



CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Today 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

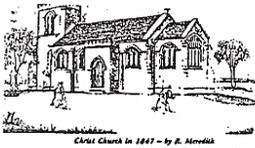
Our traditional service to welcome Christmas!



Christmas Day

**8.00am Eucharist; and
9.30am Sung Eucharist**

[Note: No 5.15pm service]



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



"A community of faith in service to others"

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

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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.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

20th December 2015 Liturgical Colour: Purple

Holy Eucharist: 8.00am; 9.30am (Sung)

Sentence

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Prayer of the Day *

*Gracious God,
you have visited your people
and redeemed us in your Son;
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy
at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit
to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through 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: 161; 302; 526; 268 5.15pm: No service



My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord.

The Vicar Writes



'But you O Bethlehem of Ephrata, though you are small, in you shall come forth from me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days'. These words of Micah speak of the coming of the ancient one, the Christ, the first born of creation. God from God, light from light. The one we know as Jesus of Nazareth is not a new phenomena or one that came into being 2000 years ago, The Christ is without beginning or end and is the ever well-wisher of all living entities.

'He will feed his flock in the strength of the Lord and they shall live secure'. The Lord is responsible for the maintenance of the universe and looks after all creatures both great and small. Humanity has been requested through scripture, prophet and the Lord himself to live according to love and non-violence. As Paul writes, God has no interest in burnt offerings or sin offerings or any kind of violent sacrifice. The mystery of the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is about the self-giving nature of God, not a ransom death as a substitutional atonement for our sins. Jesus came to do the will of his Father and the self-giving nature of God becomes our nature when our hearts join with his.

The Christmas story sheds light on the beauty and glory of the gentle nature of God. Mary surrendered fully to the self-giving nature by accepting the responsibility of being the mother of Christ. When she came to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, Elizabeth said to her 'blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb'. Jesus is the ancient Over-soul, the inner guide of all beings, coming among us in humility, sharing our nature that we may share his divine nature. Christ loves all beings and all life and invites us to live in his love that we might join with the infinite love of God.

We may also choose to accept the self-giving nature of divine love. We can choose to live according to the principles of non-violence and cause no harm. We can tread lightly on God's earth and serve God by serving others according to our capacity and our means. The life of service is sweet and rewarding beyond measure. Each kind word or deed we perform, each kind thought and each rejection of the negative thoughts, words and deeds will help us become one with the self-giving nature revealed in Christ our Lord.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

TODAY'S FLOWERS have been donated by Lawrence Jordan, in loving memory of his mother Mavis Jordan, and his partner Harvey Streagher.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Peace and harmony in the world and for the liberation of those who are oppressed or deprived; those suffering the aftermath of natural disasters, including our own land.

THE CHURCH: Diocese of Yewa; Diocese of Ballarat; Lowther Hall Anglican Grammar School; St Barnabas' Glen Waverley; St Alban's North Melbourne; All Saints Rosebud w. St Katherine's McCrae (Confirmation).

THE COMMUNITY: Peace, love, hope and joy in the community and the homes and families of the Parish.

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 (Peter Cowell). We remember with thanks: Thomas, Apostle & Martyr (Monday).

The Week Ahead

Monday, 21st	10.00am	Holy Eucharist at Grace McKellar
Tuesday, 22nd	7.00pm	Meditation in the Chapel
Wednesday, 23rd	8.00am	Meditation in the Chapel
	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
Christmas Eve	7.00pm	CAFS/Christingle
Christmas Day	8.00am	Holy Eucharist
	9.30am	Holy Eucharist (Sung)

NEXT SUNDAY: 27TH DECEMBER -HOLY INNOCENTS

Readings: Jer 31.15-20; Ps 124.1-11; 1 John 1.5-2.2; Matthew 2.13-18

INTERCESSIONS: There is now a separate sheet of names for intercessions at each service – 8.00am, 9.30am and 5.15pm. Please make sure you write your loved one in the correct page. Thanks to Laurie Christian for organising the new intercessions book – Fr Russell.

REMINDER - 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 towards the cost of uniforms). There is a clothes basket in the coffee area – Thank you, Barbara Peek.

SERVICE TIMES UNTIL AFTER 7TH FEBRUARY (START-UP SUNDAY): Services include: Sundays at 8.00am & 9.30am and Wednesdays at 10.00am. Please note, however, there is no Sunday 5.15pm service or Meditation, Healing or Morning Prayer services during the week. Also, the choir will be in recess until Sunday, 14th February!
