



Cathedral News - February 2012

Happy New Year!!

The first Cathedral Newsletter for 2012 comes packed with news of some of the events so far lined up for this year, so have your diary beside you as you read so you can be sure to keep the right dates free.



With January almost over Christmas seems a distant memory: the decorations are packed away and the credit card bills are waiting to be paid. At the Cathedral our dream is that the joy, the love and the hope we celebrate with such enthusiasm for that one day of the year might spill over into the rest of our lives and the rest of our year. We hope that in our life together we might find ways of making that happen: that in our gathering, our worship, our conversations and our honest wrestling with faith and our tradition we might glimpse the possibilities offered by the birth of hope more than just once a year.

Blessing of the Backpacks.

February is almost upon us which means that a new school year is just around the corner! Here at the Cathedral, we want to celebrate the beginning of another school year with a special "Blessing of the Backpacks" on Sunday, January 29. All students starting school again (or for the first time) are invited to bring their backpacks or schoolbags to the Cathedral for our 9:00am service for a special blessing (for them and their owners) as we begin a new school year.



May [they] have peace when they feel nervous, focus when they feel distracted, energy when they feel tired. Open their minds to the lessons they will learn both in and outside the classroom. Help them to make friends that build one another up, and be friends to those who need them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom and maturity. from a prayer for students

Robert Fitzgerald AM - "Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage"



Robert Fitzgerald, a lawyer by profession, has had over thirty years active involvement in commerce, public policy, community services and church agencies. He is currently a full-time Commissioner with the Productivity Commission, having been appointed in 2004. He has conducted over 14 national inquiries including into Australia's health workforce, aged care, early childhood education workforce, gambling, and the not for profit sector. He also convenes the inter government working group that produces the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report on behalf of COAG.

Robert Fitzgerald will give a keynote address at Christ Church Cathedral at 7.30pm on Monday, February 27th 2012 on the topic, "Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage - A Common Endeavour". He writes, "The Australian governments have invested heavily in seeking to address the high level of disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Tares Strait Islander people and communities. There have been some improvements and many Indigenous people live rich, fulfilling and healthy lives. Yet entrenched poverty and disadvantage persist as evidenced in the bi-annual Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Reports produced on behalf of COAG over the past decade. What lessons have we learnt from such reports and evaluations over that time? How do we engage government, communities, business and non-profits in working towards community focussed solutions? What factors underpin successful initiatives and programs and what are the lessons for faith based and other non-profit organisations?"

All welcome.

Taizé at the Cathedral - 7.00pm Sunday, February 5th

Our monthly Taizé-style service begins for 2012 on February 5th. Held at 7.00pm on the first Sunday of each month, the service is an adaptation of the services held at the Taizé community in France. The liturgy is mostly in English and Latin and lasts approximately forty-five to fifty minutes. The music used in the services of daily prayer was composed for the unique liturgical needs of the Community by the brothers in the Community and Jacques Berthier, a composer and friend of Taizé who died in 1994. With young people coming to this tiny hamlet from around the world, the worship calls for a kind of music that is accessible to these global pilgrims. Through the use of chorales, ostinatos (short, repetitive refrains), acclamations, responses and canons, worshippers with radically diverse liturgical and linguistic backgrounds are able to participate immediately. Worshippers often sing in Latin because it is an historical language of the church, unifying the singers in the mystery of prayer. After visiting Taizé, Pope John XXII said, "Ah, Taizé – that little springtime!"



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Tea, 6.00pm February 21st



For a bit of fun before Lent begins, why not join us for our annual Pancake Tea in the Cathedral. The Dean will cook the pancakes, all you need to do is turn up with a topping or a filling and a hearty appetite.

Please let us know if you're coming so we can be sure we have enough batter.

Ash Wednesday & Lent

There will be two services at the Cathedral on Ash Wednesday - 7.30am and 5.30pm. Both will be services of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes.



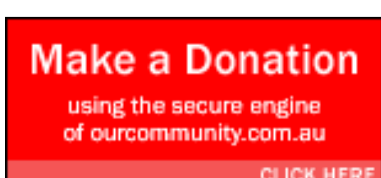
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the time of preparation for Easter. During Lent there will be a number of opportunities for study and discussion with a regular discussion group and a series of Friday Films for Lent. This year's films include, [The Insatiable Moon](#), [Of Gods And Men](#), [Tyrannosaur](#) and [The Gospel According to St Matthew](#) and will be shown each Friday during Lent (beginning March 2) at 7.30pm. The films will be followed by a chance for informal discussion for those who wish.

Diary Dates 2012 - stay tuned for more details.



We're still finalising our Calendar for 2012 but here is a glimpse of what we know so far. Make sure you stay in touch through our website - www.christchurchcathedral.org.au - or our regular newsletters so you always know what is going on at the Cathedral.

- 29 January: Blessing of the Backpacks - 9.00am
- 5 February: Taizé at the Cathedral - 7.00pm
- 21 February: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Tea - 6.00pm
- 27 February: Robert Fitzgerald AM, "Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage" - 7.30pm
- 21 March: World Down Syndrome Day
- 2 June: Alan Cadwallader, "Flying With the Eagle - The Gospel of John"
- 3 & 4 August: Rob Whalley, "Thomas Merton and the Buddha"
- 9 - 26 August: [Darwin Festival](#)
- 7 October: The Blessing of the Animals
- 8 October: Eric Elnes ([Darkwood Brew](#)), "From the Areopagus to Aerospace: Incarnational Worship in a Post-Christian World"
- 27 October: [Paula Gooder](#)
- 25 November: White Ribbon Day - service to remember victims of domestic violence
- 1 December: World AIDs Day - service to remember those living with HIV/AIDs and those who have died.



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Questions or comments? E-mail us at cathedral@internode.on.net
or call 8981 9099 (Mon-Fri, 9.00am-12.00pm)