



PARISH NEWS – Sunday 25th August 2024

8am & 9.30am services

Wednesday services 21st & 28th August at 10.00am

Parish Prayers Peter, Jill, Julie, Carol, Judith and Caroline, Nola and Brenton, Malcolm and Mary, Colin, Tony and Margie, Mark, Fiona, Jac, Keith.

Diary Dates:

- August 22nd 2024 – Windows Tour for Burnside Combined Probus clubs at 10.00am. Volunteers wanted to meet and greet please.
- 15 September 2024 - St Theodores' Patronal Festival 9.30am. Reciprocal event with St Theodore's.
- 15 Sept 2024 All Souls 9.30am service cancelled 8am Service only.
- 24 November 2024 Archbishops' visit, "Christ the King" 8am service and Brass Ensemble in attendance at 9.30am
- 3 November 2024 All Souls' Patronal Festival 9.30 am Service. St Theodores' to be invited

From:

Philip Carter

Funeral Dean Rowney

One of the great teachers we have, perhaps our greatest teacher is the everyday reality of our everyday life. As C.S. Lewis, used to say: the circumstances we find ourselves in are the voice of God: not in the sense that God sends us the circumstances of our lives but rather that God wants us to use whatever happens to us to help us discover more about God's love. Perhaps another way of saying this is to say that we are "apprentices to reality" – struggling to make sense of what happens: learning to live, "the given life and not the planned": learning to live with the mysteries of life and death, and to stay there, where we are, and live out the situation to the full in the belief that something hidden will somehow make itself known – perhaps a "small shy truth will emerge" - so that we can learn to live with a little bit more hope and a little bit more compassion.

One of the things we can't ignore is of course the last months of Dean's life.

We cannot- must not- overlook them. It was a difficult time in so many ways: for so much became diminished: so much of the life we take for granted was lost: memories and relationships. For Dean- and for those closest to him – Pam and Tim, Andrew, Stephen and Ben- there was a real "poverty": a hard place. Yet when Jesus said "Blessed are the poor in spirit", he meant that "You are in the right place when you are poor in spirit". But that's hard for us, isn't it? When we don't know, when we are not in control, and don't understand: everything in us wants to say that it can't be right because it feels so terrible.

Yet the last months – difficult as they were - became special, discovering what matters: that Dean, as a fellow human being matters, supremely: the discovery that it is the little things that count: the simple gesture of acknowledgement: the holding of hands, the wiping of the brow. There was a great moment that we shared a few days ago: I had just anointed Dean, with Pam and Andrew and Ben present: Dean held on to his sons' hands with determination, but could say nothing: and when we recited the Lord's Prayer, we hoped that Dean was aware in some way of what we were doing: and when we finished the prayer he said – quite clearly- his one word: Amen! That gesture- that one word- was enough. It felt like a great gift to us.

Hope thrives on reality: it cannot grow or live in evasion or denial. It is a dimension of the soul, an orientation of the heart. It isn't about waiting for things to get better "out there: it is about getting better "in here", about getting better about what is going on within us. "It is not the conviction that things will turn out well - that's optimism- but the certainty that something still makes sense regardless of how it turns out". Now because we are "apprentices to reality" we cannot ignore this recent past, yet, knowing Dean, and his love of life and his sense of humour- neither can we ignore everything that speaks to us of his rich life: everything that we remember so fondly: he was, above all else, a real and authentic

human being. Because of Jesus- because of the fact of the Incarnation- God, in the person of Jesus, we can say, was fully involved in all that mattered to human beings: and in his humanity Dean was available to others: his love and compassion marked his relationships with parishioners and students, with those who were sick or bereaved, and of course with family and friends – all of which can never be forgotten by those close to him.

So of course we remember his gifts and giftedness: his love of music, and life-long love affair with playing the piano: his commitment to excellence over many years as a priest: he was well read and widely read, and he had a wide experience of life: from St Michael's House and the Society of the Sacred Mission where he trained to become a priest: to his first parish in

Kingston-Robe: from Dogura and Lae in Papua New Guinea: to his time as Chaplain to the University of Minnesota, in the US: as Precentor at St Peters Cathedral, and of course his long ministry in this parish- and not to mention his endless parish locums after his official retirement.

Dean loved stories and told stories (some would say endlessly): and understood how stories are fundamental to the human condition: for they open us up to our reality: they convey the hidden depths that all of us have: they shock our comfortable illusions: they tease us beyond even our comprehension and attractively call us beyond doctrinal formulations into our lived experience. Dean told stories – just as Jesus told stories- because he knew that God is not an object “out there” but One whom we know only from the inside out: where the deep places of the human heart are reached, not by instruction or doctrine but by the telling of stories which capture our imaginations and offer us the possibility of looking at life in a new way.

Stories help us see that love, faith and hope are possible. If I can be a bit more open, and patient, and give myself a bit more space- and experience the spaciousness which is salvation - room to breathe, room to be more fully myself- I can hear an invitation. I can begin to see what actually is on offer: not so much changed circumstances (which we so often want, don't we?) but an altogether new way of looking at life, where we become real enough to take the next step. This is what we mean by faith: open enough to become real, and in the love we discover there, become people of hope.

The great Protestant theologian Jurgen Moltmann was a prisoner of war at the end of WW2 in Scotland. He had little Christian background, and the chaplain of the camp gave him a copy of the Bible. He wrote of that time: “I read Mark's gospel as a whole and came to the story of the passion, when I heard Jesus' death cry ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’ I felt growing within me the conviction that this is someone who understands you completely, who is with you” in all the ups and downs of life. This is not a theory so much as a lived experience of an encounter: where we find ourselves addressed, and addressed, we find ourselves. In Jesus and his cross we catch a glimpse of the fact that “God is not more

powerful than in this helplessness, not more divine than in this humanity". This is the God who is always with us: as we heard from the Book of Revelation: "The home of God is with us mortals. He will dwell with them". God is the One who understands us: who shares his life with us: waiting on us, making room for us and searching for ways to enrich us. In his passion we see compassion, unconditional and vulnerable love in its fullness, calling us out of our enclosed little selves into realizing that we are made for Love: and that love is *our* meaning.

All this suggests that "I cannot say 'I believe' unless it's another way of saying 'I am. ' So the question for each of us is: "Am I real, grounded, and earthed?" And If I am, I am beginning to live the truth of Jesus, and his way and his life." So we can with confidence rejoice that- in his unique and gifted way- as a man and fellow human being, a husband and father and grandfather, a priest and a musician and a lover of life – Dean indeed made a go of living his truth.

There's a lovely poem by Mary Oliver entitled "When death comes", and it ends:

*When it's over, I want to say: all my life
I was a bride married to amazement.
I was the bridegroom, taking the world into my arms.*

*When it's over, I don't want to wonder
If I have made of my life something particular and real.
I don't want to find myself sighing and frightened,
Or full of argument.*

I don't want to end up simply having visited this world.

We all know - and celebrate it today - that Dean didn't simply visit this world: he made something of his life which was "particular and real": he wasn't perfect and he was limited: in many ways he was a child of his time and upbringing: his cooking ability- such as it was- was limited to tinned spaghetti and baked beans: and he never worked out how the washing machine worked! But he was a human being: he was real: and he took his vocation to be a Priest- seriously: and many of us are thankful for that.

When his own father died Jurgen Moltmann wrote: "The dead are not "dead", far away and without any further meaning, so that they can be quickly forgotten. They are beside us and in us, and our life is a continual dialogue with them. We live in their past, which is now present, and they exist in our present". Or as the 4th century Greek Orthodox theologian John Chrysostom, said: "The one whom we love and lose is no longer where he was before: he is now wherever we are".

There is no better way to end than with the words of Dag Hammarskjold, the Secretary General of the UN, and who died in a plane crash in 1961:

***For everything that has been-THANKS!
For everything that shall be- YES!***



Windows Tour -The Burnside Combined Probus clubs will visit us at 11am on Thursday 22nd August. They do not require morning tea but we need a few people to meet and greet. **David** and Deborah have made their booking and anyone else interested would be most welcome. (Please note change of time)

News from St Theodore's

At the Patronal Festival on Sunday 15 September there will be a Produce Sale, for fundraising for mission giving. Contributions of home produce bottled, preserved, baked or cooked and plants will be for sale.

In recognition of the Heritage status of St Theodore's Church, The City of Burnside Council introduced a project in 2020 to install plaques at key heritage places in the city precinct. The Parish Council of St Theodore's church made an application for such recognition, as a worthwhile connection to the general community for people interested in heritage-listed properties and wanting to know more about our beautiful Church. The plaque has now been installed at the western (Prescott Terrace) end of the church.

Badminton news – We welcome Stephen (our newest member) to the Tuesday morning Badminton Social Group.

New members are always welcome to the Multicultural Badminton Group, who meet on the 1st & 4th Saturday of each month 1 to 3pm. This is an outreach programme and facilities are available free of charge.

Locum Tenens: The Ven David Thornton - Wakeford

Fr. David can be contacted on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays**, he will also be available outside of his usual working hours in the case of emergencies
Email - daviddtw76@gmail.com Phone 08 7112 4945.

Priest's Warden - Pauline Parfitt 0421 382 358

or

People's Warden - Emma Robinson 0412 002 123

can be contacted for information concerning worship or parish activities.

For news items or information regarding Parish News please contact
Ann Peisley 0417 810 549

2024 Parish Council

Peoples Warden Emma Robinson 0412 002 123	Priests Warden Pauline Parfitt 0421 382 358
Pastoral Assistance Elizabeth Westphalen 08 8362 5238	Secretary Denise Kirk
Member Sara Blunt 0400 028 537	Member Lorraine Gormly 0412 712 916
Member Benton Brockhouse 0437 162 197	Member Chris Brockhouse 0413 667 469
Member Vernon Lewis 0403 090 355	Member Ann Peisley 0417 810 549

Bank account details

Parish of All Souls St Peters - BSB: 105 169 - Account: 759 245 140