

## Newsletter 10 December 2022

### From the Heart

*There is the story about an old monk who sang a Christmas song every Christmas Eve for his brothers in the monastery, and for visitors who would come from the village for special services. His voice was not the best but he loved the Lord and sang from the heart. One year the director of the cloister said, 'I'm sorry, Brother Don, we will not need you this Christmas. We have a new monk who has a beautiful voice.'*

*The man did sing beautifully, and everyone was happy. But that night an angel came to the superior and said, 'Why didn't you have a Christmas Eve song?' The superior was very surprised. 'We had a beautiful song,' he replied. 'Didn't you hear it?'*

*The angel shook his head sadly. 'It may have been inspiring to you, but we didn't hear it in heaven. You see, the old monk with a raspy voice had a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus, but the young monk was singing for his own benefit, not for that of the Lord.'*

I made the point last week that in order for our celebration of what Christmas is really all about, we need to ensure that our relationship with God and with Christ is secure. In that way, our celebration will be genuine and will come from the heart. In that way, when we lustily sing those wonderful and familiar carols, we will indeed be paying homage to the true meaning of Christmas; glorifying a unique and very special birth.

'Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others – the armies of heaven – praising God: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to all whom God favours."' Luke 2:13-14

### Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm Carol service in the park (bring a seat, though there will be seats available) 11.00pm Holy Communion

Christmas Day: 9.00am Holy Communion

During January we will be holding just the one service every Sunday – 9.30am in the church.

### Confirmation

Last Sunday, Norah Joseph was confirmed by Bishop Ross in a wonderful service held in St Mary's-in-Holy Trinity. Congratulations Norah!

### Nativity Lights

Our nativity lights are up. If you get a chance, drive down Chapel Road after dark. They have become quite a community attraction.

Thank you to Peter, Joseph, Tony and Cherian.

### Presents for Charity

Thank you for your response to our appeal for Christmas presents for the charity dinner put on by the South Auckland Christian Food Bank. The function was a great success with approximately 1,000 parents and children attending. We contributed about 100 presents. Ian Foster, CEO, has asked me to pass on his immense gratitude. Well done!

## Finances

We still have not managed to move into credit for the year!

## Time for a Smile

A pregnant woman, whose husband was away overseas, is involved in a car accident and is knocked unconscious. When she wakes up two days later, she sees that she is no longer pregnant and frantically asks the doctor about her baby.

The doctor replies, 'Ma'am, you had twins! – a boy and a girl. We couldn't reach your husband, and since your brother was the first one here, we let him name them for you. The woman, slightly panicked, thinks, '*No, not my brother...he's not very bright!*'

She asks the doctor, 'Well, what's the girl's name?' 'Denise.' 'Wow, that's not a bad name, I like it. What's the boy's name?' 'Denephew.'

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Thanks to John Michael Sullivan (See Luke 2:1-16) 12-23-2005

AT LEAST WE CAN SAY THAT HE WAS  
BROUGHT UP IN A STABLE HOME

## To Ponder

'Life is like a game of tennis – if you serve well, you will win.' Anon

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and may 2023 bring many blessings.

Warner Wilder

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