

Parish Priest

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Parish Hall Bookings

Lynn Fisher Mobile: 0407 186 174

Pew Sheet

All notices/information for pew sheet to Parish Office by 9.00am Thursday mornings please

Parish Office

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We pray for the Diocese of The Murray and Parish Council Members as we walk the way of *Igniting Growth* in 2017.

Bishop John (Bridget), Archdeacon & Vicar General Fr Peter, Finance – Fr David Price (Lesley) and Fr. Des Ackland (Raelene)

In the Limestone Coast – we pray for Fr David Patterson, Fr John (Sigrid), Fr David Withers (Ann), Fr Wayne, Fr Alf, Fr Brenton (Lyn), Fr Neil (Nalini)

Can you help??

Fr Neil would like to have 2 bar stools for the rectory. If you have a couple going spare he would be very appreciative. Please see Dick Hamson if you can help with this. Thank you.

The Anglican Parish of Mount Gambier

Christ Church St Luke's St Thomas

ADVENT 2 : 10th December 2017



Prepare the Way of the Lord



We welcome all visitors to our services today.
Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest or
Wardens—and please join us for a cuppa and chat
in the Ashworth Room after the service

READINGS and ROSTER – Sunday, 10th December 2017			
Second Sunday in Advent			
Isa 40:1-11	Psalms 85: 8-13	2 Peter 3: 8-14	Mark 1: 1-8
EUCCHARIST ASSISTANT		Trevor Christopher	
SERVER		Julienne Feast	
INTERCESSIONS		Rick Fisher	
WELCOMER		Wendy Monger and Don Currie	
ELEMENTS		Jenny Tilby	
SIDESPERSONS		Raylene Milligan and Fay Hill	
FOOD BASKET		Beryl Heard	
READERS		Sue and Trevor Christopher	
MORNING TEA		Tara McCracken and Ginny Glover	
FLOWERS			
8.00am SERVER		Julienne Feast	
SOUND DESK		Dick Hamson	
PEWSHEET ASSEMBLING		Ginny and David Glover	
GARDENING		Richard Strickland	
MOWING ROSTER		Graham Savage	
READINGS and ROSTER — Sunday, 17th December 2017			
Third Sunday in Advent			
Isa 61: 1-7	Psalms: The Magnificat	Mtt 11: 2-11	1 Thess 5: 16-24
John 1: 6-8, 19-28			
EUCCHARIST ASSISTANT		Faye Hill	
SERVER		Julienne Feast	
INTERCESSIONS		Rick Fisher	
WELCOMER		Anne Ashworth	
ELEMENTS		Denise McDonald	
SIDESPERSONS		Kathy MacIntosh & Graham Savage	
FOOD BASKET		Sue Ongley	
READERS		Bev Hamson and Raylene Milligan	
MORNING TEA		Raylene Milligan and Beryl Heard	
FLOWERS			
8.00am SERVER			
SOUND DESK		Sue and Trevor Christopher	
PEWSHEET ASSEMBLING		Alice and Fred Gladigau	
GARDENING		Richard Strickland	
MOWING ROSTER		Graham Savage	

Services and Events this coming week in the Parish

Today Sunday, 10th December Blue Lake Carols from 7.30pm in the Railway Lands

Monday, 11th December

10.00am – 3.00pm Bell Tower Op Shop and Lounge
5.15pm Christian Meditation, Ashworth Room

Tuesday 12th December

10.00am – 3.00pm Bell Tower Op Shop and Lounge
5.30pm Holy Eucharist Christ Church

Wednesday, 13th December

10.00am – 3.00pm Bell Tower Op Shop and Lounge
1.00pm Craft in Ashworth Room

Thursday, 14th December

10.00am – 3.00pm Bell Tower Op Shop and Lounge
5.00pm Choir practice
5.15pm Christian Meditation
6.00pm CMG practice

Friday, 15th December

10.00am – 3.00pm Bell Tower Op Shop and Lounge
11.00am Holy Eucharist, Christ Church

Sunday, 17th December

9.30am Holy Eucharist, Christ Church

On the 1st Friday of each month, a healing service will be held at 10am prior to the 11am Holy Eucharist.

***On the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month @ 1.30pm there will be a Eucharist service held at Boandik Lodge, Lake Terrace East
All parishioners welcome to join in the celebration***

N.B. Our church has an audio loop to assist those with hearing aids.

From Fr Neil.....

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Prepare for what?

We certainly believe Christ will come again and want to do all we can to bring about Christ's kingdom here. In the Eucharistic Acclamation we profess our faith in Jesus' Second Coming: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again".

Advent is a time of grace given to us to prepare our hearts so that we are ready to receive Christ at Christmas. That is what Christmas is all about, Jesus. But let's talk about the present — Advent. Advent is a very busy time. Exams, school assignment, traffic, shopping, family gatherings, cooking, cleaning. How do you fit in preparation time for Jesus. It's something we struggle with but, if we can do it in Advent, we can do it throughout the year!

As much as we are waiting and hoping for God, can you imagine how much more God is waiting and hoping for each of us, waiting and hoping that we will turn to him during this season of grace, Advent?

What is to be our attitude as we wait? The second reading advises to be:
"conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God" (2 Pet 3:11-12)

The prophecy of Isaiah in the second reading has great meaning when we apply it to our own hearts. It is in our own hearts that we need to prepare a way for the Lord. It is in our hearts that we need to make a straight highway for God. It is the valleys of sin in our own hearts that are to be filled with God's mercy and healing, and the mountains and hills of pride in our own hearts that are to become low.

The Gospel of Mark reminds us that "The Lord" is, of course, Jesus himself, Messiah and Son of God (1:1) and the "way" that has to be prepared for him is no longer a path through the desert but a way constructed in human hearts. The "way" is the conversion from sin called for in John's message, enacted in the water baptism that he celebrates for the crowds. John's appearance—his clothing and his diet—portray him in the guise of Elijah, the great prophet traditionally expected from Mal 3:1; 4:5-6, to return to earth to preach repentance before the coming of the Lord.

To repent in the Gospel involves a radical transformation in our way of living. It means a conversion, a real turning around, a re-directing of one's whole life. The outward sign of his preaching and ministry was baptism in the river Jordan. It was just an external sign and the Jews were fully aware of such symbolism of ritual washing.

There is a further reflection we might make today concerning the role of John the Baptist. For he should help us to reflect that there have been many John the Baptists in our own lives, many people who have helped us to find Jesus, to know, love and serve him better. A second point is that John the Baptist reminds us that we, too, have the responsibility to proclaim the Good News of Jesus and to help people know him and love him and experience his love in their lives just as other people have brought us to where we are.

Fr. Neil



