

Embracing Ministries

An initiative of the Anglican church of Canberra and Goulburn

January 2020

Happy New Year!

The New school year has begun. Please join us in praying for children, teachers and parents as they prepare for the new school term. On 9 February 2020, many churches will be celebrating "Schools Ministry Sunday". Information and resources are available on the Christian Education in Schools (CEIS) website [https://www.ceis.org.au/our-](https://www.ceis.org.au/our-services/schools-ministry-sunday/)



[services/schools-ministry-sunday/](https://www.ceis.org.au/our-services/schools-ministry-sunday/)

I have had time to reflect and pray over the holiday period for the many churches, youth groups and children's ministries within and beyond our diocese. I especially pray for those many beautiful families who find worship and praying spaces difficult to access for many reasons. I would like to share one such story with you.

"Church should not be another place of struggle. School can be a struggle, or going to the shops can be a struggle, or getting along with your family can be a struggle, but church should not be a place where you struggle. I think the vast majority of people whose kids are on the (Autism) spectrum or who have a disability are not in church because it is another place of struggle." This quote vividly paints the experiences of families with small children and those with children with special needs.

As I reflect on this I want to share with you an article by Ruth Lukabyo, Youthworks College Dean of Women, with tips from Dr Amy Jacober about developing a more inclusive space for families affected by disability.

<https://www.youthworkscollege.edu.au/youthworks-college-blog/disability-ministry>

1. Young people with intellectual disabilities can often understand more than they can communicate.

Take time to listen to them and be optimistic about the work of the Spirit in their life.

2. To understand the young person, speak to their parents and other experts in their life.

One person shared how helpful it was to bring in a child's speech pathologist to speak to the kid's club leadership team. They found it made them reassess their expectations of what the child could understand as well as the behaviour they were willing to put up with.

3. Find out what they are in to.

Ask the children questions (or ask their parents) about what they are into. It could be Dr Who, racing cars, or a favourite movie. This can help you make connections with the young person to build your relationship with them.

4. Use repetition.

Repetition can be helpful, especially for those with learning difficulties or Autism. For example, ask the same four questions after the talk or Bible story each week. What did you like? What did you not like? What would you ask God about this? How might this apply to your week?

5. Show appreciation.

All young people like to feel that they belong and have a part to play in the Body of Christ. There may be opportunities to encourage someone and show your appreciation. For example, "I really like the way you like to praise God," to someone who loves to sing.

You may have some practical ideas yourself about ministry with young people with disabilities. If so, please share them with us!

Minnows Music



We are excited that Bubs and Tots will start back on the 14 Feb at 10am.

IMPORTANT CHANGE

Minnows Music Bubs and Tots will meet at a new location. We will meet at SMIV Anglican church at **17 Webber Street, Calwell (opposite Kingswim indoor pool)**. For more information please call Andrea 0404256714

Minnows Primary

Minnows Primary starts on the **22nd of February at 10am** at Malkara School (53 Wisdom St, Garran) Booking for this group is essential.



Embracing Ministry supports and nurtures the spiritual life of all people, regardless of their abilities

Embracing Ministries

An initiative of the Anglican church of Canberra and Goulburn

January 2020

Bend and Stretch

Starts 22nd Feb at 12.30pm.

At Malkara School (53 Wisdom St, Garran)
Booking for this group is essential.



Come along and join us in crawling, walking, jumping & landing safely, hopping, running, skipping, balancing, throwing and catching, coordination challenges, stretching, throwing and catching beanbags/balls/hula hoops, shooting for goals, jumping on the trampoline, general fitness exercises for children, dancing, singing along to music and parachute games.

If you have a special needs child who would like to try Minnows Movement please contact

info@embracingministries.org



Beach Retreats 2020

Sadly due to the fires on the south coast there will be no retreat in February this year.

We will have 3 retreats at Long Beach, if you would like to book into the retreat please contact Andrea 0404256714

Retreat Dates

1st -3rd May, 24th-26th July &
16th-18th Oct



We ask you to join us in pray for the safety and for those facing uncertainty, danger and loss in our regions and beyond. Pray for the RFS and other emergency services who are risking their lives on the front line, and pray most of all that the Lord may comfort and protect those who may experience suffering and loss as this bushfire season continues. Be assured of our love and prayers.



Embracing Siblings

This group is a great opportunity for the brothers and sisters of families with a child with a disability to have their own special group. This group was created to give children a place to connect with others, to relax and have fun.

Dates for your Dairy

23rd February Excursion (TBA)

8th March at Malkara School

22nd March Excursion (TBA)

29th March family BBQ at Malkara

If you would like your child to come along please let us know at info@embracingministries.org

Contact Embracing Ministries

info@embracingministries.org

Bank Details: Anglican Investment
Development Fund (AIDF)
BSB: 702 389 Account: 0520 9841

Little Treasures

Little Treasures is a Christian holiday program designed to include all children regardless of their ability. It gave 35 primary school children the opportunity to make new friends, be part of the community, learn and have fun in a supportive loving Christian environment.

We are very excited that Radford Collage have offered us their beautiful ELC for the wonderful program. The dates are

14th of April- family meet and greet.

15th - 17th April- Little Treasures

Music Engagement Program

The Engagement Music Program (MEP) is starting on the

24th of Feb at 1.30 pm at

St James Anglican Church
40 Beaurepaire Crescent Holt

It costs \$2.00 per person or \$10.00 for a group of up to 10. Come along, bring your singing voice and enjoy the music.

Fundraising Concert

This year we will be having our fundraising concert on the 27th of June. All funds raised from the night will go towards refugee children who don't have access to the NDIS.



We look forward to seeing you all there!

Embracing Ministry supports and nurtures the spiritual life of all people, regardless of their abilities