

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**

Christmas 2 : 3rd January 2021



We extend a warm welcome to all visitors to our church

Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest or Wardens

From Fr Neil

God pitched His tent among us

In 1675 a fire destroyed most of London, England. Therefore, many of London's most impressive, beautiful and famous buildings were built between 1675 and 1725. In 1684 Sir Christopher Wren laid the cornerstone for what would be his greatest building, St. Paul's Cathedral. It took thirty-five years to complete. When it was finished, Queen Anne took a tour of the building.

Wren waited breathlessly to see what she would say. At the end of a thorough tour, the Queen pronounced her verdict. "It's awful, it's amusing, it's artificial".

What? "It's awful, it's amusing, it's artificial?" Wren must have been devastated, we think. But he wasn't. He was delighted. In those days – awful meant, "full of awe, awe inspiring, awesome," amusing meant, "amazing, unbelievable," and artificial meant "artistic". What sounded to us like a devastating critique was, to Wren's ears, the highest praise.

Today's Gospel lesson says that "The Word became flesh and lived among us". I am wondering how we make sense of this sentence in the modern world. Perhaps it is as foreign to our ears and our understanding as the Queen's praise of Wren's Cathedral.

It must be admitted that the Incarnation, God's act of become human, has been difficult to comprehend and accept in any time and any place, not just the West in the 21st Century. Martin Luther said, "The mystery of humanity of Christ, that He sunk Himself into our flesh, is beyond all human understanding". It is not a truth that can be explained by science or logic; it can only be proclaimed as revealed truth. But once it has been proclaimed, it can be explored so as to better understand the difference this mystery makes in our lives.

John proclaims to us that Jesus was the living, breathing, very human, creative, and life-giving power of God. John shows us God on one side and humanity on the other and Jesus in the middle as the word which God spoke to us about God' love and purpose for us all.

READINGS for Sunday, 3rd January 2021—Christmas 2			
Prov 8. 22-31	Ps 147. 12-20	Eph 1. 3-6, 15-18	John 1. 1-18
Server	Darren Schunke		
Readers	Brian Smith / Raylene Milligan		
Intercessions	Anne Ashworth		
Sound desk	Bill Hudd		
READINGS for Sunday, 10th January 2021—Epiphany 1			
Isa 60. 1-6	Ps 72. 1-11	Eph 3. 1-6	Matthew 2. 1-12
Server	Faye Hill		
Readers	Bill Hudd / Robyn Ashby		
Intercessions	Sue Christopher		
Sound desk	Darren Schunke		



ROSTERS FOR	JANUARY
GARDENING	Volunteer required
MOWING ROSTER	Rick Fisher
FREEZER MINISTRY <small>(Please remember to label, date and list all the ingredients in each container)</small>	Anne Ashworth Larnka Foran

PARISH BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

For January

3rd	Wendy Mango
6th	Peter Searcy
8th	Robyn Ashby
13th	Neil Geddes
17th	David Clarkson



For February

1st	Heather Allen
6th	Pam Miller
8th	Sandra Grant
9th	Maree McIntyre
10th	Fran Laslett
14th	Lisa Searcy
27th	Glenyse Nott



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.

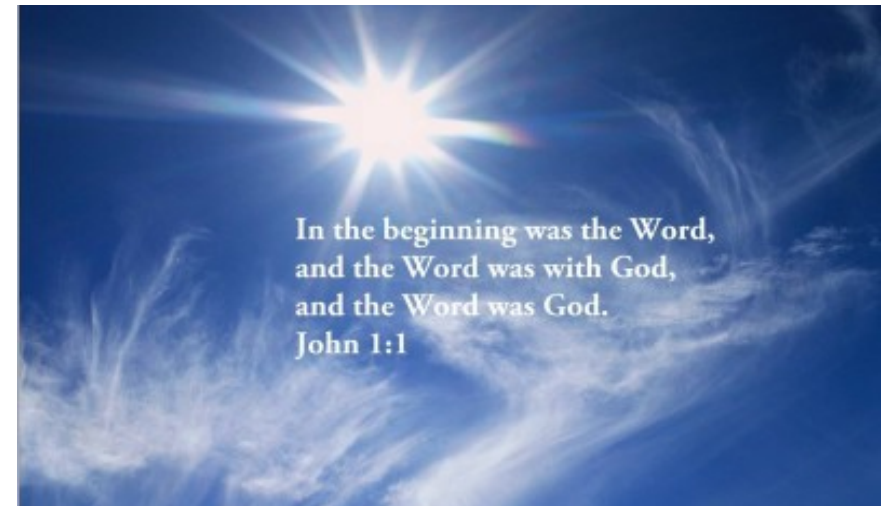
Thank you

This is important because it made God's love for us real and tangible. Holy love is like human love in that it has to be embodied in order to be experienced. It is one thing to believe in "romantic love," in two people finding their heart's desire in each other, candlelight dinners, moonlight walks, eternal bliss. It is quite another thing for two people to live together, to struggle to work out their differences, to accept one another's flaws and shortcomings, to live face-to-face in a living, breathing less than ideal but oh so realistic relationship.

So it is with us and the holy. God became flesh and lived among us because God was not willing to be a far-off, spiritual ideal. God knew that for the divine/human relationship to be real, it had to be fleshed out. That "fleshing out" continues in the life of the church, the "body of Christ" as we embody our faith and love for God in our efforts to live lives of love with one another and the world.

Just like a marriage, it is seldom perfect, it is always a work in progress, it requires work to iron out our differences and accept one another's flaws and shortcomings, to forgive and trust and love and go forward together. It is difficult. It is also "awful, amusing, and artificial".

cf.internet



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	Meditation Group in Ashworth Room
Wednesdays	1.00-3.00pm	Craft Group meets in Ashworth Room (N.B. Craft will resume in February)
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

Please note



The Christian Meditation Group will be resuming on Monday, 4th January in the Ashworth Room—times listed above.