

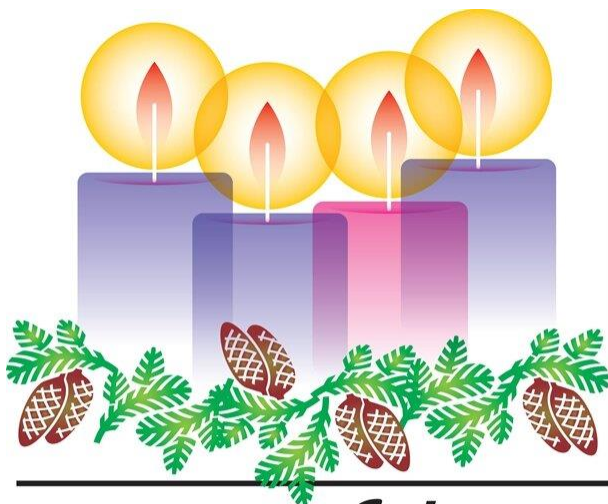


ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL

24 December 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Parish Link



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Hymns: Introit: 265 • Psalm: sheet • Gradual: 302 •
Offertory: 290 • Communion: sheet Final: 315

4th Sunday of the month retiring collection for parish outreach

Lighting the Fourth Candle of Advent

Celebrant: Today we re-light the first three candles of the Advent wreath, the candle of HOPE, and the candle of PEACE and the candle of JOY.

Now we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath – the candle of LOVE.

Compassionate God, it was your love for us that enabled your Son, Jesus, to be born as one of us.

And it was Mary's love for you that enabled her to say: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." *Luke 1.38*



Let us pray together:

We praise and thank you, Gracious God, that you sent your Son, Jesus, to show us how to love you, and your whole creation. Enable us to understand how important it is for us to respect all living creatures on this planet, as we share the air and water and the resources of the earth. Help us to treat the Earth, and each other, with renewed respect and love for all things. Amen

Advent Hymn – 286 verse 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Sentence: This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. *Luke 1.32–33*

Prayer of the Day: Gracious God, whose eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will: prepare our hearts for his coming again and keep us steadfast in hope, that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom; for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer for the new vicar: Bountiful God, we thank you for choosing a faithful pastor to serve as Vicar of our Parish. We pray for Reverend Victor Fan as he prepares to take up his appointment. Give us warm and generous hearts as we prepare to welcome him and his family into our community. **Amen**

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1–11, 7.16

¹ Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³ Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.' ⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders

of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel;⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly,¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

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

Psalm: Song of Mary (Magnificat, Luke 1.47–55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed.
The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Second Reading: Romans 16.25–27

²⁵ Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

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

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke, Chapter 1, beginning at verse 38

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵ The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸ Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

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

Prayer of the Week: O Lord, raise up your power and come among us, and with great might succour us, that, whereas through our sins and wickedness we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Years Mind

Christopher Hill, Alan Andrewartha, Warwick Sheffield, Margaret Robinson, Mary Wood, and Nellie Packer, whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Prayer Points

The Church: St Matthew's Anglican Church Ashburton (Kurian Peter); Ministry to the Defence Force (Bishop Grant Dibden, Chaplains & Members of the Defence Forces); Examining Chaplains (Christopher Appleby, Rowan Callick, John Forsyth, Jane Freemantle, Noelene Horton, Philippa Lohmeyer-Collins, Gail Pinchbeck, Yvonne Poon, Nigel Pope, Alexander Ross, Heather Schnagl, Malcolm Tadgell, Dawn Treloar, Victor Yu); St Paul's Cathedral - Christmas Eve Service (Abp Philip Freier); The Episcopal Church in the Philippines – The Revd Brent Alawas.

The Parish: Pray for comfort for all those anxious, mourning or alone at this time.

The World: Pray for all children in war zones and for all victims of war.

The Nation: Pray for those affected by floods and other natural disasters.

Daily Readings

Monday	Isaiah 9.2-7	Ps 9	Luke 2.1-20
Tuesday	2 Chronicles 24.17-22	Ps 31.1-8	Matthew 10.17-22
Wednesday	Proverbs 8.22-31	Ps 97	John 20.2-8
Thursday	Jeremiah 31.15-20	Ps 124	Matthew 2.13-18
Friday	1 John 2.3-11	Ps 1-6	Luke 2.22-35
Saturday	1 John 2.12-17	Ps 96.7-9	Luke 2.36-40



If you have anything you would like included in the Parish Link Notices, please let Cecilia know in writing by Thursday at anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com

FOR YOUR INTEREST...

For those interested, Fr Derek Jones, is holding a performance of "The Crucifixion" by Sir John Stainer, in March 2024. Anyone interested in **singing** in this is invited to contact Fr Derek, email derekclizjones@gmail.com, or Ph: 0412 025 695 so he can prepare rehearsal dates.

THANK YOU!

A tremendous amount of work has been done this year by the Parish People@Work (formerly Men@Work). They carry out repairs, extensive maintenance, building, gardening and cleaning. We are indebted to them for this essential work and thank them for volunteering their time, talent and labour.

SERVICE TIMES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

No 10.30m service on Dec 27

All other services will proceed as usual:

Sundays 8.00am & 9.30am, Wednesdays 10.30am.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE...

Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a scary sermon about the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff?" The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your Dad."

NINE LESSONS

LEARNED AT THE CAROL SERVICE

①



YOU WILL NEED TO GET THERE EARLY IF YOU WANT A GOOD SEAT

②



PARKING SPACES WILL BE HARD TO COME BY

③



THE WORLDWIDE CANDLE SHORTAGE HAS NOT KICKED IN YET

④



THE SERVICE SHEET LOOKS REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO LAST YEAR'S

⑤



CAROLS WORK BEST WHEN EVERYONE HAS THE SAME WORDS

⑥



OASIS IS FLAMMABLE SO IT IS NOT A GOOD IDEA TO PUT CANDLES IN IT

⑦



SMALL CHILDREN DO NOT ESPECIALLY ENJOY LISTENING TO NINE READINGS

⑧



PARENTS DO NOT ESPECIALLY ENJOY RESTRAINING THEIR CHILDREN DURING NINE READINGS

⑨



YOU ARE HIGHLY LIKELY TO CATCH A COLD IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY HAVE ONE

Week Ahead

SUNDAY 24.12.23

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30am Eucharist

9.30am Farsi Service, *kindergarten*

11.30am Mandarin service

2.30pm Dinka service

2.30-4.30pm Prayers in Mandarin, *St Aidan's*

Christmas Eve

10.30pm Christmas Eucharist

MONDAY 25.12.23

Christmas Day

9.30am Eucharist

6.30-9.00pm Narc Anon *Undercroft*

TUES 26.12.23

8.30am-12.30pm Office open

6.00-8.00pm Bellydancing *hall, on holidays*

WED 27.12.23

No 10.30am service

9.30-11.30am Play group, *on holidays*

10.00-11.30am Tai Chi *hall, on holidays*

THU 28.12.23

6.30-9.30pm Crossways ESL, *on holidays*

FRI 29.12.23

5.30-9.30pm Mandarin Prayer Group

SAT 30.12.23

10.30am-1.30pm Sat School, *on holidays*

SUNDAY 31.12.23

8.00am Eucharist, 9.30am Eucharist

9.30am Farsi Service, *kindergarten*

11.30am Mandarin service

2.30pm Dinka service

2.30-4.30pm Prayers in Mandarin, *St Aidan's*

For the Diary

Dec 24 Sunday Eucharist 9.30am

Christmas Services

Dec 24 Christmas Eucharist, 10.30pm

Dec 25 Christmas Eucharist, 9.30am

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

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OUR 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 near 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.



ST PETER'S

1038 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill.

Parish Office: 9899 5122

E anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com

W www.anglicansboxhill.org.au

Usual Office Hours:

Tues 8.30am – 12.30pm

Fri 8.30am – 12.30pm

Office closed until Jan 19

Mission Statement

Sharing the Good News

Telling the story afresh

Expressing God's love

Serving the community

Nurturing and sharing faith

Equipping to serve

Vision

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

Vicar

Reverend Anne Kennedy (Acting Vicar)

T 0429 123 478

E vicar@anglicansboxhill.org.au

robann29@bigpond.com

Associate Clergy

Reverend Esther Zhang

T 0405 602 439 **E** esther_win@hotmail.com

Honorary Clergy

Reverend Betty Bracken 9939 5881

Reverend Alasdair MacKinnon-Love SCP

0438 323 059

E alasdair@mackinnonlove.com

Sudanese Ministry

Reverend Joseph Arou

T 0431 541 535

E aroujoseph18@gmail.com

Wardens:

Margaret Dooley 0438 129 161

Garry Male 0421 056 706

Linda Boyd

Reporting Child Abuse

All child safety concerns must be reported to

Kooyoora Professional Standards

1800 135 246

Roster for upcoming services

	Today 24.12.23 morning	24.12.23 Christmas Eve	Dec 25 morning Christmas Day
Sidespeople	Sandra L, Dianne A	Barbara P, Cecilia J	Peter W, Rosemary S
Servers	Michele M, Elizabeth B, Garry M	Michele M, Judy J Garry M	Michele M, Kim C
Readers	Martin F, Rosemary S	Dianne A, Linda B	Barbara P, Jan G
Intercessors	Keith W	Michele M	Michele M
Counting	Lyn B, Charles B	<i>Not rostered</i>	<i>Not rostered</i>
Morning Tea	<i>No rostered morning tea</i>	<i>No rostered morning tea</i>	<i>No rostered morning tea</i>

St Peter's is part of the Anglican Church of Australia and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

St Peter's church is on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation and we acknowledge them as the traditional custodians of this land.