

# Cross & Keys

Easter 2023 – Newsletter of

## Saint Peter's Church



**Anglican**  
Church  
Saint Peter's East Maitland

The Anglican Parish of East Maitland  
**Saint Peter's Church**  
49 William Street East Maitland



Serving the Communities of Ashtonfield,  
East Maitland, Four Mile Creek, Louth Park, Metford, Pitnacree, Tenambit and the Hunter Region

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## Scott's Spot

By the time this edition of Cross and Keys goes to print we will be part way through our journey of faith that is Holy Week and Easter.

We will have moved from cries of Hosanna on Palm Sunday through to the deeply profound example of servant leadership of Maundy Thursday. Only to be drawn even deeper into the all-encompassing love of God as Jesus stretched out his arms on the cross to draw all humanity and indeed all creation into the loving embrace of God. Ahead will be the dark silence of Holy Saturday which will be pierced by the light of resurrection at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Day when our cry of faith and hope is Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



To say it is a bit of a rollercoaster ride is probably an understatement. In the course of seven days we are taken from the very heady heights of jubilation to the deepest solemnity returning again to faith filled expectation.

In so many ways the pattern of the Easter mystery, life-death-entombment-new life is the pattern of our everyday life as well. We see new shoots of life all around us, and when we examine things closely, we will usually note a dying of something preceding this change into newness. Sometimes this experience is emphasised for us by what seems like a time of waiting for the new life and change to come to birth – an entombment of sorts.

Getting used to new ways of living and change is never easy. I'm not actually sure it's supposed to be. Often the pain we experience in change shapes us and refines us. It sometimes pushes us to our limit and bends us almost to breaking point. I guess it's a little like childbirth in that way. But when we see the new life, when we hold our new reality and are able to really live into it, we see that the pain of change and transition has actually been worth it.

As we continue on our journey of faith together in this Parish I pray that you may know the deep and abiding joy and hope of resurrection life. Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

With the assurance of my prayers for you all.

Your Priest and brother in Christ.

**Scott.**

If you are a user of Facebook please like and share our Facebook Pages:

- East Maitland Anglican
- Op Shop St Peter's East Maitland



Parish Office hours are as follows;

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- **Thursday 9am – 1pm**
- **Friday 9am – 1pm**



Outside of these hours messages can be left on the Parish Office phone (4934 5303) and will be responded to as promptly as possible during opening hours.





This year has seen a revamped Petrus which has had a focus on forming connections and fellowship through sharing a meal. We have had some great meetings so far:

❖ A 'make your own pizza' night where we gathered in the hall to create some edible masterpieces. Prizes for the best pizzas went to Katrina and Maobi.

❖ A 'family photos' night, where we gathered around photos and food and the Petrus ice-cream bar made its first appearance.

❖ A board games and Bible trivia night, complete with ice-cream bar. This saw several individuals and teams take on the trivia challenge, which, after a steward's inquiry clearing the possibility of insider knowledge, Fr Scott and Georgia were declared winners, taking home an Asian grocery snack pack.

❖ Most recently, we gathered for a games afternoon with a lolly jar, guessing challenge and several rounds of celebrity head. Incredibly, both lolly jar guessing

competitions ended in ties, with Kerry and Kobi taking the small jar and Maobi and Phillip taking the large jar.

Petrus is for all age groups and is enjoyed by all, whether you want to join in the activities, or just come for a chat. We have been especially blessed and encouraged to have several of the more established members of the St Peter's community join us, alongside some of the newer worshippers.



Bridget's pizza creation



Family Fun



Winners!



Ice Cream - yes please!



the Ice Cream Bar is open!



Kids at the guessing table



Celebrity Head

We would love to have you join us for the Autumn Petrus Program:  
5-7pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month  
**May 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**

# Church Tour

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 a group from the Kincumber Anglican Parish visited St Peter's for a

Church Tour guided by Fr Scott. One of the organiser's parents were married here in 1952 and the group were in awe of the history and beauty of the Church. They were all very engaged during the tour which provided a broad overview including;

- ❖ *The foundation, dedication, architecture and materials*
  - ❖ *The Font*
- ❖ *The Stained Glass Windows*
- ❖ *Saint Barnabas Chapel*
  - ❖ *The Pulpit*
  - ❖ *The Eagle Lectern*
  - ❖ *The Reredos*
- ❖ *The Organ and Organ Screen*



Fr Scott also included information on The Rectory, Columbarium, Memorial Garden, Parish Hall, Op Shop and our links to The Glebe Cemetery. The group left St Peter's with big smiles, especially after Fr Scott played a few bars on the organ, which was a surprise bonus, thus making the trip even more worthwhile!



## Busy Bees Brass Cleaning

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

Nine very busy bees gathered and spent several hours cleaning all the brass in St Peter's ready for Easter.

I am sure you all will agree how beautiful and shiny it all looks. *Thanks team, great effort and fantastic result.*

**Rev'd Wendy**



## Congratulations Stephen



On the 8<sup>th</sup> March Stephen McKinnon was presented with the Bishop's Lay Reader Licence with the Authority to Preach.

This is the next step in the process as Stephen discerns his vocation as a Priest in local ministry in our Parish.

We are sure everyone will join with Fr Scott in congratulating Stephen and we all look forward to hearing from him in the near future.





# 2023 Lenten Studies

## MONDAY GROUP

This awesome Lenten group has been studying Bishop Bill Ray's book *"Lord I'm Serious this Lent."*

Each week we have looked at the previous week's Gospel reading, one of our Baptismal promises, one of the Lenten disciplines like temptation, fasting, prayer, worship, Bible reading, and living a Christian life as well as a social issue affecting our community.



There has been lively discussion as each person has shared their personal experiences of growing up in their faith from their early Sunday School experiences to where they are today, what has been important to them and continues to be part of their Christian life and who has influenced them on their journey.

We have also looked at how we can share our faith with those outside the church, how to help those having social problems, how to spend a quiet time in our busyness of life with God and how we can be good stewards of God's creation.

Some of the social issues we feel that we are not adequately equipped to make any real difference but at least we try to live the way God would want us to live and to be the best we can, being a good example to those we meet.

Each time together starts and ends with prayer, praying the collect, Lord's Prayer, for those in our parish, and any other set prayer as well singing a hymn associated with the weekly theme.

It has been a great joy to lead this group - **Rev'd Wendy**



## THURSDAY GROUP

The Thursday Lent Group has used the Australis Certificate in Ministry 'Taster' Course. It has included a selection of sessions from the full course material.

The group has read about and reflected on topics such as prayer, the early church, the Australian Church as well as how we live our lives of faith in our current context. There has been plenty of grist for the mill and we have certainly been challenged at times with new insights and challenges to how we have always thought things were.

After Easter a number of members of the group will be continuing with Unit 1 of the Australis Certificate, Experiencing Christian Faith. We have enjoyed spending time with people we have known for years and people who are relatively new to our community. Overall it has been a very positive and worthwhile time.

Like Rev'd Wendy it has been a delight for me to lead the Thursday group - **Fr Scott**

## New Children's Play Area

During March a dedicated space was set up for children during our Sunday Church service. This is proving to be a big hit with both the children and parents alike and hopefully will encourage more families to attend regular worship and join our Petrus Family Group.



# St Peters Parish Pantry

Generally referred to as St Peters Pantry or SPP, formally known as Oz Harvest was in need of a name change as we now source product from places other than Oz Harvest plus this name change gives us the opportunity to promote St Peters Anglican East Maitland.

SPP source product from Amorelle Dempster, - frozen meals and eggs, Jenni Nichols, - frozen meals, U1R Patisserie Pender Place, - bread, rolls, pies, sausage rolls, savoury items and sweet cakes etc., and Oz Harvest who pick up from Aldi, Woolworths, Costco and KFC and then distribute to charities such as SPP. The Oz Harvest delivery can include any item sold in any of these stores. We also have the very generous donations from our parishioners each week.

In the first quarter of 2023 (a total of 13 Wednesdays) SPP has helped 681 clients, plus prepared and supplied 39 emergency packs. (This does not include the emergency packs made up by Father Scott.)

Our volunteers have collected, packed and stored for Wednesday pickups 1,872 hot items (pies etc.), over 2,390 savoury and sweet items, 2,500 loaves of bread or packs of bread rolls, received 717 frozen meals, and from Oz Harvest received 8,037Kg of product which included 1,980 pieces of KFC. Every item of food received during the week is distributed on Wednesday, the team leaving the freezers empty and the cupboard bare.



*Oz Harvest driver Peter*

None of this would be possible without a bit of organisation - to this end we have 3 pickup teams who collect food from the U1R Patisserie Pender Place on Saturday night, Sunday night and Tuesday night, Father Scott picks up frozen meals and eggs (when available) on Mondays and Jenni delivers frozen meals on a Wednesday morning.

Some members of the pickup teams are also on the Wednesday roster.

Due to the high demand for the service SPP provides and the dwindling supply of product from the major supermarkets, we have been forced to make the extremely difficult decision to place a cap on the number of clients that can be assisted on any week. The pantry now offers extra clients an emergency food pack (does not contain fresh fruit, vegetables or meat) to help them through the week.

SPP has a great team of volunteers - Rev Wendy, Gillian, Rachel, Vicky. Peter, coordinator Bill are on duty every Wednesday. David, Carol, Damian, Ron, Jenni and Judy are rostered on once or twice a month to make sure that we have a team of 9 or 10 on duty each Wednesday.

Our pickup teams, Janice and Dennis, David and Carol, Barb and Robbie work one night each and every week. Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday nights are our scheduled pickup nights. When things get really hectic we call on Father Scott for assistance and on occasion we have also been known to ask some of the Op Shop volunteers to lend a hand for an hour or so to cope with the odd emergency.

## Lent Reflection Day – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February Fr Scott led a Lenten Reflection Day at St Peter's Church. The focus of the day was the Lord's Prayer and how we live the prayer we know so well at a practical level every day of our lives. Participants went away feeling enriched and encouraged from the day.



*The truck door is open March 2023*



*Distribution March 2023*



*Greg, Peter, Gill, Wendy, Carol, Dave, Bill, Rachel, Jenny and Vicki*

Greg, Noela and





## Hall Hire

Our Parish Hall is available to hire for community or family events and functions.

We currently host a number of local groups running weekly Yoga, and Belly Dancing classes.

We are also host U3A Tai Chi classes who will return for Term 2 on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023.

If you would like to hire the Hall, please contact the Parish Office.



## Regular Giving

Boxes of giving envelopes are now available at the back of the church and we invite you to collect a box next time you are in church. The boxes contain sufficient envelopes for each week for the coming twelve months.

Would you be willing to give your regular offering electronically?



The Parish Council is asking all those who regularly give to the life of the Parish to consider doing so electronically. Giving regularly by bank transfer is simple to set up and saves having to remember your giving envelopes each week. It also reduces security risks on the church site.

There are two ways to set this up:

- ★ If you have access to the internet and already use electronic banking for other payments you can set this up from within your bank's website;
- ★ If not, you can visit your local bank branch and ask the staff to arrange it for you.

The Parish's bank details are:  
Saint Peter's Anglican Church  
BSB: 705-077,

Account Number: 00040464 Reference: St Peter's Giving.

It is important for you to know that your giving will remain confidential. Christine Simpson-Morgan our Treasurer is available to help you. Please contact Christine at [office@eastmaitlandanglican.org](mailto:office@eastmaitlandanglican.org) or on 4934 5303 if you would like to discuss this confidentially.

## Memorial Flowers

Throughout the year we pray for the souls of loved ones on the anniversary of their death. Each year families remember loved ones who have died by dedicating memorial flowers in the church on the weekend in which they are included in our prayers.

This is a lovely way to remember loved ones and to help Saint Peter's maintain a supply of fresh flowers throughout the church.

The cost of flowers is determined by the family making the donation, however as an indication this is usually in the order of \$150 - \$200.

If you would like to organise memorial flowers for a loved one, please contact the Parish Office on 4934 5303



## Saint Peter's Columbarium

Many of our friends and loved ones rest in the columbarium niches and memorial garden.



We invite all members of our local community to consider our columbarium as the final resting place for their cremated remains, where family members and descendants can visit.

For further details about purchasing a columbarium niche please contact the Parish Office.

Please pray for the souls of all those who have died since our last edition and their lives celebrated at St. Peter's

Joyce LAWSON  
Janice Lorraine RENSHAW  
Jeffrey Lloyd WRIGHT  
Joan THOMPSON  
Paul John LOGUE  
Margaret LeGendre PLAIN

May they rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory

## Parish Office Hours 2023

Our Parish Office will be changing our office opening hours in 2023 as follows;

- Tuesday 9am – 1pm
- Thursday 9am – 1pm
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# Join Us for ST PETER'S BIG WEEKEND



Friday 28th  
MDCEA Theatre Night

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>  
Op Shop High Tea &  
Fashion Parade

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>  
Parish Mission Lunch

