

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.

For the global effort to contain the Covid19 pandemic

For the implementation of the Covid Protection framework.

Those who are sick: Alaric & Celine, Amy, Anne, Ashley, Bev, Bill, Bridget, Cathy, Chris, Claire Christie, Cruz and Mason, Daryl, Dorothy H, Eleanor, Ellen, Eric, Gary Griffith-Smith, Gerald, Ginny, Graham, Grant W, Jean V, Jim L, Joan F, John, John G, Malcolm, Mike, Mike & Corryn & Kian, Muriel and family, Myrtle, Louise, Marilyn, Margaret, Murray, Nick D, Philip, Sarah, Sharron M, Shirley M, Ruby, Val S.

Worship Schedule

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

Mornington 9.30am

3rd Sunday 4pm Soup & Communion
St Kilda 11a.m.

Midweek service

1pm communion 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

Regional Dean: Jan Clark 455-6032 or 027 3515171
janclark8260@gmail.com

Regional Dean's Warden: Catherine Caley 0211432974

Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St Kilda Warden: Gerald Harley 456-0573

Southern Coastal Deanery

5th December, 2021

2nd Sunday of Advent



Messengers of Change

Advent offers the church the opportunity to mark God's coming and prepare in faith. Its reminder is one we carry throughout the year; God enters our world, bringing justice and salvation. How are we to prepare? What do we proclaim?

Malachi 3:1-4 speaks of a Messenger who will refine and purify Israel to be prophets to all the world. We are made shiny and new with God so that we can share God's righteousness with others.

Zechariah knew Malachi's words well, yet never imagined his part in bringing the prophecy to life. His song in **Luke 1:68-79** is his first utterance in months. When the messenger, Gabriel, tells Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth would bear a son, Zechariah responds with fear, skepticism, and cynicism. As a result, he is unable to speak until his son John is born (1:19-20). Thus, John's birth evokes the question - "What will this child become?" (1:66). Zechariah, himself God's messenger, speaks over John almost as a liturgical response to this question and names his son as the messenger who will prepare the way for the coming saviour.

Another important background to this text, and Luke as a whole, is Mary's previous visit to Elizabeth. Luke indicates their two children share ties of kinship. More importantly, they share in the revealing of God's promised reign. John will announce that realm even as he will prepare the way for Jesus.

Not to be overlooked in these verses is the voice of a father blessing

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

his child. As a priest, Zechariah knew the prophetic traditions. The ways they faced were not always easy. The words they spoke were often not accepted. But as Hannah sang over Samuel, and Mary gloried in the promise of God's reign and her child, Zechariah speaks now. Zechariah sings of his son as a gift and a call for the sake of a whole people. Verse 68 celebrates God's redemption as something already come to pass. God's reign is a "now" experience – but it is also a "not yet" hope. John's work of announcing and preparing remains. We do not yet fully walk in the way of peace. We live between the times. But John prepares us to bridge those times, as we live toward God's reign in experience and hope. We will never know if John thought of himself as fulfilling the prophecy, but we know he fulfilled it.

In **Luke 3:1–6** John the baptizer implores those gathered at the banks of the Jordan River – and us – to remove any obstacles that are hindering openness to the renewed ways of peace and justice that God has promised to reveal through the child to come. John speaks a bold word in anticipation of such saving love: Prepare!

In his letter to the people of Philippi, **Philippians 1:3–11**, Paul reflects the hope for purity, blamelessness, and righteousness found in the sentiments of all the other texts, and adds his assurance that we share in God's grace, and are held in God's heart.

Call to worship

E te whanau a te Karaiti, God brings new life and hope in desolate places. In God, justice is restored and our souls are refreshed.

Come, let us worship God

On this second Sunday of Advent we remember God's gift of peace and that we are called to be people of God's peace.

Meet our Christmas Appeal Partner

Muneeswari knows what it is like to be abused and keep silent. As a child like other Dalits, she lived apart, not allowed to wear shoes or cross the path of people from a different caste. As a mother and agricultural labourer, she has learned about her rights to fair treatment and the necessities for life, guaranteed in India's constitution, from the Women Development Resource Centre. She is now a proud member of her local sangam or association, helping other woman like her. Her pay has tripled, and her family has their own home.

We seek Rights Justice for all people.

We light the candle of Peace. God of peace and compassion. May we be people who shine the light of peace in your world through our words and by our actions. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Sentence: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. *Luke 1:78-79*

Collect: Gracious God, John the Baptizer prepared your way: help us to hear your word to us and give us the grace to respond. For you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Readings. Malachi 3:1-4, Phil 1:3-11, Luke 3:1-6

Hymns: HTC 52 Come, O long expected Jesus, We pray for everyone of God's people, NJ 58 I am the light of the world.

Notices

Tuesday 7th December; 3pm Oasis,

Wednesday 8th December;, 1pm Midweek Communion @ Holy Cross
2pm Home communions, 5.15pm Home of St Barnabas

Thursday 9th December; 10.30am-11.30am Fruit & vege Distribution
Green Island, 4-5.30pm F & V at St Kilda, 7pm Study group

Friday 10th December; 9.15am Supervision, 6pm GGICN

Readings for Sunday 12th December:

Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

At the Deanery Council meeting this week we discussed the implementation of the Traffic Light Covid Protection Framework. We have agreed to adopt the Vaccine passport required setting for our current service and if necessary add additional opportunities for worship for those who do not have a vaccine passport. Please bring your vaccine passport to church. Please phone Jan 455-6032 or 0273515171 if you have questions.

CRADLE SONG 11.11.11.11 ("Away in a Manger")

We pray for everyone of God's people today:
for those who are fleeing — who know they can't stay,
for those who face terror by day and by night,
for those who can't leave and whose dreams can't take flight.

We pray for the people who fear what's in store,
for dreamers and poets who grieve a closed door.
for those who are hiding so no one will see
the people they are — or who they hope to be.

We pray for girls facing a world they don't know,
who still long to read and to learn and to grow.
We pray for young women who live with the fear
their bodies, their voices, may soon disappear.

We pray for young children whose first lullabies
were bombs and explosions and wounded ones' cries —
and for those who served there, who see how it ends,
who ponder their service, who grieve for lost friends.

We weep for the places where war leads to war.
We pray for your hand there to heal and restore!
Bless all who seek justice and peace as your way.
We pray for everyone of God's people today:

Pastoral message from the Anglican Bishops, Tikanga Pākehā

Anglican Bishops Tikanga Pākehā — November 26, 2021

From the time of our nation's first lockdown response to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequently throughout these extraordinary times, we as Bishops have met weekly together to pray, to support one another and to reflect on our leadership through the rapid changes in our nation's continuing response to Covid-19. The foundational unit of the Anglican Church is the Diocese; that group of individuals, communities and organisations who gather around the bishop. We honour and respect the independence and integrity of each Diocese, whilst seeking in these circumstances, to offer as much consistency and commonality as we possibly can.

Out of a deep love for the church and the people we serve, we have sought to approach the next stage of our nation's response to this world-wide health emergency in a way that reflects two key agreements in common:

1. The normative position for worship, events and gatherings, is that they will be fully-vaccinated. In other words, vaccine certificates will be required to attend services of worship, events and gatherings. This fully vaccinated approach, as the norm, reflects the best and most current health advice available to us, as we seek to do all that we can to minimise the risk of anyone becoming infected with Covid-19.
2. We have a pastoral responsibility for the care of all people. This responsibility is to both vaccinated and non-vaccinated, but particularly to the most vulnerable. This care includes those who may not be able to worship with us because they have chosen not to be vaccinated. It also includes those who are in quarantine after exposure to infected people and are awaiting test results. Such pastoral responsibility also includes those who are ill, or those who are choosing to limit their potential exposure to infection

because of their level of vulnerability or the level of vulnerability to members of their households. We are committed to supporting local Churches in finding ways to minister to all.

As bishops, we are committed to constantly reviewing these principles, and the protocols and policies that are being established in each Diocese regularly, to ensure that we continue to reflect the greatest level of care possible.

As we continue to navigate this season together, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank and honour all those who lead and serve within our church in Christ's name and who work for the coming of Christ's Kingdom. We continue to faithfully hold each other before God in prayer.

“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

Yours in Christ,

**Bishops Ross Bay, Steven Benford, Peter Carrell, Justin Duckworth
Andrew Hedge, Steve Maina, Philip Richardson, Eleanor Sanderson**
