

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne
Parish of St. Matthews Ashburton
The St. Matthews English Congregation
Annual Parish Meeting 2017
October 29, 2017

Vicar's Report
Rev. Vinod Victor, Priest in Charge

For Such a time as this.....

01. Introduction:

Each Annual Parish Meeting is a celebration of Thanksgiving and Hope. Thanksgiving for the extra-ordinary grace of God and the exuberance of the love of God that made it possible for people to come together again, in a context where in several neighbourhoods others found no reason or no way to come together one more time. It is a celebration of the contribution of a myriad of people and the pleroma and plethora of their faithfulness to God. They were Church Wardens, members of the Parish Council, Sacristans, and faithful participants in the life and witness of the church and a host of others who in various ways formed the cloud of witnesses around who made church life so exciting and worthwhile. I begin paying my respects to each of them specially those who left us to glory. I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present and affirm that we have a responsibility of justice towards them.

02. Theological Reflection:

Mordecai reminds Esther in Esther 4:14 “Who knows? Perhaps you have come to this position for just such a time as this” Each presence be it that of a person, a family or an institution in particular times and spaces of history is with a purpose and one ought to realise and live out that purpose. That is true with St. Matthews Ashburton too.

Lyricist Fred Kan defined the church in a profound manner thus

The church is like a table, a table that is round.
It has no sides or corners, no first or last, no honours;
here people are in one-ness and love together bound.

The church is like a table set in an open house;
no protocol for seating, a symbol of inviting,
of sharing, drinking, eating; an end to ‘them’ and ‘us’.

The church is like a table, a table for a feast
to celebrate the healing of all excluded-feeling,
(while Christ is serving, kneeling, a towel around his waist).

For me the church has always been

- An encountering space with the Divine and with each other
- An Inviting and Welcoming Space of Hospitality
- A sanctuary to the heavy laden and balm to the bruised
- A meeting space in love and a sending space in hope

That exactly was my experience and my striving in this wonderful place

03. Acknowledging the Context- 500 years of Reformation:

Change is Inevitable and sometimes welcome. Without change we become too static and sometimes wear off.

Francis Lambert once said, “all that is deformed need to the reformed and only the scripture can give us the blue print for this reformation”. Even as we meet today in the context of the celebration of 500 years of Reformation we remember Martin Luther and the host of our fathers and mothers who never lost hope but always held on to the gospel mandate that a new beginning is always possible. Each new step is a new beginning wherein our past continue to inform us and the future continue to beckon us.

We therefore remember with thanks all those who initiated an Anglican presence in Ashburton as early as 1947 and all who faithfully carried on the torch of faith.

We also acknowledge that quite a lot is happening around us and we are called to be present meaningfully amidst all the realities around as the salt and the light. Even as we celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day this week, we do think with a heart of thankfulness to all those who have gone before.

04. Significance of this Parish Meeting

This Parish meeting is significant for several reasons.

First, it marks a fresh start for the Parish of Ashburton and is meeting after a long gap of about a decade. The days gone by could be defined in one phrase- “days of prayerful resilience of a people of God” and therefore this meeting is special and significant.

From the jaw of closure the Lord has drawn us out into a new lease of life and existence and from the announcement of the ceasing of existence of the parish the Lord has guided us through tough times into the announcement of the restoration of the parochial boundaries of the parish and declaration of being a parish again and we celebrate with lot of hope today.

Second, this meeting will have the responsibility of drawing up the road map for the future, it has to give its nod not just for the MoU but also to the direction that the multicultural partnership has opened up in Ashburton.

Third, it would have the mandate to legitimately elect its officers who would be able to lead the process of the journey to the future with authority and grace,

05. The Holy Island Comes Alive Again-

The August 2016 issue of the TMA (Melbourne Anglican) titled an article on Ashburton thus. The visit of the Archbishop in July and seeing an overflowing church service did have a direct impact on the process of the restoration of life. I recall with gratitude the discussions with Elaine Derwent on the tough days of the parish recalling the contributions of Roy Goldsworthy and Mary de Aruge. The contributions of each illustrious person sitting at this Annual Parish meeting need be acknowledged again in this Coming Alive Again.

**06. The MoU with the CSI and the Anglican Diocese-
A Kairotic Model of Partnership.**

For several parishes struggling with the issue of viability there need to be visionaries who are able to think outside the box and look at new models and ways of being the church. The Chinese presence in Ashburton had made the people open to different ways of worship. The Malayalam CSI congregation seeking a space to worship was a new door that was being opened and the St. Matthews congregation seized the opportunity and made the best of it. A model of two congregations sharing the space and the vicar was boldly tried out. The process of a MoU did not stand in the way of the congregations building a formidable relationship and bonding. Bishops Barbara Darling, Philip Huggins, Paul White and Paul Barker guided by the Archbishop sincerely participated in the process. The Diocesan Registrar Ken Speckman and his team including Maureen Cronin and Naomi Nayagam played a significant role. Archdeacon Ian Morrison helped reach a consensus for the way forward. Several members of both the congregations put in lot of their energy into the process and when Bishop Paul Barker finally signed it off at the Carol Service of 2016 it was a major milestone.

07. The Process of Being a Parish Again:

Even as the MoU was being finalised the Archbishop in Council initiated the process of declaring the Parish again. The Parish boundaries of four parishes had to be redefined. St. Faiths Burwood, St. Mary's High Street, St. Oswalds Glen Iris. The three parishes were generous in making it happen and the Archbishop in Council defined the Parochial Boundaries of St. Matthews Ashburton and declared that a Parish again with effect from October 1, 2016. It was a historic step that could give hope to several people across the world that the Lord of Easter is alive and active again. New beginnings are always possible.

08. The Priest in Charge (From PTO to PiC).

The Declaration of the Parish also meant the Licence of the Priest had a change too. The Permission to Officiate was replaced by a Priest In Charge license and the arrangement of the Parish hosting two congregations was formally in place. The MoU set forth detailed protocols of functioning of the new arrangement including governance matters and the functioning of the Parish. Having participated in the EPiC the programme to Equip Priests in Charge for their new roles I can confidently say we have a future to look forward to together.

09. The Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne:

I sat at the Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne in the House of the Clergy in October 2017 representing the Parish of Ashburton and that was a symbol wherein the Diocese embraced the Parish back to its fold. The Synod however among other things discussed making the church alive and relevant to the present day and that offers several

challenges to us as a congregation in the days to come which we would need to come to terms with.

10. The Red Carpet- A Symbol of New Birth-

The People were willing to get going forward. We started with opening up closed down spaces and cleaning the spaces out. Even the Chinese congregation members came back help us clean up. Significant amount of work was carried out- Vestries, the Youth Lounge, the Office, the electrical and plumbing works, the Curtains, the ac in the Vicarage, the hand rails and the list can go on. The campus became brimming with life and activity. The Space was opened up for the community and several community activities were hosted therein. It was then we decided to re-carpet the church. The fire-engine red carpet thus became a symbol to declare unto the world we are here to stay. The future is ours to see trusting in the great provisions of the Almighty.

11. The Highlights of Ministry-

The Services- The Sunday Morning Eucharist at Ashburton in English is from 0915 to 1015 am. There is normally morning tea after the service. The CSI Malayalam service begins at 1045 am and goes on till 1230 pm. The last Sunday of every month was a combined service beginning at 10:00. All special services were also combined services. All the important elements of the life of the church including Baptisms, Confirmations, Burials, Special Services, the Washing of the Feet, the Lent studies, the Advent Events and the like were organised. However there was no marriages solemnised in the year.

A mid week Eucharist was celebrated every Thursday at 07:30 pm in Malayalam which was combined with a Bible Study on the book of Psalms.

The Vestry met first Thursday of each month with the Joint Vestry meeting immediately after every alternate month.

The CSI Sunday School, Youth Fellowship and Women Fellowship met regularly and catered to several members of the English congregation too.

The Mother's Union of St. Matthews met every second Wednesday and the Friendship group every last Monday with a variety of activities.

We had a well run Play group but unfortunately that had to be temporarily wound up and we thank Leonie for the dedicated efforts behind the same.

The dedicated effort of Joyce as the sacristan and Margaret Holt looking after the rosters need to be specially mentioned when we discuss the ministry of the parish.

12. The Reaching Out to the Community-

The Church cannot exist meaningfully without reaching out to the community. We opened up the space of the church for several groups of people to make use of the space

meaningfully. We have three dance groups and a Taiche group using the Hall regularly. The Bambino Kebab keeps the campus alive and active till late in the night.

The Waverly helpmates does a good job in maintaining the lawns

Home communion is ministered to several members of the congregation on request and members of the congregation take an active role in the same.

Holy Eucharist is celebrated at Regis Age Care East Malvern every Wednesday at 10:30 am.

Eucharist is celebrated at Grand Cedar near the Church every alternate Thursday at 11:00 am

Eucharist is also celebrated at Aveo Freedom Station Street once a month.

13. The Ecumenical Presence locally and globally:

The Ecumenical Ministers Fellowship of Ashburton is a wonderful group of ministers of the region including from the Anglican, the Presbyterian, the Baptist, the Uniting, the Church of Christ, the Catholic and other traditions. The group meets every second Wednesday for a time of fellowship and mutual strengthening.

The Anglican Deanery Meeting is held once every month on the third Tuesday or Wednesday and it is a time of fellowship of the Anglican ministers of the locality to meet and share the joys and challenges of ministry

The St. Thomas Ecumenical Fellowship of Melbourne is the communion of Malayalam speaking parishes in Melbourne. There is an array of activities hosted under their banner but the regular meetings of pastors and families is a rich source of encouragement to all.

The congregation also actively participates in the larger ecumenical engagements of the Diocese.

It was a joy for me to be part of the Governing Board of AsiaCMS and that warranted travels to Asia more than once this year and the church was gracious to accommodate that. AsiaCMS is in the process of finding a new leadership team and exciting days are ahead. I also could attend the Asia Mission Conference in Yangon and the South Asia Christian Young People's Network meetings in Colombo apart from attending the CSI 70th year celebrations in Chennai and the CNI Synod in Delhi.

14. Ministry to Sydney and Adelaide and to the larger Australia:

It was a joy for me to minister to the CSI congregations in New South Wales and Southern Australia. I made it a point to visit them at least once every month conducting a service in Malayalam and encouraging them to grow as independent congregations. I am glad to report that both the congregations have become self-supportive now with Rev.Dr. Santhosh S Kumar taking charge in Adelaide and the Rev. Sujit Solomon David already appointed for Sydney and is expected to take charge soon.

I was invited for Annual Conventions, Family Conferences and Vacation Bible Schools in Auckland, New Zealand, Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide and in several other places across the year.

15. The Statistics

It is worthwhile to look at the Statistics together as the two congregations in one parish Across the Year we had 40 (forty) 09:15 services and 17 combined services. The English service had an average of 20 and the combined service an average of 90.

We have had over 150 people attending a few of our special services

We had 57 services in the Age Care facilities with an average of 15 attending each service.

Three baptisms, Two burials, Nine Confirmations must be placed on record.

The strength is surely the Sunday School with 30 children attending on average and a youth group where twenty of them are active.

The Home prayers were mostly CSI and we have had an average of one each month with about 50 people attending

And interestingly no marriage was solemnised at church this year.

16. Song and Troy- Symbols of the Calling of the Time

When I look at the ministry in Ashburton three people who come to my mind are Song and her two friends. They were regular visitors to church and to the vicarage and we continued to help them in all ways possible. They reminded us that there are poor, homeless and victims of social evils around us and we have a responsibility towards them. Food, medicines and basic supplies was all that they were after. However the tragedy that came their way exposed us to the judicial processes and the vulnerability of people caught up in hapless situations. We must commend Mr. Barry Parker for the exemplary model of Christian discipleship he displayed in handling this matter with the support of the Parish Council but that also reminds us we need to do more. We are bringing in a budgetary vision of outreach and social support which would make St. Matthews more relevant in the public space where it is placed and I would urge all your participation in making the church more what it ought to be.

17. The Jubilee Year:

The 70th Year Celebration of the Parish as the focal point of the first two years- It was imperative that we set a goal to start with and the goal initially set was the seventieth year celebration of both the St. Matthews and CSI which fell on September 2017. With this short term goal in place a clear programme was chalked out to work on the worship life of the congregations, attempting combined celebrations and worship trying to integrate the congregations including in spheres of administration and good governance. Attempts to reach out to the community around was initiated and with a clear focal point the journey continued.

The Jubilee Year created a lot of possibilities and the programmes envisaged included a threefold vision

a. Renewed Vigour to the Worship Services

- (a) Making the Worship Services more demographic relevant
- (b) Strengthening the Combined Multi-cultural services with ensuring that the services every last Sunday and special days are attended by all together.
- (c) Adding a week day service for people who are not able to make it on Sundays
- (d) A series of Advent and Lenten Meditations
- (e) Strengthening the parish area extended ministry at Grand Cedar and Regis
- (f) Reaching to the elderly who are home-bound with Home Communion
- (g) Look at ways of improving the infra-structure of the Church for Worship

b. Reaching Out to the Community through a series of programmes

- (a) Community BBQ and Sausage Sizzle on January 26
- (b) Multi-Cultural Children Singing and Family Bible Quiz on February 18
- (c) A Multi-cultural Choral Performance with an international choir in growth corridor areas in March/April 2017 and a renowned local choir performing in June/July 2017. (The Trivandrum Choristers Association and the Canterbury singers were a blessing to all who attended)
- (d) A Multi-Cultural Women Conference in April on Anzac Day
- (e) A Multi-Cultural Youth Conference on Easter Monday
- (f) A Jubilee Lecture with a renowned global scholar in May 2017 (Though this was envisaged we had to club this with the Jubilee event where Prof. Dr. Sathianathan Clarke gave the jubilee homily instead)
- (g) A Jubilee Book Grant for Students in Need which will be given away by Christmas
- (h) A St. Matthews Re-Union in September 2017 which ended up as a Jubilee dinner on 23rd September
- (i) A Grand Combined Jubilee Celebration September 2017 on the 24th with the Archbishop in attendance
- (j) Reviewing the Mission Action Plan from the Jubilee experience which the new vestry will be tasked to do
- (k) Continue the Mission Giving of Both congregations

c. Relevant Publications

- (a) Publishing the history of St. Matthews Ashburton as a sequel to the publications on its Fiftieth Year. This would be a very important contribution to all who struggle facing the wind of unviable contexts and would recapture the story of a persistent faith journey of a people. The work is almost done and we hope to get them soon
- (b) Publishing a Guide Book for multi-cultural ministry to make the clergy and the church leadership aware of the nuances of the needs of the multi-cultural communities in ministry. This also has been initiated

I also worked on two books during the year- The first, “Such a Man Did Live”, was on the Life, Witness and Achievements of Late Zacharias Mar Theophilos the Suffragan Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church and the second “Youth Beyond Boundaries- the story of fifteen years of the South Asia Christian Youth Network.”

18. **The Mission Action Plan:**

The Mission Action Plan Developed titled The Fragrance of Christ: Journey towards the Platinum Jubilee aimed at sharing the fragrance of Christ and attracting the communities to Christ. It envisaged opportunities galore and aimed at seizing the kairoic moment. This Mission Action Plan was drawn out with the 70th year in focus and as we develop the same long term we need to continue to look at the following opportunities

a. **Numerical Opportunities:** Beyond Numbers Yet Affirming the Importance of Numbers Growth issues- numerically and spiritually. How do we make this a relevant place for the changing society?

b. **Demographic Opportunities:** Parish for All- The Inclusive Welcoming Serving Face of the Church: Tapping the advantages of the strategic placing of the locale of the church. The Holy Island in a Shopping Street.

c. **Ecclesial Opportunities:** Worship and Witness- Strengthening the Five Elements of Worship- *lieturgia, koinonia, diakonia, marturia* and *harmonia*

d. **Missional Opportunities-** Fellowship, Growth, Outreach, In-reach

e. **Spacial Opportunities-** The Dancing, the Kebab van, the Play School, the Music Group as spaces of Mission

How do we make optimum use of the space that is available to us and ensure prudent stewardship of the property and buildings

f. **Ecumenical Opportunities-** Relationship and Partnership with the neighbours, the diocese and the larger fraternity. Expansion of the Friendship Group as Memory Boxes and Dream bags giving a relevant focus for the present

g. **The Futuristic Opportunity-** the Platinum Jubilee as the focal point of rebuilding the programmatic output- The Friendship Group to serve both as memory boxes and dream wagons. (futuristic challenges)

(i). An Elderly Friendly Congregation

(ii) The Reunion Possibilities

(iii)The New members (15-50, children, youth, families, lonely, single parents...)

(iv)The Homebound and a meaningful ministry to the lonely elderly reaching to them

(v)The multicultural integration

(vi) Reaching out to the community

(vii) A history and a future to be recorded

This 7 point agenda would then have to be integrated in line with the Diocesan Mission Action Plan Structure and we will be in for some exciting work

19. The Marks of an Elderly Friendly Parish

The Parish would be functioning keeping the cardinal principles of an elderly friendly congregation which includes but shall not be restricted to

- Accessible to the elderly
- Appreciative of the elderly
- Authentic in elderly friendly theology
- Acknowledging the special needs of the elderly
- Acceptable use of elderly sensitive technology and language
- Administration by and of the elderly
- Alert to the discourses in the public square on elderly abuse
- Assurance of safe and dignified space of/for the elderly
- Appointing elderly care trained clergy and staff team
- Availability of holistic pastoral care- emotional, spiritual and physical

20. Policy on Child and Youth Care

We laid out a clear policy for children and young people in which

We affirm that

- Children and Young People are Precious Gifts of God and deserve care and protection as their fundamental right

We acknowledge our responsibility to protect children and young people in our care from

- Physical abuse of any kind
- Sexual exploitation of any form
- Emotional or Psychological Stress
- Inaccessibility due to disabilities of any form
- Racial, communal, cultural discrimination
- Cyber, online and mobile bullying

We commit ourselves to

- Including children and young people in all aspects of the life of the church be it liturgical, sacramental, diaconal, or missional and in its decision making structures

We accept

- The duty of reporting abuse the moment it is noted even in a context of zero tolerance to abuse
- The responsibility of recruiting people who interact with children and young people with utmost care
- The onus to have proper risk management and mitigation principles and mechanism in place
- The prudence to keep the physical structures of the building and space child/youth safe and accessible to all

21. The Fellowship Life at Ashburton

The two congregations as one parish is a very meaningful concept that is being tried out very successfully at Ashburton. Not only the combined services and combined meetings of the vestry but also the general mission direction together as one community is gaining momentum by the day

The Ministerial Goals were synced with that of the Diocese which included the five marks of Mission

- proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- respond to human need by loving service
- seek to transform unjust structures of society
- strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

There were several instances of fellowship together and eating together. The common tea after the combined services, the special meals arranged at important occasions, the Onam meal, the Mothering Sunday fellowship and an array of similar events were celebrated.

If I am asked to pick out one stand out that would be the special service to celebrate 50 years of Margaret Holt in Mothers Union and the induction of Neluka and Bhagya. The CSI Community decided to have that celebrated in a combined service and that was special for all those who were part of the congregations.

Ashburton Fellowship is a model being offered to the global church and I am sure this is going to be talked about across the globe especially in contexts of vulnerability and viability discourses.

This fellowship has a long way to travel indeed

22. Visitors who blessed our portals

The Array of Visitors- Ashburton saw an array of visitors across the last years after we came in to minister which included among others His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne Philip Freier and his wife Joy, the Moderator of the Church of South India Most Rev. Govada Dyvasirvadam and the General Secretary Rev. Ratnakar Sadananda, the Bishops of the Diocese Bishop Philip Huggins, Bishop Genieve Blackwell, Bishop Paul White and Bishop Paul Barker, the Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Church Joseph

Mar Thoma and Episcopas Abraham Mar Paulose, Joseph Mar Barnabas, Issac Mar Philexinos of the same church, the Episcopas of the Malankara Syrian Jacobite Church Kuriakose Mar Theophilos and Matthews Mar Aprem, the Metropolitan of the Indian Orthodox Church Bishop Ireneos, the Bishop of the CSI South Kerala Diocese Bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam and his wife Shirley Rasalam, the local Member of Parliament Graham Watt, representing Asia CMS Kang San Tan and Loun Lin, Andrew Khoo and Yvone, from the IEM Rev. Rajasing, Mr. Jinu Kurien Koshy from Infosys, David Williams and Wei Han Kuan of CMS Australia, Warwick Murphy of ISSAC and a host of others.

23. The Finances and Resources- Entering Digital Banking-

In the area of finances too we could make significant strides as the financial report would suggest. Barry must be specially complimented for the negotiations with the diocese regards the outstanding parochial assessments and we have settled all matters in this regard and have made all payments including assessments and insurances up to date.

The Telstra tower had been a source of financial support for us across the last few years and the lease agreement with them is being re-negotiated this year and the parish will be kept informed of the developments

The current year saw an income of AUD 62605 and an expenditure of AUD 48108 with a total equity worth AED 153304 at the close of the financial year.

It must be reported herein that if we consider the two congregations finances together we had an income of AUD 156467.00 and an expenditure of AUD 133, 309.00 this year which is remarkable considering the smallness of the giving community.

We will continue to prudently work on the Resource development and management systems streamlining the same professionally.

24. The Home going of Joice Israel and Bishop Sam Amirtham

For St. Matthews as a congregation we bid farewell to Elaine Derwent and Mary de Argua along with Patricia Richmond this year and I can gauge how precious each of them were to each of us in this congregation and we praise the Lord for them

We had a very personal loss in the death of Molly's mother Joice Israel last year and earlier last month we witnessed the home going of Bishop Sam Amirtham the former Bishop of the South Kerala Diocese in India who was a tremendous influence in my life.

We pay homage to all the dear departed.

25. The Story of the Family

It is not an easy preposition to come and stay for a short period in a new country and I must confess we have enjoyed the experience. Both the congregations, St. Matthews and the Melbourne CSI Church has taken special care of us and has looked after us very well.

Molly has enjoyed her stint with the elderly at the Grand Cedar Age Care facility not far from the church. The children are doing well Dorothy at Ashburton Primary and Giji at the Ashwood High.

We must place on record our thanks for taking care of us so well.

26. The Future Dreams of Growth of the Parish

The Immediate Plans

- (a) Reshaping the Mission Action Plan- The Mission Action Plan that we drew up was a short term one focusing on the 70th year of both the congregations and that indeed was a very helpful document that governed our programme plan. We need now to make sure that a long term Action Plan is drawn up wherein the surge in numbers of the CSI congregation would not be misread as the growth of the St. Matthews congregation but instead creative ways would be sought to grow the English congregation simultaneously.
- (b) Complying with all legal obligations. We need to be compliant with all the legal requirements of the Diocese, the Council and the State. We have decided that a Register of Usage of Church facilities must be maintained, proper legal contracts be agreed upon with all who rent out the church premises including insurances.
- (c) Ensuring the Church is a Safe Space. The Church must be a safe space for all very specially the children, the elderly and the vulnerable. We will ensure all measures are taken to ensure this and will work closely with the Diocese and the Professional Standards to ensure that this happens.
- (d) Ensuring the Church is part of the Discourses in the Public Square. The Silence of the Church in several of the crucial realities that happen around us is appalling. We need to ensure that our voice is heard in the public square and this can be done in a variety of ways.
- (e) Reaching out locally and globally. The Church is a reaching out community. We will look forward for meaningful ways of reaching out to the people around us both locally and globally.
- (f) Making the Church Known- Continuing to Work on the Signage. It is now known around that St. Matthews is alive and going. We need to have signage around the parish to let the world know we are here and to invite and welcome people into our fellowship. No one should say- had I known that there was a church round the corner we would surely have connected to them.
- (g) OH &S Standards, Test and Tags- We are trying our best to live up to the expectations of Occupational health and safety standards and to ensure that the tests and tags are properly done. This is a continuing process and we will not be lagging behind in this crucial initiative.
- (h) The Continuing Clean Up and Facility Improvement. We had been continuously working on cleaning up the campus, getting rid of redundant stuff in a phased manner and ensuring facility improvement as far as possible. Most of the building was built in a different context where the needs would have been different. Modern Australia would have different

expectations from a sacred space and we will keep trying to keep pace with the expectations as much as we can.

- (i) Set up of the Church Office: A Church must have an Office. The official communication and correspondences, the official records and official printing must happen within the office facility. We are setting up the Office and I am sure it would be functional soon. It would be a space where the Vicar could be formally met by the people in the community and where all the official functions of the church would be running from.
- (j) Streamlining the finance systems: We need to streamline our finances and make it as transparent as possible. We have already gone into digital banking and the final financial statement we have reflects a healthy situation. However much more can be desired to streamline the weekly and monthly financial statements and reporting and we will continue to improve upon this.
- (k) Streamlining the Use of Facility Protocols: The use of the church facilities protocols is being improved upon and we will soon be able to put in place a proper system in this regard.
- (l) Reaching Out, Welcoming and Inviting Community: The Parish should continue to be a reaching out, welcoming and inviting community and we will looking at all practical and possible ways towards this.

27. Acknowledgements

I thank the Lord for this opportunity to come to Melbourne and minister albeit for a short period and would like to place on record my sincere thanks to all who made it possible.

Special thanks to the Archbishop Philip Freier and his team of Bishops Philip Huggins, Paul White, Genieve Blackwell and Paul Barker who were of tremendous support. I would also want to thank my Bishop Dharmaraj Rasalam, the CSI Moderators Dyvasirvadam and Thomas K Oommen and all concerned who are of support.

Sincere thanks to the Church Warden Barry Parker and members of the Vestry Peter and Leonie, P C George, Margaret Holt and Chiranga for the great support. Chrianka and Bhagya Fernando deserve special thanks for their systematic work with the Pew Sheets.

The sacristan Joyce Pietrz needs special mention for the tremendous support she is in ministry. Each member of the congregation is so special for me and I thank each of them.

Susanne Chambers the Area Dean and Ian Robinson the Archdeacon deserves special mention for the tremendous support they have been.

The Vicar's of the neighbouring Anglican parishes Glen Loughrey, Stephen Pash, Emily Payne and Diane Shrock were of great support.

Special thanks to Michelle Trebilcock and CT Roberts for holding fort while I was away along with others who helped occasionally.

The CSI Vestry and all the members deserve special appreciation and thanks for the tremendous support they are

Last but not the least I extend my thanks to my family immediate and extended for all the support they are in ministry.

28. The Final Blessings

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Jude 1:24,25

Rev. Vinod Victor