

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 Neil (Nalini); Fr Wayne Corker; Fr Lyndon Sultzberger, Bishop Michael Hough

Parish Counsellors, Christ Church

Richard Strickland, Helen Douglass, Richard Mills, Brian Smith, Faye Hill,
Dick Hamson, Graham Savage, Robyn Sweetnam, Sandy Coulson

The Suggestion Box

is now in place at the rear of the church for people to start utilizing.
Your suggestions/input are most welcome.

The Anglican Parish of Mount Gambier

**Christ Church
Mount Gambier**

**St Luke's
Mount Schank**

**St Thomas
Port MacDonnell**

Advent 3 : 12th December 2021



Rejoice in the Lord always



As a Christian community, we acknowledge and pay respect to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the lands on which we gather and meet.

We pay our respects to the Elders—past, present and future.

Wearing of face masks is mandatory, so please remember to wear your face mask when attending any services, the Bell Tower Op Shop or meetings at the church.
You must also register using the QR code or by manually filling out an attendance sheet.

From Fr Neil

REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS




The third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete Sunday”. “Gaudete” means “Rejoice!” This is the theme expressed by St Paul in his Letter to the Philippians: “Rejoice in the Lord always!” The word “rejoice” is composed of two words: “re” (again) and “joy”. So St Paul repeated his exhortation: “I shall say it again: rejoice!” Why does St Paul insist that we rejoice? We must remember that he wrote this Letter to the Philippians while he was in a dark Roman prison and without any certainty that he can still come out alive. Definitely, there was nothing to rejoice about in that situation. But joy is a virtue and a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is not dependent on any external condition. Rather, it all depends on one’s intimate relationship with God.

Rejoicing in the Lord is not just a matter of thanking and praising God. Rather, it means two things. Firstly, it is an attitude of trust in the midst of life’s difficulties and troubles. Worries and anxieties have no part in the life of a Christian. Instead, St Paul said: “Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God” (Phil 4:6).

Secondly, rejoicing should manifest itself in acts of kindness. Again, St Paul said: “Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near”. St John the Baptist, therefore, calls us to action. When asked by his listeners what they ought to do, John the Baptist mentioned examples of acts of kindness: giving clothes to those who have none, avoiding extortion and cheating and being of better service to others.

John was the messenger sent to prepare the world - not to save it. He was sent to begin gathering the harvest—but the one to come will winnow it and separate grain from chaff, determining who will enter the Kingdom and who will not. The grain is what has the capacity to bear fruit—the chaff will blow away—or be burnt in the fire. Those who repent and live according to the directives John lays down have the capacity to bear fruit in their own spheres. A tax collector who does not cheat—or a soldier who does not extort will soon be marked out as different. They may suffer ridicule and be tempted by the siren voices: everyone does it. But, holding firm to their principles, will set an example of living which will influence others: what is it that these people have that causes them to behave like this? In our own day—and in our own work—the challenge remains the same: do we act as grain—or chaff?

READINGS AND ROSTERS FOR			
Sunday, 12th December 2021—Advent 3			
Zeph 3. 14-18a	Isa 12. 2-6	Phil 4. 4-7	Luke 3. 10-18
Server	Julienne Feast		
Readers	Margaret Boardman / Rita Johnston		
Intercessions	Rick Fisher		
Sound desk	Trudy-Anne Doyle		
Flowers	Jan Hunt		
Sunday, 19th December 2021—Advent 4			
Micah 5. 1-4	Ps 80. 2-3, 15-16, 18-19	Heb 10. 5-10	Luke 1. 39-45
Server	Darren Schunke		
Readers	Denise McDonald / Helen Douglass		
Intercessions	Sue Christopher		
Sound desk	Robyn Ashby		
Flowers	Roma Driscoll		

ROSTERS FOR	DECEMBER
GARDENING 	Graham Savage
 MOWING ROSTER	Rick Fisher
FOOD and FREEZER MINISTRY 	N.B. Due to COVID restrictions, we are unable to hand out home cooked goods to people presenting for Emergency Relief. However, pre-prepared goods such as frozen packaged foods are acceptable.

N.B. Fr Neil will be away on leave from 14th December to 21st December inclusive.



PARISH BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

FOR DECEMBER

16th	Sathyanga	28th	Don Currie
9th	Dick Hamson	29th	Jennie McDonald
26th	Dean Searcy	30th	Simon and 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

In John 15:11 we read Jesus saying, “I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete”. Jesus was joyful and wanted his disciples to share his joy, “I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete”. The first step to become happy in the Lord is to give up sin so that we can live a life of grace with the Lord. In the Gospel today (Luke 3:10-18) three times people asked John the Baptist, “what should we do?” Each time he told them to give up something or not to be greedy. Our journey of conversion is a journey from wanting and being greedy and possessive to becoming unselfish. That was the journey John the Baptist asked his hearers to make and the journey we are challenged to make this Advent so that we will have true joy and happiness to celebrate at Christmas rather than just Santa Claus coming to town.

We remember again the words of Paul, “I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness”. “Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!”

cf.internet



Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

Saturday, 18th December

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!

Volunteers are required for the next Bunnings sausage sizzle between 8.45am – 4.00pm. Raising funds for the **SUNSET KITCHEN**.

Please record your name on the form at the back of the church. All volunteers are required to wear enclosed shoes and a MASK.

Thank you for volunteering.
Enquiries to Trevor Christopher 0400 745 056.



Prayer during COVID 19

Our heavenly Father, we come before you with contrite hearts, yearning for your comfort and your grace. In the midst of COVID 19 spreading across the globe, we ask in your mercy that you would stop this plague and restore harmony and health to the nations.

And we pray for the families, especially those who have lost loved ones to this disease, or those suffering from its effects. May we know the peace that passes all understanding, as we place our trust in Jesus, in whose powerful name we pray.

Amen.

Pray for those who are unwell and for each other

Val Linder; Sue Ongley; Maree & Bob Lynch; June Willcourt; Joe Maier; Wendy Monger & Don Currie; Shirley Stacpoole; Terry Wilson; Anne Barry (Glen Solomons' godmother); Allan Hincks; Vern Petschel (Faye's uncle)

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

Please pray for the family and friends of **Viv Hutchinson** as they mourn her death on Wednesday morning.

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. is not allowed during this time of COVID 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.

N.B. Please remember to wear a face mask and register via the QR code or manually complete an attendance sheet when attending the Op Shop. Thank you.

The Op Shop will be closed over the Christmas/New Year period from **Thursday, 23rd December 2021** and will re-open on **Monday, 10th January 2022**

Following the very successful Late Night Op Shopping event on 9th November, the next event—back by popular demand—has been scheduled for **Tuesday, 14th December from 4.00pm to 7.00pm** at various Op Shops around Mt Gambier and Penola.

Here is your chance to pick up those last minute Kris Kringle gifts, Christmas presents, decorations, table napery and summer clothes!!

Services and events in the Parish

Fr Neil conducts 3 services weekly at Christ Church as follows:

Friday 11.00am
Sunday 8.00am and 9.30am
Maximum of 100 attendees per service @ Christ Church

And 1 service at St Luke's, Mount Schank on the 2nd Sunday of each month
Maximum of 31 attendees per service @ St Luke's

Numbers attending services are limited within the body of the church due to COVID 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
3rd Tuesday	2.00pm	Mothers' Union meet in Ashworth Room
1st & 3rd Thursdays	3.30-4.00pm	Tea and coffee
	4.00-5.00pm	Charismatic prayer group in hall
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Tues, 14 Dec	4.00-7.00pm	Late Night Op Shopping event
Sat, 18 Dec	8.45am-4.00pm	Bunnings sausage sizzle

2021 National Church Life Survey

We have received copies of the survey and are located at the back of church.



All parishioners are encouraged to either complete the hard copy survey form or go online to complete it at: attendersurvey.ncls.org.au