

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 **no later** than 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 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; Fr Des Ackland (Raelene)

and in the Limestone Coast

Archdeacon Neil (Nalini); Fr Lyndon Sulzberger, Bishop Michael Hough

Parish Councillors, Christ Church

Richard Strickland, Helen Douglass, Brian Smith, Lynn Fisher,
Dick Hamson, Graham Savage; David Glover; Rick Fisher

If you wish to make a bequest to the church, please follow the instructions on the Regulation for Bequests form which is available from the back of the church.

The Anglican Parish of Mount Gambier (Berrin)

**Christ Church
Mount Gambier (Berrin)**

**St Luke's
Mount Schank (Parreen)**

**24th December 2023—Christmas Eve
(Advent 3)**

25th December 2023—Christmas Day



In the darkness, a light shines



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 emerging.

In the darkness, a light shines

Finally, it's Christmas! This is the most awaited feast that we Christians celebrate. We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive encounter, between God and man-kind. All the prophecies of old found their fulfilment in the birth of Jesus. He is the long-expected saviour. At Christmas we reflect on the mystery of the Incarnation, the coming of the Son of God into the world in the likeness of a human being. It is a mystery beyond all telling, and a recap of God's wonderful act of creation. At creation he made humanity in his own image and likeness, for salvation of human beings, he took the likeness of us.

An angel appears, the glory of the Lord shines around the shepherds and finally the message awaited for centuries is heard: "To you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:11). The angel tells the shepherds how to find the God who has come down to earth: "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger" (v. 12).

Let us ask ourselves: can we accept God's way of doing things? This is the challenge of Christmas: God reveals himself, but men and women fail to understand. He makes himself little in the eyes of the world, while we continue to seek grandeur in the eyes of the world, perhaps even in his name. God lowers himself and we try to become great. The Most High goes in search of shepherds, the unseen in our midst, and we look for visibility, to be seen. Jesus is born in order to serve, and we spend a lifetime pursuing success. God does not seek power and might; he asks for tender love and interior littleness. Jesus comes to our experience of feeling weak, frail, inadequate, perhaps even "messed up". As in Bethlehem, the darkness of night overwhelms us, but only the light of Christ can dispel the darkness.

As we take a look at the crib, in the distance, we glimpse the Magi, journeying to worship the Lord. As we look more closely, we see that all around Jesus everything comes together: not only do we see the poor, the shepherds, but also the learned and the rich, the Magi. Everything is unified when Jesus is at the centre: not our ideas about Jesus, but Jesus himself, the living One. Let us gaze upon the child given to us this day; let us receive his smile, the smile of God. Let us allow ourselves to smile back, and let us know that life is good, that we are good, and let us bring the hope that is born of such a smile to the world around us this Christmas.

As a pilgrim Church let us return to Bethlehem, let us return to the origins: to the essentials of faith, adoration and charity. Let us go to Bethlehem, where God is in man and man in God. There the Lord takes first place and is

SUNDAY, 24th December 2023 : Advent 4 (Christmas Eve) 9.00am—Communion (Carol Service) : 3.00pm—Children’s Service 7.00pm—Communion—St.Luke’s, Mount Schank			
2 Sam 7: 1-16	Ps 89: 19-29	Romans 16: 25-27	Luke 1: 26-38
Server	Julienne Feast		
Welcomer	Trudy-Anne Doyle		
Readers	Jeff Bowman / Fran Laslett		
Intercessions	Julienne Feast		
Sound desk	Richard Mills		
Morning Tea	Michael and Genevieve Jamieson		
Flowers	Jan Hunt		
MONDAY, 25th December 2023 : Christmas Day 9.00am—Communion (1 service only today)			
Isa 62. 11-12	Ps 97	Titus 3. 4-7	Luke 2. 15-20
Server	Julienne Feast		
Readers	Lynn and Rick Fisher		
Intercessions	Julienne Feast		
Sound	Trudy-Anne Doyle		
SUNDAY, 31st December 2023 : Christmas 1 8.00am—Communion : 9.30am—Communion			
Sir 3. 2-14	Ps 128	Col 3. 12-21	Matthew 2. 13-23
Server	Julienne Feast		
Welcomer	Jeff Bowman		
Readers	Raylene Milligan / Brian Smith		
Intercessions	Richard Mills		
Sound	Robyn Ashby		
Morning Tea	The Men		
Flowers	Elizabeth Hodges / Olna Green		

Pray for those people who are unwell and for each other

Sue Ongley; Maree Lynch; Joe Maier; Shirley Stacpoole; Sandy Coulson; Anne Barry (Glen Solomons' godmother); Betty and Max Wright

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—preferably 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.

PARISH BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

8th Irene	26th Dean Searcy
16th Sathyanga	29th Jennie McDonald
19th Dick Hamson	30th Simon & Jon Hawkes

We wish all of them a very happy birthday!!



If you would like your name on the birthday list, please contact the Parish Office so that your details can be included. Thank you

ROSTERS FOR	DECEMBER	JANUARY
GARDENING 	Fran Laslett	Helen Douglass
 MOWING ROSTER	Volunteer required	Richard Strickland

MONDAY, 1st January 2024 : The Naming and Circumcision of Our Lord

10.00am—Communion (1 service only today)

Num 6. 22-27	Ps 67	Gal 4. 4-7	Luke 2. 15-21
Server	Julienne Feast		
Readers	Helen Douglass / Denise McDonald		
Intercessions	To be advised		
Sound	Richard Mills		

worshipped; there the humble have the place nearest him; there the shepherds and Magi are joined in a fraternity beyond all labels and classifications. May God enable us to be a worshipping, humble and fraternal Church. That is what is essential. Let us go back to Bethlehem.

As the Prince of Peace comes into our world with perfect humility, to give value to our frighten world, with his feet beautiful and glorious, bearing glad tidings, we are all invited to emulate him, to add value to the lives of those we meet, to ensure our presence brings peace and harmony.

*May Christ the Light be incarnate in your life, in your families and in your endeavours.
Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year!*

cf.internet



The Parish Council and parishioners of the Parish of Mount Gambier wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous and safe New Year

Forthcoming Parish Events

MON TH	DAY	DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	ORGAN-ISED BY
DEC	Fri	22 nd	11.00am	Communion	
	Sun Christmas Eve Advent 4	24 th	9.00am 3.00pm 7.00pm	Carol Service—(1 service only) Children's Service St Luke's, Mt Schank	CMG
	Mon Christmas Day	25 th	9.00am	Communion—(1 service only)	
	Fri	29 th		No service	
	Sun New Year's Eve	31 st	8.00am 9.30am	Communion Communion	Choir
JAN 2024	Mon New Year's Day	1 st	10.00am	Communion—(1 service only)	
	Fri	5 th		No service	
	Fri	12 th	11.00am	Communion	
	Fri	19 th	11.00am	Communion	
	Wed	24 th	12.00pm	Solos and Pairs lunch at the Park Hotel	
	Fri	26 th		No Service Greek Orthodox Community using church to celebrate their Christmas	



Advent 4

A BIG thank you to all those people who have recently donated food items to the Food and Freezer Ministry.

With the very generous donations, both the freezer and cupboard are now very well stocked.



Craft is in recess until the New Year. The resume date to be advised.

Services in the Mt Gambier Parish

There are 4 services conducted weekly at Christ Church as follows:

Friday 11.00am
Sunday 8.00am and 9.30am

And 1 service at St Luke's, Mount Schank on the 2nd Sunday of each month @ 11.30am

Wearing of face masks is no longer mandatory. However, you may—as a matter of personal choice—choose to wear one when attending any services, the Bell Tower Op Shop or meetings at the church. Hand sanitizing is still recommended.

2nd & 4th Thurs	4.00-5.00pm	Fr Neil visits Mt Gambier Prison
3rd Thurs	7.00pm	Pro Life meetings
Wednesdays	8.00am 1.00-3.00pm	Ministers' prayer and Association meeting Craft Group meets in Ashworth Room
Mondays and Thursdays	5.15-6.30pm	Meditation Group in Ashworth Room
1st & 3rd Fridays		Boandik Service
1st Tuesday of month		St Mary's
1st Friday of month		Healing service
2nd Thursday of month		The Oaks
2nd Tuesday of month		Resthaven

The Bell Tower Op Shop

Trading hours are:

Monday to Friday
10.00am to 3.00pm

Saturday
9.30am to 12.30pm

Closed on Public Holidays



Solos and Pairs for 2024

The first lunch of the year will be held at the Park Hotel on 24th January 2024 at 12.00pm. All welcome.