Welcome to the Townsville (CBD) Ministry Unit

January Parish News 2024

Services



<u>Sundays:</u> 7.15 am St Marks Belgian Gardens 9 am St James' Cathedral

<u>Monday- Friday:</u> 8 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday: 12 noon & 5.30pm Eucharist

Saturday: 5 pm St Margarets Magnetic Island

St James' Cathedral is <u>open</u> Most weekdays 8am-noon (except in Jan)

Our Ministry Unit

Dean:

The Very Rev'd and Venerable Dr Kenneth Lay 0422 148 952

Assisting Clergy

Rev Vic Hall Rev Shirley Thomson Rev Christine Readman Fr Mitchell Porter Warden: Philip Allnutt 0499451231

Hospital Chaplain Bevan Lobley 0417 602 868 Phone 0432 833 451 Post PO Box 108, Townsville, 4810 Email stjamescathedral@hotmail.com Website stjamescathedral.com.au Facebook /townsvillecathedral/ Instagram@cathedral.tsv

Thanksgiving

Direct Debit

Church Wardens of St James Cathedral General Account
BSB 034 222
Acc 250713

Anonymous	ANFIN A full brochure &	1-5-
Donation	information can be found at	
Donation	<u> ANFIN — Anglican Church Southern Queensland</u>	Anglican Financial Services

If you use either of these methods you may pick up a laminated card from the table on entry, to deposit in the offering plate



January, 2024 The Townsville Ministry Unit

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NAMING OF JESUS 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	2 ELIZA HASSALL 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	3 8.00 Morning Prayer	4 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist all day Charters Towers	5 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	6 EPIPHANY 8.00 Morning Prayer
	1.00 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke		12.00 Eucharist at St James			5.00 Service at Magnetic Isl
_	-	-	5.30 Eucharist at St James		10	
7 1st Sunday AFT EPIPHANY 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James	8 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	9 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	10 WILLIAM LAUD 8.00 Morning Prayer	11 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	12 8.00 Morning Prayer	13 HILARY OF POITIERS 8.00 Morning Prayer
	1.30 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke		12.00 Eucharist at St James	4.00 MUC Meeting, Bowen		
6.00 Evensong			5.30 Eucharist at St James			5.00 Service at Magnetic Isl
14 2ND SUN AFT EPIPHANY 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James	15 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	16 8.00 Morning Prayer 8.30 Opening Service ASSG	17 8.00 Morning Prayer	18 Confession of Peter 8.00 Morning Prayer	19 8.00 Morning Prayer	20 8.00 Morning Prayer
	1.30 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke		12.00 Eucharist at St James			
			5.30 Eucharist at St James			5.00 Service at Magnetic Isl
21 3RD SUNDAY AFT EPIPHANY 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James	22 VINCENT 8.00 Morning Prayer	23 8.00 Morning Prayer	24 COMPANIONS OF PAUL 8.00 Morning Prayer	25 CONVERSION OF ST PAUL 8.00 Morning Prayer	26 AUSTRALIA DAY 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	27 JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 8.00 Morning Prayer
	1.30 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke		12.00 Eucharist at St James			
			5.30 Eucharist at St James			5.00 Service at Magnetic Isl
28 4TH SUNDAY AFT EPIPHANY 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James	29 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	30 CHARLES I, KING OF EN., 8.00 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	31 8.00 Morning Prayer			
	11.00 Annual Clergy Retreat 1.30 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke	11.00 Annual Clergy Retreat	11.00 Annual Clergy Retreat 12.00 Eucharist at St James			
			5.30 Eucharist at St James			

NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me The brand new year ahead. Help me live the way I should As each new day I tread. Give me gentle wisdom That I might help a friend, Give me strength and courage So a shoulder I might lend. The year ahead is empty, Help me fill it with good things Each new day filled with joy And happiness it brings. 2024 Amen.

January 1st Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

(Luke 2:21)



January 2nd Eliza Hassell (1834-1917).

In July 1880 she helped to found the New South Wales branch of the Young People's Scripture Union, of which she became secretary.

In July 1892 the Church Missionary Association of New South Wales was formed, reflecting unprecedented interest in evangelical missions. Eliza was made an honorary life member of the Church Missionary Society, London. Almost threequarters of Australian missionaries overseas in her time were women. She had contributed significantly to their recruitment in Sydney. To find out more.....

<u>Biography - Eliza Marsden</u> <u>Hassall - Australian Dictionary of</u> <u>Biography (anu.edu.au)</u>

January 6th Epiphany of our Lord

Even before 354, the Western Church had separated the celebration of the Nativity of Christ as the feast of Christmas and set its date as December 25; it reserved January 6 as a commemoration of the manifestation of Christ, especially to the Magi, but also at his baptism and at the wedding feast of Cana.



4 Facts About Epiphany

It marks the day Jesus was revealed to the world. ...

In some countries, Epiphany is as important as Christmas Day.

Some believe it is the wise men, not Santa, who bring gifts for children. ...

•Eastern Orthodox Christians celebrate Christmas on Epiphany.

January 7th Baptism of our Lord

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, or Theophany, commemorates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Originally the baptism of Christ was celebrated on Epiphany, Over time in the West, however, the celebration of the baptism of the Lord came to be commemorated as a distinct feast from Epiphany. It is celebrated in many churches on the first Sunday following The Epiphany of Our Lord



Our Oliver Crowley window was dedicated in 1994 to Bishop George Tung Yep, the first priest of Chinese descent born in the Diocese of North Queensland

January 7th 6pm EVENSC

January 26th Australia Day

Dear Heavenly Father,

On this Australia Day, we come before you with hearts filled with gratitude for the land we call home. We thank you for the vast landscapes, diverse ecosystems, and the unique beauty that defines Australia. We pray for your blessings upon this great nation and its people. May your love and grace be upon every Australian, guiding us to live in harmony with one another and with the land.

Grant us wisdom and compassion to care for the environment, recognizing our responsibility as stewards of this precious gift.

As we celebrate the rich tapestry of cultures that make up Australia, may we embrace unity, understanding, and respect for one another. May the spirit of mateship prevail, fostering a sense of community and support in times of joy and challenge.

We remember those who have come before us, the indigenous peoples and the pioneers, and we seek reconciliation and healing for the wounds of the past. May we move forward together with a shared commitment to justice, equality, and inclusivity.

Bless our leaders with wisdom as they guide the nation, and inspire us all to work towards a future that reflects the values of compassion, justice, and peace.

May Australia continue to be a land of opportunity, where all can thrive and live in abundance.

In your name, we pray.

Amen











On December 3rd, we said "Good bye" to lan and Diana Gamack.

Ian has spent the last 15 years as the Principal at The Cathedral School of St Anne & St James



Georgie, with Frank's parents and brother, Harry, from Darwin





We welcomed Sarah Ng's family from Singapore



Sarah, with her mother, Emily, and her brothers

Ng Family welcomed by Owen Stanley





Ex-Parishioner, Richard Keene, with some of the artwork done by his late wife, Cheryl. Margaret Evans welcomes Richard from Adelaide



Oceania Cruises' Regatta passengers Ray and Lois from Tennessee.

Lois is a Textile Artist and was very interested in the textile art of Stan Moses





Lois' kneeler in St Elizabeth's Farragut, Tennessee.



THE Stable Burgensland Christmas festive

42-0

Volunteer Diana

10 10 10

10 10

The first recorded Nativity manger was set up by Saint Francis of Assisi in Greccio, Italy in 1223.

FFFFF

800 years later the tradition continues



















and apole





At the same time, a small group in the middle of China were reading through the same Nativity script and following the ppt



"Kids'Kristmas" Christmas Eve



One of our congregation architects, designed and constructed a typical Townsville **Gingerbread House** Guess Who?



Can the new Archbishop of Brisbane reunite an ideologically divided Anglican congregation?



JAMIE WALKER

The new Anglican Archbishon o Brisbane is wearing black jeans and desert boots, a harbinger of the informal style he plans to bring to the role. Jeremy Greaves may be just the man the churches need to stay relevant in an increasingly Or he could be an agent of thei

destruction - it all depends on where you stand in the bitter ideo-logical war that has split Austras second-largest Christian ias second-largest Christian denomination and the wider ques-tion of the role of organised re-ligion in our national life. It's a good time of year to reflect on these existential themes, the ul-timate in hig-picture thinking. Christmas is more than an excuse for ait origins and socie theme the for gift-giving and good cheer; the celebration of Jesus' birth is the holiest date on the Christian cal-endar next to Easter, a much easier sell to the non-believers and ap ostics than the mystery of th

crucifixion and resurrection. At 54, married and with three teenage and adult children, Greaves is the personification of a progressive church leader. If asked, he will allow Anglican prisets in the sprawling Brisbane Discoveries perform compared systems Diocese to perform same-sex mai riage blessings and he's in favou riage bessings and he s in Tavour of ordaining gay priests. The teachings of the scriptures – in-cluding the virgin birth – are best read for their deeper meaning, not as a literal rendition of God's word,

Greaves is a survivor of sexual abuse and went through the pro-cess of seeking redress for the ter-rible wrong done to him as a teenager by a predatory boy scouts leader in Adelaide. It's a haunting secret he carried alone for more than three decades, unable to confide in his parents or even wife Josie until seven or eight years ago. Josie until seven or eight years ago, when he went to the police. His bravery in speaking out publicly for the first time can only be applauded. As he tells Inquirer: "I don't

want my story to overshadow or be seen to be more important than hose of victim-sur ors of abuse in the churches. The reason I have not shared this before is because not shared this before is because the stories of others are so import-ant to be heard ... my experience of the process simply informs my be-lief that all churches need to get better at this stuff." Greaves is determined to do things differently. It's no accident that he will depart from tradition when he is installed on Saturday as Archbishop of Brishane, following in the foostens of Peter Holime-

in the footsteps of Peter Holling-worth and Phillip Aspinall, figures who were central to the reckoning on child sexual abuse by clergy and on child sexual abuse by clergy and employees of the church that started two decades ago. Instead of being met by a senior cleric, students from two local Anglican schools will ceremonial-ly interrogate him when he knocks on the door of \$L John's Cathedral, remuesting acture. Hawill tables

requesting entry. He will tell them come, despite my fears, trusting in the love of God, knowing that the Christ walks beside me and the Spirit surrounds me with grac give me courage." He will need all the He will need all the help he can get, divine or otherwise. Drawing on his experience with the national redress scheme for survivors of sexual abuse-here-ceived a financial settlement from Scouts

Australia – Greaves wants to speed compen-sation payouts from the church and make the mechanism more "victim survivor-centric". He won't know exactly what he is dealing with in terms of the Brisbane Discored's exprograme to Australia - Greave Diocese's exposure to unresolved compensation claims until he is briefed by the professiona standards director ney week though he has had : ounishing taste of what could be in store during a



surely no less traumatic frontation between the Anglicar 'We have to find settled nothing. If anything the in-Schools Commission that he headed for six years and the popuways of engaging

with a generation lar ex-principal of the leading pre-prep to year 12 St Paul's School, whose sacking infuriated parents for whom ... issue around sexuality and opened old wounds. are not issues ... The pressure points bearing <text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text><text> they have friends down on the Anglicans are par-ticularly acute in Queensland. who are gay or reaves believes the Brisban

sregory Robert Knight between 981 and 1997. Browning claimed he church had reneged on a com-nitment to fund a projected \$6.5m hortfall in uninsured compen-ption to the aid time a combined sation to the victims, a contentior ejected by Greaves. He insists the liability always resided with St Paul's – in line with an across-theboard decision that "individual units" within the diocesan structure units' within the diocesan structure were to be responsible for any on-going or new claims – and there was provision in the school accounts to fund up to \$6m in additional com-pensation settlements. "So it's not a debt that they have, it's a provision for needba future it's a provision for possible future payouts," he tells Inquirer. In the process, barely healed cars have been ripped open. Hol neworth's reputation was de troved by allegations that he nu welfare of sexual abuse survivors while archbishop; the scandal orced him to resign as governor-general in 2003, less than 18 nonths after John Howard apointed him. Aspinall, for his part, was still

ellor Kevin Lynch and teacher Gregory Robert Knight betweer

answering questions about the de bacle deep into his tenure, appear ing as a witness at the child abuse royal commission. The St Paul's episode was canvassed at length in the inquiry's 2017 report. Granuar cave base and to draw: Greaves says he wants to draw a line under this troubled past. So why not wipe the slate clean and reappoint Browning? The job is still open, the parents' campaign to reinstate him rumbles on. "I don't think we can go there," he says The way things have unfolded over the last six months just make

it untenable For all the day-to-day concer of leading the diocese and a 50e must also tend to his flock iritual needs. Being the herd tops his KPIs. A ing the conservatives with sam ex marriage blessings doesr exactly present as conciliatory ough. The Diocese of the Southern

'ross now has at least six chapter operating in southeast Queens and its heaviest penetration in the land its be

It's that tricky space of wanting somethingstochangebrakalowski be realised that he wanted to de-no accident system in the south of Francewski berealised that he wanted to de-no accident system in the south the field to the south of Francewski Discover progressive bent. Truck Discover progressive bent Truck Discover D

subard of Scadiff in Adeiaide na finalty nat van deery familiar with church-service. Waher Tadeley, was the bidspoor of Maler Tadeley, was the maler tadeley the tradeley the tr Baddeley went underground and operated a jungle hospital that Directors, which turned out to be have about him. He wants them to treated the indigenous population and wounded US servicemen dur-position of archbishop to succeed sex attracted people into the life of ing the blockly Battle of Guadal. Appinall, a former primate of the the charachistotenly the Christian characterized for the sharafinal who was appendix the sharafinal who was the sharafinal whore who was the sharafinal who was ing the bloody Battle of Guadal-Aspinall, a former primate of the church in Australia who was in the thing to do but important to the fu-

Anglican schools dotted across questioned the resurrection, as He was 14 or 15 when it hapsoutheast Oueensland. some critics claim. The corner-stone of Christian belief that Jesus ned. His parents had no inkling stone of Christian belief that Jesus rose from the grave on the third day after the crucifixion undoubt-edy happened – but possibly not as described in the gospels. "I would say it wasn't resusci-tation ... so if it's not resuscitation, what is it?" he aske "IK's an award he had been sevually assaulted h settlef nothing. If anything them is highling us want deer warmer is in a motion to updold the atimu tage another to updold the atimu between atoms in all asymmetry. This is a solit of that same sets marriage declares to the s The task Greaves has set himself is to hold the show together, to engender a sort of big tent, what is it?" he asks. "It's an event that is so far outside human experi broad-church ence that for 2000 years people Anglicanism that

INQUIRER

SHEPHERD FOR BROAD CHURCH

Installation of **The Right Reverend Jeremy Greaves Archbishop of Brisbane** Metropolitan of the Province of Queensland

> at St John's Cathedral 373 Ann Street, Brisbane Saturday 16th December 2023

To view the full Installation Service

https://www.youtube.com/ channel/UCNK4UfKhyzHdsk

N-s 09e40



THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN, DECEMBER 16-17, 2023 theaustralian.com.au

New archbishop reveals 'terrible secret' of sex abuse as a teen



New Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane Jeremy Greaves at St John's Cathedral

EXCLUSIVE

JAMIE WALKER ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It took Jeremy Greaves three decades to come to grips with what happened to him as a teenager and only now, the day of his installation as Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane, is he willing to speak openly about the sexual abuse he endured.

The 54-year-old father of three wants to share his story so that other survivors will know his heart is in the right place, that he is serious when he promises to do better by those who have suffered at the hands of predatory priests and church workers.

Archbishop Greaves was "14 or 15" when he was sexually assaulted by a scouts leader in Adelaide in the early 1980s and kept the terrible secret to himself until about eight years ago, when he finally

went to South Australian police. He's not yet ready to publicly detail the abuse. But it turned out his accused assailant was a convicted sex offender who allegedly preved on other children around the time he entered the paedophile's orbit.

"I think the royal commission (into institutional child sexual abuse) suggested that it often Continued on Page 10

INQUIRER P19

Continued from Page 1

takes 20 or 30 years for people to disclose, and that was certainly my experience," Archbishop Greaves told The Weekend Australian.

"Over the last 10 years or so I've done the work that I've needed to do to understand all of that." A mixture of "shame, embar-

rassment and bewilderment" made him keep the harrowing experience to himself for all those vears, he said. Archbishop Greaves could not bring himself to confide in anyone, not even his wife, Josie, until the dam broke.

After telling his family, he called in the police.

"It was quite a long process of working out that this was actually abuse, and my primary concern was: were there others?" he said.

"And subsequently I have discovered there were, before me and after me. So my primary reason for going to the police was about making sure there were no others after that time."

As head of the sprawling Brisbane Diocese, Archbishop Greaves is one of five "metropolitans" who sit atop the Anglican Church of Australia and provide candidates to be primate, its elected leader. More than three million people identify as being Anglican in this country.

He follows in the footsteps of former primate Phillip Aspinall and Peter Hollingworth, central figures in the decades-long reckoning over child sexual abuse in the churches. Dr Hollingworth was forced to quit as governorgeneral in 2003 in the face of accusations that he had put the Anglican Church first in dealing with survivors while archbishop of Brisbane, compounded by a disastrous attempt to defend his record from Yarralumla.

Dr Aspinall was still answering questions about Hollingworthera cases when he appeared at the royal commission in 2015. A bitter internal dispute relating to one of them, claimed to involve fallout from the crimes committed against at least 140 children at the

'It was quite a long process of working out that this was actually abuse, and my primary concern was: were there others?'

JEREMY GREAVES ANGLICAN ARCHBISHOP OF BRISBANE

Anglican St Paul's School in Bris-

bane's north between 1981 and

Lynch and teacher Gregory Rob-

stalled rather than "enthroned"

as archbishop at Saturday's

pomp-filled service in St John's

said he hoped to speed compen-

sation in sexual abuse cases and

Drawing on his experience, he

he sets to work on Monday.

Cathedral.

Protracted processes were "incredibly hurtful and damaging". he said "We are moving into a differ-

ent place," Archbishop Greaves said. "The primary concern for me, it seems, would be that we do things guicker. "I had the experience of being

a victim of child sexual abuse, not in the church ... and my experience of dealing with the scouts was they were terrific.

"I've now spent a number of vears dealing with the police and revisiting stuff, and while I have done a lot of work to come to terms with and work out what all that means for me. I can absolutely see for some people that a drawn-out process would be incredibly hurtful and damaging."

Suffering sexual abuse provided him with "a little bit of insight" and fired his determination to make a difference as a church leader.

"You know, while my story is not anyone else's story, hopefully it brings me a bit of understanding or a bit of sensitivity or compassion," he said.

1997 by student counsellor Kevin After making a statement to ert Knight, will be waiting on police, Archbishop Greaves en-Archbishop Greaves' desk when tered the National Redress Scheme, established in the wake He immediately put his mark of the 2013-17 royal commission. on the role by opting to be in-He received a financial settlement.

> Scouts SA said in a statement it had in the past "failed some of our members", but there was zero tolerance for any form of child abuse or endangerment.

"We're not in a position to

name the perpetrator," the organmake the church's redress system more "victim-survivor centric". isation said of the archbishop's case. "To do so may compromise the privacy of any other victims." South Australian police declined to comment.

While Archbishop Greaves kept the abuse secret until he was well into his 40s, he said it had had a telling impact on him as a teenager and young man. His school grades plunged in the aftermath of the abuse: he started a science degree but dropped out of univer-

sity to backpack around Europe. Entering the priesthood was the furthest thing from his mind.

Then, about 10 years ago, he "joined the dots" and began to come to terms with the ordeal he had undergone. "I've done a lot of work with good professional advisers, a spiritual director, and I think I now understand its impact on me." he said.

In comments that will anger conservative Anglicans, Archbishop Greaves said he was prepared to green-light same-sex marriage blessing ceremonies and would ordain gay priests if he had the power to do it.

The Brisbane Diocese, the church's third largest with 50 parishes spanning a vast catchment that reaches north past Bundaberg and south to the NSW border, is now the centre of a split between its progressive and conservative, evangelical wings.

The breakaway Diocese of the Southern Cross, backed by the powerful and conservative-dominated Sydney Diocese, had started at least six chapters in southeast Queensland, Archbishop Greaves said.

If planning your holidays for 2024, have you thought of visiting the north of our Diocese for the Coming of the Light (JULY 1st)?



Boigu Boigu Dauan Saibal Dauan Saibal Mabuiag Badu Kubrin - Moa -

Quetta Memorial Cathedral Church 20 Chester Street, Thursday Island

> https://monumentaustralia.org.au/ themes/disaster/maritime/display /92664-quetta-memorial-precinct

St George's Church, 183 Wasui Street, Bamaga

https://deadlystory.com/page/culture/Annual Days/Coming of the Light

More Island Churches St James Church, Mer Island

St John the Evangelist Church, Yorke Island

St Andrew's Church, Coconut Island

St Paul's Church,

Moa Island

St Mary's Church, Mabuiag Island

St Peter's Church, Kubin, Moa Island

All Saints Church, Darnley Island

News from the Mission to Seafarers









2023 marks the 10th year of the Aitkenvale Girl Guides visiting in December to wrap the hundreds of individual gifts for seafarers. Their enthusiastic and willing help makes the task easy and loads of fun.

The first crew to receive their gifts was the cement vessel AKUNA, a regular visitor.

Thank you to the sponsors who contributed towards the gifts, and the Guides and committee members who assisted in preparing or wrapping the Christmas presents.

TOURISTS IN PORT

The Cruise Season is here again and Bev and John Smith-Trim have again taken on the task of volunteering for sell our souvenirs to tourists and crew on the cruise liners that visit Townsville over the summer cruise season.

Many thanks for this work of presenting the Mission to the visitors of our Port city.

Gospel Reflection and Breakfast Wednesdays 7am Recommences February 7th



Resumes March 2nd

Thank you to all those who helped with the 2023 concerts. A special "thank you" to Ann Milanovic for organising the artists and to Mick Cutler for producing the programs and publicity

Do you want to begin the year with a new name badge? Place orders with Fr Kenneth

St James' Cathedral Townsville

More than a church, we are a family



If you do not want to redeem your credits for the Coles BBQ Collection please remember Althea can use these items to add to their accommodation starter kits.

Curtis Stone BBQ Collection

Here are the items on offer with the promotion:

- •Multi-purpose BBQ Shears 16 credits
- •Heat Proof Mitts 24 credits
- Marinade Dish 36 credits
- •BBQ Grill Basket 46 credits
- •BBQ Cooking Utensils Set 50 credits
- •Carving Board 54 credits
- •Carving Knife and Fork 60 credits
- •Teppanyaki Plate 80 credits

UNTIL JANUARY 16th



Home - Althea Projects



Do your worms need shredded paper?

Do your pots need shredded paper?

Please take a bag from the Cathedral Office

Did you get Christmas cards in the post? Save the stamps for ABM



It's been an incredible year and we're so happy that you're here helping us make change.



And that good work has earnt \$167.70



If you want to take your containers to the depot and donate to St James, please use this ID and money will be deposited directly to St James.





Scheme ID

C10657575





If you have not yet added your name to the 2024 roster at the back of the church, please do

In January, the Cathedral will be closed, other than for services. From February onwards, we are looking for extra people to help keep the Cathedral doors open weekdays from 8.30-12noon

January Anglican Diocese Flood Relief

The January mission is one close to home as we raise money to assist those in the Diocese who have lost everything due to the floods in Mossman and Cairns.





Donations can be made through the envelopes or direct debit, marked with the name of Mission BSB 034 222Account Number 250713 250713 Thank you for \$650 for Gaza Hospital Emergency Appeal







Have you ever browsed the magazines at the back of the Cathedral?

Some interesting articles.....

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC CHRISTIANITY

Meeting on the porch: Christian schools as common ground

Simon Smart

R ight before he died, Timothy Keller wrote a piece called "Lemonade on the Porch: The Gospel in a Post-Christendom Society". Keller used the metaphor of the "porch" to talk about engagement with people who are not Christian. Drawing on experiences of neighbourhoods where busy porches functioned as vital community spaces, Keller painted an image of the secular world (the street) and the church (the house) finding a point of connection on the "porch". Keller's interest was in spaces where relationship can develop to the point where it might even be natural for the person to enter "the house".

While there were once many of these "porches", these days they are few and far between. Keller identified the arts and media, the activity of the church in caring for people in need and, thirdly, educational institutions as some of the remaining "porches" for secular people to encounter Christians and what they believe.

In Australia as the "no religion" category grows and those ticking "Christian" on the census continues to decline at a striking rate, schools run with a Christian mission and foundation (and there is a wide variety of those) are, perhaps surprisingly, playing an increasingly significant role in our social fabric.

What will people find today when they step on to the "porch", that is the school, that offers a Christian view of the world? What are the ways that education might be a gift to those people encountering the core of the Christian story at their school? There are so many. Here are just four:

Holy croc causes mass panic

The first time Brutus the croc went to church, chaos gripped the congregation.

Sarah Weatherhead-Kous and son Alex Kous brought their 40cm freshwater crocodile to the Blessing of the Pets service at Christ Church Cathedral in Darwin.

Among pews of cats, dogs, and parrots, Ms Weatherhead-Kous said their two-year-old croc stood out from the crowd.

"The vicar said it was the

first time a crocodile had been to that church," she said.

Mr Kous said he had been holding Brutus until the slippery reptile escaped his grasp.

"The rest is self explanatory – crocodile decides, 'hey, look, an opening, bye', and off he goes," he said. "He tried to run under the altar but thankfully we got him back."

Though Brutus sometimes bites when picked up, Mr Kous said he was "by no means a guard dog". But that never stopped the croc-lover's sense of humour.

"We did have a sign that says, 'beware of the dog', we don't have a dog," he said.

"So I went outside one day, crossed it out, and put 'crocodile'."

Ms Weatherhead-Kous said "crocs are loners, but they get used to people,".

"We taught ours to jump for food," she said.

Townsville Bulletin December 15th , 2023

