

February 2007

## **St. Christopher's Part of the Waverley District Inter-Church Council**

You have probably participated in our annual Waverly way of the Cross on **Good Friday**. It is held at 11AM on the oval at the corner of Springvale and Waverley Roads. Furthermore, year by year the Easter Event presents the story of Easter to more than 1500 school children. The event was held in Holy Family Church in 2006. In 2007, it will be held in the Glen Waverley Uniting Church. The Inter-Church Council has put up half the funding involved and relies on various participating schools to match this amount.

For the seventh time, Joe Persico (St. Justin's) has organised nineteen churches in the City of Monash on Ascension Day. A number of our parishioners have been involved in visiting other Church communities while we hosted their representatives in our Church. This has been our way to celebrate **Pentecost** in the city of Monash. Furthermore, through Joe's initiative as President of the Glen Waverley Inter-Church Council, all hotels and motels had flyers detailing all church services available during the Commonwealth Games and after. Each hotel and motel received a laminated copy of the addresses of churches and the times of services. The back of the sheet comprised a map where all churches were marked to make it easier for interested customers to find their way. A further 30 double-sided copies were distributed to the hotels and motels for guests who asked for copies of the times.

Robert McInnes (Uniting Church) has taken on work to help problem gamblers. As a former accountant, he analysed the published finances of hotels and clubs in the City of Monash and formulated a submission to the Victorian Government Enquiry on Electronic Gambling Machines. You were invited as were all our neighbourhood churches to express solidarity over our submissions to review the way the electronic gambling machines have been distributed and administered. Robert's submission made a strong case for substantial revisions to the existing distribution of machines and the levels of taxation levied on their use. While the St Christopher's submission was substantially different, both made reasoned pleas for substantial financial supplements to help remediate the excessive levels of problem gambling in the City of Monash. The Bracks government published a lengthy report just before the elections addressing many of the issues raised and providing significant extra funding for meeting the needs of problem gamblers in the city of Monash.

Through Tony Hodges and Jim Aylmer, the Inter-Church Council compiled a list of all current aged care facilities in the City of Monash and the level of support

offered by each of the churches involved. The list brings into focus what is currently done and what still remains to be done to meet the needs of our elderly citizens in hostels and nursing homes.

For many years, Judy O'Dwyer has been treasurer of the Waverley District Inter-Church Council which is an expression of ecumenism among the Churches in our neighbourhood. Maureen Hegarty and Raymond Lamerand (secretary) are also involved. What we do is clearly a team effort to try and address the problems we identify in our city.

Raymond Lamerand