

Parish Priest

Fr Neil Fernando Mobile: 0478 085 894
E-mail: frneilfdo@gmail.com

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

Telephone: (08) 8723 1353 Email: churchan@bigpond.net.au
Postal Address: PO Box 1357, Mt Gambier, SA, 5290

Church Addresses: Christ Church, 26 Bay Road, Mount Gambier
St Thomas, Church Street, Port MacDonnell
St Luke's, Post Office Road, Mount Schank

Web site : www.anglicanmountgambier.org.au

Details for giving by Direct Debit : The Anglican Parish of Mount Gambier
BSB : 105-002
A/c number : 041 398 740



We pray for the Diocese of The Murray and Parish Council Members

Bishop Keith Dalby (Alice) ; Very Rev. David Price (Dean) (Lesley);
Fr Des Ackland (Raelene)

and in the Limestone Coast

Fr David Patterson; Fr Wayne Corker; Fr David Withers (Ann);
Fr Neil (Nalini), Fr Lyndon Sulzberger

Parish Counsellors, Christ Church

Richard Strickland, Helen Douglass, Richard Mills, Brian Smith,
Lisa Searcy, Graham Savage, Faye Hill, Lynn Fisher

Diocesan Prayer

Lord Jesus, you call us to be your disciples and friend; help us to journey with you on the way of life toward the Father. Enable us by the Spirit to discover not only the fullness of who you are, but also the fullness of life you offer to each one of us.

Amen

The Anglican Pastoral District of Mount Gambier

**Christ Church
Mount Gambier**

**St Luke's
Mount Schank**

**St Thomas
Port MacDonnell**

Advent 4 : 20th December 2020



The Lord is with you



We extend a warm welcome to all visitors to our church

Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest or Wardens

From Fr Neil

The Lord is with you

We are nearing the end of the Advent season when we have been anxiously awaiting the coming of our Saviour, not only as an anniversary of his birth but also when he comes again. I hope we have all spent the past three weeks in preparation for His coming, because there is a very short period of time left until we celebrate the great feast of the birth of our Saviour. And for some there is a relatively short period of time before they will come face to face with our Saviour.

In last week's gospel, John the Baptist was the central figure as he prepared the way for Jesus. In today's Gospel Mary takes centre stage. She can help us to make decisions keeping always in mind that God is faithful to his promises. Decisions can be made in two ways. The first way is making decisions our own way because we all like to think that nobody can tell us what to do. The problem is that if we proceed in such a manner, there is no guarantee that what we decide is truly what is the best way forward because our vision is limited, our way of looking at things is conditioned by our selfishness and human condition. Decisions needs to be made God's way, not our way, because we believe that God deserves what is best for us and being faithful to his promise he will lead us to what is true what is just and life giving.

Based on the greeting that the angel Gabriel gives her "Hail, full of Grace. The Lord is with you". Through self-control, discipline and her reliance on God she was able to reject temptation and avoid sinning as we do. Mary had to make a conscious effort to include God in her decision making at every step along her life. And more, she had to agree to do things God's way instead of how she might really want to do them.

In the gospel, we see Mary as a young teenager being visited by an angel sent from God. That alone would probably shock us; I don't think I have ever been visited by any heavenly bodies. Yet it doesn't seem to faze Mary. She listens to his message, and is told that she (an unmarried girl) is with child. The only question she presents to the angel is "How can this be", once explained to her that it is through God, she seems to immediately except the burden this will place on her life.

In those days, an unmarried girl in similar circumstances could be stoned to death for her condition. Yet Mary, who has made every decision in her life based on what God would do, once again decides to place her trust in God and do things His way. In just a matter of moments she responds "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word". She is literally placing her life in God's hands. But then what else should we expect, she has placed her life in His hands every moment of her life.

Mary is a remarkable example for us of someone who involves God in all that they do. For many of us we go through our daily life living it as best we can. We pray to God, asking for His help and guidance once in a while but probably not truly involving Him in all that we do. Do we even bother to involve Him in the big decisions of the day?

READINGS for Sunday, 20th December 2020—Advent 4			
2 Sam 7. 1-12	Ps 89. 19-29	Rom 16. 25-27	Luke 1. 26-38
Readers		Rick and Lynn Fisher	
Intercessions		Rick Fisher	
Server		Julienne Feast	
Sound desk		Robyn Ashby	
READINGS for Sunday, 27th December 2020—Christmas 1			
Gen 15. 1-6	Ps 128	Col 3. 12-21	Luke 2. 22-40
Readers		David Glover / Anne Ashworth	
Intercessions		Rick Fisher	
Server		Faye Hill	
Sound desk		Robyn Ashby	



ROSTERS FOR	DECEMBER
GARDENING	Graham Savage
MOWING ROSTER	Rick Fisher
FREEZER MINISTRY	Julienne Feast
(Please remember to label, date and list all the ingredients in each container)	

Craft Group Christmas raffle winners

1st	A Best	8th	Norma Capewell	15th	Claire Ambrose-Pearce
2nd	Betty Wright	9th	D Hinton	16th	Lucy Innes
3rdf	Rick Fisher	10th	Ellen Dea	17th	Narelle
4th	Elizabeth	11th	Carol Debrie	18th	Beatrice Gregory
5th	Trevor Adams	12th	Chris	19th	Joan Auld
6th	Gloria	13th	Carol Good	20th	Barbara Wardley
7th	Joe Maier	14th	Dot Gladigau		

PARISH BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

For December

5th	Gloria Dack
8th	Irene
16th	Sathyanga
19th	Dick Hamson
24th	Jean Hawkes
26th	Dean Searcy
28th	Don Currie
29th	Jennie McDonald
30th	Simon & Jon Hawkes



We wish them all a very happy birthday!!



Please check to see if your name is on the list at the back of the church — and if not, and you would like to have it appear — please add your name to the listing.

Thank you



On Wednesday 2 December, the Termination of Pregnancy Bill passed the Legislative Council of State Parliament by 12 votes to 9. Amendments to the Bill to preclude gender selection as a ground for abortion except in grave circumstances, lost 10:11. In Mount Gambier, the local pro-life advocacy group called *Love Them Both*, of which Fr Neil is a member, convened a public meeting at City Hall on Sunday, 6 December to provide *A Voice for the Voiceless*. Fr Dean Marin chaired the session.

Speakers included Christopher Brohier, SA Director of Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) and Amanda Brohier, co-editor of *Beautiful Life*. They argued clearly for the protection of any child capable of being born and the freedom from the pressure upon the mother for termination, even at full-term. See <https://www.acl.org.au>

The Hon. Clare Scriven, MLC, and Pt MacDonnell resident, stressed the importance of lobbying local members. 200 letters arrived at her office supporting the Bill; but 4,300 opposed it! The Bill next returns to the House of Assembly on 2 February. To save the lives of the unborn, more MP's will need to oppose the Bill that will otherwise allow abortion up to birth, except to save the life of the mother.

She urged voters to visit MP's offices in person, or send a hand-written letter giving voice to their concerns. Alternatively, mail the postcard prepared by Love Adelaide-Walk for Life (see <https://www.loveadelaide.org.au>), available at the rear of the church, to your local MP, c/- Parliament House, Adelaide.

Mother's Union

In life we are faced with many decisions, some involve pressure that is being put on us by our friends. In those cases, quite often we only think of the short term. It seems easier to neglect God and do what our friends want us to do, since we have to deal with them every day. We sometimes forget that we have to deal with God every day as well. But somehow our friends seem to be more visible than God.

At work many of our decisions have repercussions on others, maybe those we work with or those that our job has us interacting with. Do we always consider the effect that our decisions are going to have on others? Is what we decided to do acceptable in today's society but not quite in line with our baptismal promises of loving God and neighbour? Do we ever ask God what we should do?

cf.internet

Family Fun Day : today—Sunday, 20th December (following the 9.30am service)



There is to be a Family Fun Day held **today** at the conclusion of the 9.30am service—and people are asked to bring their own food and drinks (and BYO chairs for sitting outside).

There will be fun and games for all to take part in, so please mark this date in your diary! Hope to see you there.



Services over Christmas period

Sunday, 20 Dec <i>Advent 4</i>	usual 8.00am and 9.30am services at Christ Church
Thursday, 24 Dec <i>Christmas Eve</i>	7.00pm @ St Luke's, Mt Schank 11.30pm @ Christ Church, Mt Gambier
Friday, 25 Dec <i>Christmas Day</i>	9.00am @ Christ Church, Mt Gambier (this will be the only service today)
Sunday, 27 Dec <i>Christmas 1</i>	9.30am @ Christ Church, Mt Gambier (this will be the only service today)

Pray for those who are unwell and for each other

Bishop David McCall; Val Linder; Fr Peter Carlsson; Sue Ongley; Maree & Bob Lynch; Sally-Ann Geddes (daughter of Neil & Judy); June Willcourt; Joe Maier; Wendy Monger & Don Currie; Alice Gladigau; John & Phillis Beaven (brother & sister-in-law of Alice); Marion McDonald (Lynn's sister); Shirley Stacpoole; Esma Pratt (Donna's grandmother); Jean Hawkes

Pray for the repose of the souls of those near and dear to each one of us and for those whose yearly remembrance is this week.

If you wish for your name (or the name of someone you know) to be placed on the prayer list, please submit the request in writing—at present via email (including your name and the name of the person for whom prayers are required).



The Bell Tower Op Shop opening hours are:

Monday to Friday 10.00am to 3.00pm
Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm

(unfortunately, the provision of tea/coffee etc. will not be allowed during this time of restrictions)

Please note : Strict observance of all social distancing and sanitizing regulations are in force for your protection and the protection of the attendees at services and the Op Shop workers.

Bell Tower Op Shop Food Donation Bin

The Bell Tower Op Shop is in a monthly partnership with ac.care and with our very own Thursday Food Ministry, to collect non-perishable food items, with the December donations being donated to ac.care.

We are requesting that as you make your shopping list, you put on a few extra items to support our community in need. Bring these items into the Op Shop where our friendly volunteers will say thank you and we would love to say hello.

Suitable items are: tinned tuna or salmon, rice and noodles, cereals, tinned or packet soups and vegetables and casseroles, tinned fruits and long life full fat milk.

Many thanks for your small acts of kindness when you do your shopping, and know that it has real meaning to those individuals in need.

N.B. The Op Shop will be closed from Wednesday, 23rd December and will reopen on Monday, 11th January 2021. Donations cannot be accepted during this time.

Services and coming events in the Parish

Fr Neil is conducting 3 services weekly as follows:

Friday 11.00am
Sunday 8.00am and 9.30am
Maximum of 66 attendees per service

Numbers attending weddings and funerals are limited within the body of the church due to social distancing requirements and square meterage available

Strict observance of all social distancing and sanitizing regulations are in force for your protection and the protection of all attendees at services

2nd & 4th Thursdays	4.00-5.00pm	Fr Neil visits Mt Gambier Prison
Mondays and Thursdays	5.15-6.30pm 5.00-6.00pm	Meditation Group in Ashworth Room Introductory course to Christian Meditation (<i>finishing on 10th December</i>)
Wednesdays	1.00-3.00pm	Craft Group meets in Ashworth Room
3rd Tuesday	2.00pm	Mothers' Union meet in Ashworth Room
2nd & 4th Thursday	3.00pm	Bible Study group @ Elizabeth Hodges'
2nd & 4th Saturdays	10.00am	Bible Study in church Vestry
Today Sun, 20 Dec		Family Fun Day following 9.30am service to be held in church grounds



Thank you to all those people who lent a hand last Sunday to help decorate the Christmas tree. It looks most resplendent!

Many thanks.