

**First Sunday after Christmas**

**31 December 2023**



### **The Year**

What can be said in New Year rhymes,  
That's not been said a thousand times?  
The new years come, the old years go,  
We know we dream, we dream we know.  
We rise up laughing with the light,  
We lie down weeping with the night.  
We hug the world until it stings,  
We curse it then and sigh for wings.  
We live, we love, we woo, we wed,  
We wreath our brides, we sheet our dead.  
We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,  
And that's the burden of the year.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

In our Parish all are welcome, all are accepted, all are valued and all are respected.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This parish is committed to Child Safety and complies with Diocesan and State requirements.

Dear friends,

A warm welcome to the dawning of a New Year! I hope that you had a very pleasant Christmas, and that you are now all geared up for 2024! Liz and I wish you much joy, happiness, peace, and positivity, as you embrace the year ahead.

This is my last Sunday with you as Acting Vicar, and I want to thank all of you for what you have done to assist my/our ministry in this parish. Liz and I think that this is a very special place, which is why we will be worshipping with you from now on (depending, of course, on what the Bishop - and Archdeacon - has in mind!!) I have really enjoyed this time with you, and I thank Dianne for placing her trust in me during her convalescence.

Advent is done and dusted, Christmas is upon us, the New Year is nigh, and today we are confronted, in the Gospel reading (Luke 2:22-40), with the presentation of Jesus in the temple. I am very glad that this reading is here, just after Christmas; we usually hear it on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, otherwise known as Candlemas. I have always believed that this is the appropriate time to remember that episode in the life of Jesus. Yes, the remembrance of St. Stephen (26<sup>th</sup>), St. John (27<sup>th</sup>), and the Holy Innocents (28<sup>th</sup>), are very important, and each has a powerful significance. But the **poignancy of this event is very timely in the ministry and purpose of Jesus' life.**

**Simeon's prophecy, together with the wisdom of Anna, together pave the way for the coming of the new age under the Lordship of Christ. Of Anna, one writer says: "Neither her personal sorrow, nor her great age, had dimmed her spirit's expectancy or closed her eyes to the identity of the One who was held in Mary's arms." Both Simeon and Anna, in their "riper years", realised the importance and significance of this birth.**

So what of us? This story tells me that, in very simple terms, you are neither too old nor **too young to be of service to the Master. We don't expect you to be in the church night and day**, as were Simeon and Anna, but there is an expectation that we will continue to serve God in whatever capacity we are able as we launch into a new year. Our God, our parish, and our community, depends on it.

May God bless you and yours as you embrace a brand-new year!

Shalom,

Fr. Derek, Acting Vicar.

## ***Dianne's return***

Dianne will be back at the helm on Sunday 7th January (The Baptism of Our Lord)

# Dates to put in your diary ...

Sunday December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

11.30 am - 3.30 pm Cedar Church

10.00 pm - 2.00 am Tamil Watch Night service

Monday 1

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

Tuesday 2 - Office Re-opens

Wednesday 3

Thursday 4

Friday 5

Saturday 6

Sunday 7

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

11.30 am - 3.30 pm Cedar Church



Next Sunday - January 7, 2024

The Baptism of Our Lord

9.30 am Parish Eucharist

Welcomers Graeme Dellora  
Maggie Dellora

Readers Lyn Ryan  
Jenny Bowers

Chalice Assistants Helen Warren  
Dennis Mills

Intercessions Graeme Dellora

## **Next Sunday's Readings:**

Genesis 1.1-5

Psalms 29

Acts 19.1-7

Mark 1.4-11



## **Thursday Evening Meditation**

The Thursday Evening Meditation Group is now in recess until February next year. Unfortunately **Thursday evenings won't be an option for next year** but details of the 2024 session times TBA at a later date. Enquiries can be directed to Michael Mosley

## **Office Days**

The Office will be closed between Christmas and New Year. Katherine will be back in the office on Tuesday 2nd January. From then on the office will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

# The Anglican Parish of St Stephen & St Mary Mount Waverley

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

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'Like' us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stephenandmary.mtwaverley](http://www.facebook.com/stephenandmary.mtwaverley)

**Priest (locum)**

(Thursday, Friday & Sunday)

Fr Derek Jones

**Assistant Curate**

(Sundays only)

The Revd Candice Mitrousis

**Children's and Families' Minister**

(Tues 10.00am - 12.00pm, Sun 9.30am - 11.30pm)

Lisa Eames

**Safe Ministry Compliance Officer**

Elaine Fasken

**Child Safety Officer**

Lisa Eames/Elaine Fasken

**Music Director**

Brian Cople

**Treasurer**

Helen Warren

**Office Administrator**

Katherine Rushby

**Churchwardens:**

Sugan Blanchard

Sally Hibbert

Sue Retschko

**Parish Council:**

John Leaver, Fiona Sawyer, David Stanley,  
Helen Warren, Joan West

**Pastoral Care Ministry:**

*Hospital Visiting:*

Clergy

*Funeral Ministry:*

The Vicar

**Spiritual Directors:**

Val Dyke

**Prayer Chain contact** Margaret Syfret

**SERVICES: Sunday 8.30 & 10.00 am Thursday 10.00 am**