

Reflection for Third Sunday of Advent:

Don't worry, be happy!

As I write to you today, I have a very worried dog on my lap. When the first storm hit in the early hours, he hid in my room, and I reassured him – Don't worry, all will be well. Relax, stop shaking, the lightning and thunder has gone. After the second bout of thunder, he was worse, and I can almost imagine the dog saying – 'I thought you said it would all be well now? That scary thunder stuff came back! How can I trust you?'

I don't have control over the weather, but I do trust in God when life gets stormy. *'Behold, God is my salvation: I will trust and will not be afraid; 'For the Lord God is my strength and my song: and has become my salvation.'*

This is traditionally Joyful Sunday in the midst of what used to be a serious season of fasting. And the readings mostly confirm this. Here is Philippians ... the Lord is near! – He certainly is!

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Next weekend, it will be too late to worry or rush around "getting ready for Christmas". This season is a source of immense stress to so many, so I urge you, take the blessings and reassurances offered by God for you today – and hold on to them when the inevitable hiccups of Christmas happen.

Several BGAP parishioners have joined in the joy of the Market Square Christmas Selfie Stable this year. I have encouraged them to see that it doesn't matter how many people actually get dressed up to get their photo taken. The very fact that we are there with the baby in his manger, welcoming all who stop for a chat or activity, our very presence is the reminder that God is still in Christmas, still with us in the darkest of days.

And that is something to be joyful about!

The Lord be with you and those for whom you pray.
Elizabeth

Pew Sheet: Material for inclusion in Pew Sheets should be given to Alf by Wednesday evening.



Shining

Christ's Light on the Peninsula



Welcome
To
Worship in Our Parish

December 16th 2018

*Third Sunday of Advent
(Joy)*

Normal Service Times

Sundays

8:00 am St Mark's Leopold & St Paul's Whittington
10:00 am St Mark's Leopold & St Barnabas' Newcomb

Wednesday - 10:00 am

1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ St Barnabas'
2nd & 4th Wednesdays @ St Mark's
5th Wednesday @ St Paul's

Morning Prayer @ St Barnabas' - 9 am

Mon - Tue - Wed - Fri - Sat

Parish Identity

BGAP : A community who loves God and everyone else.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to enable individuals to recognize and carry out their ministries as Christians. Through this, we strive to become a model company of faithful people who both honour their varied traditions and actively share in building the family of Christ.

Combined Service: December 30th, Details inside

MINISTRY TEAM

Vicar: Rev'd Elizabeth Breakey 5250 1401; 0404 165 096
Email: vicar@bgap.church
Father Jim Minchin 0427 056 654, frjbminchin@gmail.com
Mr Wayne Stewart 0414 503 300; wayne@bgap.church; Child Safety Officer
Mrs Wilma Farrell 5244 5537; Pastoral Ministry
Parish web-site: www.bgap.church
Direct payments donation account: BSB 703 122 A/c #0500 4734 (identify recipient)

Today's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20
A Song of Isaiah
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Next Week's Readings

Micah 5:2-5a
Song of Mary (Magnificat)
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

Parish Prayer

'Lord you are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Guide us in our worship and life together: transform us into whatever you would have us do. Help us to be deeply connected with the world around us and strengthen us to proclaim the good news in word and deed in this community, for the glory and for the growth of your kingdom.. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



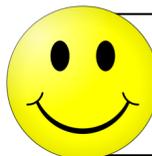
Prayers for Healing: Please pray for the healing of body, mind and spirit of the following people who are on our hearts: Amy, baby & Roscoe; Murray, Sheryl & family; Jack & Ria Humphrey, Alan, Matthew R, Joel, Colin, Pat, Val & John, Des M, Ann, Barbara S, Pam, Barb, Cassie & family.
(We would like to keep this list current so we need to know how your loved ones are faring. Please let us know. If you have any names, please let Alf know but only after obtaining permission from the person involved.)

Known Happy Birthdays: Yann-Chu Thien 18th
Known Happy Anniversary: Jeanette & Alf Eagle 22nd

Learning to Relax

We hurry in the morning, we hurry all the day;
In fact, we spend the whole time hurrying life upon its way.
If only we'd sit down sometimes, and quietly look around
At all the little simple things that everywhere are found:
A tiny cheeky sparrow, a leaf upon a tree,
A flower upon a river bank, a baby on a knee.
Our lives would be much richer, and we would surely find
That our backs would be less weary, and our thoughts would be more kind.

Anne Hope (From: Gary Ord's Friendship Book)



Welcome to our services today - Third Sunday of Advent. We hope you find your time worshipping God enjoyable and enriching. Please stay after the service for a cup of tea/coffee and fellowship.

For your diary:

Monday Crafternoon Tea in recess
Thursdays Advent Book Club @ 48 Watsons Road, 10.30 am
December 10th - 21st Christmas Selfie Stable @ Market Square
Sunday Dec. 30th Christmas Worship & picnic lunch (Details below)

Ooops: Despite my best efforts, I managed to get where the Christmas Celebration services will be held wrong. The Christmas Celebration services will be at St Mark's and St Paul's. My apology - Ed. *See below for details of all services.*



Volunteers to set up, welcome, read or pray would be gratefully appreciated for all of the Christmas services. eg We are looking for readers from each centre for the readings at the Carols service. There are 9 lessons so that works out to 3 from each centre. Please contact Wayne, Elizabeth or Jim.

Food for Families: It has been customary to place toys, books etc under our Christmas trees to be passed onto a charity. This year here will be a change in focus. Parishioners instead are invited to place food items under our trees. It has been said that not everyone likes or can eat Christmas food, therefore like rice, tuna, long-life milk, tinned fruit and vegetables, cereals, tea, coffee would be appreciated.

Monday crafternoon: Monday crafternoon tea at St Barnabas' is on a break for the holiday season. We will not be meeting for the remainder of December or January. Talk to Jill Giddings (0423 218 922) for more information"

Gaudete Sunday! The third Sunday in Advent is one of joy with its continuous refrain, Rejoice! The coming is near. We are more than half-way there. Salvation is at hand. As a rose-coloured candle is lit on the Advent Wreath in some places, we are transported to a new vision, one that is seen through rose-coloured glasses!

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Christmas Worship on December 30th: This will be a Combined Service at St Mark's commencing at 11.00 am. There will be a baptism during the service. A byo picnic lunch will follow the service.

Christmas Services @ BGAP			
December 23rd	8.00 pm	Carols by Candle Light @ St Mark's	
December 24th	7.00 pm	Kids' Service @ St Mark's	
December 24th	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass @ St Barnabas' & St Mark's	
December 25th	9.00 am	Christmas Celebration @ St Mark's & St Paul's	