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**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

**THE WORLD:** Peace in troubled lands; for peacekeepers and service personnel who are away from their homes and loved ones; those suffering the aftermath of natural disasters, including our own land.

**THE CHURCH:** Diocese of Bunbury; EFAC; All Saints' Greensborough; Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn; Evangelism in the Diocese; St Stephen's Greythorn; St Paul's Cathedral; St Thomas' Moonee Ponds.

**THE COMMUNITY/PARISH:** All parishioners and families of our Parish; those attending Christmas lunch; and for the organizers and helpers; and care and safety on our roads and at holiday places.

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

**THE DEPARTED:** The recently departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Canon Roy Rowlands). We remember with thanks: Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr (Saturday)

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**SERVICES AFTER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR**

Services include: Sundays at 8.00am & 9.30am  
and Wednesdays at 10.00am

Please note there is NO Sunday 5.15pm service or Meditation,  
Healing and Morning Prayer services during the week.

**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR FESTIVALS**

Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> December – Holy Innocents

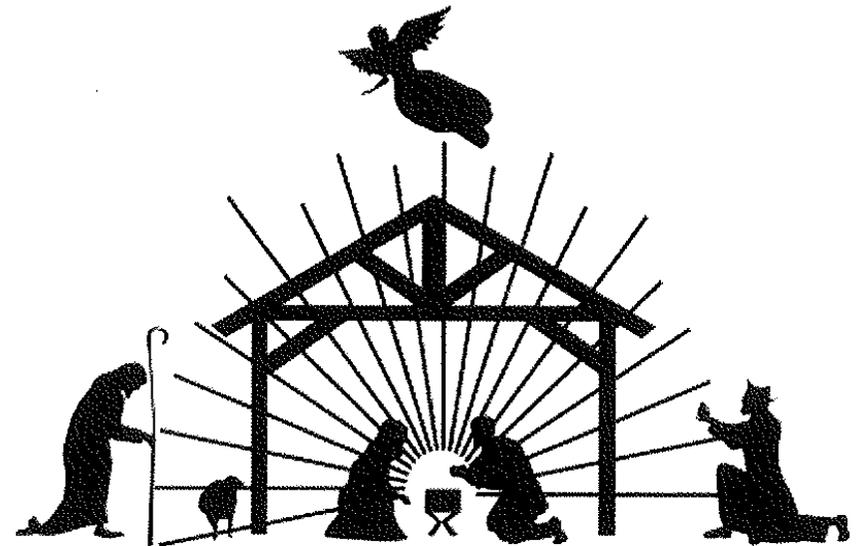
Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Festival of the Epiphany  
[The coming of the wise men]

10<sup>th</sup> January – The Baptism of our Lord

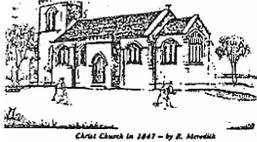
Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> January – Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> February – Transfiguration and Start-up Sunday,  
including our first CAFS for 2016,  
followed by a Parish Feast for all parishioners and families!!

# Christmas 2015



Welcome to Christ Church  
A Happy Christmas to you all!



# The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



*"A community of faith in service to others"*  
www.christoharshgeelong.com.au

Vicar:	The Reverend Russell Trickey Email: <a href="mailto:trickeyrussell13@gmail.com">trickeyrussell13@gmail.com</a>	M: 0433 933738
Associate Priest:	The Reverend John St Q Howells	5244 0649
Organist	Mr Winston Barry	
Office:	Email: <a href="mailto:chsharsh@oable.net.au">chsharsh@oable.net.au</a>	5221 8055
Office Administrator:	Mrs Patricia Cowling	

### 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.

## Christmas

**Celebrant & Preacher:** Fr Russell Trickey *Liturgical Colour: White*

7.00pm: Children's & Family/Christingle Service

Holy Eucharist Services: 10.30pm [Midnight Mass]; 8.00am & 9.30am [Song]

### Sentence

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.*

### Prayer of the Day \*

*All glory to you, gracious God,  
for the gift of your Son,  
whom you sent to save us.  
With the angels, let us praise your name,  
and tell the earth his story,  
that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
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:

10.30pm:	312; 311; 301 (Omit Vs 3 & 5); 304 (Omit Vs 4)
8.00am:	303; 311; 304 (Omit Vs 4)
9.30am:	303; 316; 311; 304 (Omit Vs 4)

Postlude: Christmas Eve: "Toccata" from Symphony No.5" (C-M Widor, 1844-1937)

Christmas Day: "Prelude and Bell Allegro" (John Stanley, 1713-1786)

Psalm Response:



O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth.

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## The Vicar Writes:



Isaiah writes 'the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, those who lived in a land of darkness on them a light has shined'. In this world we are in a state of trance or hypnosis that prevents us from seeing things as they are, we are in darkness so to speak and are blind to the love that is within us and is all around us. We have many trance states that we have created by negative thinking, small mindedness and selfishness. The Lord appears in our midst to break through our trance of ignorance by shining upon us the light of wisdom and grace.

God changes our trance of darkness and replaces it with the ecstatic trance of communion with him, God shows us the way by his own example and leads us by the path of love to everlasting peace and joy. The perfect example of Jesus was there from the first instance of the incarnation.

The mother of the Lord was the Blessed Virgin, a perfect emblem of humility and grace. From the time the Lord appeared in her womb auspiciousness began to spread on earth. In humility, the Lord took birth in Bethlehem in a stable on a bed of straw. The first people who recognised his greatness were simple shepherds, untouchables in the eyes of the elite.

The scene at Christmas was extraordinarily simple and yet beautiful, full of the opulence of sweetness and joy without the ostentatious opulence of arrogant humanity. The birth of Christ has increased our joy, so let us rejoice before the Lord as with the joy of harvest. Unto us a child is born, authority rests on his shoulder. He is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. May we all be blessed by him and have a safe and merry Christmas.

Fr Russell



### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Thank you to those parishioners who donated the beautiful flowers for Christmas.