

A COMMUNITY CHURCH WITH A *BIG* HEART

Vol. 19 Issue Jan 2

“Beautiful Lord, wonderful Saviour; I know for sure, all of my days are held in your hands; Crafted into Your perfect plan. You gently call me into Your presence; Guiding me by, Your Holy Spirit; Teach me dear Lord, to live all of my life through Your Eyes.”

The Potters Hand

Songwriters: Darlene Joyce

A word from our Minister

GOD GIVES US A LIFE BEYOND AMAZING.

I recall witnessing a Mountain Ash come crashing to the ground when I worked in the Dandenong Ranges. Towering some 100 metres above the ground and living for up to 500 years, this majestic tree had been teetering until it could stand up no longer. Her core was gone because her insides had been slowly eaten away by termites and natural mulch working its way down her centre to leave a tunnel like hole. She had been lashed by wind and water but had held her own in bush fire – but this day – her life was over. Many of us feel that we are also teetering, not knowing when the next storm will come. We can feel hollow inside, just like the tree and our core is no longer strong.

What if you could change all this? If you could reconnect with your inner strength and confidence. What if you could experience the kind of joy that will change the world around you and the kind of peace that brings serenity and calmness sweeter than you have ever known?

You can have all that – and it is free.

God makes us capable of achieving anything in life and provides us with the Holy Spirit who is always ready to guide us. With faith and trust in our Saviour Jesus Christ, we can learn to set fear aside. But it is up to each one of us to take that step. God has given us the only life-changing choice in the world – and that is through the salvation provided by His Only Son, Jesus Christ and His loving sacrifice for us. **But we sometimes struggle because we misunderstand the nature of salvation.** The moment we truly receive Christ as Saviour and Lord we are instantly and eternally saved from the penalty of sin. During our Christian lifespans on earth, we’re gradually being saved from the power of sin and grow in godliness.

One day in heaven, we will be saved from the very presence of sin and will be wholly glorified. Many people consider salvation a one-time, past event. They forget its ongoing nature. It’s as though they are standing on one side of a deep river, looking across to the opposite bank. On this bank they have declared their faith. On the opposite bank is the ultimate result – final salvation itself. But what are we supposed to do in the meantime? Stand here and wait or take a step of faith onto the bridge that links both banks – the bridge of character, which transforms, shapes and marks our life and habits.

Are you willing to take that step?



A word from our board



Hi everyone,

The board met last weekend to discuss our recommendations in regard to the membership vote on whether to 'opt in' or 'opt out' of the National Redress Scheme. As a board we are unanimously recommending to 'opt in'.

The ultimate decision will be made by you, the church members on Sunday 3rd February at our membership meeting. The meeting will be held straight after the church service and should not take longer than 15 mins.

Hopefully everyone has had an opportunity to look at the information (either paper or online). I will be available after the service on Sunday 27th January for any further questions you may have.

On another note, the church and our Careworks arm are running well financially and socially. The Community Breakfast is back up and running at full strength and our tenants are resuming their programs.

Thank you
Margaret Dowlan
Chair



3-5 Blantyre Ave
Chelsea

Ph: 03 9773 0301
Rev. Judi - 0423 375 714
Student Min. Fiona - 0467 043 441
www.chelseachurchofchrist.org.au

The Pastor Is In:

Pastor Judi provides pastoral care to all who attend the church and overall site throughout the week. She is able to meet on or off site, depending on your preferences. Best contact 0423 375 714.

Fiona is also available at times to offer support on Mondays and Tuesdays. Best contact 0467 043 441.

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for —

**GOD IS WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO.**

JOSHUA 1:9



Student Ministry

Hello my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, it has been brought to my attention that I did not explain myself (for which I sincerely apologise for) last week in relation to the new unit I am undertaking - Exploring Ministry Through Case Studies.

The unit explores leadership skills in how the student manages particular situations and issues. This does not mean I will be discussing any personal information about others but solely around how I handle issues that arise for me and help develop my spiritual growth further.

Starting this week, I will be catching up with you all either by phone or over coffee. Please let Fiona know if you have a preference. Thanking you in advance.

"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth,

Will draw everyone to myself."

John 12:32

CHAPEL LOUNGE

LADIES BIBLE STUDY - Thursday 1pm - 2.15pm

Bible Study will commence 31st January and we will be looking at "Learning to quiet your Soul."

"we are so afraid of silence that we chase ourselves from one event to the next in order not to have to spend a moment alone with ourselves, in order not to have a look at ourselves in the mirror" Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

PRAYER MEETING - Thursday 2.30pm - 3pm

Prayer meeting will also commence 31st January. If you wish to be included in our prayers on Thursdays please let Judi know. All are welcome to attend our weekly **Prayer meeting**.



YOUR PANTRY

Wednesdays 7.00 to 12noon

This fortnight in the Pantry we have helped 45 people put food on their table. A real blessing to be able to assist those who struggle pay check to pay check.

Much needed items are milk, toilet paper, tuna and coffee. If you are able to help in supplying these items, please see Di after the Church service each week as Di does shopping on Mondays.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Wednesdays 7.00—10am

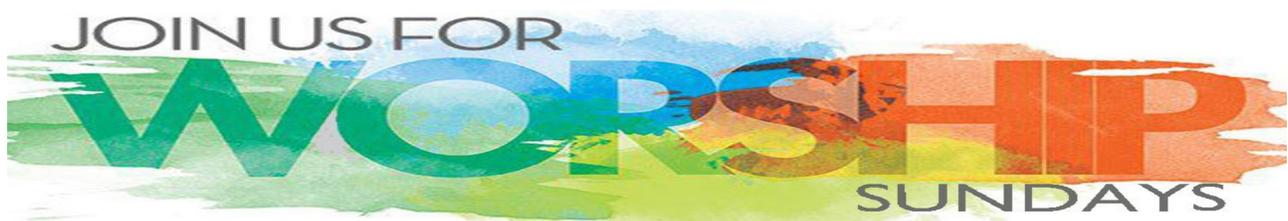
Breakfast back in full swing this week and we welcome back the ladies after a well earned break. The Breakfast has helped connect 86 people this week while supplying a hot and delicious meal.

ORANGE SKY LAUNDRY

Wednesdays 7.00-9am

Orange Sky Laundry continue to offer this amazing service which is still be being used by our struggling friends. Roughly 9 people during this fortnight have utilised this wonderful service which continues to assist in all kinds of weather.

As always, the ministry team is on deck to offer a listening ear and a warm heart for those who need to share their trouble. The ministry team also encourage church members to come along Wednesday morning and share a cuppa or toast with one of our special friends.



Sunday Services for month of February:

February 3:	Preacher:	Judi
	Readings:	Jeremiah - 1:4-10 (Leah) / Luke 4:21-30 (Noel)
February 10:	Preacher:	Judi
	Readings:	Isaiah 6:1-13 (Terry) / Luke 5:1-11 (Marg)
February 17:	Preacher:	Fiona
	Reading:	Jeremiah 17:5-10 (Bob) / Luke 6:17-26 (Leah)