

# Kidz InC



## Our First Edition!

Dear Parents,

I welcome this first edition of the Kids InC magazine, and hope you will all read it and support it.

Our central value at St Mike's is to grow as a community rooted in Christ, and we want you and your children to feel part of that whole community. This desire to experience community is not just a nice idea but comes to us from the nature of God as Trinity – a God whose very Being is communitarian and whose work is to invite us to share together the community which God is.

We want your children to feel that they belong and contribute to this community and, of course, we want all of you, their parents, to share the same sense of belonging. Hence our aim in starting this magazine is to create a way of communicating with you parents, so that you know what is happening with your children while they are with us on Sundays.

We hope that you will invite them to share their experiences and learning with you; and we hope that if you have any concerns you will feel free to communicate them back to us.

*Father Tim*

November 2004



### Coming Events

**Kidz InC Agape Meal**

*7 Nov 04*

**Kidz InC Nativity Play**

*28 Nov 04*

**Kidz InC Graduation!**

*5 Dec 04*

## What is an Agape meal?

From earliest times people have demonstrated their fellowship by breaking bread together and sharing a meal. Every culture in the world has some ritual around food or drink that allows people to express their friendship with each other: from the simple toast, to the Japanese tea ceremony, to the sharing of traditional beer from the single pot or having friends over for a braai in our own country.

In the days of ancient Israel it was the sharing of pieces of bread from a common loaf that symbolized unity. And, even more importantly, the sharing of bread was a symbol of God's blessing as well. In ancient days the harvest was always offered to God in thanksgiving for God's blessings, and the bread made from that grain was understood as a symbol of that blessing. When bread was shared the head of the family would pray over it, give thanks to God for it, and pass it around the table so that everyone could have a piece. Everyone who ate that bread symbolically took that blessing into themselves as they swallowed their piece.



When the early Christians began to meet they continued the Jewish tradition of sharing a meal for fellowship, and as a sign of God's presence amongst them, blessing them and binding them together. The Eucharist service which we celebrate today developed out of the simple meals that the first Christians shared. As they realized how Christ was especially present in the bread they blessed and the wine they shared, so that event became the central focus of their worship.

But sometimes they simply wanted to meet together to enjoy each others company. When they came together simply to express their love for each other they still shared a meal, they still remembered that Jesus was with them, but they didn't bless the bread and wine in the same way that we do at the Eucharist. These meals are called Agape Meals – Agape is a Greek word which simply means love. At an Agape meal we pray together, celebrate being together, share a simple meal, and give thanks to God for the many blessings we receive every day.

*Father Doug*



**Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever.**

**Hebrews 13 verse 8**

# Nativity Play with a twist

Our Kidz InC Nativity Play will take place on 28 November, during the service. Great effort will and have been put into making this traditional play one that you will never forget! Please support the children and bring along family and friends to enjoy this very special occasion with us. Should you be able to assist the teachers with costumes or simple set designs, please contact Brenda Gallie on 083 390 6582. Any assistance you can offer will be greatly appreciated!



Should your child have one of the main parts, you will be contacted by the teachers advising you what your child needs to wear on the evening. You will know if your child has one of the speaking parts, as the Kidz InC teachers have sent out letters informing you of this.

The rest of the children will be the very important support cast of donkeys, sheep, cattle and of course angels. To simplify matters we request that children participating in the concert wear black clothes for the donkeys, and white clothes for the sheep, cattle and angels. Please make a golden halo out of tinsel, should your little angel, be an angel. Notes will be sent home advising you as to what part your child will play. The teachers will provide the head gear (ears, face paint etc). Please also send your child to church barefoot, as we do not wish expensive shoes to be misplaced and lost.

We look forward to seeing you there, and again we welcome all suggestions and ideas!

*Kidz InC Teachers*

# Kidz InC Graduation

We recently advised the parish of our "Bible Surprise", where we mentioned that our aim is to ensure each child attending Kidz InC, receives a Bible of their own. If you have not yet donated money towards this initiative, please place your donation into an envelope marked Kidz InC and place the sealed envelope in the collections basket.



We will also be handing out "graduation" certificates, and the children will enjoy some snacks and cool drink after the service. We hope that this may empower the children to feel that they have achieved something whilst being part of the Kidz InC group. We strive to make Sunday School fun and vibrant, share the importance of Bible education, and instil in the children a knowledge that they are an important part of the Church.

Please let us know if you are unable to attend Church on 5 December, and we will keep a Bible and certificate for your child.

*Kidz InC Teachers*

# Have a giggle

## War Heroes

As everyone was leaving the church, the Pastor noticed a young boy in the hallway, looking at a number of pictures on the wall. He said, "Well, hello, young man, how are you today?" The boy said, "Oh, fine." The pastor said, "I see you are looking at the pictures on the wall, do you know who the men in those pictures are?" The boy said "No, who are they?" The pastor said proudly "Well, son, those are pictures of the men in our congregation that gave their life in the service". The boy replied, "The 10 o'clock or the 11 o'clock service?"



## Good Sermon!

After a very long and boring sermon the parishioners filed out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Pastor, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!" The pastor was thrilled. "No-one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why." "Well - it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the Love of God because it endured forever!"