



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



"A community of faith in service to others"

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

Home Communion



Please let the Clergy or Wardens know if any, through sickness or infirmity, are unable to get to Church and would like to receive Holy Communion at home.

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; & Meditation, Healing and Morning Prayer services during the week.

CHOIR PRACTICE

The Choir will be in recess during January; the first practice for 2016 is on Thursday, 4th February at 7.30pm!

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR FESTIVALS

Next Sunday, 3rd January - Festival of the Epiphany [The coming of the wise men]

10th January - The Baptism of our Lord

Sunday, 31st January - Presentation of Christ in the Temple

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

Vicar:	The Reverend Russell Trickey	M: 0433 933738
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Associate Priest:	The Reverend John St Q Howells	5244 0649
Organist:	Mr Winton Barry	
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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.

HOLY INNOCENTS

27th December 2015

Liturgical Colour: White

Holy Eucharist: 8.00am; 9.30am

Sentence

*O Lord our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Your glory above the heavens is sung by the mouths of babes and infants.*

Prayer of the Day *

*God of the dispossessed,
defender of the helpless,
you grieve with all the women who weep
because their children are no more;
may we also refuse to be comforted
until the violence of the strong
has been confounded,
and the broken victims have been set free;
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*



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

Service Setting: 'The Christ Church Service'

Hymns: 9.30am: 293; 152; 318; 313

5.15pm: No 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.

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The Vicar Writes



Today we remember the Holy Innocents, the children Herod had killed out of fear of a rival king of the Jews being born. It seems ridiculous that someone would actually consider exterminating children for such a reason, but this act of extreme violence typifies the kinds of unreasonable atrocities that are born of extreme ideals. Extreme ideals, whether religious or political, result in extreme actions, one of the causes for this is because in all forms of extremism the integrity of the individual is denied.

Sometimes people get bored with being reminded that the Lord resides in the hearts of everyone but this truth cannot be emphasized enough. By understanding this profound truth and living it out in daily life a person will never fall victim to the doubts and suspicion generated by extreme people. It is very easy for extremists to create doubt in the value of common people because the ego loves to think itself to be better than others or somehow exclusive or special. Being common seems so unattractive so it is better to be chosen or in possession of truth or morality that is not available to the common person.

When someone begins to taste the reality of the presence of God within their own heart and they realize that they have no separate being from God they begin to see that everyone has the same access to divinity if they want it. A person with such vision never sees anyone as common or without value. The compassion of a spiritual person will be based on the reality that so many people live without knowledge of their worth, that so many people are unaware of how valuable they are to God and that everyone is of equal value to God.

Extremists of every kind think that only those in agreement with them are valuable. They will contest others with a view to conquering them so they may grow in power. This is what extremism is all about, power. This need for power is born out of weakness and the weakness is born out of not realizing that God is with us always.

This brings us back to Herod, he was so moronic that he thought a divine prophecy of a Messiah being born was somehow going to reduce his power and so he justified killing infants to protect his position as king. History gives us infinite examples of similar atrocities and violent atrocities continue to be committed and perpetrated to this day. If you were to analyse the reasoning behind atrocities you will find it is always about the struggle for power by those who have no spiritual vision, even if they claim to be religious.

Never minimize the value of deepening our spiritual awareness. Never forget that Jesus was all about... "the Kingdom of God is within you". Loving God and neighbor as self is only possible for one with some insight into the reality of Spirit. All success in eternal life will grow out of our connection with Spirit.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

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



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Peace and harmony in the world.

THE CHURCH: Diocese of Zaki-Biam; Diocese of Gippsland; Melbourne Girls Grammar School; St Alban's Hamlyn Heights.

THE COMMUNITY: Unity, joy and mutual encouragement in the homes and families of the community; continued care & safety on our roads over the festive season.

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 (Leanne Tevaga; Marjorie Walkowski). We remember with thanks: The Naming & Circumcision of Jesus (Friday)

REST IN PEACE: Roy Freijah

The Week Ahead

Tuesday, 29 th Dec	10.30am	Funeral
Wednesday, 30 th Dec	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
Sunday, 3 rd Jan	8.00am	Holy Eucharist
	9.30am	Holy Eucharist

NEXT SUNDAY: 3RD JANUARY - THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Readings: Isaiah 60.1-6; Ps 72.1-7 & 10-14; Eph 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

THE 2015 CAROL SERVICE – if you missed the Carol Service last weekend, you can hear some of Winton's wonderful playing by going to the 'What's on now?' section of the Parish Web Page, and following the links. Winton's playing of the Widor 'Toccatà' is just wonderful!

CHRISTMAS BASKETS:



Recently we mentioned that we had received some beautiful Christmas hampers from St Ignatius College, to be distributed to families in need. Since then we have received more hampers from St John of God Hospital, MatchWorks, Geelong Central Rotary and Paul West Real Estate. We thank all of these donors for their generous donations that have made Christmas so much brighter for many families.

REMINDER - APPEAL FOR REFUGEES AT NORTH GEELONG SECONDARY COLLEGE

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.