



Light in the Hills

In Christ – growing – caring – sharing

A publication of the Anglican Parish of Mt Dandenong

February-March 2012



Beginning the Year — the Australia Day barbeque in St Michael's hall was enjoyed by the whole Parish!

*From John & Jill Morshead in Dar e Salaam
Dear Friends,*

*We ask you to give thanks that the shipment of books we packed in Australia two years ago, arrived safely this last week. Our radiography, theological and nursing students, will all benefit greatly from this provision.

*Join us in giving thanks for progress at St Marks College in the re-development of facilities and buildings to cater for the ever-increasing student growth. Two very large teaching auditoriums were recently opened. They look very grand indeed! Many of the older buildings are also being renovated to provide more seminar rooms. The College is a hive of activity as students from many different courses prepare for exams. It's a privilege to be a part of this important and strategically placed University College here in Dar e Salaam.

*Pray that God will raise up Godly and capable people to meet the teacher shortage in the Theology Faculty at St Marks. Pray also, that the college will maintain a strong Christian witness to a very large student body from many different faiths.

*Pray for wisdom and direction as we look for financial assistance to enable some of our very bright and promising students to continue their studies onto degree level. This will provide a generation of theological teachers and church leaders for the future.

*Give thanks for the invitation for John to teach Christian Ethics. Pray for him as he prepares lessons, and collects resources. This is a very valuable opportunity to address some important and urgent issues relevant to this culture. Pray that this may present yet another open door for the Gospel.

*Give thanks that Jill has at last received a wonderful teaching aid — a magnetic board with anatomical magnetic mats that are placed in appropriate places to teach Sex Education and the Reproductive Systems within her Anatomy and Physiology lectures. We especially give thanks for friends at St Cuthbert's Church Yarrowonga, whose generosity made this gift possible.

"Fill thou my life, O Lord my God, In every part with praise, That my whole being may proclaim thy being and thy ways"...

.John and Jill

Coming Events



19th February, Sunday, 2.30 pm

Blues and Jazz in the Gardens

followed by afternoon tea

St Michael's Church Grounds,

Blues Jazz Pianist: Bob Sedergren & Blues Guitarist:

Greg Jones \$20 per person \$40 per family

BYO chair and/or rug

21st February, Tuesday 5- 6.30 pm, St Michael's

Pancake Tuesday:

pancake meal & fun for Sunday School families and parishioners. Sweet and savoury toppings (includes egg free pancakes) tea & coffee provided. BYO drinks.

12th March, Monday, at St Matthew's

Autumn Fair



Stalls, Teas and Children's attractions
A Fun Day for the whole Hills Community
Offers of help or further information from
Co-ordinator Katrina Burge 9752 0530
katrinaleopold@optusnet.com.au

18th March, Sunday, 2.00 pm at St Michael's

An Afternoon of Celtic Music

Followed by afternoon tea \$15 per person

INSIDE:

- Was Australia built on the Bible?
- Spiritual Education - a child's right?

HERE & THERE

with *Carolyn Clark*



Once again on Christmas Eve folk from near and far gathered in the grounds of St. Michael's to join in and enjoy the Carols By Candlelight Service which has become a very popular tradition for our Parish and wider Community. What a great way to lead on into the midnight and Christmas Day services. This year money so generously donated at the Carols, a sum of \$570.00, was directed to support the AMES (Adult Migrant Education Service) Outer East Volunteer Program. For more than 50 years AMES has been assisting refugees and new migrants to build a better life in Australia through settlement, English language courses, vocational training and employment services. In supporting the Outer East Program we will be assisting with the Sewing Classes and Gardening Group. Both these groups offer new skills training and a time to learn and practice communicating in English.

- After the hustle and bustle of the build up to Christmas and the celebrations that go with the whole Christmas and New Year period, the month of January comes as a welcome change of pace for many. There are not the pressures of School or Kinder routines to keep up with, not to mention meetings and other regular activities which are often in recess in January. The roads are not as busy, families can spend relaxed times together and forget about some of the rules necessary to enforce at other times in the year, there is Cricket and Tennis to follow and perhaps lazy days at the beach. We've probably all had special moments this past month and mine came as I was walking along a deserted, windswept beach with two small children. A small hand slid into mine and I had an overwhelming feeling of contentment and a sensation that I was the luckiest person in the whole world! At such times it is easy to feel the hand of God touching your life.
- Recently there were 17 children attending Marmadukes Play Group at St. Matthew's on Graduation Day to see Alex, Benjamin, Campbell, Eathan and Stephanie receive their Graduation Certificates from Stephen. They will be attending 4 year old Kinder this year and we wish them well in this new stage in their lives.
- On the first Friday in March each year Christian people of all traditions come together worldwide to observe a day of prayer known as World Day of Prayer. It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in countries in Africa, Asia, Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America and The Pacific. Each year the Order of Service is prepared by people of a different country and this year's Service comes from Malaysia with the theme of "Let Justice Prevail". Our Parish is part of a local group of Churches

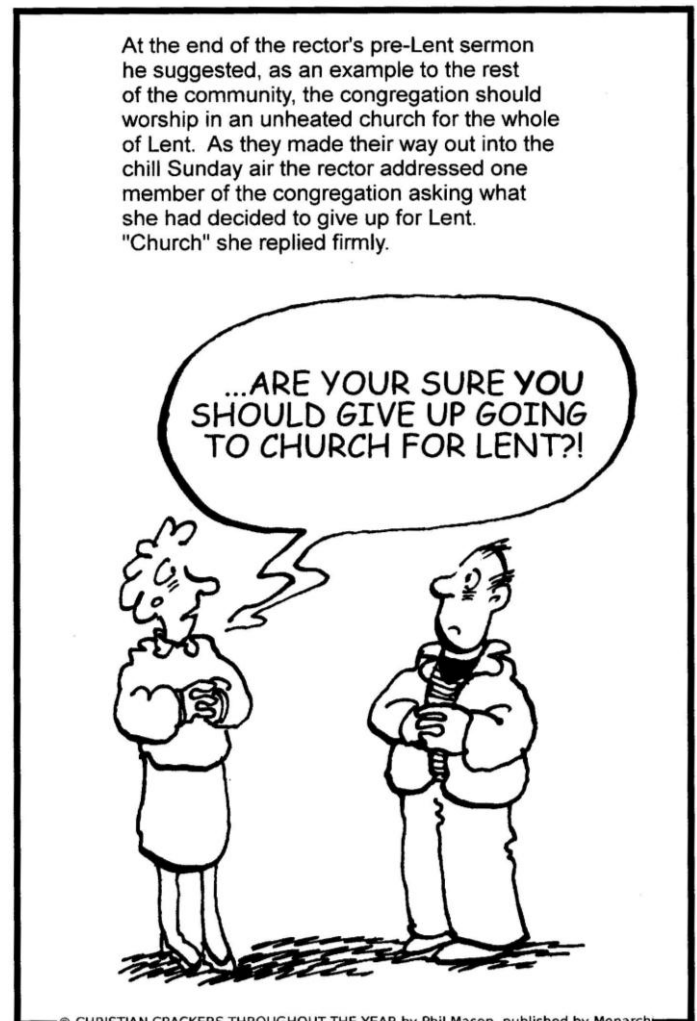
which share this day together every year. This year the Service is on March 2nd at 10.00am at The Open Door Church in Monbulk. Everyone is welcome to attend, the speaker will be Pauline Crosbie who has recently been in Malaysia.

- Recently I was given a wall plaque as a gift. As I read it to those present, "A garden is a thing of beauty and a joy forever", I was corrected by someone present that it actually said ".....and a job forever"!! True, but I think I prefer my version!

A Prayer for Students

Grant O Lord to all students, to know what is worth knowing, to love what is worth loving, to praise what delights you most, to value what is precious in your sight and to reject what is evil in your eyes. Grant them true discernment to distinguish between different things. Above all, may they search out and do what is most pleasing to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

— *Thomas a Kempis*







From the Vicar

The ART of HEARING

is the EAR of the HEART

Leonard Sweet writes, *'in fact the quieter we become the chattier God gets. Just as when you keep silence, someone tends to talk more and reveal more, so when we keep silence before God, God tends to reveal more or we hear more. Do you want more of God? Then shut up and listen'*

The Psalmist writes, *'Be still and know that I am God.'* It is so hard to stop and be quiet before God. Our minds tend to whirl around with a thousand things hurrying in and out of our minds. Such speed and haste can shut God out of our lives.

We read in the Gospels that Jesus' habit was to spend whole nights in prayer. Was he speaking to his Father in heaven all the time? I doubt it. I imagine that he used at least some of that time to simply be still and let God enter his thoughts.

Being still before God is the art of listening with a willingness and a desire to listen to what God is saying. It is hearing with the EAR of the heart. If we develop this practice with God then we are more likely to carry this into our relationships with others. Listening with the Ear of the Heart means placing a priority on understanding the thoughts and feelings of the other person.

It has been said that a 10 minute conversation about Jesus should involve 9 minutes of listening with intent to understand and just one minute of speaking. If we understand the other person's position, their feelings, and their needs, then the one minute of talking will more likely be heard.

It is interesting to read the events of Jesus' life and to see how he was always able to hear the real issue when people were coming to him. Let us pray that we will be able to listen with Jesus' ears to everyone we have a conversation with. Let us pray that we will truly listen to Jesus in our prayer times.

Stephen

Do You Know —

What is the most often repeated command in the Bible?

(answer on the back page)

Quinn Roberts describes

the SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAKUP:

On Sunday 18th of December, St Mathews held the annual Sunday School break up. This service celebrated the past Sunday School year, amongst other things. The children were given a chance to dress up as characters from the Nativity story which was re-enacted during the service. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase all the hard work of the Sunday School teachers during the past weeks as the children had an amazing depth of understanding of the Nativity scene.

It was incredible to see the vast amount of people come to see the traditional Nativity story, not to mention the rather unconventional version Stephen showed afterwards!

Stephen's unique approach meant the children were actively involved throughout the service. He challenged them to find a box with the number *one* on it, and when this was found and eagerly unwrapped, Stephen explained the relevance of the unusual contents to both the children and the equally entertained congregation. This was then repeated for three other boxes.

All members of the congregation, young or old were entertained by the enthusiastic response to a question from Stephen regarding the three wise men's gifts, piping up, "I know that, Gold, **Frankenstein** and Myrrh" which invoked much laughter from the congregation!

In terms of enthusiasm I think we can safely say that as expected, the children and ourselves were most excited when the time for presents came, which was a book for every child. There was obviously much thought and time put into finding these gifts, for there was not one child who was unhappy with his or her gift.

The success of the service and that of the past year has been a testament to Stephen, Kathryn, Yo and many others' hard work both in the parish and out among the community. This was also shown by the number of new families joining the church in the past few years, with our family as one of them, and the real sense of community within the church.

To close, we would like to say a final 'thank you' to all for the hard work everyone has done this last year, whether majorly involved or just offering to help ferry things to the church fete. The year's activities would not have happened without you.

Bring it on 2012!!!!



Spiritual Education

— a child's right.

By Dr Bryan Cowling, Executive Director of the Anglican Education Commission

Most of us, at some time, find ourselves in a conversation about whether children and young people have particular rights. Some people become quite emotional about the connection between the rights of children and the rights of their parents.

But how often in such conversations do you hear parents talking about a child's entitlement to a spiritual education?

We teach our children to ask questions, to explore and to reason. We don't deny them their right to develop their intelligence. We know that their minds need stimulating and stretching. We acknowledge their right to physical exercise and a healthy diet, and we even make them exercise and eat properly when they do not want to do so! We recognise their need to be protected and comforted.

But children are also spiritual beings, capable of empathy and creativity; able to experience wonder and worship, able to understand a spiritual dimension and to respond appropriately. In essence, all of us are whole beings, and our education must engage and develop every part of us.

A vast literature has been created over the past two decades on the subject of educating the whole child. Some of it is very perceptive, practical and worthy of our consideration. But if there is one weakness in 'the education of the whole child' movement, it is the great difficulty, which most teachers have, in enhancing and developing a child's spiritual capacities.

I suggest there are three main reasons why teachers find this so difficult.

First, spiritual development does not lend itself to being 'taught' as a separate subject. Rather, it must infuse the whole curriculum and colour the way we teach. Issues arise in every subject which provide an incidental, uncontrived and natural way into exploring spiritual and moral beliefs and the behaviours that may flow from them.

Second, despite tacit acceptance that we humans comprise body, mind and spirit, our godless society encourages us to live as if there is no spiritual dimension at all. True, we value creativity and we have not lost altogether the capacity to look with awe on a beautiful sunset or a remarkable ravine. For many students, both at home and at school, their exposure to adults who model the spiritual component of their lives is very minimal.

Third, in schools of all kinds, we have allowed ourselves as teachers to be squeezed into a mould that leaves little time for us to do 'the infusing' referred to above or that reduces our teaching only to that which is 'measurable' and will contribute to the school's standing in whatever type of 'league tables' is in vogue at the time. In either case, the underlying challenge is that we live as authentic, whole-life disciples, seeing the world, our students, their parents and our profession as educators through Christ's eyes.

For my part, I believe that the beliefs which shape the moral framework of society and the spiritual dimension to our lives should be an integral part of the whole educational provision for our children in our homes and in our schools



(with acknowledgment to *Southern Cross Magazine*)



LUC MOTTEUX, son of Kylie and Thierry was baptised at St Matthew's on Sunday January 8th.

Grandparents Helen and Hugh were visiting from the UK for the occasion.

Welcome Luc!



MILLA BESTER, daughter of Monique and Lou, was baptised at St Matthew's on Sunday 29th January.

Celebrations continued in the hall afterwards.

Welcome Milla!



Built on the Bible?

Just a few blocks up from Circular Quay in Sydney, on the corner of Bligh and Hunter Streets, is evidence of the importance of the Bible in the life of the nation. There you find the memorial to the site of the first church in Australia, the place where the first sermon was delivered on the text, “What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits to me” from [Psalm 116](#). It’s always struck me as an unusual text to preach to a bunch of convicts and their keepers who were there against their will!

As historian John Harris writes in his monumental history of Christian mission to indigenous Australia, *One Blood*, “The first fleet did not transport God to Australia in 1788. God was already here, present and active as the Creator and Sustainer of every remote corner of the earth” (p.19) But the first fleet did bring the Bible to this continent, and that has made all the difference. Contrary to the romantic myth that only first Chaplain Richard Johnson’s Bible arrived on the first fleet, we know from the records of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) that it had granted 1000 Bibles or portions of Scripture for the voyage.

Looking back 224 years, what difference did those Bibles and the ones to follow make to the life of our nation? Is it fair to say that Australia was founded on the Bible, or is that the wishful thinking of the never-say-die religious types?

It’s probably fair to say that the current tendency is to underestimate the impact of the Bible on the shaping of Australia as a nation. To start with, you can in fact see the Bible in Australian life, if you open your eyes. It’s there on the mosaic tiled floor near the entrance to the Victorian parliament, which bear these words from [Proverbs 11:14](#), “Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety”, trampled daily by politicians. The Bible is there at every parliamentary opening, in the words of ‘The Lord’s Prayer’, taken from Matthew, chapter six.

The Bible is there, in the ‘Faith, Hope and Charity’ inscription from [1 Corinthians 13](#) on the dome of the Federation Pavilion in Centennial Park, Sydney. It’s there in the Adelaide CBD, on the imposing stone archway entrance to the East End Markets, which bears the claim from [Psalm 24](#), “The Earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof”. And the world saw Australia’s most famous biblical word, ‘Eternity’, written in light on the Sydney Harbour Bridge at the turn of the millennium, even if most people don’t know that Arthur Stace chalked this word on our footpaths because he heard a sermon from [Isaiah 57](#) about “The high and lofty one who lives in eternity”.

Great Southern Word: was Australia built on the Bible?

The presence of the Bible in these ‘non-church’ contexts is suggestive of its huge importance for the shaping of the society. The Bible Society itself was formed at the beginnings of colonial life, a month before the Bank of New South Wales (now Westpac) and will share its bicentenary in 2017. One of its first activities was to ensure that every household in the colony had a Bible of its own, for the cultural, educational and spiritual well-being of the new society.

And while Australian universities were rarely founded with the Christian objectives of the great universities of Europe, our schooling system was shaped until the 1880s by the churches, with a great emphasis on the Bible for teaching literacy, morality and civic responsibility. The arts in Australia, as in all the Western world, would be empty frames and wordless pages without the influence of the Bible. From Rupert Bunny to Arthur Boyd to the Aboriginal artists of the Western Desert, with their fusing of traditional and biblical subject matter, our painters draw on Scripture. Our writers, likewise, are immersed in the Bible, be it Lawson and Patterson’s bush-arguments with religion, Les Murray’s complex poetry or Geraldine Brooks’ recent novels.

Furthermore, the wonderfully charitable nature of Australians is no accident of weather or temperament: 23 of our 25 top charities draw their inspiration and founding principles from the pages of the Bible. Over 200 years, Australians have imbibed the ‘love your neighbour’ spirit of the Good Book (even if they don’t believe the rest of its teachings) such that they support the Salvation Army, Mission Australia, Anglicare or Vinnies without a second thought about their religious groundings. Being ‘roughly Christian’, to use poet Les Murray’s perfect description, has become second nature to mainstream Australia.

Put simply, many of the things Australians hold dearest about our country are values, qualities and institutions grounded in biblical teaching. Had our nation not received the gift of the Bible at settlement, there is no guarantee at all that it would have developed into the kind of place that is the envy of the world. It would be gross overstatement to suggest that the Bible was the only influence in the shaping of the Great Southern Land. But at the moment there is little risk of that. At the moment, the risk is that we will forget what joys and comforts the Bible won for us, as the early Christian leaders of the nation sought to put its teachings to work for the good of all in the new colony.

Greg Clarke (CEO of Bible Society Australia) first published in “Eternity” Magazine

Keeper of the Spring

— with Lent in mind

The following story was a favourite of the late Rev Peter Marshall, chaplain of the US Senate.

An old man who lived near an Austrian village high in the Alps was hired by his village council to clear away the debris from the pools of water high up in the mountain crevices. These pools fed the spring that flowed through the town. So with faithful regularity, year after year, the old man patrolled the pool, removed the leaves and branches, and wiped away the silt. In time the village became a popular attraction. Swans and ducks floated along the sparkling spring, the mill wheels of various businesses turned day and night, farms were irrigated, and the view of the spring from restaurants was picturesque beyond description.

Then one evening the town council met to review the budget. Someone queried the salary paid to the obscure keeper of the spring. Others joined in: "He is a waste of money. Drop him." And so they did.

For several weeks, nothing changed. Then in early autumn, the trees shed their leaves. Small branches snapped off and

fell into the pools. Down in the village, they soon noticed a slight yellowish-brown tint in the water. Soon a slimy film covered parts of the stream. The mill wheels got entangled with twigs. Soon the stench of rotting vegetation in the water drove away the swans and ducks and the tourists.

In a panic, the village council met. Quickly they set off to visit the old man, and pleaded with him to keep the spring clean again. Within a few weeks, the village's 'river of life' began to clear up. The water ran pure and clear, the birds returned, the mill wheels turned, and even the tourists came back.

Are there leaves of anger, twigs of resentment, or a silt of unforgiveness clogging your spring of living water? Just as little by little the stream became contaminated by debris, so our spirits can become obstructed by the 'small sins' of daily life. Let's allow our Keeper of the Spring to do his job in renewing and cleansing us, so that we can 'run free' and bring blessing to others.

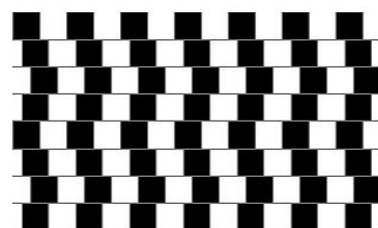


February brings us Lent, Valentine's Day, and the beginning of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. All three are about celebrating commitment and love and giving. Lent is a good time to reflect on the love in our lives: God's love for us, our love for him, and our love for each other. Our wordsearch reflects these themes.

King, country, coronation, diamond, jubilee, queen, princess, death, mourning, love, romance, flowers, hearts, commitment, wilderness, prayer, fasting, Jesus, temptation, stones, bread, kingdom, devil, angels, foot, kindness

O	E	Q	O	D	F	R	A	N	O	P	E	E	S	D
J	E	S	U	S	T	L	E	A	E	C	S	E	I	G
T	L	T	E	E	T	O	O	F	I	F	R	E	N	E
K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	W	A	S	S	I	E	M
A	B	E	D	E	O	N	C	S	E	S	N	O	C	W
K	U	M	E	D	N	T	T	O	E	R	E	S	N	I
I	J	T	A	D	N	I	S	N	U	C	S	S	A	L
N	O	I	T	A	N	O	R	O	C	N	N	I	M	R
G	I	M	H	G	T	E	M	P	T	A	T	I	O	N
D	S	M	R	I	D	H	E	A	R	T	S	R	R	R
O	M	O	K	L	E	B	A	N	I	A	U	I	Y	P
M	S	C	I	U	G	V	R	G	P	D	Y	I	N	B
E	M	W	N	G	H	U	O	E	L	I	V	E	D	D
S	G	S	G	F	T	E	I	L	A	T	N	D	R	N
E	G	O	D	E	G	R	N	S	T	D	E	F	O	T

PUZZLES BEFORE YOUR EYES...



Do these lines go straight across or do they slope? Check them with a ruler to get the answer.



Roses are red
Violets are blue
Some poems rhyme
But this one doesn't!

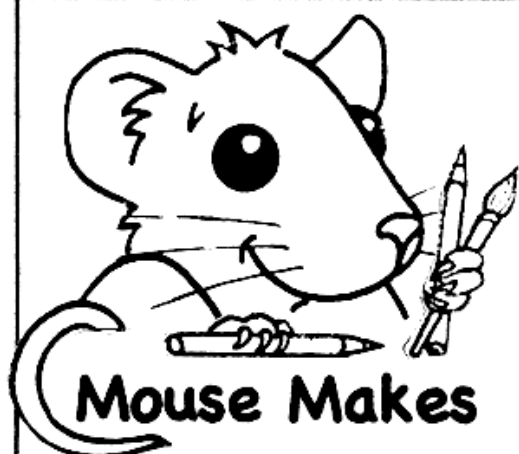


What birds spend all their time on their knees?

Birds of prey.

What do you call a group of chickens playing hide-and-seek?

Fowl play.

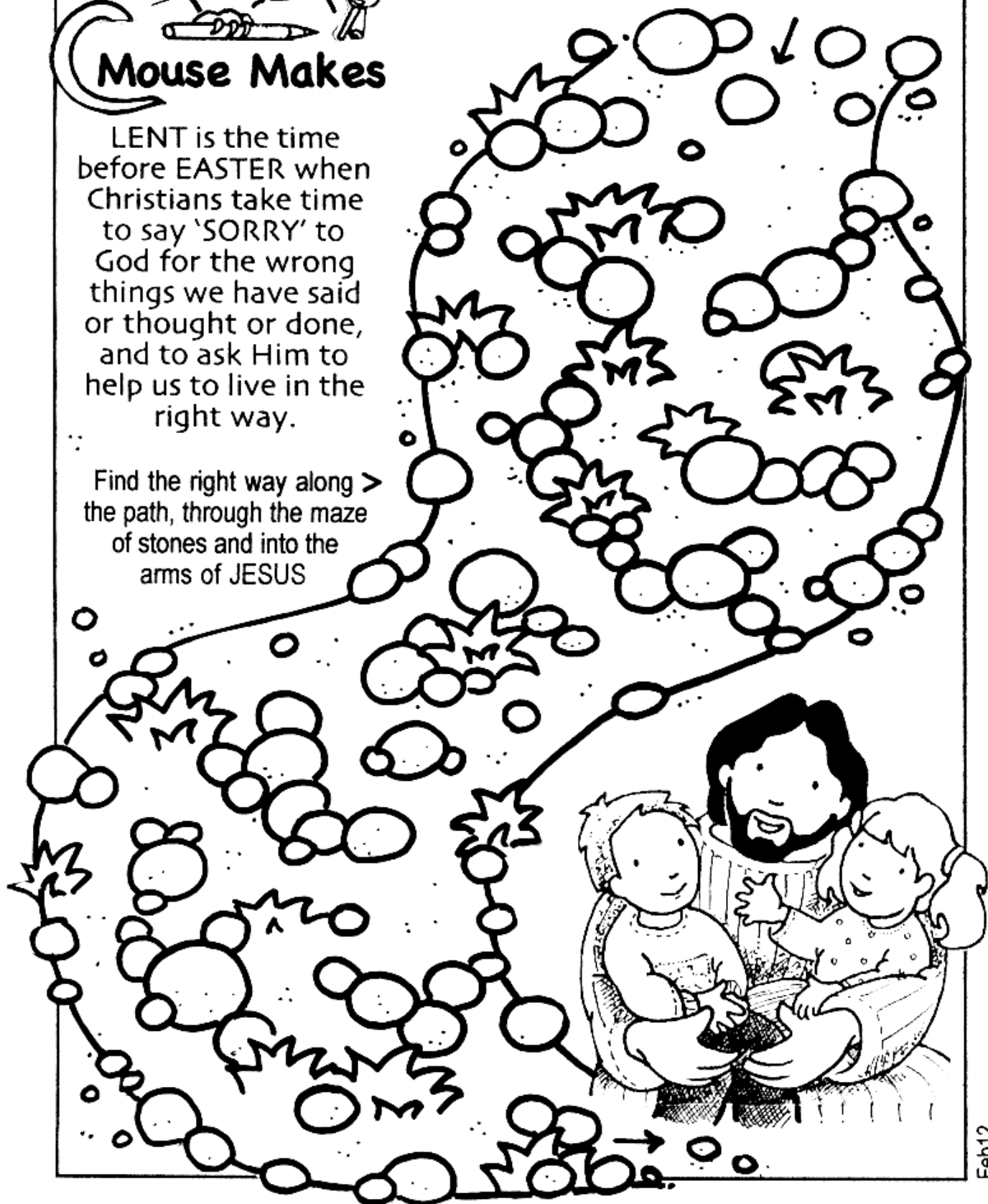


"Teach me how to live,
O LORD.
Lead me along
the right path..."

Psalm 27:11

LENT is the time before EASTER when Christians take time to say 'SORRY' to God for the wrong things we have said or thought or done, and to ask Him to help us to live in the right way.

Find the right way along > the path, through the maze of stones and into the arms of JESUS



The Anglican Parish of Mt Dandenong, Diocese of Melbourne

St Michael & All Angels', Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd., Kalorama

Sundays: 8.00am Holy Communion
11.00am 1st Sunday of the month – Morning Service 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th – Holy Communion
5.00pm 1st Sunday of the month: Healing Service

St Matthew's, Monash Ave., Olinda

Sundays: 9.30am 1st Sunday of the month – Morning Service & Sunday School
2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays – Holy Communion & Sunday school
Tuesdays: 5.30pm - 6.00pm Prayer for the Hills
Wednesdays: 10.00am Holy Communion



Vicar: Archdeacon Stephen May, BSc, Dip Ed, Bth. DipMin.
Vicarage: Tel 9728 6353 Mobile 0407468251 E-mail : sj_may3@bigpond.com
Postal Address: PO Box 148, Kalorama 3766 Email: www.lightinthehills.com

Children are welcome at all services

TABLE TENNIS: in St Michael's Hall, 8.00pm Mondays

MARMADUKES: Playgroup for pre-school children – St Matthew's Hall 10.00am Tuesdays

CRAZY WHIST: St Matthew's Hall – 1.00pm Wednesdays

BIBLE STUDY HOME GROUPS: 7.45pm Thursdays, 1/1502 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Olinda (led by Dick Wallace)
7.00pm Wednesdays, at the home of George and Joyce Coughlan – contact David Spencer 9728 1106

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm at St Michael's, led by Valerie Barras

CRAFT GROUP: 1.30pm, second Monday of the month, St Matthew's Hall. Convenor: Hilary Mellis, Tel: 9751 1886



SUNDAY SCHOOL: St Matthew's, 9.30am Sundays
Supervisor: Mrs Yo Heading Tel 9751 1639

Light in the Hills – Contributions welcome E-mail: dragon1@southernphone.com.au Tel: 9751 0412

New Year

Jesus,
Heir of the promise,
Hope of the years,
You are here.

Help us Lord,
To know that you are there, too,
Before us
As you are behind us,
Already in the new moment,
The new day,
The new year.

Help us Lord
To delight in your company,
To walk your safe way,
To shine your clear light
Of hope for the year.

By Daphne Kitching



Answer:

The most repeated command in the Bible is "**FEAR NOT!**"
What overwhelms you? Either for good or for ill, what knocks you off your feet?

According to the Bible, either life overwhelms you, and we call that *fear*. Or God overwhelms you and we call that, *faith*. In the end, only *faith* is the answer to *fear*.

"Fear not, Abram, I'm your shield. Your reward will be great."
(Genesis 15:1)

"The angel said, 'Fear not! I bring you tidings of great joy!'"
(Luke 2:9)

*In quietness and in
confidence shall be
your strength*
Isaiah 30:15