



CONNECTING CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



Farmers Market at Beechworth

AS the Church looks outward we reach into the community and we find exciting new opportunities to connect the church and our faith with the lives of those who are not regular church goers. As the world changes, the Church is faced with declining numbers, aging congregations, less energy for mission and a growing inability to offer relevance to a younger generation.

Our relationship with community needs to change as does our vision

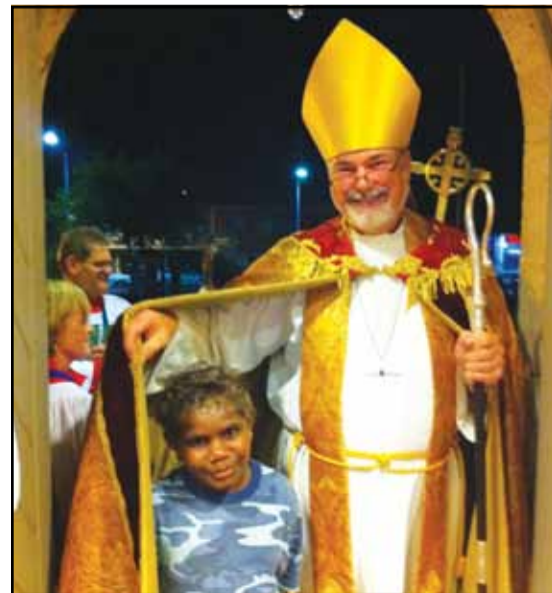
for the future and the expressions of our faith. As we strive to achieve this across our diocese many of our parishes look for new ideas and expressions to develop that concept.

The parish of Beechworth has opened its doors or more precisely its grounds to the Community for regular farmers markets that are proving to be a very popular day for locals and visitors to the area. Everyone is invited to sample the great produce

from around the region on the first Saturday of Every Month with stalls open from 9am – 12pm and located at Christ Church on the Hill, Ford Street Beechworth. These great markets offer a large range of stalls that provide an array of wonderful fresh food and produce from around the region. As we are all more conscious of good health and nutrition as well as the need to live within an eco-friendly environment markets of this kind have potential to grow

and develop well into the future. Last year the markets were also involved in the Spring Graze and are now members of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival held yearly.

It is exciting to look at the new opportunities, ideas and partnerships that the parishes all over our Diocese are creating. As we all look outward to hold out our hand to the community it offers us strength and direction for the future.



Bishop John shielding Gervase Ingkatji from the rain.

TOGETHER WE CELEBRATE

BY FR PETER MACLEOD-MILLER

IN the bleak mid winter? Well...it wasn't quite winter, but the rain was pelting down before the midnight mass at St Matthews and Bishop John Parkes shared his golden cope with a small stranger who joined people from far and wide who came to worship the Christ child at the manger.

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