

Diocese of The Murray, South Australia.

**THE MURRAY
CON-TRIBUTARY
NEWSLETTER**



Transformation - Now!

November 2023

Dear Friends,

I seem to have had a busy, inspiring and encouraging year with all things Mothers Union and I hope that you feel the same way.

Richard and I are currently planning a visit to our son in Perth and in my usual style we are planning it in fine detail. Accommodation along the way has been booked for a few weeks and clothes and food for along the way are in my mind. Just after that will be Christmas, which for us is usually very quiet. In between fits in Advent where I should be giving as much thought to preparing as I do to our trip..... but do I? My plan this year is to do some special Advent reading to help me along the way, how about you, any plans????

On October 20th we had a wonderful Thanksgiving service at Aberfoyle Park with Fr Daniel sharing with us such a good sermon based on The Good Samaritan story which was the reading for the day. Plenty to get us thinking. What was unplanned is the fact that he had previously given me a meditation on this subject to use at the AMUA State meeting. Each branch has now been given a copy of this meditation to use at one of their meetings so watch out for that. We wrote personal thanks on a paper daisy and by the end of the meeting when we prayed over those comments we had a very pretty vase of daisies.

Love to you all and blessings for a happy and peaceful Christmas Jocelyn

Diary Dates: Note some changes of routine for the rest of 2023..

No Thanksgiving service or Council meeting in November

November 25th to December 10th.... 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. Look up ideas for prayer on the website or speak to your branch president who has been sent information. This commences with Global Day on the 25th...a good date to start your 16 days of prayer and activity with members all over the world.

This year the theme is 'Rise Up against Domestic Abuse' R...Respond I...Inform S...Support E...Empower U...Unite P...Pray

February 12th..... Executive meeting at Meadows. 10.30am BYO lunch

April 8th Lady Day.....To be held at St Nicholas Anglican Church, SCC, 97 Main Road, Seaford. 10.30am cuppa and service at 11am. The cafe is closed on Mondays so lunch will be BYO. NOTE.. the date for Lady Day celebrations has been changed for 2024.

Our World Wide President Sheran Harper will be coming to Australia in May 2024. Perth 13th May, 18th May in Brisbane and 22nd May will be open day with Sheran during Australian Council in Sydney. She will not be making a stop in South Australia but if your holiday plans could fit with any of the above you would be able to meet her and hear from her.

A message from our Chaplain Fr Daniel

Advent Introduction

Welcome to this Advent edition of the Con-Tributary, it is a pleasure to be able to introduce this final edition for 2023 as we are all beginning to think about preparing for the Christmas season. Unless you happen to be highly organised and efficient and have already started! (Just to share, I am definitely not one of those people.)

We are quite used to thinking about Advent as a time of preparation, I am sure. But sometimes we might lose track of exactly what we might be preparing for and how we are supposed to go about it. It is one thing to prepare for a new job, a new child, or a Christmas dinner, but Advent is supposed to be preparing for the return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. How are we supposed to do that?

Well, one thought that has been growing in me over the course of the year has been the almost throw away line in the Creed of how Christ will come to judge the living and the dead. When we think of judgement we tend to think about crime and punishment and perhaps pompous legal officers in funny wigs.

Most of us can sit comfortably with this idea. It means we can try and “be good” and follow the rules we’ve made for ourselves and everything will be OK. Not to mention the fact that all those we lapse into thinking about as “them” will suffer the consequences. I worry that some people get far too much comfort from that idea.

But what happens if we think of that line as “Christ will come to bring justice to the living and the dead”. What does a world of God’s justice look like? How do we prepare for that? How do we train our hearts to long for it?

As I leave you to your preparations for Advent and Christmas I leave you with these words from the Song of Mary in Luke 1.52-53.

“He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.”

May you have a happy and blessed Christmas. Daniel