

grace church
joondalup
DIOCESE OF PERTH
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Anglican
Church
Diocese of Perth



The Presentation of Christ
5 February 2012

My dear Friends

On Thursday, complete with hard hat, I toured the catacombs under the new church, quite an amazing experience. Getting a better idea of the space helps me understand why the project seems to be taking so long. Apart from the extensive car-park, it really is an underground city down there. We have been told many times about the concrete radiation bunkers with their 2m thick concrete lids, but seeing is believing! Meanwhile, above ground in Grace House, major refurbishment is about to begin, and this will be far more disruptive than anything we have experienced so far. Kitchen and sacristy are first to go, then windows and doors will be torn out and bricked up, and finally the air-conditioning system will be replaced. For the next six months or so we can expect to be living in something like a war zone. Storage for sacristy contents, however, is our immediate concern. Shortly, we will have a lockable storage cupboard for chalices etc, located in the small front office, and the photocopier will move in there as well. We will also need a suitable standing clothes rack for vestments, and a throw over dust cover to protect the organ. The bricking up of the windows behind the altar will make a mess, but the wall will be painted as soon as possible – hopefully before Holy Week and Easter. I have asked for air-conditioning to be left as late as possible so that the worst of the hot weather has passed, but we will still need fans if we are not to expire slowly from stale air. All in all, then, Lent 2012 promises to be memorable for all the wrong reasons. The good news is that the church floor, a huge concrete slab which must be poured in one hit, is happening as I write (Friday morning), and what I saw yesterday tells me that our motto for Lent and Easter should be 'for the joy that is set before us.' Believe me, the new Grace Church is going to be a quite glorious sacred space.

with my love

David