
PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THE WORLD: Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Holy Nativity at Bethlehem and pray for all who worship our God made flesh there at this time (ABM).

THE CHURCH: *Christmas Eve:* Diocese of Armidale; Mothers' Union Australia; Diocese of Melbourne; St John's Blackburn; Christmas Eve Service; St Faith's Burwood (Confirmation); St Michael's, North Dandenong (Confirmation). ***Christmas Day:*** The incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ; Diocese of Ballarat; Royal School of Church Music; St Paul's Boronia; Christmas Day Service; St John's Croydon; Parish of St Matthew's Glenroy/Hadfield w. St Linus', Merlynston.

THE COMMUNITY/PARISH: Give thanks for Jesus coming among us, blessing all things material by his presence (ABM). All parishioners and families of our Parish; those attending Christmas Lunch at Christ Church, and for the organizers and helpers.

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 Martyr (Saturday).

SERVICES AFTER CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

* Please note there are normal services only **next** Sunday, 27th December – Holy Innocents (i.e. 8.00am; 10.00am & 5.15pm)

* Services until after Start-up Sunday on 7th February are: Sundays at 8.00am & 10.00am & Wednesdays at 10.00am!

Please note there is NO Sunday 5.15pm service or Meditation, Healing and Morning Prayer services until the week commencing 7th February (Start-up Sunday)

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR FESTIVALS

Next Sunday, 27th December - Holy Innocents

Sunday, 3rd January - Festival of the Epiphany

Sunday, 10th January - The Baptism of our Lord

Sunday, 31st January - 'Candlemas'

Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Sunday, 7th February - 'Start-up Sunday)

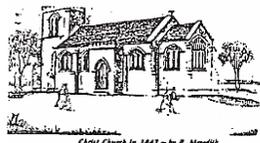
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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.

Christmas 2020



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.christchurchgeelong.org

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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.

Christmas - 'The Birth of our Lord'

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Russell Trickey Liturgical Colour: White

5.00pm: Children's & Family Service

Holy Eucharist Services: 10.30pm [Midnight Mass]; 8.00am & 10.00am

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 *

Give us, O God,
such love and wonder
that, with shepherds and pilgrims
unknown,
we may come to adore the Holy Child,
the promised King,
and with our gifts worship him,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen



The Vicar Writes:



Christmas reveals to our hearts many truths about the nature of God as loving, kind, generous, compassionate, innocent, pure, merciful and forgiving. It also reveals many things about us, our relationship with God and how our hearts may be prepared so that we may perceive the Lord who is always with us, always at the centre of our being and always ready to bless us with His love.

The Christ is the Spirit universally present in the heart of everyone, He is the light and life of the world and yet so many people seem unable to perceive the Lord as the basis of their very self and life. Even fewer people are able to see the Lord as their most beloved friend and guide. If we look at the scene of that first Christmas, we may gleam something from the small number of fortunate souls who received their early revelation of the Christ as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem.

First there was Mary, a simple fifteen-year old girl who was betrothed to be married to Joseph. The power of God appeared to her as an angel and announced the coming of the Son of God who would be born of Spirit, not flesh. Mary was pure of heart and surrendered to God's will for her so as soon as she was told that God wanted her to be the mother of the Christ, she accepted. She became filled with the power of God and was led by the Spirit along with Joseph into the role of caring for and nurturing God in his incarnation as Jesus.

The shepherds were simple, uncomplicated rustic folk who watched their flocks by night, guarding them from harm and remember King David who also started off as a shepherd and was blessed by God. These simple folks witnessed a grand heavenly display of choirs of angels and were led to the cradle of Jesus.

There were also wise men bearing gifts who were led by a star and by intuition from the East. These people were not Jewish, most likely Hindus or Zoroastrian or both. The wise men were open to God's leading and didn't let preconceived notions block their intuitive knowing that the Son of God had appeared.

Then there is the stable, humble and pure, filled with straw and animals like the donkey, sheep and ox. Christ revealed his affinity with animals and nature by appearing with these humble creatures rather than appearing in a palace. The stable represents the pure hearts of those who look to God for His wisdom and righteousness rather than striving on their own.

The common theme in all of this is simplicity and humility. When our hearts are humble like the stable and when we are open to God's leading, when we are also willing to put aside our ego and live for God and others, seeing our own self in them, then the Christ will be manifest to us. The Lord is always within us, always with us, and always calling to us from eternity, but we are often not tuned in and don't listen.

This Christmas take time out for God and make that a daily habit. The Lord will always be ready to bless us and we shall also awaken to the glories of God.

The Lord be with you, Fr Russell