



CHURCH CALENDAR FEBRUARY

Anniversary of Reverend Mother Jessie Ward passing in 1965	4
Shrove Tuesday	9
Ash Wednesday	10
Pot Luck Picnic	20
Abbey Museum Floor Talk 'The Scorpion Kings'	27

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing the last year's New Year message reflecting on 2014. Now 2015 has passed and we can be looked back on it, we can also look forward to 2016.

Whether we know it or not we are the richer for all that befell us last year. We have learnt through pain and sorrow, joy and gladness, and it has changed us as people.

Scattered among the challenges like flowers growing on a rocky pathway were moments of quietness and beauty and a realization that the God who created the stars, galaxies, supernovas, through to tiny amazing creatures we can hardly see, was not separate from us or remotely removed from our lives.

No, rather God chooses to share in a literal sense every single aspect of our mortal existence that He is actually totally involved in it with us, and weeps with our tears and dances with our joy. The celebration of Life goes on through darkness and light, in the mountain top experiences and in the valley of the shadow. Wherever we are literally or figuratively the God of Love is there with us, and in an extraordinary act of pure love experiences what we are feeling in every moment. This is the redemption story in action!

The only way we can be lifted up is to realize that God loves us unconditionally just as we are. When we comprehend that realization and absorb that knowledge a door opens within us and our journey of Love begins – from Love, through Love, and back to Love!

God with us! "O Come O Come Emmanuel"

May the blessing of Christ Who shared our humanity so that we might share His Divinity be with you this year and always.

New Year's Blessing to all
Fr George



Thank you for your gifts and Christmas wishes extended to the community

New Year's Resolutions

By Imran Khan

Just think, think, think,
Of the things you can do,
To make yourself better,
Before the year's through.
Resolutions can be tough,
Or simple as can be,
Making resolutions,
Are great for you and me!
So what will you promise,
To help yourself my dear?
Through 2016,
Have a happy new year!

This year Benediction will be on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Benediction will commence on 28th January 2016. Please continue to pray for those who are sick and in grief.

Church News

This year the Abbey Church Guild has achieved many outcomes – the Church has been recarpeted, insulated and reroofed and the porchway reroofed as well.

There has been ongoing maintenance in the toilet block as well as an upgrade to the septic system. The front guttering on the Hall has been replaced.

The Guild provides many consumables for the Church in the form of hosts, incense, candles, polish and vestments when required.

At this time of the year it's good to acknowledge that much is done quietly by various people including the cleaning and tidying in the Church, arranging flowers, doing the gardening, mowing and blowing the leaves off the pathways and elsewhere, making the baptismal robes and generally organizing events, cooking, providing and setting up for all those social activities during the year in the Hall and attending meetings.

A thought for January
Long after the angels disappear into the heavens, the shepherds return to their flocks, the Magi journey home and the great star sets, Jesus remains.

Thank you to those who have assisted in anyway selling/buying raffle tickets, meeting and greeting people at the door of the Church on Sundays, serving for the clergy at Baptisms and Communion, playing the organ and providing pastoral care by taking the love of Christ and visiting people in their own homes.

We extend our appreciation to all our Clergy who give their time, energy and love in preparing sermons, sharing with people in need, and taking Services which all require an enormous amount of empathy, compassion and devotion.

The conservation of the stain glass has continued this year and the Church windows particularly the Winchester glass, although now a little different from some original designs have been restored and saved for many years to come.

We thank God for His abundant blessing to us throughout 2015!

2015
Weddings: 16
Baptisms: 125

ANNIVERSARY
We remember Bill Meacham whose anniversary we celebrate on 1st January (2014).

Anybody wishing to become actively involved in the Community is welcome to make enquiries by contacting the Church.

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GIFT WRAPPING Gift Wrapping at Northlakes



was successful this year and is a combined effort of many hands, smiles and co-operation.

Thanks to all the volunteers who are connected in anyway with the Abbey Church Guild, the Abbey Museum, St Michael's College and our Church congregation who all contributed to this mammoth task of providing ten days of service to others – happy shoppers and tired wrappers!!

Sister Anne is grateful for those who were committed to the roster. Thank you Sr Anne for all those many phone calls ensuring that all was going smoothly! Spreading the Christmas spirit to all hours of the days and late in the evening as well was appreciated. **See you next year!**

My New Year's Resolutions Are:

1. Stop Making Lists
- B. Be More Consistent
7. Learn to Count