

Please note there is a Hearing Loop installed in the Church that provides a wireless signal picked up by the hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil).

HOME COMMUNION



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

THE TWELVE TINS OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas Raffle

Tickets are **now** available; the draw will be **next Sunday, 20th December.**

The major prize this year is a Margaret Tembo Quilt!!



Please support this, our first fundraiser for the new Parish financial year.

Tickets: \$2 each; \$5 for 3; or \$10 or 7



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Following the generous response to this appeal in 2019, we felt encouraged to have it again this year.

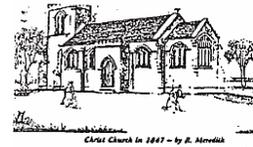
The idea is to bring a grocery item and place it in the box as you enter the church, as many times as you like during Advent;

OR

you may prefer to have your own box at home and place items in it throughout Advent, then bring it to the church at Christmas.

The donated items will be given out to those in need who make use of our food cupboard over the holiday season when so many other support groups close down while we remain open.

Please see Jan or Ruth for more details!



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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

13th December 2020

Liturgical Colour: Pink

Holy Eucharist: 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.15pm

Sentence

Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God.

Prayer of the Day *

Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our
Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen



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

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

The Vicar Writes



The readings of Advent Three indicate the work of God as that of building up that which is broken, saving the lost and giving righteousness and freedom. The words of Isaiah and Jesus clarify the nature of the mission of God and the true meaning of God's vengeance (Isaiah uses the word vengeance). Isaiah spoke words of hope to a crushed people whose Temple had been destroyed and who had been exiled to Persia by invaders. But he speaks of the vengeance of God in the same way that he speaks of God's favour. The vengeance of God is vented on the only real enemy, the enemy within us that creates misery in our lives, the false identification with things temporary only and an ignorance of Spirit.

In the animal state a person identifies only with the biological nature without giving attention to the much greater spiritual nature that exists both within and without. It is natural for each of us who are progressing from the animal nature to the divine one to be caught up in the miseries caused by ignorance because growing into the divine life is gradual and not instantaneous.

In a state of spiritual ignorance the sufferings of this world are overwhelming. Suffering caused by the body, the mind, and by other living beings are like relentless storm waves crashing against the shores of our lives. In the biological nature we lose everything, at some stage everything we know and all we have that we hold dear is taken away. If we have no experience of Spirit and no faith in the eternal we will be unable to avoid lamentation, grief and disappointment.

By faith I don't mean belief, belief may be blind, superficial and way off actual reality. Faith is informed by experience that comes with spiritual practise. This is why Paul says pray without ceasing, rejoice always and give thanks to God for everything, this is the spiritual practise necessary for spiritual growth to take place. By practising these things we associate with God, become His dear friend and become filled with divine grace. That grace overflows and benefits others and it is in that grace that God's vengeance becomes a reality, God's vengeance against anything that limits our oneness with Him and against anything opposed to love.

Isaiah deals with this vengeance and describes how it is good news for the oppressed, brings liberty to the captives, comforts those who mourn, and release to captives and the broken hearted. Each one of us may experience the state of pure ever-fresh joy when we are surrendered to the Lord completely. Isaiah goes on to say I will greatly rejoice in the Lord my **whole being** shall exult in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation and covered me with the robe of righteousness like a garland or jewels. When we give ourselves into the Lord's hands we gain all righteousness in due course (The Lord will cause righteousness to spring up. Isaiah) and the spiritual gifts of the Lord will enlighten us, unburden our souls and fix our hearts in the vision of eternity.

The Lord be with you,
Fr Russell



Reminder – Flower Roster – If anyone would like to join the flower roster or would like further information about it, please contact Jan as soon as possible!

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Peace and stability amongst all nations.

THE CHURCH: The Falkland Islands - Extra Provincial to Canterbury; The Diocese of the Murray; Beaconhills College; The Parish of Holy Trinity, Bacchus Marsh w. Christ Church, Myrniong and St George's Balliang; St John's Anglican Church, Upper Beaconsfield; St Paul's Cathedral.

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: Schools, pupils, teachers; and all preparing for further study.

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

THE DEPARTED: Our own departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Rene Hastings; Gary Cowling). We remember with thanks: John of the Cross, mystic and teacher, d.1591 (Monday)

The Week Ahead

Tuesday, 15th	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chapel 7.00pm Meditation in the Chapel
Wednesday, 16th	8.00am Meditation in the Chapel 10.00am Holy Eucharist
Thursday, 17th	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chapel

NEXT SUNDAY – 20TH DECEMBER 2020 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 66; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-27;

Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

REMINDER – VICARAGE GARDEN

Syama would like to have some help!

If you have some spare time and would like to help, please contact Syama (or speak to Fr Russell).



Reminder – The Chronicle

The December 2020 edition of the *Chronicle* is now available at the Crossing Table – please collect your copy... those uncollected will be posted on Monday (14th December), so that hopefully everyone will have a copy well before Christmas.

The next edition will be in March 2021
...Happy reading!

