Central Vic Salvos

8th November 2026

As a person whose great joy in life is creativity I have given AI a long skeptical side eye.
Generating visual images, music, and written text are three tasks I love and I can't ever imagine wanting to outsource to AI.

But I'm trying to keep up with the AI conversations that are all around us - some bounding with enthusiasm and anticipation, others burdened with anxiety and dread, others bewildered by fears of obsolescence and oblivion.

I listened to an interview with Ron Johnson, who worked at Apple with Steve Jobs and whose vision and creativity shaped the unique way Apple/Mac stores, with their Genius Bar and team applause for customers, has made their brand retail experience unparalleled.
Ron - undeniably a great creative thinker who commands respect, spoke of AI with optimism and wise discernment.

His view is that AI like any technology is inherently just a tool and that if we are threatened by the idea of being replaced by a tool or a technology as humans we have already failed to hold what is most important and precious about ourselves. To be human is to be more than an ergonomic unit - a working machine. We are beings of reflection, thinking and loving.

Ron reminds listeners that AI only answers questions with information, no matter how eloquent or smooth or personable or charming the delivery.
The real challenge remains for us to do the deep thinking about that information. To evaluate everything, to test and weigh advantages, assumptions and adverse impacts.

To take ideas beyond the immediate into the range of possibilities, wonder and meaning.
I agree - and as he spoke about this important relationship with AI, I couldn't help but think the same protocol applies to our relationship with the Bible.
Sometimes we are tempted to ask the Bible for quick answers and accept whatever comes up, as if that's how faith is found. This is like asking chatGPT or Claude a question or to create something for us and taking whatever is served up.

This way of treating AI or the Bible leaves us stuck in the shallows of easy answers and quick fixes. As Ron Johnson says, it is the deep thinking we do that matters most, because that is what shapes us.

In the life of faith, knowing answers is not what God calls us to. We are called to become followers of Jesus, agents of compassion, filled with the Spirit, children of God, lovers of justice and mercy. It is what we become as we reflect deeply on the word that God is interested in, in the process of our deep searching and pondering and questioning the spirit works to shape our character, grow our compassion, and extend our faith.
The Bible is not a place for punching in our questions and expecting a ready made answer, but for deep and beautiful thinking.

So...let's leave ChatGPT and AI for the simple stuff and keep gathering for the deep good work of faith and love and justice.

Beth Waldron Anstice (Castlemaine)

More infromation
https://www.salvosonline.org.au/festival-of-mission

FESTIVAL of Mission

MISSION MANIFESTO

27 – 28 November 2026

This is a two-day gathering for those who dream of seeing lives changed. For those who believe the gospel still transforms communities. For those ready to create and respond to the needs around them with faith and boldness. Through worship, prayer, storytelling, learning and shared experience, we will celebrate what God is doing today and imagine what could be possible tomorrow.

At the heart of Mission Manifesto is a conviction: God works through ordinary people. When we follow with courage, create with purpose and serve with confidence, and keep Jesus at the centre lives are transformed.

Register: https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1647985

Cost: $15 a day

MISSION MANDATE

29 November 2026

The Festival of Mission will conclude at 614 with a special Sunday Rally: Mission Mandate.

Join us as we gather together for worship, celebration, prayer and response.

Join us as we hear from the General what's on God's heart for The Salvation Army.

No Registration needed



Monthly Quiet Time Challenge
Reflect & Remember

Read: Psalm 77:11

Look back and notice where God has been faithful this year

CHRISTMAS PRAYER BIBLE

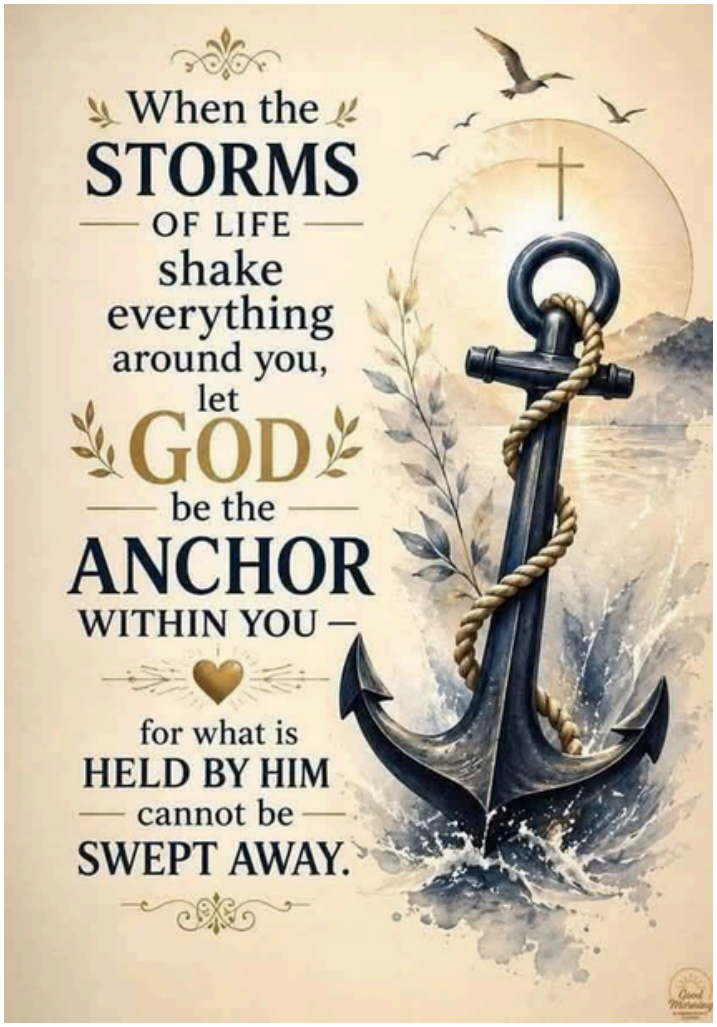
Come and create your personal Christmas Prayer Bible

This is open to everyone in CVS.
MONDAY 30 November starting at 11am-3/4pm
Can leave early if required
Venue Eaglehawk Corps.
Cost $5.
To register please email Major Karen
karen.armstrong@salvationarmy.org.au

You will need to bring a bible.
Preferred a different one to what you normally use.
Check out the salvos store for used bibles.

All other material is supplied. BYO lunch.





Christmas Gift Wrapping 2026

The Salvation Army Bendigo is organising Christmas gift wrapping at Bendigo Market Place on the following dates in December 2026:

- 2 December
- 5 December
- 8 December
- 11 December
- 14 December
- 17 December
- 23 December



Contact: Captain Ashir
Phone: 0408 746 144

You can contact Captain Ashir for details about volunteering times.





♻️ NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK 9–15 NOVEMBER 2026 ♻️

This National Recycling Week, Central Vic Salvos is encouraging our community to think about how we can reduce waste, reuse items and recycle responsibly.
Small actions can make a big difference! 💚
🌱 Give unwanted items a second life.
🌱 Donate good-quality items rather than throwing them away.
🌱 Reuse and repurpose wherever possible.
🌱 Make recycling part of your everyday routine.
Together, we can care for our environment, reduce landfill and build a more sustainable community.
Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Together we can make a difference!

Bendigo







Easy Butter Chicken

Ingredients

2 tbs butter
1kg chicken thighs deboned diced
3 tbs curry powder
800g Heinz Big Red tomato soup
1/4 cup sugar
200ml cream

Step 1

In a saucepan, melt butter, then add the chicken and curry powder. Stir until chicken is browned.

Step 2

Add tomato soup and sugar. Stir well and simmer for 10 minutes.

Step 3

Just before serving, add cream and stir well.

Step 4

Serve with steamed rice and naan bread.



Castlemaine



Malaysian Laksa!
Just one of three delicious soups Wednesday night.
Thanks to Selvi our cook, hardworking volunteers from Castlemaine community
and students of Global Village Learning, produce from Castlemaine Farmers Market, and Harvest.
The best things we do are the things we do together.

POT LUCK DINNER

Saturday, 21st November
at 5:30 -7:30pm

at the Castlemaine Salvos, next to the Train Station in Kennedy Street.

Bring a plate to share for a relaxed evening with friends

Eaglehawk



What a wonderful Sunday we had at Eaglehawk Corps last week as we celebrated the achievements and successful launch of Just Brass. The overriding theme of the morning was "Team" or "Team work". We were blessed to have the Just Brass Tutors join with us and be part of the musical support during the service. We heard from the Just Brass group as they played the Hymn tune Horsley, which was greatly appreciated by the congregation. During the service everyone participated in some activities that required teamwork to achieve the given task. I shared a few brief thoughts around the word Team

T=Trust God and each other
E=Encouragement
A=Attitude
M=Mentors.

I also shared two verses from Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 that starts like this...Two are better than One, because they have a good return for their labour.

I have also been reminded in the last few days following the passing of one of Sir Patrick Stewart, who portrayed one of my heroes , The formidable Captain Jean Luc Picard and one quote from Star Trek that I also feel sums up the pride and gratitude I feel for the team I have around me to facilitate Just Brass. So, if you would indulge me for a moment please, I'd like to share it with you.

"You're only ever really as good as those around you. Your crew become a part of you. Complete you. They lift you up to accomplish the things you could never do alone".

Please continue to pray for Eaglehawk Corps and the Just Brass program. I strongly believe that we are about to launch into something special next year.

Thank You.

Darren Dunn

Free cat and dog microchipping day in Eaglehawk



- Wednesday November 18, 2026
- 9am to 11am
- Eaglehawk Community House
  19 Bright Street, Eaglehawk

Bendigo Animal Relief Centre (BARC) are holding a FREE cat and dog microchipping day in Eaglehawk for Greater Bendigo residents.

This is a good opportunity to:

- Have your best friend microchipped for free! ($40 cash only fee applies for non-Greater Bendigo residents)
- Check your pet's microchipping details are up to date
- Learn more about becoming a BARC foster carer

Please note cats and dogs must be in carry cages or on leads.

Bendigo Animal Relief Centre
20 Piper Lane, East Bendigo
t. (03) 5441 2209
www.bendigoanimalreliefcentre.com.au

BARC Bendigo Animal Relief Centre

CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO



Maryborough

HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS OF ITEMS YOU CAN PUT IN YOUR BOX

- Canned fruit
- Canned vegetables
- Canned tuna
- Canned meals
- Baked beans
- Soups
- Dried fruit and nuts
- Crackers, biscuits
- Long life milk
- Juice
- Coffee, tea and Milo
- Spreads - Vegemite, Peanut Butter, Jam, Honey
- Rice, pasta and noodles
- Pasta sauce/Chicken tonight
- Cereal
- Muesli Bars
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Soap and deodorant
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Tissues and toilet paper
- Treat food – chips, chocolate
- Christmas item

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR MARYBOROUGH

ADD ONE ITEM TO YOUR BOX EVERY DAY OVER 30 DAYS

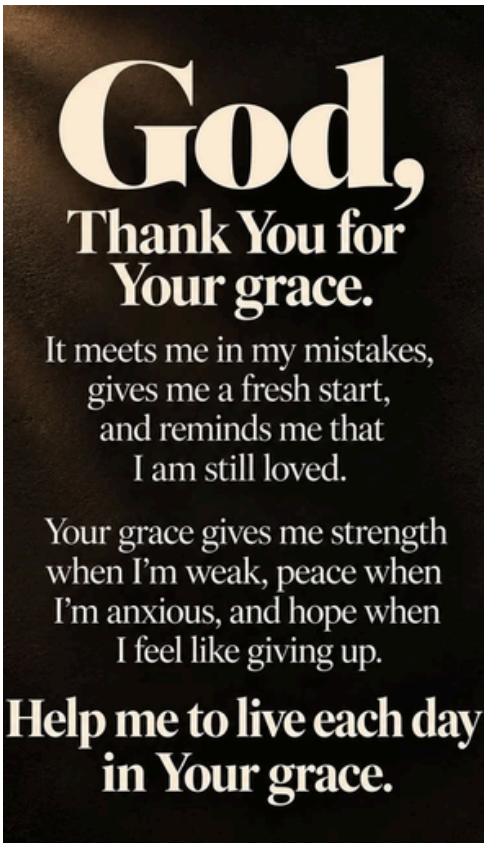


PICK UP YOUR BOX TODAY

Maryborough Salvos
27 Wills Street, Maryborough
03 5459 0500
Mon, Wed, Fri 9.30am - 12.30pm

PLEASE RETURN YOUR BOX BY FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

THE SALVATION ARMY Maryborough



Thrift Shops

AVOCA THRIFT SHOP
114 High Street, Avoca
Ph: (03) 5459 0502
Open Hours:
10:00am - 3:0pm
Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri
10:00am - 1:00pm Saturday

BENDIGO CBD THRIFT SHOP
18 Pall Mall, Bendigo
Ph: 0461 460 295
Open Hours:
9:30am-4:00pm Mon-Fri
10:00am - 4:00pm Saturday
Closed: 25th & 26th September

BENDIGO THRIFT SHOP
2B Thistle Street, Golden Square
Ph: (03) 5459 0504
Open Hours:
9am-4:30pm Monday to Friday
9am-2pm Saturday

CASTLEMAINE THRIFT SHOP
46 Forest Street, Castlemaine
Ph: (03) 5459 0506
Open Hours:
10am-4pm Monday to Friday
10am-3pm Saturday

ST ARNAUD THRIFT SHOP
70-72 Napier Street, St Arnaud
Ph: (03) 5459 0503
Open Hours:
9:30am - 3:30pm Mon to Fri
10am-2pm Saturday

WEEKLY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

BENDIGO
65-71 Mundy St, Bendigo

MONDAY
12.00pm - Community Meal
12.30 to 2.30pm - Clothes Washing
1.00 to 3.00pm - Art Space
THURSDAY
10.30 to 1.30pm - Clothes Washing
11.00am - Chapel
12.00pm - Community Meal
SUNDAY
10.00am - Celebration Service
10.30am - Kids School

CASTLEMAINE
47 Kennedy St, Castlemaine

MONDAY
9.30am to 11.00am - Playgroup *
11.15am to 12.45pm - Playgroup *
3:45pm - 4:45pm: Just Brass
WEDNESDAY
9.30am to 12.00pm Doorways
FRIDAY
9.30am to 12.00pm - Doorways
SUNDAY
10.30am - Worship Service

EAGLEHAWK
51 Church St, Eaglehawk

TUESDAYS
8:30am - Weekly Prayers
9:45am - Weekly Bible Study - BYO lunch
THURSDAY
11.00am 4th every month - Aged Care Service
2.00pm - Community Pantry
3.45pm Band Learners
5.30pm Band Practice
FRIDAY
11.00am Creative and Create Hub finish at your own leisure
SUNDAY
9:40am - prays
10.00am - Celebration Service
3rd Sunday of month is the Church/Corps come and share lunch together. starting February to November.

MARYBOROUGH
27 Wills St, Maryborough

MONDAY
9:30am to 12.30pm - Community Pantry
10:30am - Faith Fellowship *
WEDNESDAY
9:30am to 12.30pm - Community Pantry
THURSDAY
12.00pm - Noon Prayer
1.30pm - Bowls
FRIDAY
9:30am to 12.30pm - Community Pantry
5.00pm - Faith Chats *
6.00pm - Youth Group *
SUNDAY
9:15am - Prayer Meeting
10.00am - Celebration Service with Kids Church

***not on during school Holidays**

Contact Us

Central Vic Salvos Team Leader: Major Robert Evans - 0477 556 277

Bendigo
Capt. Ashir Morris and Hummera Ashir
65 – 71 Mundy Street, Bendigo | 03 5440 8431
corpsofficer.bendigo@salvationarmy.org.au

Castlemaine
Beth Waldron Anstice
47 Kennedy Street, Castlemaine | 03 5459 0505
corpsofficer.castlemaine@salvationarmy.org.au

Eaglehawk
Major Karen Armstrong
51 Church Street, Eaglehawk | (03) 5459 0507
corpsofficer.eaglehawk@salvationarmy.org.au

Maryborough
Major Vanessa Evans
27 Wills St, Maryborough | 03 5459 0500
corpsofficer.maryborough@salvationarmy.org.au



doorways

Doorways is our Community Support program. It is the entryway through which those experiencing hardship and/or disadvantage can take proactive steps to find the support they need to overcome life's challenges and find long-term solutions. We offer a range of services from emergency relief to case management and more.

If you are experiencing hardship or financial difficulties, please call the Salvos Phone Assistance Line (PAL) on 03 8873 5288.
This service operates Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm.

Please be aware no assistance interviews will be conducted from our local sites. Community members presenting to any of our Central Vic Salvos sites will be invited to contact Salvos PAL.

Jesus-centred
Spirit-led
hope revealed

The Salvation Army Central Victoria honours God who is Father, Son and Spirit; and who is the Creator of this world and the giver of all life. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, who are the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples of the Kulin Nation, and we pay our respects to their elders past present and future. We commit ourselves to work for reconciliation and justice alongside Australia's First Nations people.