



CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Next Sunday, 20th December at 7.00pm

[Note: No 5.15pm service]

Christmas Eve

7.00pm – Children’s & Family/
Christingle Service



We will be sharing a special Christmas story together on Christmas Eve. Children, please dress as something from your favourite Christmas story; we will be talking about what makes Christmas special, and would love to hear about your favourite Christmas story.

10.30pm – Midnight Mass

Our traditional service to welcome Christmas!



Christmas Day

8.00am Eucharist; and
9.30am Sung Eucharist

[Note: No 5.15pm service]

We acknowledge the Wathaurong people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its buildings now stand.



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



“A community of faith in service to others”

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

Vicar:	The Reverend Russell Trickey Email: trickeyrussell13@gmail.com	M: 0433 933738
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Mission Statement

Christ Church seeks to be a centre for the worship of Almighty God, providing strength and assistance for all who enter, and enabling God’s love in Christ to reach out to the community and world in which we live.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

13th December 2015 Liturgical Colour: Purple

Holy Eucharist: 8.00am; 9.30am (Sung) & 5.15pm

Sentence

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.

Prayer of the Day *

*Almighty God,
you sent your Son into a world
where the wheat must be winnowed
from the chaff
and evil clings even to what is good:
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for him
whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.*



* You are invited to join in this Prayer immediately before today’s readings

Service Setting: ‘The Christ Church Service’

Hymns: 9.30am: 271; 572(2); 414; 265 5.15pm: As selected

The Vicar Writes



God is supremely pure and those who take shelter in the Lord become pure. Spirit is eternal full of wisdom and love, we are children of Spirit, that's what the soul is. When we think we are only physical and death is the end we must be fearful, when we know by the guidance of the Holy Spirit that we are eternal we become fearless. John the Baptist demanded of the people who has told you of the wrath to come? Who has made you fearful? In other words. Then he spoke of the Lord coming with a winnowing fork to gather the wheat into the barn and burn the chaff.

Politically minded people then and now suppose that the chaff that is thrown into the fire represents the people who are not obedient, but that is not what is meant. Gathering the wheat means bringing out the divine qualities that are already there within us and burning the chaff means purging us of unwanted qualities that keep us from living in love. John the Baptist confirms this when he is asked what shall we do? His reply to do good and not hurt or cheat is simply, live in and by the principle of love.

Zephania writes, the Lord will rejoice over you with gladness and renew you with love. God is like a fire of love and as you draw near to God with a loving and surrendered attitude, the Lord burns out all that is against love from within our hearts.

Saint Paul writes, let your gentleness be known to everyone. Do not worry about anything. This is relevant today as it was then. Our human tendency is to be mindful of our mortality and forgetful of our immortality and fear dominates our minds. The media fills us with fear and we have deep faith in anything that perpetuates or justifies our fearful condition. This fear is the ego finding an excuse to be occupied with the mundane rather than seeking the eternal. It is a weakness. How do we overcome this petty weakness of heart? Paul writes in everything by prayer and with thanksgiving, let your supplication be known to God.

Let us gather round the presence of Christ in our hearts and in the Eucharist. Take shelter in the love of God. Believe in the power of love and forgiveness, don't get sucked in by fear. Let the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

WORKING BEE next Saturday, 19th December; 8.30am start (Baptism at 11am) – special pre-Christmas blitz to erect/decorate the Christmas Tree, dust windowills, polish brass, replace blown light bulbs, tidy grounds, etc. More than the usual hands would be appreciate. Morning tea & fellowship supplied (David Peek – Mobile 0400 193 588.



REMINDER - BREAKFAST: The final Breakfast for 2015 is on **today Sunday, 13th December**, following the 8.00am service – all welcome!!



★ Please note: there is no breakfast during January!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Peace and harmony in the world; an end to tyranny.

THE CHURCH: Diocese of Windward Islands; Anglicare Australia; Janet Clarke Hall; Parish of St John's, Frankston w. St Luke's, Carrum Downs; St George's Malvern.

THE COMMUNITY: Schools, pupils, teachers, friends & family during festivities.

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED: Those on our prayer list and in our hearts.

THE DEPARTED: Our own dear departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Rene Hastings; Gary Cowling).

The Week Ahead

Tuesday, 15 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	1.30pm & 3.30pm	Bible Explorers in the School Room
	7.00pm	Meditation in the Chapel
Wednesday, 16 th	8.00pm	Parish Council Meeting
	8.00am	Meditation in the Chapel
	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
Thursday, 17 th	8.30am	Morning Prayer
	7.30pm	Choir Practice
Saturday, 19 th	8.30am	Special Working Bee
	11.00am	Holy Baptism

NEXT SUNDAY: 20TH DECEMBER -FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Readings: Micah 5.2-5a; The Song of Mary; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-45

ALL SAINTS' NEWTOWN presents "*Carols at Christmas*" **today at 2.00pm (13th December)** – 'poetry & songs of the Christmas Season'. Free entry, refreshments available!

BIBLE EXPLORERS meets on **Tuesday (15th December) at 1.30pm and 3.30pm** for the final discussion of the year. The topic is Luke's version of the Nativity (Luke 1 & 2). Please bring a Bible. All are welcome to come along and join in (Barry Smith – 0409 409 473).

REMINDER – ADVENT STUDY GROUPS conclude this week on **16th & 18th December** – Wednesday morning, following the 10.00am service, and Wednesday & Friday evenings!

REMINDER - CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR REFUGEES AT NGSC: Goods required are pencil case packs or separate pencil cases and pencils, pens, rubbers, etc. to make up packs; 5-subject exercise books; A3 art sketch books (6 only); white polo shirts; thick black tights and money (used for second-hand year 12 text books at the moment, but next year the money will go towards uniforms). There is a clothes basket in the coffee area – Thank you, Barbara Peek.