

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).



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Geelong



"A community of faith in service to others"

www.christchurchgeelong.com.au

Vicar:	The Reverend Russell Trickey	M: 0433 933738
	Email: trickeyrussell13@gmail.com	
Associate Priest:	The Reverend John St Q Howells	5244 0649
Organist:	Mr Winton Barry	
Office:	Email: enquiries@christchurchgeelong.org	5221 8000
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.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

20th December 2020

Liturgical Colour: Purple

Holy Eucharist: 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.15pm

Sentence

This child will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.
He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever,
and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Prayer of the Day *

Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;
for his sake,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen



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

REMINDER – THE TWELVE TINS OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas Raffle

Tickets are **now** available;
the draw will be **today**.

*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!

A 2020 CAROL SERVICE – for those missing the
joy of carol singing and sharing in the *Service of Nine
Lessons and Carols*, usually a special part of our
Christmas celebrations but not possible this year thanks
to the Covid restrictions, there now is a recorded
“virtual” Carol Service on our Parish Web Page, which
draws on recordings and video footage from several
recent Christmas services. It includes all the Nine Readings, read by
parishioners, and those favourite carols that are such a special part of
Christmas sung by our choir and congregation... sing along and enjoy!
A special Christmas message from Fr Russell, for those unable to get to
church during the Christmas season, has also been posted.



The Vicar Writes



Our final week of Advent looks at the promise to King David that his throne would endure forever. This never happened literally for King David or for the people of Israel because this physical world is temporary, so the promise must have another meaning besides the literal one. We have to look at King David and what he represents. David was a ruler of a country that was divided and not yet established as a people. David became a king over all twelve tribes of Israel and became the symbol of unity and a

monarch who rules on behalf of God. David united Israel as one nation and he represents the soul that is surrendered to God's and so in unity with God and all creation. Jesus perfects the rule of David because he brings all souls into unity under the One Supreme Father.

The title Christ was first used by the Hebrews for King David, God's anointed ruler and Jesus was given the title Christ by his followers who accepted Jesus as the Messiah or God's anointed Son. The image of Christ as an anointed king in the line of David was taken so literally that the Hebrews were unable to recognise that Jesus fulfilled the criteria, he was a carpenter's son, not a king. After his death and Resurrection Jesus was recognised by his followers to be the servant Messiah who would reveal the mysteries of God to the Gentiles. And so we hear Paul today proclaiming that Jesus fulfilled the prophetic writings, especially of Isaiah and Samuel that the Christ would perfect the rule of David and be a light to the Gentiles.

The vehicle for the incarnation of the Christ in Israel was the Blessed Virgin Mary and today we hear the story of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary and telling her of the coming birth of her exalted son. The words of Luke today form the basis for the Rosary Prayer that was given by Mary herself to Saint Dominic. Mary is blessed because she is the mother of the incarnation of God, and so she is the mother of the Church and the mother of all Christians. The angel Gabriel told Mary that Jesus would inherit the throne of David and his kingdom would have no end. It is important that the angel told Mary that her child would be born of the Holy Spirit, it is for this reason alone that Jesus is called the Son of God and not just the Messiah or the Christ. He is not born of flesh but begotten of Spirit.

Jesus as the Son of God fulfils all prophetic writings because he unites the children of Israel, not as a physical nation but as a people of God. In Christ we are all made one with him and each other in a bond of love. The Christ is the Spirit within us, Emmanuel; he guides every soul through intuition, conscience, and wisdom. His rule is not like that of a King, but he is the basis of and sustainer of life itself. When we realise that Christ is the basis of our being, we never feel separate from him and we find his wisdom rules our life. At that time, we become fully alive in the Spirit, alert to our feelings, mindful of our dependence on God and awake to our interdependence with all existence.

Israel, in its ideal state of being, represents a people ruled by God through a king who is fully given to God; this situation was never really repeated in Israel's history, and so the rule of David has become a symbol of what should be, not what is. The rule of David represents the unity that manifests when a soul surrenders to God. A surrendered soul follows the leading of the Christ within and works always to please God. Jesus is the perfection of the kingly rule of David because he enables all souls to come to that perfect state of reconciliation with God and united under God's loving rule.

The Lord be with you,

Fr Russell



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.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: For all who continue to endure hardship and deprivation and for all agencies trying to bring relief. All those affected by natural disasters, including our own land.

THE CHURCH: Mission Agencies and their Ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world; Religious Orders serving within the Anglican Church of Australia; Camberwell Grammar School; St John's Benteleigh; Holy Trinity Service, Coburg; St David's Anglican Church, Moorabbin (Diocesan Service); St Thomas' Anglican Church, Upper Ferntree Gully; Holy Trinity, Coburg (Confirmation); Parish of St Alban the Martyr, St Alban's.

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: Our emergency services as they prepare for a busy holiday season; and for care & safety on our roads and within our community.

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

The Week Ahead

Tuesday, 22nd	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chapel 7.00pm Meditation in the Chapel
Wednesday, 23rd	8.00am Meditation in the Chapel 10.00am Holy Eucharist 7.30pm Healing Service
Thursday, 24th	8.30am Morning Prayer in the Chapel
Christmas Eve	5.00pm Children's & Family Service 10.00pm Midnight Mass
Friday, 25th	8.00am Holy Eucharist
Christmas Day	10.00am Holy Eucharist (Note: No 5.15pm service on Christmas Day)

NEXT SUNDAY – 27TH DECEMBER 2020 – HOLY INNOCENTS

Readings: Jeremiah 31:15-20; Psalm 124; 1 John 1:5-2.2; Matthew 2:13-18

*Today's Flowers have been donated by the Freijah family in
loving memory of Roy, husband, father and son-in-law,
whose anniversary falls at this time.*

