

Please pray for:

Bishop Steve and Lorraine, Ministry Educator— Michael Godfrey, Diana Abercrombie, the Diocesan office staff and Diocesan Council.

For those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Those who are sick: Agnes, Ashley, Bill, Bridget, Brian, Chris, Cruz and Mason, Deborah, Denise, Dorothy & Dick, Dorothy H, Ellen, Eric, Gerald, Graham, Helen, Jan Y, Jean V, Jesse Bessant, Jim L, Keith M, Les, Lysiane, Marilyn, Margaret, Mark S, Murray, Pat G, Peggy, Philip, Ross, Sarah, Sharron M, Stewart, Susie, Tim, Ruby, Val S, Yvonne B, Claire J

Worship Schedule

Brighton 10.30a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays)

Green Island 10.30a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays

Mornington 9.30a.m.

St Kilda 11a.m. (Morning tea served from 10.15a.m.)

Midweek service

Wednesday, 1pm @ 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 17 Ajax St. St Kilda

Southern Coastal Deanery web page: scd.org.nz

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Green Island Warden: Pam Brown 488-1909

Mornington Warden: Alyson Manning 455-0163

St. Kilda Warden: Robin Versteeg 471-0001

Southern Coastal Deanery



Third Sunday of Advent

16th December, 2018.

Anxiety is in the air as the crowds come to John to be baptized. John proclaims the Messiah is coming in such a way that the people begin to scramble to get ready. They've heard prophecies their whole lives, and yet they come to John as if they are in need of instruction. They panic, as though they have been on a collision course that will end in their destruction. John reminds them not to fret; just do what they already know must be done.

Focus scripture: Luke 3:7–18

John holds his audience accountable out of loving concern – not vindictive anger. He calls them a brood of vipers because that is how they're acting; it's not who they were created to be. John lives into the prophetic tradition of teaching the vulnerable to take heart and get to work; he gives us all practical advice and the encouragement we need to act. This is not a collision course with an angry god; our feet have been set on a path that will cause hearts to collide with the compassionate heart of Immanuel, who keeps the promise.

Zephaniah 3:14–20 rejoices in the hope of Jerusalem's restoration through the One who will "gather" Israel. Verse 17 reveals that God rejoices over us! Such joy at God's nearness helps us discern why the early church heard John's challenging message as good news.

The words of Philippians 4:4–7 invite the church to rejoice in God, whose peace shapes and guards our lives. Paul reminds his readers to, as the old song says, take everything to God in prayer. We are left with a sense of trust, of peace, and calm.

Green Island - Brighton, Mornington, St Kilda

Third Sunday of Advent

We move from vaguely welcoming the season
to definite plans, lists and deadlines,
the pace accelerates ...
concerts celebrate the season ...
break ups mark end of year.

**We carve out this space in which to be thoughtful,
reflective to contemplate the meaning of it all
and ponder these things in our hearts.**

In our land the sun shines brightly on our 'journey to Bethlehem'

The days are long and filled with light

Let us find the joy inherent in this journeying

Let us enjoy and rejoice!

Read Partner Story from South Sudan: For Zero Hunger

Until last year, Joyce ran a tiny stall at a local market. She would buy a bucket each of sorghum and peanuts to sell one cup at a time. Once she sold one bucket, she would buy another. The small profit she made for a day's labour kept her three children healthy. Her husband and father were killed in 2015 when their homes were attacked, part of South Sudan's bitter war. For her Maridi Service Agency has been a lifeline. She attended a small business course last year and received money to invest. Her business has grown and she has food stored to use later when prices are higher. It is enough to pay school fees, medical expenses and live comfortably.

Be the Lifeline to families in need of food.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

For those who have no joy in their hearts,
For those whose lives are full of difficulty,
For those who are anxious and have no peace,
We light the candle of joy.

We remember also the voice of God's messengers calling us to be bearers of joy in a troubled world.

Light the candle

You, Lord Jesus, are our joy, bring joy to the world.

May this light signal a breakthrough, a brighter future,

A new order and a better way.

Sentence: Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love. *Zephaniah 3:16-17*

Collect: Loving God, John foresaw repentance, and justice to signal your coming: shape our lives; sift our thoughts; weigh our actions; and make us ready for that great day; through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Readings: Zeph 3:14-20, Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18

Hymns: HTC 52 Come thou long expected Jesus, HTC 32 Like a mighty river flowing, HTC 51 Child in the manger, Dunstan carol.

Sending Out / Dismissal

We travel together towards the new birth, towards the new start

We follow the signs which show us the way

To do what is right To seek justice

To walk humbly with God. We go in peace. Amen.

Notices

Tuesday 18th Dec: 10.30am Spiritual Direction, 6.30pm South Dunedin Carols at Mercy Parish.

Wednesday 19th Dec: 1pm Eucharist @ Holy Cross,

Thursday 20th Dec: Fruit & Veg distribution 10.30am – 11.30am St Mark's Green Island, 4pm – 5.30pm Holy Cross St Kilda,

Friday 21st Dec: 10.30am Home Communion

Carol Services

Green Island 16th Dec. at St Peter Chanel at 7pm

Sth Dunedin Tues. 18th Dec. Mercy Parish 6.30pm

Pregnancy Help Dunedin

They need more wool for their knitters and more woollen blankets to be re-purposed into baby bedding. Bring items to church or drop off at Pregnancy help in the South City Mall.