

I thank the community for their hard work and efforts in making last weekend's Patronal Festival such a success. A dedicated group gathered on Saturday morning and worked through until the afternoon to clean, tidy, sweep, vacuum, and polish the church (and its surrounds), so that it truly glowed with the effort! Then, as we welcomed visitors and past parishioners on Sunday, we were blessed with the presence of our Assistant Bishop, Genieve Blackwell, who urged us in her sermon to catch the Diocesan vision of "Making the Word of God fully known" in all that we do.

Following the service, Bishop Genieve took the time to meet with the Wardens and Parish Council, and encouraged us all to step out in faith, even in the difficult times. Our lunch together was a wonderful affair, with thanks to all who provided food, provided hospitality, and spent time with their hands in the washing-up bowl!! A great community effort.

The raffle which was begun at Spring Into Gardening was finally drawn. Congratulations to Barbara (who won 1st prize of the stunning mosaic pot and plant), Errol (a work colleague of Jacky Gleeson who took home 2nd prize of a ceramic platter and bowl), John Baker (3rd prize of a David Jones' voucher), and Ewen (4th prize – fabric hand bag and scarf) on holding winning tickets. Thanks to all who supported the raffle, The final amount raised from Spring Into Gardening, then, including the raffle, was a most impressive \$3673. Well done, all.

Community Carol singing is coming up again soon. Please keep the late afternoon and evening of Tuesday 6th December free. We will begin at Chomley House at 5.30pm, and move on to Estia Health, Prahran, at 6.30pm. Following this, all are invited to the Vicarage for some drinks and food. It would be lovely to see many people there.

Interviews for the new position of Playgroup Assistant will be held this coming week. Utilising the funds obtained by a grant from the Collier Foundation, this position of 42 hours/month will seek to help Rachel in her ministry, and provide a faith-based support and ministry to Playgroup and Messy Church families. Please pray that we might find the suitable person for this important role.

I hope that many of you will be planning to attend the Annual Parish Meeting, scheduled for next Sunday 27th November, beginning at 11.45am in the Crypt. Please take the Annual Reports of the parish home with you today, so you can read them through the week. Please then remember to bring them back again for the meeting next week – we do not want to print more than we need to! Please keep the process of the meeting, and also those who have nominated for positions of leadership in the parish in your prayers this week and in the coming year.

May Clement of Rome, James Noble, and all the Saints walk with you this week...

Sam