



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL

Third Sunday of Advent

15 December, 2019

Parish Link

The Vicar Writes...

Welcome to worship on this the third Sunday in Advent. We also extend a special welcome to Father Harry Kerr who is guest preacher and celebrant this morning. Advent seems, like most of life, to really whizz by and Christmas is less than two weeks away! So much to prepare and there does not seem enough time to catch one's breath. Yet for followers of Jesus we are encouraged to wait! In place of the Psalm this morning we have the wonderful 'Song of Mary' (Luke 1.47-55) – a song which proclaims the glory of God who will bring righteousness, justice, and peace. But the question that quietly nags at us is the simple 'When?' This is a question that has been pondered for close to two thousand years. The Scriptures are clear that we do NOT know the day or hour but they are also clear on how we are to live with the uncertainty! James reminds us this morning, "Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!" May our prayer this day be that we are granted by God's gracious Spirit the 'patience' to endure. May our living in these in-between-times be one of deepening faith and maturity becoming the people of God that God desires us to be, working for the ushering in of God's kingdom.

Morning tea is served in the undercroft
after the service. Please join us.

Mission Statement

Sharing the Good News
Telling the story afresh
Expressing God's love
Nurturing and sharing faith
Equipping to serve
Serving the community

Vision

To ensure that there continues to be a living, committed, communal Anglican presence of liturgical celebration, nurture and outreach in Box Hill.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FIRST AID KIT – Located in the office and kitchen.

TOILETS – Located in the Church Hall and in the church building through the church doors front right.

WHEELCHAIR – Located in the toilet for the disabled upstairs.

FIRE & EMERGENCY – Please make yourself aware of the nearest escape route in the event of an emergency or fire.

OH&S – Please ensure that any incidents/accidents are reported to the Vicar or Wardens and incident report completed.

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

The first candle of Advent is the candle of Hope; the second is the candle of Peace; the third is the candle of Joy. We light this candle to remind us that Christ is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.



Light the third candle.

Let us pray : Loving God, we thank You for the joy you bring us. Through your Son we have found joy in living as your children. Help us to prepare our hearts for this gift. We ask in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Sentence

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.' Isaiah 35.3–4

Prayer of the Day

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

For the Psalm: Song of Mary in *APBA*, p.31

Second Reading: James 5.7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew, Chapter 11, verses 2-11

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

For the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Welcome to the Lord's Table.

All are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion
or to come forward for a blessing.

Years Mind

Paul Hoare, Maxwell Abbott, Viola Errey, Edna Usher
whose anniversaries occur at this time



Prayer Points

The Church: Nigeria (Bp Augustin Omole); El Salvador (Bp Juan David Alvarado Melgar); Diocese of Grafton (Bp Murray Harvey, Clergy & People); Archdeaconry of Geelong (Jill McCoy); St Martin's Belgrave Heights (Martin Oliver); St Paul's Ringwood – Pastoral Visit (Bp Paul Barker); St Oswald's, Glen Iris – Carol Service (Bp Paul Barker); Holy Trinity East Melbourne – Pastoral Visit (Bp Genieve Blackwell); All Saint's Clayton – Pastoral Visit (Bp Brad Billings); The Parish of St Paul's Gisborne w. Church of the Resurrection, Macedon Ranges and St John's Riddells Creek – Confirmation Service (Bp Kate Prowd).

The Parish: Pray for our Kindergarten, Play Group, and other groups who are starting their holiday break.

The World: Pray for the people and families who have died in the volcano in New Zealand. Pray also for the rescue teams and the country as it mourns.

The Nation/Community: Pray for our farmers and rural communities as they face drought and bushfires. Pray also for rain and give thanks for the courage of our firefighters.

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you: come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end and your children may live in peace, honouring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Daily Readings

Monday	Numbers 24.2-7, 15-17	Ps 25.3-9	Matthew 21.23-27
Tuesday	Genesis 49.2, 8-10	Ps 72.1-7	Matthew 1.1-17
Wednesday	Jeremiah 23.5-8	Ps 72.15-21	Matthew 1.18-24
Thursday	Judges 13.2-7, 24-25	Ps 71.17-22	Luke 1.5-25
Friday	Isaiah 7.10-14	Ps 24.1-6	Luke 1.28-38
Saturday	Songs of Songs 2.8-14	Ps 33.17-21	Luke 1.39-45

ABM Pew Reflections

Jesus says of John the Baptist that he is the one who has been sent to prepare the way for Jesus himself. The Greek Church calls John the Baptist the Προδρομος – *Prodromos* – *the Forerunner*. This week, pray that like John the Baptist you can prepare the way for Jesus himself in whatever circumstance you find yourself. Pray this week for the chance to prepare the way for Jesus to enter the world. Give thanks for the Church of the Province of Central Africa, remembering especially the work of the Zambia Anglican Council.



If you have anything you would like included in the Parish Link Notices, please let Cecilia know in writing **before** Thurs. Please keep notices succinct and to the point. PH: 98995122
Email: anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com



Christmas Bowl

ABM'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2019

Both Christmas Bowl and ABM have appeals for assistance at this time. Envelopes for donating to one or both of these groups are available at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS TREE ANGLICARE APPEAL



Toys and gift vouchers for children and teens are wanted by Anglicare for Christmas giving. These gifts need to be provided early so they can be distributed before Christmas.

Please leave your unwrapped gifts or vouchers (which are a great gift for teens, eg, JB, iTunes) in the basket at the back of the church from now on. Wrapping paper and gift tags are also appreciated.

Christmas foods are also very much needed at this time of year. A list of what is wanted is at the back of the church. Queries: Jan Gunst



TONIGHT

7.30pm, December 15, 2019



Festival of Lessons & Carols

This evening is our annual carol service, following the pattern of the famous King's College Cambridge. Our organist, Lewis, and our choir have been working to make this a special service in our church's year.

All are most welcome to attend.

There will be a supper after the service. If you can bring a plate to assist with this, please let Jan Gunst know.



CHRISTMAS TREE HANGING IN THE SANCTUARY

As a new initiative, this year we are asking people to write down the name of someone important to them in their Christian journey and hand this in by the last Sunday before Christmas. These names will be pinned to the tree on Christmas Eve.

Name

WHAT DID JOHN EXPECT?

A MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS, "WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM JESUS?"

AND WHEN HE COMES, WILL YOU GIVE UP WHAT YOU WANT AND RECEIVE WHATEVER JESUS BRINGS?

ALL I WANT IS WHAT I'VE GOT COMING TO ME. ALL I WANT IS MY FAIR SHARE! *

WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG *SALLY BROWN, "A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS" (CLEVELAND:WORLD), 1965 MATTHEW 11:2-11

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This Week

TODAY 15.12.19

Third Sunday of Advent

8.00am **Eucharist**

9.00am **Prayer in the Chapel**

9.30am **Eucharist**

11.30am **Mandarin Service**

2.00pm **Dinka Service**

7.30pm *Al Anon, hall*

MON 16.12.19

7.30pm Narcotics Anonymous, *St Aidan's*

2.00-3.30pm **Home Prayer Group,**

Laburnum (final for year)

TUES 17.12.19

8.30am-12.30pm **Office open**

8.30-11.30am **Men at Work**

9.00-11.00am **Nativity scene set up**

10.00-1.00pm **Joyful Chinese, hall**

6.00-8.00pm **Sudanese Prayer**

WED 18.12.19

10.30am **Eucharist**

8.00pm Choir Practice

THU 19.12.19

Play Group in recess until February 6

10.00am-2.00pm **Office open**

7.30pm **Advent Study, undercroft**

FRI 20.12.19

7.30am **Eucharist**

10am-2.00pm **Chinese Nurse Assoc, hall**

5.00-9.00pm **Chinese Prayer Group**

SAT 21.12.19

Homework Club in recess until February

11.30am **Rehearsal for Children's**

Service

10.00am **Pilgrim Program, office**

SUN 22.12.19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8.00am **Eucharist**

9.00am **Prayer in the Chapel**

9.30am **Eucharist**

11.30am **Mandarin Service**

2.00pm **Dinka Service**

7.30pm *Al Anon, hall*

For the Diary

December 19

Advent Study, 7.30pm,

Undercroft

December 14

Pilgrim program 10.00am,

Front office



December 15

Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols,

7.30pm

December 22

Chinese congregation Christmas

Service (Mandarin) 11.30am

December 24

Children's Christmas Service,

6.00pm

First Mass of Christmas, 11.00pm

December 25

Christmas Day Eucharist, 9.30am

Prayers and Readings from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, Copyright Broughton Publishing 1995.

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ST PETER'S

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W www.anglicansboxhill.org.au

Office Hours:

Tues 8.30am – 12.30pm

Thu 10.00am – 2.00pm

Wardens:

Margaret Dooley 0438 129 161

Sophia Errey 9878 6297

Garry Plumridge 9898 5193

Before the service, speak to God.

*During the service, let God
speak to you.*

*After the service, speak to one
another.*

Vicar

The Reverend Shane Hübner

T 0432 681 177

E vicar@anglicansboxhill.org.au

Honorary Clergy

The Rt Rev George Hearn,

T 9840 7816

Reverends:

Betty Bracken 9939 5881

John Stockdale 0418 536 284

Harry Kerr 9893 4946

Alasdair MacKinnon-Love 0438 323 059

E alasdair@mackinnonlove.com

Sudanese Ministry

Reverend Joseph Arou

T 0431 541 535

E lokagai@hotmail.com

Chinese Ministry

The Reverend Esther Zhang

T 0405 602 439

Family Minister

Barbara Plumridge

T 0405 193 122

E barbara.plumridge@gmail.com

Baptism, marriage & funeral by arrangement.

*Clergy are available for confession / counselling
by appointment.*

Roster for the 9.30am next week

SIDESPEOPLE	Today 15/12/19 Michele M, Barbara P, Ted G W	Next week 22/12/19 Rosemary S, Fred T, Eric S W
SERVERS	Today 15/12/19 Sophia E, Rosemary S	Next week 22/12/19 Elizabeth B, Sophia E
READERS	Today 15/12/19 Jan G, Charles B	Next week 22/12/19 Margaret D, Margaret B
INTERCESSOR	Today 15/12/19 Betty B	Next week 22/12/19 Harry K
COUNTING	Today 15/12/19 Hilary B, Michele M	Next week 22/12/19 Ken McD, Charles B
MORNING TEA	Today 15/12/19 Cecilia M, Margaret R, Keith W, Jan G	Next week 22/12/19 Barbara P M, Michele M, Dianne A