

Southern Coastal Deanery

27 November, 2022

Advent Sunday

Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator Michael Godfrey, CYF Educator - John Graveston, Community Support Enabler - Anne Van Gend, the Diocesan office staff and Council.

Those who are sick: Alaric & Celine, Anne, Anne G, Ashley, Bev, Bill, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Dorothy G, Dorothy H, Fr Gerard, Gerald, Grant W, Jean V, Jim & Eleanor L, Joan F, Jenny M, Malcolm, Mike, Muriel and family, Lysiane, Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Nick D, Pat C, Philip, Sarah, Sharron M, Shirley M, Ruby, Val S, Vicki, her family and parents, Wayne.

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. 1st and 3rd Sundays
Green Island 10.30a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays
Mornington 9.30am

Except for the 3rd Sunday when we have 4pm Soup & Communion
St Kilda 11a.m. (Morning tea served from 10.15a.m.)

Midweek service
Wednesday @ 1pm at Holy Cross,

Southern Coastal Deanery

St Margaret's 4 Seaview Road, Brighton - St Mark's 27 Shand St, GI
St Mary's 3 Whitby St, Mornington
Holy Cross 5 Bellona St. St Kilda

Southern Coastal Deanery web page: scd.org.nz

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Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St Kilda Warden: Gerald Harley 456-0573

Personal reflection The prophet Isaiah invites us to look forward into this season of wonder to see where we find Christ at work in our ordinary lives and envision where we are called to find and demonstrate peace.

Isaiah proclaims peace to a people surrounded by war and conflict and explains that peace is not just an absence of fighting but working together with our enemies. It's the kind of peace that requires our watchfulness and involvement and is made of justice and well-being for all. As we look forward into this season of wonder, be attentive to where we find God's reign evident in our ordinary lives, and envision where we are called to find and demonstrate peace. This week, seek to replace three habits with new ways that lift up the well-being of others.

Isaiah 2:1–5 War was common in ancient Israel, primarily because of the nation's small size and valuable location. Israel was surrounded by nations who wanted to own it.

Prophets like Isaiah often announce unexpected reversals. Just as war is learned, so is peace. Like his contemporary Micah (4:1–3), Isaiah proclaims that in God's new world, not only must the weapons be destroyed; they are to be transformed and repurposed.

God's "holy mountain" is a key image in this passage. Jerusalem was built on a ridge. "Zion" was the name of one portion of that ridge. Over time, Zion became synonymous with the temple and Jerusalem itself. Mountains were often identified as "holy." They were seen as places of encounter with God. We encounter God in places on high mountains and in the ordinary living of our lives. In the everyday living of our lives, we can make choices that enable us to find the peace that is envisioned in Isaiah. We choose to live in ways that honour the earth, support movements that honour every person and promote living in peace, not war.

In Romans 13:1–14, Paul writes with urgency, telling us the time is

.Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

near and to wake from the various ways we find ourselves numbed or distracted. Paul's call for believers to "put on the armour of light" invokes a sense of battle or violence and is a stark contrast to Isaiah's image of turning swords in ploughshares. Why might this image of armour be powerful to early Christians? How might metaphors of violence or revenge continue to be appealing to us today? As Isaiah's vision suggests, what objects, behaviours, words, or beliefs do we need to transform from violence to peace-building?

Matthew 24:36–44 can stir fearful anticipation. In pursuit of peace and justice in God's realm, what is our responsibility? What is the role of God's judgment? Interpreters of this passage have at times tipped it in the direction of anxiety, despite all that scripture tells us about our judge, the loving God who continually acts to establish a relationship with us. God's reign has arrived in the person of Jesus Christ, even as we continue to pray for it to come this Advent season. The author encourages us to prepare, to be on the alert and ready, and to expect the unexpected.

Connecting with life When children tiptoe, they usually take very small steps. Sometimes they move quickly, sometimes they race. Q As we tiptoe towards peace, what are small steps you can take to welcome all people, promote the welfare of others, or transform violence and hate?

Hymns :HTC 193 Hark the glad sound, HTC 87 It came upon a midnight clear, NJ 18 Born in the night, Mary's child. Look toward Christmas (Mornington Carol our Christmas)

Readings for 4 December, 2022

Isa 11:1-10, Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

Notices

Sunday 27th November; 9.30am Eucharist Mornington, 10.30am Eucharist – Green Island, 11am Eucharist St Kilda, 4pm Ordination s at St Peter's Caversham.

Tuesday 29th November; 3pm Oasis after school group,

Wednesday 30th November; 1pm Midweek communion at Holy Cross, 5.30pm Meditative Prayer at Holy Cross Hall,

Thursday 1st December; Fruit & Vege distribution 10.30am – 11.30am at GI, 4-5.30pm at Holy Cross, 7.30pm Bible Study at Holy Cross.

Saturday 3rd December; Farewell to Steve Hayward, Green Island School Principal.

Peace throughout the world will depend on everyone coming together and living in harmony.

Decorate the dove below with as many markers, pencils, or crayons as you can, representing the many flags and people all around the world.

