

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 4 : 19th December 2021



My soul glorifies the Lord



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

MY SOUL GLORIFIES THE LORD

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, the Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth.




The Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

The Prophet Micah gives us the prophecy that the Savior will be born in Bethlehem. We who live now know that the birth of Jesus is placed in Bethlehem to fulfill the prophecy — pointing out that Jesus, the Son of Mary, is the Savior for us. And this Savior will give himself fully to God's Will: "He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God...".

The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus comes to do the will of the Father. What is the will of the Father? His will is to extend salvation to all. Salvation is the union with God for all eternity. During this Advent we can ponder on how we express God's Will to others. Can others see us doing God's Will? Do we share the good news of God's Will through the celebration of Christ's imminent birth? Are our desires for the frills of the season, personal comfort, and inordinate pleasures aligned with God's Will for our personal salvation and the salvation of the whole world?

The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah. In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

READINGS AND ROSTERS FOR			
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		
Sunday, 26th December 2021—Christmas 1			
Sir 3. 2-14	Ps 128	Col 3. 12-21	Luke 2. 41-52
Server	Trevor Christopher		
Readers	Brian Smith / Raylene Milligan		
Intercessions	Anne Ashworth		
Sound desk	Robyn Ashby		
Flowers	Robyn Sweetnam		

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.



PARISH BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

FOR DECEMBER

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

FOR JANUARY

6th	Peter Searcy
8th	Robyn Ashby
13th	Neil Geddes
17th	David Clarkson
27th	Lorraine Sims

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

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

Important

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

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

As we anticipate the magnificent celebration of Christmas, the birth of our Savior, we can prepare ourselves in these final days by listening to the Word and asking for purity of heart, alignment of our will with the Will of God.

May Christ be born in us and in our world so that divine transformation will be our experience now and always.

cf.internet



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**

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

