



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BOX HILL  
25 December 2023  
Christmas Day

Parish  
Link

Reverend Anne writes...

The Messiah was promised by God, and came not as a warrior king, but as a tiny baby, born in a stable and then laid in a humble manger. Everyone who gazed at him then could sense that this child was special, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace. Pray that the Good News of Jesus touches the heart of everyone, and that the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love he brings to this earth may surround us all.

Christmas blessings to you all!



4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month retiring collection for parish outreach

Sentence: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given. Isaiah 9.2, 6

Prayer of the Day: Good and gracious God, who gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Saviour of all, lying in a manger: on this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for the new vicar: Bountiful God, we thank you for choosing a faithful pastor to serve as Vicar of our Parish. We pray for Reverend Victor Fan as he prepares to take up his appointment. Give us warm and generous hearts as we prepare to welcome him and his family into our community. **Amen**

First Reading: Isaiah 62.6-12

<sup>6</sup> Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, <sup>7</sup> and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. <sup>8</sup> The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; <sup>9</sup> but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.<sup>10</sup> Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. <sup>11</sup> The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." <sup>12</sup> They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

Psalm: 97

<sup>6</sup> Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;  
all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord, take no rest,

<sup>7</sup> **and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.**

<sup>8</sup> The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured;

<sup>9</sup> **but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord,  
and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.**

<sup>10</sup> Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones,  
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

<sup>11</sup> **The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth:  
Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes;  
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.'**

<sup>12</sup> They shall be called, 'The Holy People, the Redeemed of the Lord';  
and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.'

Second Reading: Titus 3.4-8a

<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> The saying is sure.

For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke, Chapter 2, beginning at verse 1

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who

heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Prayer of the Week: Give us, O God, such love and wonder that, with shepherds and pilgrims unknown, we may come to adore the holy Child, the promised King, and with our gifts worship him, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Years Mind

Christopher Hill, Alan Andrewartha, Margaret Robinson, Warwick Sheffield, Mary Wood, and Nellie Packer, whose anniversaries occur at this time.



### Prayer Points

**The Church:** St Matthew's Anglican Church Ashburton (Kurian Peter); Ministry to the Defence Force (Bishop Grant Dibden, Chaplains & Members of the Defence Forces); Examining Chaplains (Christopher Appleby, Rowan Callick, John Forsyth, Jane Freemantle, Noelene Horton, Philippa Lohmeyer-Collins, Gail Pinchbeck, Yvonne Poon, Nigel Pope, Alexander Ross, Heather Schnagl, Malcolm Tadjell, Dawn Treloar, Victor Yu); St Paul's Cathedral - Christmas Eve Service (Abp Philip Freier); The Episcopal Church in the Philippines – The Revd Brent Alawas.

**The Parish:** Give thanks for friends, family, neighbours and fellowship.

**The World:** Pray that the spirit of peace descends on all the world.

**The Nation:** Pray for comfort for all those alone or distressed at this time.

### ABM Pew Reflections

The prophet Isaiah exhorts us to announce this great birth from every place we have been stationed as we wait and watch. What God intends for all people is brought about; we are sought out, we have not been forsaken. Jesus will redeem us, we will be made holy, our salvation is come. This is a day of celebration. Rejoice and be glad! • God, today you have come to us! I will not rest until you are known throughout the world. • Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of Province of Myanmar.

### Daily Readings

Monday	Isaiah 9.2-7	Ps 9	Luke 2.1-20
Tuesday	2 Chronicles 24.17-22	Ps 31.1-8	Matthew 10.17-22
Wednesday	Proverbs 8.22-31	Ps 97	John 20.2-8
Thursday	Jeremiah 31.15-20	Ps 124	Matthew 2.13-18
Friday	1 John 2.3-11	Ps 1-6	Luke 2.22-35
Saturday	1 John 2.12-17	Ps 96.7-9	Luke 2.36-40



If you have anything you would like included in the Parish Link Notices, please let Cecilia know in writing by Thursday at [anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com](mailto:anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com)



Christmas  
Bowl

## Share God's love through the Christmas Bowl



Thank you for joining with churches across Australia as we share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Since 1949, the Christmas Bowl has brought together committed Australian Christians with dedicated local partners around the world to give hope to people uprooted by conflict and disaster. By sharing this tradition, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**



Christmas  
Bowl



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](http://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)



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

**Christmas Bowl Appeal** – Please give generously to this worthwhile cause

The Christmas Bowl is held in churches across Australia from Christ the King Sunday to the first Sunday after Christmas and it remains a powerful demonstration of our unity in Christ.

Envelopes are available in the foyer.

**TO MAKE YOU SMILE...**

Q: On Christmas night, how many angels appeared to the shepherds, and what were their names?

A: There were two angels, and their names were 'Lo' and 'Behold.'  
Doesn't the Bible say, "Lo and Behold, the angels, appeared to the shepherds"?



MY IDEA HOW UNITED GOT ON?

## Week Ahead

### SUNDAY 24.12.23

#### Christmas Eve

9.30am Eucharist

9.30am Farsi Service, *kindergarten*

11.30am Mandarin service

2.30pm Dinka service

2.30-4.30pm Prayers in Mandarin, *St Aidan's*

10.30pm Christmas Eucharist

### MONDAY 25.12.23

#### Christmas Day

9.30am Eucharist

6.30-9.00pm Narc Anon *Undercroft*

### TUES 26.12.23

8.30am-12.30pm Office open

6.00-8.00pm Bellydancing *hall, on holidays*

### WED 27.12.23

No 10.30am service today

9.30-11.30am Play group, *on holidays*

10.00-11.30am Tai Chi *hall, on holidays*

### THU 28.12.23

6.30-9.30pm Crossways ESL, *on holidays*

### FRI 29.12.23

5.30-9.30pm Mandarin Prayer Group

### SAT 30.12.23

10.30am-1.30pm Sat School, *on holidays*

### SUNDAY 31.12.23

#### Epiphany

8.00am Eucharist, 9.30am Eucharist

9.30am Farsi Service, *kindergarten*

11.30am Mandarin service

2.30pm Dinka service

2.30-4.30pm Prayers in Mandarin, *St Aidan's*

## For the Diary

### Christmas Services

Dec 24 Christmas Eucharist, 10.30pm

Dec 25 Christmas Eucharist, 9.30am



Prayers and Readings from *A Prayer Book for Australia*, Copyright Broughton Publishing 1995.

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#### OUR INFORMATION

**FIRST AID KIT** – Located in the office and kitchen.

**TOILETS** – Located in the Church Hall and in the church building through the church doors front right.

**WHEELCHAIR** – Located near the toilet for the disabled upstairs.

**FIRE & EMERGENCY** – Please make yourself aware of the nearest escape route in the event of an emergency or fire.

**OH&S** – Please ensure that any incidents/accidents are reported to the Vicar or Wardens and incident report completed.



# ST PETER'S

1038 Whitehorse Rd, Box Hill.

**Parish Office:** 9899 5122

**E** [anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com](mailto:anglicans.boxhill@bigpond.com)

**W** [www.anglicansboxhill.org.au](http://www.anglicansboxhill.org.au)

The Office will be closed until  
January 19, 2024

## Vicar

Reverend Anne Kennedy (Acting Vicar)

T 0429 123 478

**E** [vicar@anglicansboxhill.org.au](mailto:vicar@anglicansboxhill.org.au)

[robann29@bigpond.com](mailto:robann29@bigpond.com)

## Associate Clergy

Reverend Esther Zhang

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## Honorary Clergy

Reverend Betty Bracken 9939 5881

Reverend Alasdair MacKinnon-Love SCP  
0438 323 059

**E** [alasdair@mackinnonlove.com](mailto:alasdair@mackinnonlove.com)

## Sudanese Ministry

Reverend Joseph Arou

T 0431 541 535

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Wardens:

Margaret Dooley 0438 129 161

Garry Male 0421 056 706

Linda Boyd

### Mission Statement

Sharing the Good News

Telling the story afresh

Expressing God's love

Serving the community

Nurturing and sharing faith

Equipping to serve

### Vision

To ensure that there continues to be a living, committed, communal Anglican presence of liturgical celebration, nurture and outreach in Box Hill.

### Reporting Child Abuse

All child safety concerns must be reported to

Kooyoora Professional Standards

1800 135 246

## Roster for upcoming services

	<b>Tonight 24.12.23 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Dec 25 morning Christmas Day</b>	<b>31 December</b>
<b>Sidespeople</b>	Barbara P, Cecilia J	Peter W, Rosemary S	Rosemary S, Martin F
<b>Servers</b>	Michele M, Judy J <i>Garry M</i>	Michele M, <i>Kim C</i>	Michele M, Elizabeth B <i>Garry M</i>
<b>Readers</b>	Dianne A, Linda B	Barbara P, Jan G	Linda B, Charles B
<b>Intercessors</b>	Michele M	Michele M	Keith W
<b>Counting</b>	<i>Not rostered</i>	<i>Not rostered</i>	Michele M, Garry P
<b>Morning Tea</b>	<i>Not rostered</i>	<i>Not rostered</i>	<i>No rostered morning tea</i>

St Peter's is part of the Anglican Church of Australia and the worldwide Anglican Communion.

St Peter's church is on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation and we acknowledge them as the traditional custodians of this land.