

Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 25th April – Fourth Sunday of Easter

I sit in my study looking out onto my camellia, still covered in bloom with forsythia and bluebells in the background. Just back from church inspecting the works and paying the stonemason, admiring our cherry which is in full bloom, the lilac coming out by the day and then back to see the Banksian rose bursting into flower on my front wall and the wallflowers full of scent. Scores of bees are buzzing from flower to flower, birds are hopping around in the spring sunshine and all is well with the world. I counted 24 different plants flowering just in my small front garden.

The world in Freemantle is bursting with life, but I am reminded of Eileen's sermon last Sunday and all the important decisions humanity needs to take to ensure a sustainable future.



Church life is following the seasons and after the hiatus of the winter lockdown we are up and running again. Easter Day was our resurrection, last Sunday we held our first Sunday afternoon service and on May 5th mid-week communion reopens: so, back to normal excepting social distancing, face masks and no singing. Let us pray that all goes well and restrictions will continue to ease and Sunday School, concerts and the Wednesday café can resume.

Those of you who have ventured to church in recent weeks will have seen the scaffolding at the east end. Over the Easter school holidays Colin Avery and his small team have totally repointed the east chancel wall and now are hard at work on the north transept. Phase 2 of the restoration is well underway and when completed we will have repointed the entire exterior of the church which should be good for at least the next 50 years. On Monday Andrew Seddon came down from Bolton to measure up for the window protection at the east end and when fitted we will have new wire protection on all our windows. Excepting disaster, we can then say that the exterior of the church is in fine fettle and once we have restored the gardens Christ Church will look magnificent.

Then the PCC can get their teeth into upgrading the interior and concentrate on far more important work such as mission, knowing that the fabric should not be the dominating "millstone" it has been over the last thirty years and more.

We have been in Vacancy for two and a half years now, but we remain outward looking and being blessed by our retired clergy we are still seeing new faces joining the congregation. We yearn though for a new priest. No news of what the Diocese plan as yet. There is a committee at present working on the way forward across the city and wider Diocese and we await their conclusions in the coming months.

So for now let us thank God for our relative good fortune and work together in harmony to further his kingdom in Freemantle and beyond.

Will Green