

## Reflection for Second Sunday of Advent:

I have received a letter written by St Paul from his prison cell!

To ALL the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Leopold, Newcomb and Whittington, with the bishops of the Anglican Diocese, the clergy and lay ministers of the Anglican Parish of Bellarine Gateway:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel.

For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Love from Paul, an Apostle of Christ and Rev Elizabeth!

On the theme of love overflowing, this year we are not going to collect presents under the tree, but instead change the direction of our support in two ways. We will collect food and non-perishables to assist those in our community who are experiencing food stress at this time, and secondly through our support of the Christmas Bowl project, we will give a hand up to others in ways that will multiply our support in many ways. If you would like to join in the fun of physically putting a bowl on your table and asking your guests to contribute in some way, Jim and I will bless those bowls over the next two weeks leading to Christmas. Wayne, as Treasurer, will be able to magically get the financial contributions to the right people, and Alf is the contact person for the food collections.

If any new or unused gifts should find their way under the church trees, they will be distributed as last minute gifts to local charities. The problem is that most of those charities really want gifts close to the start of December and those deadlines are now mostly past.

*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 9th 2018**

*Second Sunday of Advent  
(Peace)*

### **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

Malachi 3:1-4

Song of Zechariah

Philippians 1:1-11

Luke 3:1-6

### Next Week's Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Song of Isaiah

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

### 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: Max,; 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.)

**Happy Birthdays:** Murray Hooper 5th (Sorry, I missed it - Ed.), Janet Barnes 9th, Jeanette Eagle 15th

**Melbourne Anglican Foundation** (refer to Pew Sheet December 2nd):

Choose a gift and donate today. *Every gift over \$2 is tax-deductible.* Information re the Foundation and donation form maybe found at:

[www.melbourneanglican.org.au/foundation](http://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/foundation)

**Donate to:** Young People; Journeying with & comforting the sick; Anglicans Preventing Violence Against Women; Arts and Culture; Welcoming new migrants & refugees; Melbournians doing it tough.

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

A recent study revealed that people who volunteer work at least once a week outlived those who did none, two-and-a-half to one. That implies that doing something for other people is a powerful contributor to health and life.

(From: P.S. I Love You)



**Welcome** to our services today - Second 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:

Thursday Dec. 13th Parish Council meeting @ St Mark's, 10 am

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

**Carol Services:** The Ecumenical Carols on the Corner @ St Paul's (scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup>) has been cancelled. Carols by Candle Light will be at St Mark's on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8.00 pm as originally published. For those who receive the Leopold Local, the date printed for the Carol Service is incorrect.



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. In Monday's Advertiser a charity was appealing for food for families. Rev'd Elizabeth has agreed with a suggestion that parishioners be invited to place food items under our Christmas trees. The charity commented that not everyone likes or can eat Christmas food and would appreciate staples like rice, tuna, long-life milk, tinned fruit and vegetables, cereals, tea, coffee



As we watch and wait with eager anticipation, we must also prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. As we venture into the spiritual wilderness of our lives, we need to remind ourselves that our hearts cannot receive the Lord unless we, like John the Baptist, prepare his way. This is a time for inner cleansing so that we might make room to receive Him and experience the joy of his coming.

**\*\* Pray that we might simplify our lives, curtail our appetites for things material, and open our hearts and minds to new ways of living in harmony with God's creation.**



## 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 Barnabas' & St Paul's