



NEWS FOR 14 FEBRUARY, 2021

ST. ANDREW'S BY THE SEA UNTING CHURCH



Happy Birthday Vila!

Vila Clark turned 100 years-old on the 13th of February. Vila called into church for a cuppa' and homemade jam slice with the Friday community who were

thrilled to offer birthday wishes. Vila showed us her special cards from Queen Elizabeth, Ministers Scott Morrison and Anthony Albanese, Governor General David Hurley and Governor Hieu Van Le. We share in Vila's disappointment that her family was unable to come from the Gold Coast and Melbourne but as Vila wisely said, "That's life." She affirmed the importance of learning to let go of our plans in favour of God's, who is always loving and faithful.

Pancake Day

Pop into church on Shrove Tuesday, 16 February, between 12:00–2:00 for a freshly made pancake with jam, lemon and sugar, maple syrup and cream. Gold coin donations welcome.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before the beginning of Lent. It is traditional to use up all the fat in the house in preparation for the simpler foods often observed as part of the Lenten season. Pancake Day is a long-time fundraiser for UnitingCare SA and St. Andrew's has participated for many years as we receive Pancake Day funds from other Uniting Churches and we are grateful for this offering.

Thank you to Lyn, Lisa and Chris

Last Sunday we took the opportunity to thank Lyn Anesbury, Chris Croucher and Lisa McGrath who have given a tremendous service to Christ through their various roles at St. Andrew's. Because of changes brought on by the pandemic and in their personal lives, they have stepped back from these roles.

In her role as Co-Coordinator of Mary's Kitchen, Lyn brought her own experience of vulnerability enabling her to be non-judgemental, accepting and compassionate. No task is too small for Lyn and her enthusiasm for St. Andrew's and the UCG ministry is infectious.

Lisa McGrath has served as Co-Coordinator of Mary's Kitchen and Coordinator of Community Aid for many years. Her natural hospitality and organisational skills meant these programmes ran smoothly as she thought through many details even before the door opened for the day. Lisa is also a networker enabling the wider community to learn about and support UCG ministries.

Chris Croucher is stepping back from her role as Church Council Chairperson and will also resign from Church Council later in the year. Chris brought her deep faith and love for the St. Andrew's community to leadership. She helped us discern and implement what is in the well-being of the community on several occasions—not always easy. Her graciousness and integrity are a lasting gift.

Sundays in Lent

The Season of Lent begins this Wednesday, 17 February. In the 40-days of lent, we focus with greater intention on deepening our love for God and others. Some may choose to take up or renew a particular practice such as daily prayer, meditative walking, sacred reading, fasting or Christian service. How might you observe these special weeks?

This year in worship, we will make the journey with the Gospel of Mark. Each Sunday will include a dramatic presentation of the Gospel followed by moments for silent reflection/lectio, and communion. May we be fed body and soul as we grow in faith, hope and love.

Following worship each Sunday, you are invited to explore the roots of our faith with a discipleship session and guided discussion. Bring your questions and share your experiences as we learn what it means to follow Jesus in our day.

From this group will arise communal observances for Holy Week. Rather than pre-planning services and events, we will give shape to Holy Week together in our gathering and conversation. What do we sense the Spirit prompting us to do? Where do we perceive energy? What will enable us to give expression to our love for God this season?

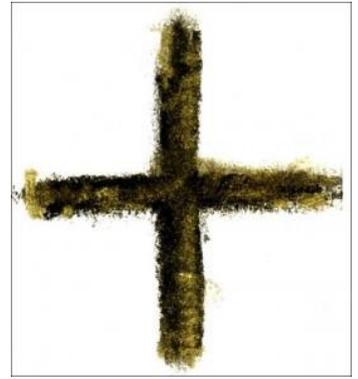
The ministry of St. Andrew's is supported through offerings and donations. You are welcome to offer your gift as part of worship using the collection box. Or you may wish to give electronically:

BSB: 015 015

Account #: 089117940

A Blessing for Ash Wednesday

To receive this blessing,
all you have to do
is let your heart break.
Let it crack open.
Let it fall apart
so that you can see
its secret chambers,
the hidden spaces
where you have hesitated
to go.



Your entire life
is here, inscribed whole
upon your heart's walls:
every path taken
or left behind,
every face you turned toward
or turned away,
every word spoken in love
or in rage,
every line of your life
you would prefer to leave
in shadow,
every story that shimmers
with treasures known
and those you have yet
to find.

It could take you days
to wander these rooms.
Forty, at least.

And so let this be
a season for wandering,
for trusting the breaking,
for tracing the rupture
that will return you

to the One who waits,
who watches,
who works within
the rending
to make your heart
whole.

—Jan Richardson