

There have been many joyful events in the life of the parish and the church over the last week, and I have been pleased to celebrate with them. Firstly, it is a great pleasure to announce that Kathryn Watt, our Theological Student, has been formally accepted by the Diocese as an Ordination Candidate. This is a decision that has come as a result of the agreement of the Examining Chaplains of the Diocese, and ratification by the Archbishop. It is expected that Kathryn will continue as Theological Student in the parish for the remainder of this year, and hopefully for 2017, with the expectation that she would be Ordained as Deacon in February 2018. Congratulations, Kathryn, and every blessing and prayers for your future study and ministry!

It was wonderful to see so many people in attendance at Christ Church last Friday night for the fund and awareness raising dinner for the Friends of Refugees. The evening raised in excess of \$8000, so will provide a great boost to the important work of this new venture. (Please see page 8 of the May edition of TMA for a report on the dinner). In line with this, I am pleased to say that Jenny Jordan has accepted my invitation to chair a small group which will be tasked with investigating the ways in which this parish may become more involved in the support of refugees and asylum seekers. Along with Ann Cutts, Jenny will put together a team of people to report regularly to Parish Council, who will then decide how best to resource the task at hand.

On Saturday morning last week I was one of a good number of the Clergy of the Diocese who attended the service of Consecration of the newest Bishop in our Diocese, the now Right Reverend Bradly Billings. Many of you will know of Brad from his time as Vicar of St. John's, Toorak. He left there to take up the position of Director of Theological Education, a position in which he will now continue, along with exercising his episcopal ministry around the Diocese. With the retirement of Bp. Paul in June, it is expected that Bp. Brad will support the parishes in that region until the Consecration of the new Assistant Bishop in November.

It was a great joy to share with the Campbell family in the baptism of Benjamin in the 10am service last Sunday. It is always lovely to welcome new members of the church, and the family and friends who were in attendance asked me to pass on to you their profound thanks for the welcome they encountered and the wonderful fellowship they shared after the service.

May the risen Christ and all the Saints walk with you this joyful Eastertide...

Sam