



THE LINK

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL

171 -177 LaTrobe Terrace, Geelong [no mail to this address please]

Postal Address: 12 McNicol Street, GEELONG WEST 3218

Vicar & Parish Office Tel. 5229 5698.

MINISTERS EVERY BAPTISED PERSON

Locum Tenens: The Rev. Tim Gibson. (M) 0412191971



WORSHIP SERVICES AT ST PAUL'S, 10TH DECEMBER 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00AM EUCHARIST, APBA P. 101

10.30AM CHORAL EUCHARIST, [APBA P. 119] BOOKLET

Service Setting: Festive Eucharist—Noel Rawsthorne

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOOD NEWS

Strange though it may seem, Mark feels compelled to tell us in the opening sentence that this is the beginning. Most translations of Mark render his opening words 'The beginning of the good news...' but Mark doesn't even bother to use the word 'the'; he starts with 'Beginning...'. We are, in other words, straight into it. And, of course, if you turn to the end of Mark's Gospel, you'll also see that it has no proper ending either—it is all a bit ragged.

An abrupt beginning and an abrupt ending point to several themes that occur throughout Mark's Gospel. Readers don't get a gentle introduction to Jesus. The good news is here, now. And it requires your attention, and a response. Here, now. The end is the same. There is no neat finish. You have to write that yourself, with your life as a disciple.

So there is room for the armchair critic in Mark's opening remarks. You are not offered an easy introduction to Jesus—his genealogy, for example (see Luke and Matthew) - but are invited straight away to deal with the challenging presence of John the Baptist. It is his call to repent, be baptized and follow Jesus that forms the heart of Mark's Gospel. So, the tone of abruptness in the message of Mark is also his theme. There is no time to cogitate and deliberate. Choose Jesus. Drop everything, and follow him. Now.

Reflection by Martyn Percy, in 'Reflections for Sundays, Year B.' Church House Pub-

Looking Ahead:

Until further notice, the Bishop has appointed **The Rev'd Tim Gibson** as the Locum for this parish.

The Incumbency Committee members are: Michele Eldridge, Robert Nicholls and Ruth Oakley. Please pray for them as they fulfil their responsibilities.

Fr. Tim Gibson will be in the parish on Monday 11th December and Wednesday 13th December this week, and is contactable at all times on 0412191971.

Christmas Cards.

St Paul's Christmas Cards are now available.

Cost: \$1.00 ea

Please speak to Gillian or a Parish Councillor to purchase them now.

FOOD FOR ALL HAMPER

Christmas-themed items for the month of December.

Thank you for your support of this ministry it is MUCH



Gifts for Christmas Tree

Please note the following guidelines for those wishing to donate gifts under the St. Pauls Christmas tree: gifts need to be new, toys or gifts for all age groups unwrapped, food items non-perishable and properly sealed, gift cards or vouchers.

Sharon will purchase items if it is easier to put money in the plate marked 'Bethany'. Cut off date is **Thursday December 14th**. Thank you.

Advent Envelopes

During Advent, envelopes are available for parishioners to contribute to the Christmas Bowl Appeal, which is sponsored by the National Council of Churches in Australia. Please place the envelope in the collection plate on a Sunday, or on Christmas Day, or post it yourself to the indicated address.

Note, for example, that \$1600 can cover the costs of materials such as tin sheets, cement and bricks to build transitional shelters for Sri Lankan refugees who are rebuilding their lives after the civil war there which ended in 2009.

Geelong City Nativity.

Our thanks to those who have volunteered to help on Tuesday 19th December. If any more parishioners are interested, please see me for details.

Fr. Tim Gibson.

Crib Service

The 5pm Christmas Eve "Crib Service" will be a simple one suitable for children to attend. I will need two readers, and one or two other adults to help with the presentation of the Christmas story. Please let me know if you can assist that evening. Thanks.
Fr. Tim

Geelong Refugee Assistance Program

The Geelong Refugee Assistance Program (G-RAP), which this parish supports, could distribute two sewing machines to some refugee families. If anyone can help in this regard please see Fr. Tim or Jan Cullen.
Thank you.



THIS WEEK'S DIARY

Monday—11th December

6.30pm Tower Bells practice

Wednesday—13th December

Lucy, martyr and virgin (d. 304)

10.00am Eucharist

Isaiah 26.6-10

Psalm 23

Matthew 15.29-37

Thursday—14th December

John of the Cross, mystic and teacher (d. 1591)

7.30pm Choir Practice—Brockman Room

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

- 11 Monday** Psalms 95; 96 *or* 70; 75
Isaiah 43.14-44.5
- 12 Tuesday** Psalms 99; 100 *or* 76; 82
Isaiah 44.6-23
- 13 Wednesday** Psalms 101; 102.1-11 *or* 28; 62
Isaiah 44.24-45.8
- 14 Thursday** Psalms 108; 109.20-30 *or* 9
Isaiah 45.9-25
- 15 Friday** Psalms 104.1-25 *or* 11; 14
Isaiah 46.1-47.4
- 16 Saturday** Psalms 105.1-22 *or* 7
Isaiah 48.1-13

Based on: An Australian Lectionary 2017

Sunday 17th December—Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

8.00am Eucharist **10.30am** Choral Eucharist

Lectons & Lectors

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5.12-28 John 1.6-8, 19-28

8.00am Marjorie Long **10.30am** Iain Coombs

MUSIC AT THE BASILICA INC

A CHRISTMAS NOEL

JS BACH - WACHET AUF BWV 140

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER, 8 PM AT ST MARY'S BASILICA, 136 YARRA ST GEELONG

Windfire Chamber Choir and Orchestra

Soloists Lee Abrahmsen, Timothy Reynolds, Manfred Pohlenz

Conductor Rick Prakhoff

GUEST ARTISTS GEELONG YOUTH CHOIR CONDUCTOR Denise Hollingworth

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Monday 11 December –

RIA ANGELIKA POLO

Monday 18th December – **FRANK DE ROSSO**

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

ADVENT Two APBA pew edition p. 448

Merciful God, who sent your messenger John the Baptist to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed his warning and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The World: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam.

Our Community:

Police, Fire, Ambulance and SES personnel and their families; Australian Defence Force personnel and their families; Barwon, Marngoneet & Karreenga Prisons (Chaplains: Fr Philip Gill and John Silversides); Chaplains in the ADF, Prisons and Emergency Services.

The Anglican Communion: Western North Carolina—(IV, The Episcopal Church) The Rt Revd José Antonio McLoughlin.

The wider Church:

St Paul's Cathedral – Dean: The Very Rev'd Andreas Loewe.

Precentor: The Rev'd Heather Patacca. Canon Pastor: The Rev'd Ruth Redpath. Associate

Clergy: The Reverends: Stephen Ames, James Brady, Chris Carolane, Rick Cheung, Jessica Cheung, Jill Firth, Richard Trist, Emily Fraser, Matt Campbell

Healing Ministry: The Revd Alex Kornaczewski .

Mission & Outreach:

AnglicORD; Care Australia.

Parish Community:

Lectors, Eucharistic Assistants, Intercessors and Servers.

In Need or Sickness: Genie Hidic. Murray. Derek. Peggy. Greg. Heather T. Wendy Hudson (*priest*). Darryl. Sean & Angie & family.

Faithful Departed:

Years Mind: 14/12 - Alan James Quick (2005)

14/12 - Ruth Alison Kranhert (2009)

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord,
and may light perpetual shine upon them.



Morning Tea is served in the Parish Hall following the 10.30am Eucharist. This is your Invitation to come across to the Hall and share fellowship with one another over a cup of tea or coffee.

