



“He has filled the hungry with good things.” Luke 1:53a

In this season of Advent, we invite people to think about what it feels like to live in our world in this moment. Many more people are fearful of the future for life on the planet. As we read through the Scriptures, share the partner stories and pray together, we can reflect on what we can do to share God’s love in our hurting world.

No one should be hungry at Christmas. A gift of love could provide a family with the seeds and support they need. Please encourage your community to support the Christmas Appeal so people who are hungry can be filled with good things and live in dignity and peace. Thank you. Please support our CWS Christmas Appeal to Share Food this Christmas.

Your donation could help fund:

- small farmers to learn agro-ecological methods in Sri Lanka
- new chicken coops and fencing in Tonga
- the research and support for a community-led campaign to protect natural resources and rights.
- training and support for women to set up new businesses

Please give today so people can catch the rain and plant new crops.

Share a gift of aroha love so people have food and hope.



Advent & Christmas Services

3rd December: Advent Sunday – Launch of the Christmas Appeal

9.30am St Mary’s 3 Whitby St
 10.30am St Margaret’s , Brighton 4 Seaview Rd
 11am Holy Cross, 5 Bellona St, St Kilda

10th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent

9.30am St Mary’s 3 Whitby St, Mornington
 4.30pm Mornington Churches Carol Service
 10.30am St Mark’s 27 Shand St, Green Island
 11am Holy Cross, 5 Bellona St, St Kilda

17th December: 3rd Sunday in Advent.

10.30am St Margaret’s, Brighton 4 Seaview Rd
 11am Holy Cross, 5 Bellona St, St Kilda
 4pm Deanery Communion & Christmas Dinner at St Mary’s

24th December: 4th Sunday in Advent – Christmas Eve

10.30am St Mark’s 27 Shand St Green Island
 11am Holy Cross, 5 Bellona St, St Kilda
 9pm Carols & Eucharist at St Mary’s 3 Whitby St, Mornington

25th December: Christmas Day

9am Christmas Day Eucharist
 at St Margaret’s 4 Seaview Rd, Brighton

31st December: New Years Eve

10.30am Combined Deanery Eucharist at
 Holy Cross 5 Bellona St, St Kilda.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas.

Oasis End of Year Celebration



What do you get if you melt Rolo chocolate on pretzels, add antlers, eyes and a nose? Oasis After School children making sweet treats at their end of year celebration. Oasis concluded for the year on Tuesday 28th November, with a Messy Church Christmas celebration, 23 parents and children attended. We shared the Christmas story, food, activities and prayer. Wishing all a blessed Christmas. See you in 2024!



Our Fruit and Vege ministry concludes for the year the delivery on the 21st December. We begin again in February. Thank you to the team who support this ministry and our wonderful customers.

This ministry provides low-cost packs of fresh fruit and vege to anyone in the community who wants it. There are three different size packs;

Single bag - \$4, Couple bag \$7, Family bag \$14.00

Opening hours for distribution are as follows;
Green island at St Mark's, Thursday 10.30am – 11.30am
St Kilda at Holy Cross, Thursday 4pm-5.30pm



With love we remember

Marilyn Dunn died 17th November, 2023 (Aged 94)

Muriel Webber died 20th November, 2023 (aged 47)

John Gadd did 22nd November, 2023 (aged 91)

Anne Skelton died 28th November, 2023

We give thanks for their lives and pray for their families.



Bishop's Companions Programme

In 2022, Bishop Steve, launched the Bishop's Companions Programme (BCP), pilgrim-participants have a companion walking with them for a year as they deepen their practices of prayer, reading the Bible, and living out the life of Christ. Alec has acted as a companion in this first incarnation of the BCp and offers the following feedback.

The genius of this programme to me is, its simplicity and the fact that it is centred around the need of the pilgrim. If you sign up to this programme you will be given your own Companion to meet with you each week for half an hour. The Companion helps you explore what you would like to know more about.

The programme runs for a calendar year, but being civilised it doesn't start till February and goes in bursts. There will be a series of sessions then a couple of weeks break. The Pilgrim and the Companion can arrange meeting times, topics, and when breaks are taken to accommodate their real life and interests.

There are session areas that create a framework for the exploration process. But within that framework the Pilgrim is free to choose which areas they will explore, and how. The Companion is there to help, not to educate or to tell people the answers. Halfway through the year there is a retreat that both Pilgrims and Companions may attend. The retreat is not required, but for many people on the programme this year, it was a real highlight.

It is a very gentle process which encourages relationship, questions and openness to God. It is a programme that could work for you as it is based around meeting your interests in a fashion that works for your reality.

The programme will run again in 2024, you can participate as an individual or we can adapt the programme for use for a parish group. Check out the information in the brochures in the churches or go online to learn about the programme.

The poster has a red background with white snowflake-like starburst patterns scattered around. At the top center is a large white five-pointed star. The main title 'South Dunedin Community Carols' is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. Below the title, in a smaller white font, is the text 'A fun, neighbourhood celebration for all ages - everyone welcome!'. At the bottom, in a white box, is the event information: 'WEDNESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2023, 6:00PM ST PATRICK'S BASILICA, 40 MACANDREW ROAD HOSTED BY LOCAL SOUTH DUNEDIN CHURCHES'. Below this box, in a smaller white font, is the text 'A collection will be gathered to support peace efforts in the Middle East.'

South Dunedin Community Carols

A fun, neighbourhood celebration
for all ages - everyone welcome!

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ST PATRICK'S BASILICA, 40 MACANDREW ROAD
HOSTED BY LOCAL SOUTH DUNEDIN CHURCHES

A collection will be gathered to support peace efforts in the Middle East.



Christmas Carols

Sunday 10th December

4.30pm

Mornington Presbyterian Church

16 Maryhill Terrace

(Koha: items for PSO Foodbank)



Treasuring our time with God

6 Day Silent Retreat 10-15 March, 2024.

At En Hakkore, Orangapai Sanatorium, Ranfurly.

This ecumenical silent directed retreat is time out from the demands and expectations of daily life. It is time to enter into a focused time of prayer and listening, and time to earth our sense of identity in its Source, the love of God.

A retreat asks nothing of us, except to be real, and honour our heart's deepest desires. Our skills and competencies can take a break. We can just be there with God in company with one another in prayer.

In being there we can pray and sleep as we need to, open ourselves to God's transforming Word and Presence, and respond to the invitation of the Spirit of Life.

This retreat will provide contemplative worship, a daily Eucharist, reflection on prayer, spiritual direction, and space.

James Finley reminds us, "We pray not to recharge our batteries for the business of getting back to the concerns of daily life, but rather to be transformed by God so that the myths and fictions of our life might fall like broken shackles from our wrists."

(Merton's Palace of Nowhere)

Southern Coastal Deanery Quiet Days at St Margaret's Brighton

Fourth Friday of the month for self directed retreats.

Guided Retreats occur before.

Lent, Pentecost, Advent



In New Zealand, December is the beginning of summer, the countdown to the Christmas holidays, the end of the school term and a time of preparation and celebration as we await the birth of the Christ child. Many of the groups we participate in have end of year functions before going into recess until mid to late January.

December and January become months when the normal routine relaxes and there is time; to reflect, to try something new, to reinvest in a practice that nourishes, to let go of old patterns, to enjoy people and places. Over the last fortnight our parish has farewelled four members of our Deanery family. The suddenness with which lives can change is shocking and disorientating, we offer and prayers to those who are recently bereaved and those who have anniversaries at this time. It reminds me that even in this season when time is relaxed, and routines forgotten it is important to make time for one another and to prioritise that which is important. I believe love is the most important.

Christmas reminds us that God breaks into our lives, we see in the vulnerable babe born in the stable love, a new kind of love. The baby whose life was lived in perilous times (like many of our brothers and sisters experience across the globe), showed us what love looks like. What God's kingdom looks like. God holds nothing back, reaching out, seeking us.

In Mark Wilson's modern Christmas Carol we read;
*Like the warmth of the summer wind you come,
to melt away the icicles of vanity and pride;
you come to blow the very doors of loving open wide.
Like the warmth of the summer wind you come.*

My prayer is that in the warmth of this summer season the Christ child may melt the door of your heart so you experience afresh and in more depth God's love for you and for all people this Christmas. May peace and love be yours. God bless you.



Taken at St Mary's recently, these three wise men who went to school together a few years back. Do you know which school they attended?

Worship in January, 2024

Mornington Churches combine during January
7th January - Methodist Church, 14th January - Presbyterian Church
21st January – Anglican Church.

No services at Green Island and Brighton in January

St Kilda
11am Eucharist each Sunday.