



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL
First Sunday of Advent
29 November, 2020

Parish Link

The Vicar writes...

Happy New Year and welcome to our online worship today! This Sunday marks the start of Advent – the start of the Christian year and the Gospel we will primarily read from on Sundays this year, in our three-year cycle, is Mark. It is the oldest and shortest Gospel in the Bible and I encourage everyone to go home today and read it in one setting as part of our personal preparation for this year. I look forward to seeing many of you online later today at our annual meeting at 1pm. Please continue to pray for our parish and for our Wardens and Parish Council as we all respond to God's call and vision for our parish in 2021. My focussed intention for the coming year is for us all to discern what it truly means to be God's Anglican community here in Box Hill! Regardless of what the final outcome of that discernment looks like – we will always remain a community of prayer. Please feel free to use the following poem by David Redding as the basis of a prayer today:

O Lord, let Advent begin again in us,
not merely in commercials;
for that first Christmas was not simply for children,
but for the wise and the strong.
It was crowded around that cradle, with kings kneeling.
Speak to us who seek an adult seat this year.
Help us to realise, as we fill stockings,
Christmas is mainly for the old folks —
bent backs and tired eyes - need relief and light
a little more. No wonder it was grown-ups
who were the first to notice such a star.

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.



SUNDAY SERVICE [here](#)

Or go to

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Xn0nRD0-uw&feature=youtu.be>

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We gather around our wreath to begin the celebration of Advent. Let us ask our Father in heaven to fill our hearts with grace.

Silent pause for prayer.

O God, we look forward to the celebration of Christmas and to the coming of the Lord in glory. Bless this Advent wreath and all of us. Fill us with your life and strengthen us for our daily tasks. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sentence

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. Isaiah 2.3a

Prayer of the Day

Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

First Reading: Isaiah 64.1-9

¹ O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — ² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. here is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our

Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

Psalm: 80.1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
shine out in glory;

**² Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.**

³ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**⁴ O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.

**⁶ You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**¹⁷ Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸ And so we shall not turn back from you:
give us life, and we will call upon your name.

**¹⁹ Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, ² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing

of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark, Chapter 13, verses 24-37

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸ 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Years Mind

Blanche Chapman, Stanley Marshall, Catherine Chong, Iris Vollenhoven, Peter Lovett, George Boshnakoff, Alma Locke and Fr. Michael Simon whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Rest in Peace: Jim Henley - passed away Sunday 22nd November, aged 92, at Livingstone Gardens, Vermont South



Prayer Points

The Church: Pray for the Lusitanian Church (Bp Jorge Pina Cabral); Ministry to the Defence Force (Bishop Grant Dibden, Chaplains & Members of the Defence Forces); Archdeacons of Dandenong (Johnsan David); St Luke's Sydenham (Robert Koren); St Michael's Beaumaris (Live) – visit (Bishop Paul Barker); St Paul's East Kew – Confirmation Service (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Church of the Epiphany Anglican Church – visit (Bishop Kate Prowd); Diocesan Service at Williamstown – visit (Bishop Kate Prowd).

The Parish: Give thanks as our church is re-opening and we can all meet again.

The World: Continue to pray for the victims of war in Ethiopia.

The Nation: Pray for those seeking work and for young people leaving school.

Names of those in our parish who need our prayer:

Emma, Miriam, Phil and Sandra, Joan, Alistair, Freya, John, Lauren, Mark, Sue, Christine, Nola, Lorraine, June, Gayle, Nigel, Nancy, Kate, Russ, Betty, Jessie, Don, Alma, Muriel, Faye, Eileen, Nola W, Margaret, John W, Ron, Pam, Colin, Roderick, Wendy and Judy, Annette, Dot, Rohan, Fr. Philip Newman, Reverend Betty, Bishop George.

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Daily Readings

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Monday | Isaiah 2.1-5 | Ps 122 | Matthew 8.5-11 |
| Tuesday | Isaiah 11.1-10 | Ps 72.1-7 | Luke 10.21-24 |
| Wednesday | Isaiah 25.6-10 | Ps 23 | Matthew 15.29-37 |
| Thursday | Isaiah 26.1-6 | Ps 118,19-25 | Matthew 7.21-27 |
| Friday | Isaiah 29.9-17 | Ps 27.9-17 | Matthew 9.27-31 |
| Saturday | Isaiah 30.19-26 | Ps 147.1-6 | Matthew 9.35.1-10, 5-8 |

ABM Pew Reflections

It seems that the Roman Emperor Vespasian needed a striking victory to establish his rule, and so what had begun as the quelling of a revolt in Palestine, became an utter destruction. If you are taken to the base of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem today, you will see huge stones from the second temple, some as large as houses, tossed from the top of the Mount. It would have taken enormous effort, even as it would today, to accomplish this. Advent calls us again to consider the coming of Christ and Mark chapter 13 plunges us into his vision of the future. It reminds us that most of what we regard as permanent in our own lives is in fact temporary. Ultimately what we can rely on is Christ. *Come Lord Jesus!* We pray that we may live each day in the light of his coming. Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.



*If you have anything you would like included in the Parish Link Notices, please let Cecilia know in writing **before** Thursdays or email the Vicar or cecilia_joyner@hotmail.com*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Today 29th November at 1.00pm.

Parish AGM held at 1.00pm in the church (and by ZOOM)



ADVENT STUDY

Join in the Advent study which now takes place in the church office on Sundays at 4.00pm.

BREAD DELIVERY AND FOOD DONATION

Groceries are being collected and passed on to St Thomas' Burwood who have a food bank for in-need international students.

Drop off time: 10.00-11.00am Sat morning, Undercroft

The following items have been requested:

Cooking oil (*not olive*), **Long Life Milk**, **Tea & Coffee**, **Cereal**, **Breakfast Spreads**: *Jams, Honey, Vegemite*, **Pasta & Pasta Sauce**, **Rice**, **Lentils**, **Chick peas**, **Tinned Meals** (*ring top preferred*), **Tinned Vegetables/Fruit** (*ring top preferred*), **Toiletries**, **Toilet Paper**, **Tinned Tuna** (*ring top preferred*), **Washing Powder**, **2 Minute Noodles**, **Tinned Soups** (*ring top preferred*).

2021 LECTONARIES

Copies of *An Australian Lectionary 2021* are available from the office for \$14.00. It contains all the appointed readings for each day. Please contact the office or Cecilia if you would like a copy. Limited numbers. anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com

DIARIES and CHRISTMAS CARDS

Mothers' Union diaries and Christmas cards will be available to order soon. Let Jan know if you are interested. Ph: 98906528 or 0425 75 7 778.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VICAR

Father Shane has successfully completed his pilgrimage to the FIVE CATHEDRALS of the ANGLICAN PROVINCE of VICTORIA! He has walked 954 kilometres and raised over \$4000 for Whitehorse Churches Care charity. Well done!

SOPHIA'S WALK FOR REFUGEES



2 BILLION KILOMETRES TO SAFETY

UNHCR estimate there are currently 79.5 million displaced persons in the world. 80% of them are women and children. **They desperately need help of all kinds.** Sophia will aim to walk 238 km, the distance for Hadeel and her family to walk, fleeing Syria. The goal, if possible, is achieving donations of \$700. Donations and/or encouragement most welcome!

Help Sophia raise money for refugees.

The website to find out more and to make donations is
<https://stepwithrefugees.org.au/sophia-errey>

FUNDRAISING

Wine drive. Last orders must be in by **Monday December 1.**

Any queries to Hilary. Our thanks to all who have been able to support our first fundraiser for 2020.

ORDER ONLINE at Prospect Wines [here.](#)

STALL AT THE NUNAWADING FARMERS MARKET

Sunday December 13, 8.00am – 1.00pm Farmers Market at the Nunawading Civic Centre.

We have a stall to sell home produce. Thank you to anyone who can help with making jams, chutneys, sauces, cakes and biscuits etc.

However due to some **food handling changes** we need to change our labels.

LABELS: Ingredients sequenced in highest quantity first
Known allergens must be clearly highlighted.

Labelling queries to Margaret Dooley on 9890 0438 129 161.

Margaret also has a stock of lids and jars for any needing them.

I would love to hear from anyone who has any free time to help out any time between 7 am and 1.30 pm on the day. Margaret and I will go home after the market is over, sit down with a cuppa and watch the 9.30am service!

I am happy to collect goods from you before Sunday 13 December.

We look forward to hearing from you with any queries and comments.

Hilary 9899 7553 or 0400 635 600



CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING GOODS FROM JAN

With no fete, Jan has still been busy making things. These hand towels and Christmas goodies are now for sale. The hand towels come in a variety of designs for \$5 each or \$6 a double. Christmas food, including biscuits, shortbread, mince pies and fruitcake are all available for sale.

Contact Jan with requests and orders.



Congratulations to Miriam Armstrong who has her birthday this week!

JOURNEYS AT HOME

With the end of the lockdown and churches opening up again, this *Journey at Home* is the last one of 20. I want to warmly thank Sophia for providing this original, thoughtful and fascinating series on such a wide variety of topics as it has been a real treat each week.

Margaret Visser - The Geometry of Love

Margaret Visser is a Zambian born Canadian writer who studied in Paris, then received her Doctorate in Classics in Toronto. Her fascinating books, including *Much Depends on Dinner*, *The Rituals of Dinner* and *Giving Thanks* explore the anthropology and sociology of everyday rituals in an engaging and thought-provoking way.

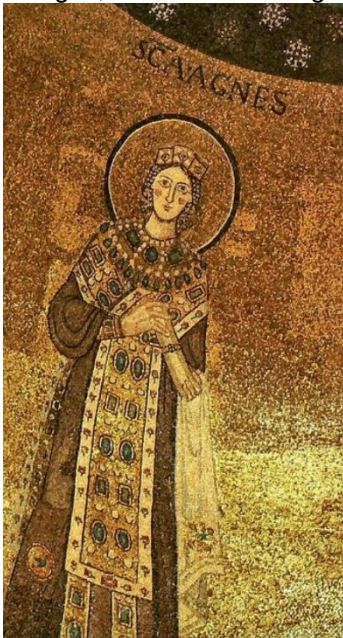
When she proposed writing a book which explored, in detail, a single church she met with some objections – rather strangely, on the grounds that she is a Christian – brought up in the church as a child, drifting away from faith, then returning. She writes “it occurred to me then, and I am sure of it now, that it is much more likely to be helpful – not the reverse – to investigate the subject when you know it from the

“inside”. And get “inside” her chosen church she does – and takes us there with her.

The church she eventually chose is Sant’Agnese in Rome. At one level it is an “ordinary” parish church, very much engaged with its local community and Visser brings out many aspects – of worship, of space and of meaning – which it shares with innumerable other churches – but at another level it is extraordinary for its long and complicated history.

Sant’Agnese fuori le Mura — St Agnes outside the Walls – occupies a site over the catacomb where a girl, 12 or 13 years old, was buried some time in the 4th c - around 320 — after having been put to death for refusing to abandon her Christian faith. It is a patchwork of building, rebuilding – sometimes with recycled materials – an awkward, sometimes messy space which also has a significant role in the annual calendar of the Bishops of Rome. Although Visser “walks” us through the space, from the strange entry via a tunnel, this is the very opposite of the usual tourist “guided tour”. The subtitle of *The Geometry of Love* is *space, time, mystery, and meaning in an ordinary church*.

Certainly space and time – and, more subtly, the ways in which Christian buildings use one as a metaphor for the other – are certainly very important themes, to which she refers back constantly. But along the way (and it is, very much, a way which points to the Way) the writer treats us to multiple facets of information which enrich our understanding of the complexities of the church. Church history, the making of mosaics, the cult of the saints and relics, the role of images, “bad taste” in religion — and do we in fact need church buildings — are



just some of the many topics which she explores, managing to convey solid information with a discursiveness which is pleasing rather than irritating, because she also keeps an overall structure in view. For those who would like to explore further – or disagree with her views – the text has extensive, but unobtrusive, footnotes, and a bibliography, though it is definitely a text for the general reader, rather than the scholar.

Visser loves words, and their derivations, an interest well used in her radio segments published as *The Way We Are*. In discussing the basic architecture of the church, a regular basilica form, she alludes to the familiar image of the church as the ship (*navis*, from which the term nave is derived), our ark to bring us safely through to God. But did you know that the word “aisles” comes from the Latin for “wings”? The early believers saw the ship as driven onwards by the combined efforts of banks of rowers, rising and falling like the wings of a bird – a powerful image of our collective,

harmonized worship. Apropos of the pervasive symbolism of square, cross and sphere/dome with typical humour she notes “Kosmos in Greek means not only “world” but also “order and decency” and “decorative comeliness”. (From *kosmos* we get the word cosmetics.)” Like many other “modifications” – some good, some not so good, Sant’Agnese was “provided” with a dome in the early 17th c.

Although criticized by one reviewer for being “too Christian” (most reviews were overwhelmingly positive) Visser certainly does not balk at some of the very questionable aspects of Christian cult. She remains conscious of the paradoxical aspects of our faith. In a passage which I will quote in full, set at the beginning of her exploration of the main “body” of the church she writes



From one point of view, the mystical, Christianity is a series of oppositions transcended. From another, the ethical and psychological, Christianity turns the value systems of what Jesus called “this world” on its head. By “this world” Jesus meant the world as it is presently organized, insofar as it stands in deliberate opposition to God’s will. The ideal that Jesus revealed is “the kingdom of God” in which power, violence and selfishness are rejected. In this alternative order, the poor own the kingdom, the merciful receive mercy, the gentle “inherit the earth”. And those who are persecuted for the sake of the truth are, if we could only comprehend the breadth of the perspective offered, fortunate and blessed.

The church of St Agnes was built in honour of a young girl who was put to death because of what she believed. She was buried here, in this place, by her family and friends. The people who shared her beliefs visited her grave, and were convinced, not that the cruel brevity of her life was a shame and a waste, but that she had shown a bravery and an integrity that they all wished they could attain.

The girl’s name, *Hagnus* in Greek, sounds like the Latin word for “lamb”, *agnus* and she is always shown with, or carrying, a lamb. On her feast day, January 21st, a charming ceremony sees two rose-crowned lambs carried into the church to be blessed. Their wool, when they mature, will form part of the pallium, a



short white stole worn by the Pope and archbishops, signifying their role as shepherds. (The palliums when woven are placed as close as possible to the burial site of St Peter to be dedicated).

Reviewers were disappointed that the book included no images of what Visser describes (although the paperback has a view of the church interior on the cover).

There is, of course, no true substitute for the real thing. There

is a richly illustrated “tour” of the church and surrounds at

<https://www.tegelaar.com/en/rome-day-1/>

However, these two images may give you an inkling of the space, and of the striking mosaic of Agnes in the apse.

But for Visser’s interesting discussion of the symbolism in these images – including the halo – you will need to read the book.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE...

A clergyman struggled along with a small congregation in a poor neighbourhood. A commercial firm offered to supply free hymn books, provided they could insert a bit of discreet advertising into the hymnals. The minister was reluctant but finally agreed. When the hymnals arrived just before Christmas, he eagerly examined them and was delighted to find no brash advertisements on or inside the covers. The next Sunday, the congregation began to sing from the hymnals. All went well until the third carol. The congregation lifted their voices in unison to the melodious notes of: “Hark the herald angels sing, Hanson’s pills are just the thing; Peace on earth and mercy mild, two for man and one for child.”

YOU KNOW, I WAS HOPING THAT A NEW CHURCH YEAR WOULD BRING A CHANGE OF TONE, BUT THIS READING IS AS APOCALYPTIC AS LAST WEEK'S WAS!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

IT'S ADVENT, WE ARE PREPARING FOR THE RETURN OF CHRIST.



WHEN HE COMES... WILL WE BE ABLE TO HUG PEOPLE AGAIN?



MARK 13:24-37

AS I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,



I REMIND MYSELF THAT YOU CAN'T ALWAYS TRUST GOOGLE MAPS.

This Week

SUN 29.11.20

First Sunday of Advent

9.30am Live and Streamed live service

4.00pm Advent Study

MON 30.11.20

TUES 1.12.20

8.30am – 12.30pm

Office open

WED 2.12.20

1030am Eucharist

THU 3.12.20

Office OPEN

FRI 4.12.20

7.30am Eucharist

SAT 5.12.20

10-11.00am Food drop off

SUN 6.12.20

Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am **Church open** and

Streamed live service



ST PETER'S

1038 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill.

Parish Office: 9899 5122

Email

anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com

Website 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

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

Harry Kerr 9893 4946

Alasdair MacKinnon-Love

0438 323 059

E alsadair@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.

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Reporting Child Abuse
All child safety concerns must be reported.

Kooyoora Professional
Standards 1800 135 246