



The Messenger

May 2005 - July

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From Pastor's Pen

This issue of "The Messenger" finds us all living in very interesting times indeed! Pope Benedict XVI sits on the Papal throne, expressing the intention to work for the unification of the church, both within the Roman tradition; and within the fellowship of all believers.

Prince Charles and Duchess Camilla are newly married, making public confession of sin; and seeking the blessing not only of church; but of the people. I hear speculation as to whether or not Prince Charles may now take the thrown at some stage in the future..., or will it be another.

By the time you read this article, interviews for a 'local seat' may well have been conducted too. LORDS (Lutheran Ormeau Rivers District School) sought applications for the position of foundation principal for 2006. We received eleven applications for the position; and will have four great applicants to interview on Saturday, 7th of May. So praise God; and may He give wisdom.

Isn't it amazing how much we see an institution in the light of the people who 'head it up?' - the 'head' of the Roman Catholic Church; the 'head' of the British Empire; the 'head' master of school.

It really says a lot about the way in which we see those placed in offices over us!

Why would anyone willingly take on this role? Benedict XVI has already expressed his human inability to fulfil the role of pope and need for God's strength. Fellow clergy know its truth for us.

The queen has often expressed her dependence on the support of God and the people she governs to get her through the experience of an 'annis horribilis' (horrible year). We have that old saying: "Heavy is the head that wears the crown."

Principals, these days, have their work cut out for them as schools and all aspects of society are required to show higher and higher levels of professionalism. Burnout & fatigue are common.

Heads of all earthly institutions often acknowledge that a greater strength than their own is needed to fulfil appointed tasks – strength of numbers who help; strength from God. Note how many heads of state (though not all) have active faith lives, notably many of our own: John Howard and Kim Beazley, Joh, God rest him, as quick examples.

As these fellow human beings acknowledge need for God's leadership in their great responsibilities let us honour God and them with our support of their roles. Let's keep them in our regular prayers. Let us look for the good rather than the fault and commend them to Christ who is the Head of All.

Ephesians 1: 22 reminds them and us:

"God placed all things under his (Jesus') feet and appointed him head over everything for the church, which is his body and the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."

*Yours in Christ
Pastor Greg*

Pastor Greg Vangness

SNIPPETS OF INTEREST AROUND THE PARISH

MENS FELLOWSHIP DINNER

is on again at St. Peter's, Alberton

Date: Saturday 18th June

Time: 6p.m.

Cost \$25

SCRUMPTIOUS BANQUET

Guest Speaker: Richard Mau from Lutheran Media Ministry

Auction: Limited to 10 items

Tickets are available from Ian Rossmann and Matthew Kubenk

Lutheran Ormeau Rivers District School NEWS

- ? Interviews are now being conducted for foundation students in 2006 for all year levels from preschool to year 8
- ? Thanks to all those who helped letter drop almost 4000 pamphlets. (Editor's note: our parish chairman notes that calls of interest have already started to come in!)
- ? Interviews for Principal will take place on Saturday 7th May.
- ? We will be promoting LORDS at the Gold Coast Independent Schools Expo on 14th & 15th May at the Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre.
- ? Official launch of the school will be on Saturday 6th August at the Beenleigh Community Centre.

Newly Adopted Communion Practice

It will be long awaited news for some that the practice of separation of first communion and Confirmation is now the accepted practice in the Alberton Lutheran Parish.

- ? Communion is now available to children 10 and older **after instruction and agreement** between communion candidate, parent(s) and pastor that communicant is prepared.
- ? Confirmation still occurs during Yr 8 – Yr 9 for those seeking to commune prior to this time.

- ? This process is carried out only after a child has requested it of parents and they have investigated the desire/reason.
- ? This brings our parish into line with an increasing majority of Lutheran parishes within Australia. (Continued page 4)

PANTI ASUHAN SALAM

The Panti Asuhan Salam is an orphanage in Bali and over Easter we were able to visit it while on our holiday to that country. The orphanage is currently home to 29 boys and 19 girls aged from 1-18 years of age and is going to be taking more children in the next few months.

The region is very poor and the orphanage is up in the mountains near a place called Ubud. In Bali there are over 278 orphanages and most of the orphanages are Hindu as approximately 90% of Balinese follow the Hindu religion. However the orphanage that we visited was interdenominational Christian.

The orphanage is not what we imagined. Most the children who live there are from families with one parent only. They live in the orphanage away from their parent because that parent cannot provide for them or their education. There is no such thing as "public schools" in Bali, everyone has to pay to go school and sit exams. We took approximately \$1,200 in donations which are being used solely for education for these children. This \$1,200 will only cover 3 children to sit the exam which will enable them to go from elementary to high school.



We visited on Wednesday afternoon and we were welcomed by the orphanage director and the workers, no children were in sight. However

it didn't take long for the children to shyly come out and see what these 15 Australians were doing in their home. We were asked to unpack the 6 "full" suitcases of goods that had been generously donated in front of the children. Then, much to our horror, we were asked to give each child some gifts from all of the goods. Wow! How were we going to do this? What if the children didn't like what we had? What if just a few got all the stuff?

We were so surprised when we tentatively started handing out the goods and the children's smiles were huge. They were so excited with the books, toys and goods that we had brought. Amazingly they gratefully took each gift and then put them into piles to share with one another. They were particularly excited when we pulled out the sporting equipment we had in the bags. We're sure the thing the boys loved the most were the Soccer balls that had been donated by Mitre 10 in Beenleigh. After some ingenuity in pumping up the soccer balls with a broken bike pump, the boys from the orphanage and our boys had a soccer game on a small concrete slab the size of an average driveway. The game started tentatively with both sides gently kicking the ball around, however it wasn't long before the "Bali -v- Australia" match got into full swing.



Whilst the boys played Soccer we were able to look around the very meagre buildings and animal pens. They have their own pigs and chickens, although we're not sure if they eat or sell them. We were told they cook 20 kilos of rice a day to feed everyone twice daily. Even though we were there close to dinner time the only thing we saw being prepared was the rice.

Two chemist shops in Toowoomba donated a suitcase full of medical supplies which was greatly appreciated as they are planning on setting up a first aid room in the near future.

Whilst planning our trip to Bali we were very worried about travelling there with regard to our safety. We now realise that the tourism industry is the biggest thing that the Balinese people have from which to make a living; and if we let the terrorists win the only people to lose will be the Balinese. The government cannot look after them and there is no such thing as social security. Most of the children at the orphanage plan on working in tourism industry as they see this as the best, and probably only, employment opportunity.

We all had the best holiday of our lives and expanded our horizons in this wonderful third world country. The people are so friendly and take their faith life much more seriously than we do. So many lessons we learned....

Thank you so much to those of you who donated – we felt quite humbled to deliver all those goods & money on your behalf.

Tracey, Neale, Jess, Andrew & Brett Garaty
Sandy, Trevor, Chris & Min Kleinschmidt
Jenni, Michael, Josh, Teagen & Brie Keith
Mark Burrow

PS We are planning to continue our support to this orphanage via our Lutheran Holiday Program this year, so if you wish to contribute further there will be a means to do so.



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Newly Adopted Communion Practice

- ? Parents will play a part in the process in that children wishing to commune should first know “The Ten Commandments”, “The Lord’s Prayer” and “The Apostle’s Creed by heart. Parents will oversee the learning of these core statements of the Christian faith. (These will be provided if copies are needed.)
- ? When this is achieved and parents are satisfied that the desire of their child is sincere, the candidate will be instructed using the materials provided by the L.C.A. called “Step Up To Communion.”
- ? Following this course, candidate(s), parent(s) and Pastor will agree that the candidate is ready to begin attending Holy Communion and this readiness will be announced to the parish and the candidate admitted to receive Holy Communion within the parish and other parishes with this practice.

- ? The blessings that are experienced by the individuals are the obvious benefit of receiving Holy Communion itself; and being able to recognise that they are part of the fellowship of all believers in Word and sacraments. This has been shown to have the effect of moving the individual away from the idea that Confirmation is a type of graduation; and creates a desire to continue to attend worship regularly so that the sacrament may be received.

We anticipate that this will prove a blessing to the children and the life of our fellowship as well and ask God to bless the decision of the parish.

Just For Fun

Parish Register -

Baptisms

Rebecca Kubenk..... 09/01/05
Jemma Mundt.....20/02/05
Lou Woolard 27/03/05
Abby Gibson..... 17/04/05
Harvey Huth..... 24/04/05

Weddings

Mark Kleinschmidt and Kay nee Vaughan
19/03/05

Daniel Pigram and Jodie nee Kriedemann
23/04/05

Deaths

Lawrence (Laurie) Gierke – 06/02/05
Funeral held Thursday, 10/02/05

Scott Smith – 13/04/05
Funeral held Tuesday, 19/04/05

**“Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise
, in the city of our God, his holy mountain. It
Is beautiful in it’s loftiness, the joy of the
whole earth.” Psalm 48: 1 & 2a.**

*Is there a topic you would like to receive
coverage in “The Messenger”? We want this
publication to be of relevance to our
readers. Please contact me, Pastor Greg,*

*and let me know. If I can be of help in any
other way, please don’t hesitate to call.*

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