

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NOTICES: All notices are subject to approval and must be received by 12 noon Wed for publication Sunday.

Sunday Services:

7.30am: Eucharist
9.30am: 1st and 5th Sun: Communion,
2nd Sun: Morning Prayer, band,
3rd,4th Sun: Morning Prayer.

Hymns for Sun 28th November 2021: 7.30am

TiS 271 The advent of our God
TiS 272 Come, thou long expected Jesus
TiS 247 Let all be in one mind
TiS 273 Lo! he comes with clouds
descending

9.30am

Father we adore you
Glory (Let there be peace)
We have a Saviour
To God be the glory

Readings for 5th December 2021:

Malachi 3.1-4
Psalm Song of Zechariah
Philippians 1.1-11
Gospel - Luke 3.1-6

PARISH CONTACTS

Dean

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Bank details (for offering):

BSB: 014-690
Account: Cathedral Parish General
Account Number: 2987-20958

Office hours – the office is currently open
Wed and Fri from 9am to 12noon.

St Paul's Christmas Stall:

Dec 9th 10th 11th East St Stall
Dec 12th St Paul's Cathedral both
services

All help and Donations appreciated.
Contact Dianne Jeha 0407 011 748

Christmas Champions: Who will be the star of our Christmas social night on Friday 3 December? Get some friends together and come along, it may be your time to shine! 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start; \$15 per person covers food and fun, with drinks on sale, and a raffle to support the Christmas 'Adopt-a-family' appeal. Friday 3rd December 6.30pm for 7.00 pm. Sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Advent Study: The Dean will be conducting an Advent Study on Wednesday mornings during Advent from 10 – 11am in the Nathaniel Dawes Hall. The first study will be at 10.00am on the 1st of December.

Morning Tea: arrangements will continue as they are until further notice. A gold coin would be appreciated towards the cost of providing morning tea.

Christmas Services: Please see insert for a list of Service times for Christmas.

Pew Reflection:

"The next time you want to withhold your help, or your love, or your support for another for whatever the reason, ask yourself a simple question: do the reasons you want to withhold it reflect more on them or on you? And which reasons do you want defining you forevermore?"

– **Dan Pearce**

Sunday Smile:

The New Computer Cometh!

Welcome to St Paul's Cathedral

28th November – First Sunday of Advent.



It is lovely to share in worship this morning. A very warm welcome to any newcomers or visitors. Please join us for morning tea after the service. A special welcome to the family and friends of Alerah, who is being baptised at the 9.30 service today.

28th November – First Sunday of Advent.

Sentence:

'Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.'
Mark 13.31

Collect:

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths: renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love; to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY:

The Church in Australia: Anglicare

CQ Diocese: Vocational Deacons, those with permission to Officiate, retired clergy, Clergy Widows and widowers.

People in the Parish and Beyond: The elderly and housebound, the disabled, and those with mental illnesses. Nursing Homes and Retirement Villages.

Partner Diocese- Popondota, PNG: **Diocese of the New Guinea Islands.**

THOSE KNOWN TO US:

In Need: Brian and Jacqueline, Ray, Amy and family, Margaret.

In Memoriam: Mary Lodwick, Alick Purcell, Fredrick "Gary" Keding

We care about you, so please let Dean Melusi or the Wardens know if you, a family member or someone you know, needs pastoral care or wants to be included in our prayers for healing.

28 November – 1st Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel.... Jesus uses the image of figtree to foretell his second coming and encourages his disciples to be guard for the day of the Lord's coming will arrive whether people are ready for it or not. Being Israelites, the followers of Jesus knew about the coming of the Messiah, the one anointed by God to lead their nation to glory. However, very few people understood that the era of justice and peace that Jesus was talking about called for a change in people hearts. The Second Coming of Jesus will lead to the fulfilment of the promises of God; and that time is not far away. (Dean Melusi).

1st Reading – Jeremiah 33.14-16

¹⁴ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Hear the word of the Lord, ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 25.1-10

¹ In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope:
in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

² Let none who wait for you be put to shame:
but let those that break faith be confounded and gain nothing.

³ Show me your ways, O Lord:
and teach me your paths.

⁴ Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me:
for you are the God of my salvation.

⁵ In you have I hoped all the day long:
because of your goodness, O Lord.

⁶ Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness:
for they are from of old.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions:
but according to your mercy think on me.

⁸ Good and upright is the Lord:
therefore, will he direct sinners in the way.

⁹ The meek he will guide in the path of justice:
and teach the humble his ways.

¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:
for those who keep his covenant and his commandments.

2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear the word of the Lord, ***Thanks be to God.***

Gospel – Luke 21.25-38

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 21, verses 25 to 38

Glorify to you Lord Jesus Christ

²⁵ 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' ²⁹ Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you; this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴ 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.' ³⁷ Every day he was teaching in the temple, and at night he would go out and spend the night on the Mount of Olives, as it was called. ³⁸ And all the people would get up early in the morning to listen to him in the temple.

For the Gospel of the Lord, ***Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ***

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Anglicare:

Thanks for the regular food donations. With Christmas hampers coming up, any donations of Christmas fare would be appreciated. I will clear the box before Hamper Packing day, **13th December**. Thank you. Noelle

Sunday Journals.

I expect to have the Sunday Journals this week. I ordered 3 extra copies trusting that some more parishioners might like to prepare themselves for the Sunday Readings with commentary, questions, and prayers. They are just \$10 for 55 coloured pages covering 3 months! Noelle

Mothers' Union has completed their 12 pamper packs to be donated to the Women's Shelter. This is one of the beneficial things we do in the community annually to help those in need. During the 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence, we invite everyone to pray with us to end the scourge of Domestic Violence.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Sunday 19/1/21: 7.00pm
Nine Lessons and Carols

Friday 24/12/21 5.30pm
Children's Service

Friday 24/12/21 11.00pm
Carols in the Cathedral

Friday 24/12/21 11.30pm
Midnight Christmas Eucharist

Saturday 24/12/21 8.30am
Christmas Eucharist

Sunday 26/12/21 8.30am
Sunday Eucharist (one service only)

5 December – Second Sunday of Advent

1st Reading - Malachi 3.1-4

1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Psalm - Song of Zechariah

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel:

you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour:

born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old:

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

To show mercy to our forebears:

and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to worship you without fear:

holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

To give God's people knowledge of salvation:

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God:

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

2nd Reading - Philippians 1.1-11

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God every time I remember you, 4 constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, 5 because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight 10 to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, 11 having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel - Luke 3.1-6

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" '



Going over our church finances I found a receipt from a local paint store signed by someone named Christian. I wasn't aware of anyone buying paint, so I called the store to point out its mistake.

"I'm sorry," I told the manager, "but there are no Christians here at First Baptist Church."

An impoverished old man applied for membership in a wealthy church. The pastor tried to put him off with all kinds of evasive remarks. The old man became aware that he was not welcome there and finally told the pastor that he would pray about it. After several days he returned. "Well," asked the pastor, "Did the Lord give you a message?" "Yes Sir, He did" was the old man's answer. "He told me it wasn't any use. He said, "I've been trying to get in that same church myself for ten years and they won't let me in either."

A short history of medicine

"Doctor, I have an ear ache."

2000 BC - "Here, eat this root."

1000 BC - "That root is heathen, say this prayer."

1850 AD - "That prayer is superstition, drink this potion."

1940 AD - "That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill."

1985 AD - "That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic."

2000 AD - "That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root!"

church sign

"How will you spend eternity?
Smoking or Non-smoking?"

Advent is a time of expectation and hope. "Advent" means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas. Traditions vary by country, but common ways of commemorating Jesus' birth are through Advent calendars, wreaths, and candles. Ideally, any Advent tradition should involve families in a fun activity each day of December, helping them remember why we celebrate Christmas.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles around the wreath.

A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.\

- The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.
- The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.
- The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy.
- The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.
- The (optional) **fifth candle** represents **love** and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.