



Post-Christmas Festivals

Sunday, 10th January - Baptism of our Lord

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

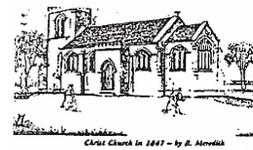
Sunday, 7th February - 'Start-up Sunday'
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
One Service only at 10.00am

Service times during January 2021
until after Start-up Sunday on 7th February

Services include Eucharist at 8.00am & 10.00am on Sundays;
and Wednesday's at 10.00am

There is no 5.15pm service on Sundays, and no Meditation,
Healing or Morning Prayer services during the week!

REMINDER - 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 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.

HOLY INNOCENTS

27th December 2020

Liturgical Colour: **White**

Holy Eucharist: 8.00am, 10.00am & 5.15pm

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 *

Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at cruel hands,
though they had done no wrong:
give us grace neither to act cruelly
nor to stand indifferently by,
but to defend the weak
from the tyranny of the strong;
in the name of Jesus Christ who suffered for us,
yet is alive 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



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.

Jesus teaches us that God resides in everyone. 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 neighbour 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



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: The work and witness of Anglican Amnesty International groups around the world (ABM).

THE CHURCH: Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement, His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; His Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople; New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. Bishop Ivan M Abrahams; General Secretary World Methodist Council, Chris Ferguson; General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches; Diocese of Bendigo; Christ Church Grammar School; St Andrew’s Brighton.

THE PARISH/COMMUNITY: Care and safety on our roads during the holiday season.

THE DEPARTED: Our own departed and those whose yearly remembrance falls at this time (Leanne Tevaga; Roy Freijah; Ivy Blincoe; Marjorie Walkowski). We remember with thanks: Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr, d.1170 (Tuesday); Josephine Butler, social reformer, d.1905 (Wednesday); John Wyclif, teacher and reformer, d.1384 (Thursday); The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus (Friday); Eliza Hassall, pioneer of missionary training and CMS Aust, d.1917 (Saturday).

The Week Ahead

Wednesday, 30th	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
Next Sunday, 3rd	8.00am	Holy Eucharist
	10.00am	Holy Eucharist
(* No 5.15pm service)		

NEX T SUNDAY – 3RD JANUARY 2021 – EPIPHANY



Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7; Ephesians 3:1-12;
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12