

TAU MAY 2022

The Province of the Pacific, Third Order Society of St Francis



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Website - tssf.org.nz Please check the website regularly for updated Intercession and Address lists.

Please send any articles that would interest us about your area events or other Franciscan happenings in time for the next issue to

janicegthorne@gmail.com or Janice Thorne
204 Bowler Road
RD2
Te Aroha 3392
New Zealand
Phone: 027 823 6370

The next Tau is due out at the end of August 2022

Please send me your stories, etc by Friday 19th August.

Updated website

Over the next couple of months you will notice some changes on the Tssf, Province of the Pacific website. These are being made so that the site can be changed to a new “platform” as the old one is now obsolete.

While this is being done, we have changed some items around to make things easier to find and in more appropriate places, both in the public part and the members area.

This may mean you need to “click” around a bit to re familiarise yourself with where items are. Any queries please send a note via the web page and we will get back to you asap.

Thanks for your patience and we trust in the longer term this will make it easier for you to access the resources there.

From the Minister Provincial...

Greetings Franciscan sisters and brothers.

A common theme in some of my conversations recently is how fast this year has passed by already, in fact the last 2.5 years! It is a window into how much life has been absorbed by managing ourselves, both individually and in communities, in the middle of a covid pandemic.

It has also been challenging recently as my reading list has extended into areas I have not been much before. Topics such as racism, gender, sexism and white supremacy in colonialism. It has surprised me how little I know, understand or do not understand!

An interesting outcome has been that every now and then I catch myself thinking or doing something that no longer aligns with what I have learnt and it can be quite a shock to realise how many beliefs or patterns are deep in my “bones” historically from my upbringing or many other influences in life.

Change from the inside is hard work but we pray to be more like Francis and Jesus,for me, nowhere near perfect but slowly little by little changing. This process of renewing is not new for Franciscans as we serve in the three ways of service, Prayer, Study and Work

Grace and peace to you all

Blair Matheson

A prayer for today from the Principle's

God, as I open my eyes to the world today,

Please open my eyes to what you want me to do in it today

Amen

Convocation 2021/2
‘What is Yours To Do?’
Celebrating 800 years of
The Third Order Society of St Francis - 1221 – 2021’

Where – El Rancho in Waikanae

When – Thursday September 22 – Sunday September 25

Cost: Full accommodation - \$330.00

Live out with lunch & dinner provided - \$175.00

Convocation 2021/2 will be a special occasion with lots to reflect upon and plenty of time to spend talking with each other.

We have wonderful speakers - Jean Malcom, a former First Order Franciscan Sister, and Em Colgan tssf will be amongst us, and Jeff Golliher tssf will be zooming in from the United States. They have been invited to speak around our theme *What is Yours To Do?*

After last year’s postponement, many people left their registration to roll over for this year. Unfortunately we’ve had to add \$25 to the registration fee as costs have risen.

It would be helpful if everyone going to Convocation would send in a 2022 registration form so we are clear about your transport arrangements - especially if you are wanting to be picked up. Also, please let us know about any dietary requirements, allergies or mobility requirements.

Convocation is an important event in our Franciscan lives and everyone is encouraged to go. Should the cost be a problem please don’t hesitate to ask for some assistance. There is money available specifically for this purpose.

Contact your Area Chaplain or Pip Colgan (National Treasurer).

Hoodies For Sale

Spare hoodies from recent order - 1 x M, 1 x L, 3 x XL, 1 x 2XL

\$35 each + \$8 postage

Please contact Pip Colgan pip.colgan@xtra.co.nz ph: 027 459 6433

Franciscans International

Franciscans International (FI) has been in action for over 33 years as a non-government organisation (NGO). The main role is advocacy of basic human rights for the marginalised, vulnerable and those who have no voice.

FI works with Franciscans at grass roots level where there are issues around provision for these basic rights or abuses of human rights which are part of what countries have signed up to through the United Nations (UN) Council.

Over the years wonderful and powerful work has been achieved on behalf of many people so hence FI has the highest level of consultative status to the UN economic and social council.

Currently there is a global effort via the UN to have a standard of operation for all global companies and corporations. This would help ensure illegal land clearance and logging situations like our sisters and brothers in the Solomon Islands endure, would be monitored and governments and companies called to account.

FI has also recently been part of the collaborative process in advocating for special “rapporteur” (reporter) to the UN on human rights in the context of climate change.

FI is part of our global Franciscan family and it is great that tssf is able to support their work financially and through ongoing prayer. It is an honour being the Anglican Franciscan representative along with the other board members and staff to be part of the process of change for good. One of this year’s highlights in late April was to be able to attend the board meetings in Geneva face to face instead of by zoom and meeting the people that have been working together for nearly three years without meeting face to face.

Please pray for this ongoing work, the safety of those who advocate in face of personal safety and for wisdom in how to “open” the eyes of the world to life for those who have no voice.

Blair Matheson



This giant chair is opposite the main UN building in Geneva, a memorial to those who have lost limbs from land mines over the years...very moving.....you can see the fourth leg has been snapped off.



"Remember these? There are still some available for \$10.00 plus postage \$2.00. A number of people find them useful when they are not wearing a profession cross. They are not an "official" badge of belonging, so are able to be worn by others, not just members of tssf, so that includes postulants and novices. They attract comment so are often an opening to share one's faith in a gentle way. Contact Marion Fairbrass, formationtssfpacific@gmail.com to purchase."

JUNIPER FOREST

Some time ago, I created a private FaceBook page for the Auckland tssf group called The Juniper Forest. It still exists, though not very successfully. You are all welcome to join!

Brother Juniper is an odd character in the stories of Francis and his brothers. He certainly has a simple and counterintuitive way of seeing things. As modern Franciscans must.

My favorite tale is one when, forbidden to give away yet another habit, he stands still and does not resist as a beggar removes the garment, at Juniper's invitation.

I gave my FaceBook page that name because I was very taken with what our brother Francis said of Juniper when considering the simplicity and patience under adversity of the holy Brother, "Would to God, my brothers, that I had a whole forest of such Junipers!" (A Sense of the Divine. p291)

When we were asked by Chapter to rename our groups, I was asked if I would 'donate' the name, which I was very pleased to do.

There was a lot of discussion. Not everyone was pleased with the name. Not everyone had heard of Brother Juniper. Not everyone saw the need for a new name. No one put forward another suggestion.

We had a meeting at which we discussed some of the Brother Juniper stories, which led us down some very interesting paths: the nature of trees and how they communicate, being a "fool for God," and so on.

Auckland is named after a Viceroy of India, and to me, seems a scarcely fitting name for our group. We all agreed that it did not serve the purpose of including people living north of Rodney. That group is now called **Juniper Forest North**.

Bronwyn Emson tssf

Here are the dates for Juniper Forest meetings this year...

June 18th meeting to be held at Selwyn Library, Parnell.

August 20th as above

October 15th as above

December 10th meeting to be held at Vaughan Park.

The meeting may be changed to a zoom meeting depending on Covid restrictions.

Many Blessings,

Diane.

Margaret of Cortona-Pray for us sinners

Anthony Maelasi TSSF

Regional Minister-Solomon Islands Region 17th May 2022

Greetings to all Franciscans in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the prince of peace in the midst of chaos, hatred and violence facing us in the world today. Much have been said and done about the global pandemic and more recently the geo-political issue we're going through with China, as a small Pacific island country in Oceania.

January this year was the outbreak of community transmission of the COVID-19. This resulted in lockdowns and the SOPE (State of Public Emergency) which is in force until July of this year. Shipping and air transportation to and from the provinces were banned; education suspended, including early childhood and of course our university and vocational education. Churches were also banned from having their services on Saturday or Sunday. Apart from our first order SSF, this has halted our monthly prayer meetings, festivities and other activities.

Like everywhere else in the world, the stress, depression, trauma, panic, fear, anxiety caused by the pandemic is something that shouldn't be taken for granted. These are issues that needs to be addressed as part of our social responsibility and of course our mission as Franciscans. Given the slight ease in the situation at the moment, we finally agreed to have our opening Eucharist on Sunday 15th May. This was also to commemorate the festival day of St. Margaret of Cortona. A good number of our Areas also had their opening Eucharist on the same day. This is an encouragement as it truly demonstrates the Franciscan spirituality in living the life of peace, humility and simplicity, despite the complex situations we're living in today,

As for Honiara Area, we had our opening Eucharist at St. Peter's Feraladoa. Fr. John Ashley TSSF, our Honiara Area Chaplain, is the Rector. He celebrated and preached for us during the service. Large number of SSF companions, enquires and those wishing to be part of TSSF made the service alive through the hymnal praise and worship. Margaret of Cortona's life and history was highlighted as part of the sermon. It was indeed inspirational and drives us to get the most out of her calling in Christ and her influence by Francis himself. Despite of what she's going through in life, her realization of the need to put

things right in her life is found in Christ. This led her to pray for people to find forgiveness, peace and justice in Christ alone. Malaita Area had their opening Eucharist and profession of two of their novices who supposed to be professed last year. These novices had gone through the formation process and submitted their rule of life. This was held at St. Matthew's Dukwasi, a few kilometers above Auki, the provincial capital of Malaita Province.

After the service we had a meeting and managed to get clear direction as a way forward in the years ahead as Franciscans. The first thing we discussed was our upcoming Regional Chapter. We have decided to have it on Stigmata Day at Christ the King parish, next to Feraladoa. The Honiara Area executive will make arrangements to meet with the Christ the King Rector regarding the upcoming Regional Chapter. On a positive note, St. Peter's Feraladoa expressed their willingness to host the chapter should the need arises. The other thing we discussed was the establishment of a peace and counselling center for youths, and domestic violence victims and perpetrators. This is yet to be fully furnished and a concept paper will be developed after we have another meeting with our first order brothers. This will then be presented at the Regional Chapter. There was tremendous support for us Franciscans to portray the peace and love of Christ through these social services. The message of the life of Margaret of Cortona was timely as we deliberate on the social problems and issues faced, and the need to stand in the gap to address these national issues affecting young people and families here in Solomon Islands.

The opening service helped spark the Franciscan spirituality and the need to put into practice the life of Christ just like Francis did and win others with God's love. The geo-political issue regarding the security pact with China has sparked resistance and accusations from the West. This has raised anxiety and uncertainty as to what is going to happen given the social and political issues around the world today. We shall pray for our leaders to put into best practice their leadership and governance aspects for the development and protection of our beloved nation Solomon Islands.

Like Margaret of Cortona, let us all pray for people (known and unknown to us) to find forgiveness, peace and justice in Christ alone.

May peace and all goodness be ours now and forever.



Honiara Area members at St. Peter's Feraladoa.



Above: St. Peter's Feraladoa yet to be fully completed.



Left: SSF Companions taking part in the service.

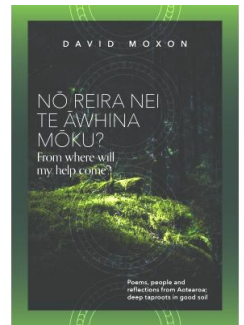
TSSF Malaita Area at St. Matthew's Dukwasi, Auki, Malaita Province.



The two novices were admitted as professed brothers.

Nō Reira Nei te Āwhina Mōku?

Archbishop Emeritus, Sir David Moxon has collated a collection of stories of a dozen Māori and Pākehā Christians over a two hundred year period of Christianity in Aotearoa. The stories of these twelve figures from Suzanne Aubert to Te Arikinui Te Atairangikahu anchor the book. This central section is bookended by a short series of poems at the beginning and a series of reflections at the end - some of which will be familiar to those who have heard Archbishop David preach or speak regularly.



I have not yet read this book, apart from the first dozen pages and a skim through the different sections; however, I trust that there are great taonga within it. The tone suggests it is a thanksgiving offering from Archbishop David. It speaks to how he has experienced God's Spirit at work in these islands and the depth of his gratitude for the rich gifts of biculturalism, our Three Tikanga Church, and our forebears, Māori and Pākehā alike. An encouraging treasure from one of our elder (though by no means *elderly*!) statesmen of the Haahi. A book I look forward to reading properly in due course!

Peter Bargh

Te Aroha group Zoom Meeting May 10th 2022

Sarah Hart, Peter Bargh, Lesley Cotterill, Blair Matheson, Clare Orchard, John Hebenton, Janice Thorne, and Brian Hamilton all met by Zoom on the afternoon of Tuesday May 10th.

We all shared what had been happening in our lives recently. Blair shared about a week spent in Geneva where he was meeting with Franciscans International. He had only been back home 11 days.

Blair spoke some more about Franciscans International with an example of the kind of work they are doing in the Solomon's, to do with difficulties from international mining and forestry companies. They also work through the Americas, Africa, and the Pacific. A lot of our brothers and sisters have been influenced by their work. The UN is moving to draft guidelines on how to work with international companies. Also advocating for the poor.

John mentioned a good book he is reading: Feed the Wolf: Befriending Our Fears in the Way of Saint Francis, a book by Jon M. Sweeney. Spiritual practices based on St Francis. It is available as an audio book:

https://www.audible.com/pd/B09G5C9LLY?source_code=ASSOR150021921000R

Sarah spoke on the latest developments in Ireland with the historic election wins

for the Sinn Fein party and what that might mean. The Northern Ireland parliament has not met for a long time and the people feel they are being screwed by politicians.

We aim to meet face-to-face at Katikati on 11th June at 10.00 am with a shared lunch to follow.



The Leprosy Mission Prayer

*Almighty Father, the giver of life and health,
look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy.*

*Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them
as Jesus did during his earthly life.*

*Grant wisdom and insight to those
who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease.*

*Give skill and sympathy to those
who minister to the patients.*

*Reunite the separated ones
with their families and friends.*

*And inspire your people with the task
set before the Leprosy Mission,*

*That it may never lack either the staff
or the means to carry on its healing
work,*

*In accordance with your will,
and to the glory of your holy name.*

*We ask this for the sake of
Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.*

Amen



Easter Journey Reflection

Greetings Franciscan Family, some reflections on the 5th Sundays readings. So cool our Lenten journey then the Easter journey which continues to Pentecost the true birthday of the Church!

Thinking of you all as we finally feel winter arriving: Dear God, Let us prepare for winter. The sun has turned away from us and the nest of summer hangs broken in a tree. Life slips through our fingers and, a darkness gathers, our hands grow cold. It is time to go inside. It is time for reflection and resonance. It is time for contemplation. Let us go inside. Amen, Leunig Acts 11:1-18 is a pivotal passage, so much so despite the cost of papyrus Paul tells the story twice. Once as his personal experience and then as a response to Jewish Christians complaining about him mixing with the unclean. This passage indicates God came for ALL humanity, Jews, Greeks, slave free, Gentiles EVERYONE! The Message puts it-*non-Jewish “outsiders” were now “in.”* It also reminds us how easy it is to be pious and judgemental thinking this is pleasing to God. The Message says *‘I fell into a trance and saw a vision: Something like a huge blanket, lowered by ropes at its four corners, came down out of heaven and settled on the ground in front of me. Milling around on the blanket were farm animals, wild animals, reptiles, birds—you name it, it was there. Fascinated, I took it all in.7-10 Then I heard a voice: ‘Go to it, Peter—kill and eat.’ I said, ‘Oh, no, Master. I’ve never so much as tasted food that wasn’t kosher.’ The voice spoke again: ‘If God says it’s okay, it’s okay.’ This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the sky.’*

Personally I believe God calls us to follow, to love unreservedly, unconditionally all people whether we like them or not whether they agree with us or not, whether they proclaim Jesus as Lord or are searching still. This reading teaches us God’s economy is not ours, our judgements are not God’s in fact we are told time and time again to let go, let God!

Ultimately everything we have is a gift from God. The passage shows us how Christianity began rather than remaining another Jewish sect and asks us to be as open and encompassing in our relationships based on God love and commands not the law! Revelations 21:1-6 in the Message tells us *“Look! Look! God has moved into the neighbourhood, making his home with men and women! ... Death is gone for good—tears gone, crying gone, pain gone—all the first order of things gone.” ... “Look! I’m making everything new.’* My personal favourite quote NIRV version *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.”* I am sad we have taken the words *Alpha and Omega* out of our service, I tend to put it back. It links us to many Gospel passages and the immensity of God’s love and presence with us always! Psalm 148 is

very Franciscan telling us to Praise everything, sun moon stars, angels, waters, everything. Its sentiments are found in many hymns and passages to remind us to give thanks for life because we are loved.

Finally John 13:31-35 *"I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. 35 If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples."*(NIRV). Jesus invites us into relationship, wholeness, revelation, the lightbulb moments we have from time to time. This Eastertide take time to reflect and delight in the promises of hope, life and love we receive from our daily readings. Remember always 'Loving' cancels out judgement, fear, superiority and separation. Let us work on our community as the last few years have fractured many relationships. Our challenge is to rebuild and reconnect. To ponder our own ability to live our rule and how often we reach out to our Third order family. As Franciscans let us regroup and reunite under God's leadership, Jesus' grace and the Holy Spirits Power.

Blessings Rev. Helene Young.

Companions Corner



Welcome to the Companions who have got back in touch with me. This is your page or extra pages if you want in the future! Please send me your comments or stories of your journeys, etc.

If you know of other Companions who would like to have more contact with others please share this newsletter with them and ask them to be put in touch with me so I can put them on the mailing list.

May we be mindful and aware of God's presence in our lives, and may that light be shared with all we meet. Amen

Companions promise to be a faithful Companion to all of Creation and its Creator, and in particular to the Sisters and Brothers of the Society of Saint Francis?

Companions promise to pray for them, holding their communities, their daily lives, and all those with whom they come into contact, in the all-encompassing Love of God?

Companions continue to find ways to share the unity, love, joy and life which God holds out to us in Christ, just as Francis did?

Transfiguration Reflection

Read Mark 9:2-10.

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white. The details of the Transfiguration are both straightforward and staggering. Jesus and three disciples go up a mountain to pray. As Jesus prays, his appearance changes. He becomes visibly radiant as if the light of heaven shone out of him. Then two ancient biblical figures, Moses and Elijah, appear and talk with him. Finally a cloud covers them, and the disciples became frightened. A voice comes out of the cloud and says, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" (v. 7). Then suddenly, the disciples find themselves alone with Jesus again. This experience stresses two essential truths for our journey in the kingdom of God. First, as Christ-followers we need mountaintop experiences to keep our discipleship fresh, vital, and alive. The eternal realm, the hidden dimension of God's transforming presence, penetrates our earthly reality and is always available to us. We need to regularly open ourselves to this divine reality so that our lives also glow with God's presence and power. If we have never experienced an encounter like this, we may want to re-examine those spiritual practices of solitude, prayer, and worship that open our lives to them.

Second, the Transfiguration reminds us that mountaintop experiences are not ends in and of themselves. Their importance lies in where they lead us. Immediately after Jesus is transfigured, he comes down from the mountaintop into the valley of human need and suffering. He brings healing to a child suffering from seizures. In that moment he translates his spiritual experience into compassionate action. For Jesus, coming down from the mountain is as important as going up the mountain.

Let us take time to ponder this truth. As followers of Jesus, we are invited to bring the light of our mountaintop experiences into the darkness of our pain-filled world. Sometimes we don't want to look at the pain and misery around us at home, at work, among our neighbours and friends. After all, we live in a culture that works to avoid or ignore others' suffering. But we need to be sharply countercultural. Rather than avoiding them, we need to intentionally engage those who suffer. We can make new beginnings this Lent by connecting with those who are hurting and by offering them the healing beam of God's presence.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28, NRV

Most of us know what it means to feel fatigued. Fatigue ambushes us when we

work too hard, when we get up too early and go to bed too late, when we try to balance too many demands, or when relationships cause conflict and pain. It comes when we live beyond our physical, emotional, and spiritual means.

In the midst of our daily slog, Jesus wants to gift us with rest. Jesus knows the importance God places on rest. After all, not only did God model rest in the creation story but God also demands we rest too. Rest has many different ingredients. Besides stopping work and learning to relax, it also includes getting adequate sleep. When we do this, we find that we live more joyful, creative, and fruitful lives. When we don't, fatigue takes over and brings failure in many areas of our tired lives.

Daily Practice

Memorize today's verse and repeat it often as you go about your daily work. Go to sleep at a reasonable time tonight and receive your night's rest as a gift from God.

WEPT

Jesus wept.

John 11:35, NIV

Each one of us sits next to a pool of our own tears. Our pools are all different. Some have been caused by what has been done to us; some are the results of our own doing. These pools remind us of the grief and losses we have suffered throughout our lives.

Jesus grants us the gift of his own tears. His tears remind us that God weeps with us, grieves with us, and suffers with us. Those who travel the Lenten journey in Jesus' intimate company discover that his tears represent the empathy of God. Let's consider our own pools of tears. These pools could be caused by the death of a loved one, the pain of a divorce, the abuse of a child, the unmet longing for an intimate partner, the loss of a job, or the rejection from a close friend. Whatever it may be, this pool of tears is where Christ wants to meet us during the season of Lent.

Daily Practice

Take some time today to be alone with the Lord. Share aloud your pool of tears and listen to what God has to say in response.

Trevor Hudson

The Magic of Light behind Glass

Lesley Dowding creative Photographer

The Eye Glass series came from the love of glass, leadlight windows and the stories they capture. Each piece is reproduced on Perspex to be hung in front of a window creating your own stain glass.

Churches hold the Taonga of amazing Stain Glass windows.

Romans and Egyptians were some of first glass makers.

In Medieval times when folk could not read they shared the Gospel parables in stain glass windows for the congregation to see and understand the Gospels. They shared history of the times and the people.

In New Zealand windows were commissioned in memory of loved ones and made in the UK at Whitechapel but later a family of craftsman in Dunedin perfected the work.

If you travel around old churches you will notice St Thomas has the same face every time as the artist used the same features.

In my local 125 year old St Paul Okato we have priceless stain glass. He one made in Whitechapel UK has a monk in the corner. The symbol of the maker. The detail is incredible which is what I love as a creative photographer.

In the early part of the 1900's windows design depicted the Saints or Christ on the cross. However in our church we have a woman but we are not told who she might represent.

I have taken sections of windows to show how tiny pieces of glass are next to the finger of the craftsman. Thoughts and creativity of the designers mind which opens up more detail of the image for the viewer or creator.

Many windows in modern churches depict the Gospels or the Saints. They are about Peace Love and Faith the essence of the Christian world. The windows are full of symbols and meaning.

In a St Paul's window the crafts person deliberately placed a piece of glass wrongly. Was it for fun a message or mistake? What do you think?

I print my pieces on canvas for small dwellings as well as Perspex and greeting cards to share with others. They are non profit as I help fund half price coffee for senior citizens at my local café. We have over 20 residents still independent in their own homes in the township. Youngest 65, oldest 98!

I also help fund firewood, vegetables, and work at Parihaka when they need help as there are a few elderly people there who do not drive.

I produce a calendar each year to help fund projects. I prefer pre-orders so I know how many to print.

I also organise and take the Anzac day service here with 250 biscuits in everyone's letterbox (a local baker bakes them for health & safety), plus colouring poster poppies to display.

At the moment I am supporting Ukraine with free candles to take light in homes plus bunting flowers displayed in blue and yellow, sunflowers to colour in and wreath at cenotaph.

If anyone donates I send to Drs with out borders, Ukraine, as my son-in-law was part of this organisation in Afghanistan, so I know the money gets there in medicines and my grandson's ancestry was Jewish Ukraine.

You can order from Lezley@xtra.co.nz

Blessings, I try to always share Psalm 91 and pray without ceasing.

Lesley Dowding

Canvas \$85, Perspex \$150, just under 1/2metre square approx framed, Cards \$4 each.



More pictures on back page...

Keeping The Vigil of Wisdom

by Joyce Rupp

Begin again and again
and again,
deliberately, with
intention, each day

Opening the heart's door,
seeking to invite
in the divine companion,
eager to abide with us.

Stop squirming.
Release clinging.
Let go of the binding
chains to
self-willed ways.

Begin again and again,
and again
with ardent faith and
endless vigil.

Never give up on
praying.

Countless are the paths
leading to the heart's
home
where Ancient Love
anticipates us,
waiting, always waiting,
while our restless heart
turns inward, as we
listen

for the whisper
of remembrance,

the taste of
the
Eternal One

here, yet far,

The fragrance of the
divine breath,
for a few delicious
moments,
touching our soul.



Stroud Parish Vacant

St John's Parish, Stroud, NSW is vacant. It is currently being served by an interim locums, but he will soon be moving to other duties.

The parish is being offering on a house for duty basis and would be ideal for a recently retired or about to retire priest. Parish duties are only a few days per week.

<https://www.newcastleanglican.org.au/your-church/stroud/>

The parish is small but there's a very committed and active core – and the historic church and rectory are in good order.

There's an added extra in the Franciscan community at the nearby Hermitage and also involvement in helping manage the old Monastery as a place for hospitality and spirituality.

If you know of anyone who might be interested to follow up I'd be happy to help them find out more.

Christopher John SSF

christopherjohnssf@gmail.com

St John's Anglican
Church, Stroud





**The Magic of Light
behind Glass
Lesley Dowding from
page 16**

