

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST STEPHEN AND ST MARY

MOUNT WAVERLEY

WELCOME

Third Sunday of Advent

15 December 2019



Christmas and New Year Services



Sun 15th December 5pm --- Carol Service

Tues 24th December 5pm --- Contemporary/ Family Service

Tues 24th December 11pm -- Midnight Mass

Wed 25th December 9am -- Christmas Day Service

Sun 29th December 9am -- One Service only

Farewell to Becky (followed by morning tea)

Sun 5th January 9am -- One Service only

(office will be closed 25th Dec to 9th Jan)

TCCV (TAMIL) CONGREGATION

Sun 8th December 4.30pm -- Carol Service

Tues 24th December 7.30pm -- Christmas Eve Service

Tues 31st December 11pm -- Watch Night Service

JOY RIVER CHINESE CHURCH

Regular Services Sat 21st/ 28th December at 6pm

This parish is committed to Child Safety and complies with Diocesan and State requirements. This is a shared responsibility of staff and parish. Please inform clergy, wardens, parish council or compliance officer (Elaine Fasken) of any concerns about Child Safety.

At Worship Today:

7.45 am (Book of Common Prayer)
Preaching & Presiding: The Revd Greg
Hymn: TIS 272 Come, thou long-expected
Jesus

10.30 am (Contemporary Eucharist)
Preaching & Presiding: The Revd Greg

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Sanctuary bell will be rung 5 minutes before the service begins to observe a time of quiet.

9.00 am (Sung Eucharist)

Presiding:	The Venerable Dianne
Preaching:	The Revd Greg
Liturgy Setting:	Missa Emmanuel
Processional:	TIS 638 O Christ, the Healer, we have come (tune 558)
Sentence:	Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.
First Reading:	Isaiah 35.1- 10
Gradual:	TIS 272 Come, thou long-expected Jesus
Second Reading:	James 5.7- 10

Owen Alstott



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Gospel Acclamation:	
Gospel:	Matthew 11.2- 11
Offertory:	TIS 264 Hark! A Herald Voice is Calling
Choir Anthem	Saviour of the Nations come by Martin Luther
Recessional Hymn:	TIS 275 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

People of all Christian churches, who are communicants of their own church, are invited to share Holy Communion with us

First Reading: Isaiah 35.1- 10

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Second Reading: James 5.7- 10

7 Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10 As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11.2- 11

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' 4 Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." 11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.



What is Spiritual Direction?

I am often asked the question 'what is spiritual direction?' This sits alongside the question of 'might spiritual direction be for me?' If you are a person who is interested in more than the mundane, who is seeking a life of truthfulness, hopefulness, acceptance of self and others, compassion, nonviolence, humility, forgiveness, simplicity of life, service to others, prayerfulness, then spiritual direction may well be for you.

Let's approach it by talking about what would happen if you came to me for spiritual direction:

Spiritual direction is not counselling. We are not there to solve a problem, but rather to see where God might be calling you to a fuller, more loving life.

What then is my role? You might think of me as a companion, walking with you on your journey of discovery and growth. It is not good for us to be alone on our spiritual journey – we get caught up in many unhealthy tangles. I can help you sort out what you bring. I can give feedback and offer suggestions. I can point you to resources, care for you and encourage you.

I will not tell you what to do; I will help you access the inner wisdom that is in conversation with the Divine. It is God who calls you into richer and freer life; I am there to help explore this.

Usually we meet together for an hour a month. It takes time to be transformed! It is an organic, gradual process. I need to get to know your world; you need to know if you can trust me.

Each time you come, you just come with whatever is pressing for you that particular time. There is no part of your life that is irrelevant to our work together in spiritual direction. This means that we don't just talk about prayer, ministry and church. Far from it! Bring your struggles, bring your dreams, bring your important relationships, bring your questions about discernment, bring your questions around your sexuality, bring your politics! Some of these will be times of celebrating; others are times of heartache and struggle.

As part of our relationship, I would be encouraging you in a life of prayer or meditation, in reading a steady diet of nourishing books, of surrounding yourself with a community who love and support you, of offering yourself in service.

What we always seek is insights into the questions: 'How are you being drawn ever more deeply into fullness of life?' 'What do you suppose the call of God is for you in this situation? What is the giftedness of this situation? How might you be called to grow and develop from this situation? Are you moving ever more fully into a life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control? This is the work of spiritual direction.

Based on Thomas Hart, *What to Expect in Christian Spiritual Direction*.

Cath Connelly, Spiritual Director

Accommodation needed

A teaching associate at the Environment Department of Holmesglen Institute of TAFE (Waverley Campus) from the Sunraysia District is looking for a room to rent.

Please contact Karl Liffman on 0428 507 610 or Karl.Liffman@holmesglen.edu.au

NB the person is not known to the parish

Third Sunday of Advent



Shanti Boyall/Act for Peace

Finding joy in resilience



Is it possible to be joyful when the natural disasters that batter your island home become more destructive with every year? Your gifts help the people of Tonga to prepare for, and stay safe through, worsening disasters. **Please give to the Christmas Bowl today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

FOOD FOR FRIENDS



What an amazing result this year! Thank you to everyone who shopped at Ritchies and donated goods. Special thanks to our Tuesday helpers who had to brave the elements!

A record breaking 175 hampers were packed and cash donations of over \$1,300. This will bring some Christmas Cheer to families doing it tough this year. Our allocation of goods has been delivered to the Asylum Seekers Centre at Dandenong.

Marg Taylor

A huge **thank you** to all the 'mainly music' mums who contributed so generously to our "Reverse Advent Calendar" project.

Their donations have been made into two large hamper boxes which will be given to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre.

"Thanks be to God"

Becky

Date to put in your diary

Movie Night and sausage sizzle.

14th February 2020

showing: 'Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War'
a British comedy-drama starring Pauline Collins, John Alderton and Peter Capaldi

Anglicare Victoria Christmas Toy Appeal

Our Christmas tree will be going up on the first Sunday of Advent (1st December)

Please continue to bring your gifts until 17th December.

Gift ideas:

- gift vouchers - perfume/make-up - lego- arts & crafts - board games - bikes - dolls - playdough - jewellery

Please note we **do not** require any donations of **teddy bears.**




PRE-CHRISTMAS WORKING BEE

<p align="center">Can you spare just one hour?</p>	<p align="center">From 9am on <i>Saturday</i> 21st <i>December</i></p>	
<p align="center">We want to “spruce up” the Church and Parish Centre for CHRISTMAS</p>		<p align="center">Please put your name against any job listed on the notice board</p>
	<p align="center">Please bring whatever cleaning things you will need to complete your job</p>	<p align="center">THANK YOU! (The Wardens)</p>

Afternoon Meditation Gatherings

1st Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm in the Chapel, based on Ignatian Spirituality. A Sacred Space where you can find rest and stillness, listen and centre yourself. Spiritual food is offered to aid reflection and meditation. Contact Val Dyke **Next session will be on 5th February 2020.**

Evening Meditation Gatherings

2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 7.30pm in the Old Church, based on the Contemplative Traditions of Christian Meditation. Contact Michael Mosley The next session will be on **Thursday 23rd January 2020..**

Dates to put in your diary ...

Sunday Third Sunday of Advent	
- December 15, 2019	
7.45 am	Book of Common Prayer
9.00 am	Sung Eucharist
10.30 am	Contemporary Eucharist
5.00 pm	Carol Service
Monday	16
Tuesday	17
9.30 - 11.00 am	Yoga (Parish Centre)
Wednesday	18
10.00 am - 3.00 pm	Deanery lunch (Parish Ctr)
10.30 am - 12 noon	mainly music (Old Church)
7.30 pm	Parish Council
Thursday	19
7.30 - 9.00 pm	Choir
Friday	20
Saturday	21
9.00 am	Working Bee
3.00 - 10.00 pm	Chinese Church (Ch/PC)
Sunday	22
7.45 am	Book of Common Prayer
9.00 am	Sung Eucharist

Next week: Fourth Sunday of Advent	
- December 22, 2019	
Readings:	
Isaiah 7.10-16	
Ps 80.1-7, 17-19	
Romans 1.1-7	
Matthew 1.18-25	
Stewards/Welcomers:	
BCP C Gant	
G Le Huray	
SE	E Fasken SS
	Y Lancaster
	S Lieversz
Readers:	
BCP F Miller	
SE	G Leembruggen
	J Bowers
Eucharistic/Chalice Assistance:	
BCP B Gaffney	
SE	K Phillips
	H Brown
	J Brown
	J Bowers
Intercessor:	
SE	S Retschko

Tamil Christian Church services

2nd and 4th Sundays at 4.30pm

Joyriver Chinese Church

Saturdays at 6pm

mainly music continues to engage with young families. You are always welcome to come along and see what we do on Wednesdays 10.30am - 12 noon, Parish Ctr, during school term.



Galahkookemu

We are a group who seek to follow the Benedictine way in modern life, meeting monthly on the final Wednesday at 7pm. Contact Christine Mallouhi

The Anglican Parish of St Stephen & St Mary Mount Waverley

383-385 High Street Road, Mt Waverley, 3149. Phone: 9807 3168

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9.30am - 2.30pm

Email: parishoffice@stephenandmary.org.au Website: www.stephenandmary.org.au

'Like' us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stephenandmary.mtwaverley

Priest

(Day off - Monday)

The Venerable Dianne Sharrock

Assistant Curate

(Tues, Wed & Thurs mornings, Fri, Sun)

The Revd Greg Wong

Children's and Families' Minister

(Tues 10.00 am - 3.00 pm)
Wed 9.30 am - 2.30 pm)

Becky Sims

Music Director

Brian Copple

Treasurer

Helen Warren

Office Manager

Katherine Rushby

Churchwardens:

Graeme Dellora

John Foster

Judith Gibson

Parish Council:

Sugan Blanchard, David Bruce, Margaret Crawford, Rowena Ferguson, Nathan Goode, Jennifer Gracie, Frances Ludgate, Sherredan Maher, Helen Warren.

Pastoral Care Ministry:

Aged Care Chaplaincies:

Hospital Visiting:

Clergy

Funeral Ministry:

The Vicar

Contemporary Eucharist Contact:

Rowena Ferguson

Spiritual Directors: Cath Connelly

Val Dyke

Prayer Chain contact

Margaret Syfret

SERVICES: Sunday

7.45am

Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

9.00am

Sung Eucharist (APBA)

10.30am

Contemporary Eucharist (Children's Participation)

Tuesday

9.15am Morning Prayer

Wednesday - Friday

9.00am Morning Prayer

Thursday

10.00am Eucharist

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