



The 25th Anniversary of the Lazarus Centre

This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Lazarus Centre at St Peter's. In 1992 two parishioners, Joyce Newton and the late Jean Henderson, gave a cuppa' and a bite of breakfast to a couple of homeless people after the 7:15am weekday mass. This led to Jean and Joyce, with other St Peter's volunteers, serving tea and toast Monday to Friday to the homeless. This wonderful act of kindness led to the formation of the Lazarus Centre Breakfast Program which now serves a nutritional breakfast 7 days a week, including Good Friday and Christmas Day. A BBQ lunch is provided every Friday and there is also the annual Christmas party. Support services are available to all Lazarus Centre participants. There is a lot of media focus on homelessness currently, and the editorial in *The Age* on Tuesday 24th January makes 5 excellent points:

1. Increase the supply of public and other forms of affordable community housing.
2. The State Government should buy places such as St. Kilda's Gatwick Hotel - which has long been a residence of last resort for people without a permanent home - and run them as public housing.



3. Australia should explore the “Housing First” policy proving so successful in the United States. It provides the homeless a dwelling as well as working on underlying causes, including mental health, family violence, addiction and lack of education.

4. The Federal Government should remove distortions from the property market, so that resources go into expanding supply, rather than encouraging speculation in existing stock.

5. Property developers capitalizing on land values increased by public investment along existing public transport routes should be required to provide significant community housing within residential projects.

For the full editorial see the Foundation web site :
www.spehcf.com.au/upload/pdf/article.pdf

The St. Peter’s Eastern Hill Charitable Foundation supports the Lazarus Centre financially, and this year the Foundation will launch a major fundraiser to roof the courtyard, creating an atrium between the Hall and the Church. Preliminary plans include updating the parish kitchen, improving the toilet facilities and installing showers. We are most fortunate to have a fundraising committee chaired by Krystyna Campbell Pretty, and including Lady Potter, Alex Bialock and Sam Nadde, all experienced major fund-raisers. We will announce in the next few weeks details of functions that we hope you can support with your attendance and your prayers.

The Foundation, through a most generous bequest, now has the necessary funding for the Corner Plaza, to be built around the Wayside Cross. This will provide a platform for the Social Enterprise coffee cart to trade every day of the week. We are currently piloting this project, teaching Lazarus Centre participants how to be a barista, and then helping them find employment.

St Peter’s Eastern Hill Melbourne Charitable Foundation

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