

Reflection for Advent Sunday

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? 1 Thessalonians 3.9

As we begin our new church year, I have a dream, or a goal for this season: that we can find hope, joy, love and peace within our community of believers, in this Bellarine Gateway Anglican Parish. St Paul and his fellow imprisoned evangelists prayed for the new community at Thessalonica, that they would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and grow, and in fact overflow, with love for each other. They also prayed that those new Christians would find love in their hearts for everyone – believer or not.

Those two things remain our challenge today. We must work with God in finding love for each other, and also for those who don't share our commitment to Christ. As we lead up to the festival of Christmas, wading through days awash with tinsel, fairy lights, too much food and shocking pop versions of carols – this may be our challenge; to find a way to share Christ's love for us with others in practical ways.

How might you find a way to do something extra for those around us who need a hand? There are so many causes asking for our help, but here's another....

Perhaps you could consider having a Christmas Bowl meal in your home? This is where you ask your guests to contribute what they might have paid if you had all gone out for dinner to a restaurant, and then split the bill. The monies raised are put to a very good cause – to ending hunger and poverty in countries where life is unbelievably challenging. The money isn't provided to buy sacks of rice or flour which are soon exhausted, but instead it is used by this ecumenical Christian group to buy seed and tools, to provide skills and education that will pay back for whole communities. We will be launching the Christmas Bowl Appeal in the coming weeks, so I would encourage you to think how you could help. In the past, I have seen people bring their (empty) bowls to be blessed as part of being intentional about sharing God's love with all, just as St Paul desired for the Thessalonians and for us.

Finally, I want to reflect my joy at the friendly and loving experience of this year's Annual Meeting, and to give thanks for all who prayerfully offered themselves for positions of leadership in this parish. It is true that not everyone gained a seat around the Parish Council table, but everyone is involved in some way. Thank you.

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



Advent Sunday

December 2nd 2018

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.

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-38

Next Week's Readings

Malachi 3:1-4

Song of Zechariah

Philippians 1:1-11

Luke 3:1-6

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: 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.)



Belated Happy Birthday: Margaret Bunney 15th (Sorry!)

Melbourne Anglican Foundation: Over Christmas in Melbourne and Geelong this year, many people will be homeless, many will feel unsettled, be sick and will experience violence. Melbourne Anglican Foundation supports Anglican parishes and their ministry teams as they reach out to people wherever they are. Please help us celebrate Jesus' birthday by giving to those in need in our suburbs and communities throughout our cities. Donations are being sought for six different groups.

Choose a gift and donate today to one or more. *Every gift over \$2 is tax-deductible.*

Information re the Foundation and donation form maybe found at:

www.melbourneanglican.org.au/foundation

Welcoming new migrants and refugees: Migrants and Refugees Settlement Fund - The Migrants and Refugees Settlement Fund supports parishes to aid and help individuals with emergency accommodation, material aid, skill and language classes.

Melbournians doing it tough: Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society Inc. - Melbourne Anglican Benevolent Society Inc. assists churches to help and aid disadvantaged youth, families and individuals in 'necessitous circumstances' (*More suggestions next week*)



Welcome to our services today - Advent Sunday. 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:

Mondays

Crafternoon Tea @ St Barnabas', 2-4 pm

Thursdays

Advent Book Club @ 48 Watsons Road, 10.30 am

December 10th - 21st Christmas Selfie Stable @ Market Square

Parish Council: Last Sunday at the Annual Meeting, we had an election for those who had prayerfully nominated for Parish Council. It was made slightly more complicated by the fact that only one person, Alf Eagle, had explicitly nominated to stand as Warden. Our Diocese anticipates that of the nine seats around Parish Council, three of them will be occupied by Wardens. So one of the first things that the newly elected Parish Council will have to do is work out is how we will live with our current shortfall of wardens. Having had our prayers answered thus far in more people offering than there were places, I feel that we now need equally to trust the wisdom of those elected to figure it out. So all I can say this week, is watch this space.

In the meantime, I wish to congratulate the following people who were elected, and of course to thank Jan Long who was nominated but was in the uncomfortable position of being the one who was not elected. Thank you to all of you.

Warden: Alf Eagle

Parish Councillors: Michael Dougall, Jill Giddings, Barbara Gilchrist, Deborah Kanen, Margaret Mitchell, Maureen Robinson, Wayne Stewart (proposed Treasurer), Yann-Chu Thien
Rev'd Elizabeth

Vale: We note with sadness the death of Enid Hughes, a long time parishioner of St Barnabas and more recently an enthusiastic participant in the Kensington Grange communion services. She died on Wednesday morning. Her funeral will be held at St Barnabas' at 2pm on Thursday 6th December. Please remember Enid's family in your prayers.

It is anticipated to be a fairly large funeral, so it would be appreciated if parishioners could consider helping out in whatever way they feel able. Most of the catering will be supplied, but it would be good to acknowledge the contribution made by Enid herself at similar events.

Christmas Selfie Stable: The volunteer roster is filling up nicely for the fun and games down at Market Square. If you are interested in joining in the dress-up fun, please let me know. I am personally looking after Sunday 16th December. It would be lovely to have more BGAP folk to join in. Alternatively, let your family and friends know what is on offer; namely a chance to dress up and take a Christmas photo for free and to enjoy various Christmas crafts and stories for kids.

Christmas Cards: Christmas cards, Christian and secular, are now available from Pearly Gates. Details from Jeanette 5250 2082