

Parish Priest

Fr Neil Fernando Mobile: 0478 085 894
E-mail: frneifdo@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

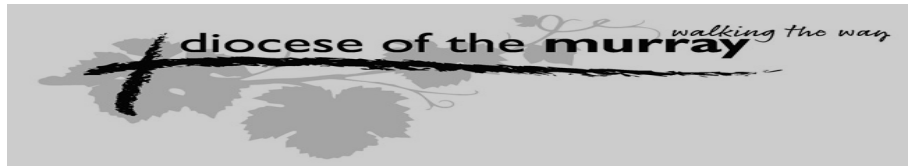
Parish Office

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 2 : 6th December 2020



Prepare the way of the Lord



We extend a warm welcome to all visitors to our church

Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest or Wardens

Prepare the way of the Lord

This season of Advent is a time of grace for us. It 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. We do not want to get lost in the frenzy of the run up to Christmas and forget what Christmas is all about. Advent is a time of grace to remind us that Jesus is the reason for Christmas.

We have already entered into the second week of the holy season of Advent. This four week season is a time of watching, waiting and joyful expectation as we prepare to once again celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the long awaited Messiah. This Messiah brings to the entire world - "comfort", he speaks "tenderly" as Isaiah recalls in the first reading. This "saviour" and "redeemer" as we now know, would at last bring salvation by the forgiveness of our sins! Do you personally like change? If asked, many people would probably answer "no" or "it all depends on what was changing." That's fair enough of an answer. But in all honesty we must admit that it is often the case that people, for whatever reason, generally do not like change. It often meets with mild to strong opposition, pointed criticism or at times even with bitter resentment. At the same time some people contend that change is a good thing; they believe that it's necessary.

The second Sunday of Advent really calls us to change within - radical change that will transform us into heralds of Christ. These changes are to take place deep within us so that we become truly "transformed" within through the saving grace of Christ, the Son of God, and the promised messiah. The kind of change that we must strive for each and every day during the Advent season is that type of interior renewal that will actually "configure" us to Christ more perfectly, interiorly, deep within our very being. Change within makes us authentic heralds of Christ and enables us to make Christ's presence known and felt by all we meet. Through the changes within us we can make Christ's message easy to hear and touch and see in a powerful way for all of our brothers and sisters. With renewed interior strength we can change hatred to love, violence to peace and selfishness to generosity. It becomes easier to embrace the forgiving love of Christ in the sacrament of reconciliation as well as growing in the ability to forgive others. Through our efforts to change within we see more clearly how the Church is our source of truth, our vessel of safety and, in fact, our mother. All of the externals of the Advent season will eventually be packed up and put away to be used again next year. Externals can only "decorate" the outside for a limited period of time. The interior changes we make in our personal lives will remain and enrich our lives and those of others around us indefinitely. Thus, each year the new Advent season will bring repeated hope for more light, more promise, more peace - and most importantly more of Christ's peaceful reign in our world. Interior transformation and configuration to Christ within us will lead us to triumph in the battle against the distortion of truths, virtues and values with which we are so often plagued through relativism, selfishness and an ego-centric approach to life in our world that has led to a culture of death.

READINGS for Sunday, 6th December 2020—Advent 2			
Isa 40. 1-11	Ps 85. 8-13	2 Pet 3. 8-14	Mark 1. 1-8
Readers		Margaret Boardman / Rita Johnston	
Intercessions		Anne Ashworth	
Server		Faye Hill	
Sound desk		Bill Hudd	
READINGS for Sunday, 13th December 2020—Advent 3			
Isa 61. 1-7	Ps Magnificat	1 Thess 5. 16-24	John 1. 6-8, 19-28
Readers		Jeff Bowman / Julienne Feast	
Intercessions		Sue Christopher	
Server		Darren Schunke	
Sound desk		Dick Hamson	



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

Mothers' Union Christmas Luncheon

The Mothers' Union Christmas Luncheon will now be held in the Ashworth Room at 12.30pm on Tuesday, 15 December. It was decided not to exchange small Christmas gifts but to place a donation in an envelope for ac.care. If you need a reminder of what food was offered, please phone me and do remember that we always have plenty on the table. A warm welcome is extended to all women in our church family.



Elizabeth Hodges
President Mothers' Union
0419 595 653

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

Please remember : Fr Neil and family will be away from the parish on a well earned holiday from 5th December to 19th December. We wish them happy holidays!

Your weekly giving via direct debit

Important

As from **1st January 2021**, this parish will be taking back the responsibility of our finances. This means that all donations, accounts and weekly giving should be processed through our BankSA account here in Mt Gambier.

However, some of you would have used the BSB and account number for BankSA (BSB 105-012, account number 122 896 040) some years ago when we joined the Integrated Accounting System put in place by the Diocese.

As this account is based in Murray Bridge, it is now important that if your giving is sent to those account details listed above, we ask that you *please* redirect it to the following bank details:

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In today's gospel we find the unique example of that radically transformed heart and the totally configured soul to Christ Jesus, namely, John the Baptist. He is indeed the role model for all those who call themselves Christian. We, like John, are also called to go forth and "announce" the coming of Christ. Like John we too are called to "proclaim" the Good News by our lives; to encourage our brothers and sisters to "prepare the way of the Lord!" The changes within the heart of John the Baptist enabled him to decrease while Christ within him increased. John, totally transformed and configured to Christ interiorly, had become the herald of the only Son of God. Not just a messenger but a herald of the Good News of Salvation! John the Baptist left us an extraordinary pattern for that type of change within that sketches the face of Christ in us and in our actions for all to see as we "cry out" as well "prepare the way of the Lord." John's interior transformation helped him believe that he was not even worthy to untie the sandal straps of the One who is to come. There are great blessings in striving to imitate the interior life of John the Baptist. There is so much to be gained by imitating the example John and the changes within that enabled him to make such a difference outwardly for those who awaited the Saviour. John ultimately "decreased" so completely that he would shed his blood for love of Christ.

The person of John the Baptist "cries out" for us to "prepare" for the birth of Christ. He appeals for change - change within! Whatever that might mean for each and every one of us, we must strive to make those changes in our personal lives that will make us more pleasing to our loving God and Father

cf Internet



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)

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).

Forms for this purpose can also be found at the back of the church.



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 Thursday, 24th 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
Sun, 6 Dec	2.00pm (Bookings essential : https://www.trybooking.com/BMUNG)	Public Pro Life meeting, City Hall
Sat, 12 Dec	8.30am-12.30pm	Garage Sale and Mini-Market in church grounds
Tues, 15 Dec	12.30pm	Mothers' Union Christmas luncheon in Ashworth Room