like to invite all interested parishioners to meet with me on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 4.00pm** in the meeting room at Holy Trinity to discuss possibilities for our parish worship, prayer and study life in 2012.

*(The Reverend Canon) Brian Gibbs*