

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 2 : 5th December 2021



Prepare a way for 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

Prepare a way for the Lord

During Advent we often hear the voice of John the Baptist. John’s message was a call to turn from sin and be ready for God’s forgiveness. To be saved, it is necessary to acknowledge my sinfulness, and my need for salvation. To be redeemed, it is necessary to acknowledge the fact that I am in bondage, and in need of being set free.




As we read in today’s gospel, “the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness; and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 3:2-3). In this short text we find the three steps necessary to transform anybody from lukewarmness to enthusiasm in the faith. The three steps are (a) John went into the desert, (b) the word of God came to him, and (c) John left the desert and went about proclaiming the faith. We also must pass through these three stages to arrive at the stage where we begin to live the life of faith with joy.

Stage 1—We go into the desert. The desert is a place of being alone with God. We go into the desert when we take time off our normal job and household occupation to be with God in church, in prayer, in reading the word of God. The desert is the place where we encounter God. We ourselves must take the first step to go into the desert, to reach out to God, to look for God.

Stage 2—The word of God comes to us. Once we open our hearts to God in the desert, God Himself comes and fills us up. A saint once said that when we take one step to God, God takes two steps to us. At this stage God takes the initiative to come to us, to fill us, to renew us, to transform us, to remould us into God’s image that we are created to be. This is the stage that some people call being born again. When this happens to us we would like to spend the whole day alone with God in church, in prayer, in Bible reading. But like John we must go on to live our lives and carry out our duties in the family and in the society.

Stage 3—We go about proclaiming the faith. Having experienced the goodness of the Lord in our own lives, our next desire is to share this experience with others. It’s like we are wearing a tee-shirt with the inscription, “Wow, God is great!”. People look at us and see the joy and peace and serenity that radiates from us and they would like to be like us. They would like to be our friends. And then we can in turn help them by showing them the pathway to the desert, the place where they, in their turn, will encounter God personally. The experience of God is like the experience of love. You can tell people about it but they will not understand what you are talking about until they themselves experience it.

READINGS AND ROSTERS FOR			
Sunday, 5th December 2021—Advent 2			
Baruch 5. 1-9	Ps 126	Phil 1. 3-11	Luke 3. 1-6
Server	Darren Schunke		
Readers	Lynn and Rick Fisher		
Intercessions	Anne Ashworth		
Sound desk	Bill Hudd		
Flowers	Jan Hunt		
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		

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.



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; Viv Hutchinson; 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.

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve, Friday, 24th December
6.00pm St Luke's, Mt Schank
9.00pm Christ Church, Mt Gambier

Christmas Day, Saturday, 25th December
9.00am Christ Church, Mt Gambier
(This is the only service in the parish today)

Sunday, 26th December
9.00am ?? Said service