

Southern Coastal Deanery

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 H, 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.

4 December, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent

As we enter this week, we wonder what it looks like to nurture the hope of God's reign as seen in the harmony on God's holy mountain. How does this vision challenge our own assumptions about God's reign, and our role in living into and promoting that reign?

Isaiah 11:1–10 "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse" (verse 1). Jesse was King David's father, so "stump of Jesse" is a reference to kings who followed David. To call that line of rulers a "stump" might have been shocking to those who thought the Davidic line would continue forever. Some scholars understand this reference as an indication that the passage comes from the time when the people of Judah were living in exile in Babylon in the sixth century BCE. It must have seemed that the Davidic dynasty had ended in that national disaster.

Verse 2 promises that God's Spirit will equip the "shoot" from Jesse's stump with qualities needed for just rule. The prophet is clear about the power of God's Spirit and God's intent for shalom for all creation. There is hope here, not despair. The Hebrew Scriptures often link Spirit and the leaders of a community. For example, God's Spirit possessed Saul on the day of his anointing as king (1 Samuel 10:10). When Samuel anointed David as king, "the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David" (1 Samuel 16:13). God's Spirit was present in creation (Genesis 1:2). Now, God's Spirit is promised in the transformation of creation that the prophet envisions as coming through a righteous ruler and a peaceable kingdom.

The prophet's use of animal imagery is striking and hearkens back to the themes of creation and re-creation. Dramatic change is promised. How can we trust that God has the power to effect such change? For Isaiah, God's power as Creator grounds our hope in transformation – God created all things, and God's power can renew all things. The prophet pairs predator and prey in this peaceable vision as a metaphor

.Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

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

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St Kilda Warden: Gerald Harley 456-0573

of God's power to renew. What is this passage asking us to do and to be today? How does this passage stir our imaginations to propel us towards God's peaceable Kin-dom?

In Matthew 3:1–12, John the baptizer testifies to the nearness of God's realm. John's call to repentance insists that God's people seek integrity between God's vision of shalom and their daily lives.

Paul also encourages such integrity in **Romans 15:4–13**. To welcome one another is to mirror Christ's welcome of us. The stories of faith share God's shalom, even as they shape how Jesus' followers conduct their lives.

In Reimagining Christianity, Alan Jones says, "The work of the imagination is serious business because through it we build or destroy the world." These texts call us to imagine a world where opposites co-exist and thrive peacefully. They call us to imagine a God far more wondrous than we can comprehend. They ask us to imagine what our lives can be like if we dream of building God's world.

Q What transformation might God's promises be calling us to make? What kind of world is God calling upon us to build?

Today is the second Sunday of Advent, as we walk the path towards the light of Christmas. As we walk, let us watch out for each other, sharing our love with our neighbours near and far.

The story of John the Baptist takes us into the wilderness a place of repentance. As we follow John into the wilderness of today, we are called to repentance, to turn away from the greed and violence that is causing much harm to the planet. Through our prayers, actions and gifts, we can stand with people on the frontline of climate change and let hope flow this Christmas.

Call to worship

Imagine with us, **a world where God takes shoots and buds and uses them for large purposes.**

We imagine a world, **where baby cows and baby bears play together in peace and harmony. Where lions and lambs live together in safety.**

Imagine God's world, **where God's Holy Mountain provides refuge, peace, and safety.**

We come to worship; **we come to the mountain to worship the One who takes the tiniest shoot and uses it to signal the peace of God.**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

On this second Sunday of Advent we remember the peace we find in God, and the gifts of peace we offer to others

Our Partner Story

Light the candle of peace

Together: God of peace and gentleness; May we be peacemakers so that all people have opportunities for fullness of life. Give us strength to offer peace to our world, in word and in action. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Sentence: In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. John 1:4

Collect: Almighty God, you sent your servant John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son; grant that those who proclaim your word may so guide our feet into the way of peace, that we may stand with confidence before him when he comes in his glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer. Amen.

Hymns : HTC 601 On Jordan's banks, HTC 419 Now let us from this table rise, HTC 66 O come, O come Emmanuel (Mornington HTC 52 Come O long expected Jesus

Notices

Tuesday 6 December; 3pm Oasis after school group,

Wednesday 7 December; 1pm Midweek communion at Holy Cross, 2pm Bradford Manor worship, 3pm Home communions, 5.30pm Meditative Prayer at Holy Cross Hall, 7.30pm Deanery Council meeting

Thursday 8th December; Fruit & Vege distribution 10.30am – 11.30am at GI, 4-5.30pm at Holy Cross, Noon AAW Christmas luncheon at Holy Cross 7.30pm Bible Study at Holy Cross.

Sunday 11th December; 4.30pm Mornington Churches Carol Service at St Mary's

Sunday 18th December; 4pm Parish Christmas Dinner and worship at St Mary's. Please register with Iona if you are going to attend for catering purposes