

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH 11AM

TODAY - SUNDAY DEC THE 10TH

Please join us for a relaxed bring and share Christmas lunch in the Maheno Room. Let's enjoy community, celebrate all that has been this year, raise a glass to the efforts of many and get in the festive spirit for the birth of Jesus. **BYO drinks. Please bring a plate of savoury or sweet to share with one another.**



ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON THE LAWN - 6PM TONIGHT - SUNDAY 10TH DEC.

Please join us for the fun and frivolity of Christmas carols on the lawn. Howard and the St John's Angelic Choir will serenade us with some of the Christmas carol classics. Bring a picnic rug and cushions for the authentic carols experience or seats will be provided for the less adventurous. Be there or be square!

OUR RECTOR ELECT THE REV'D CANON PAUL MITCHELL

Rev Paul and Rev Sharon's Commissioning among us here at St John's is **2pm on Saturday the 20th January 2024**. They are very much looking forward to ministering amongst us, and getting to know us in the new year. We look forward to welcoming Fr Paul and Reverend Sharon here amongst us in late January 2024.

GIVING TREE FOR GOODNA

Thank you for your gifts for children and adults. For the next two weeks we ask you to take a tag and bring back a gift card (you choose amount) for groceries or for fuel for Goodna Parish to hand out in early January, the time of greatest need.



10th December 2023

ADVENT 2B

7.30AM - EUCHARIST

9.00AM - FAMILY EUCHARIST

ST JOHN
THE BAPTIST

EST. 1888
ANGELIC CHURCH

IN THE HEART OF BULIMBA



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - REFLECTION BY MARY COLE PBVM

Here we have the first written proclamation of the Gospel — the Good News of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. Mark wastes no time in his announcement with a long introduction but instead immediately introduces John. Since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls scholars now know that at this time there were some in Israel who had a strong sense that God's Kingdom was about to break into history. The community of Qumran by the Dead Sea lived with this expectation and they also practised rituals of cleansing. While there is no evidence that John was part of this group, his message and manner are similar. God's reign is coming.

Prepare for it by seeking forgiveness.

Baptism, immersion in water, was a common Jewish practice as a way of purifying oneself before participating in major religious festivals. John applies this ritual to a desire for repentance as preparation for the coming Kingdom. John was remembered as a great and holy man of God. He too attracted disciples and even Jesus came to him seeking his baptism. These historical facts must have puzzled the early Christians, particularly if some of John's disciples were now part of the Jesus group. How were they to speak about John, recognising his greatness while acknowledging that Jesus was even greater? In trying to understand John's role in Jesus' story, Mark looks back to the Jewish Scriptures and uses the prophets Malachi and Isaiah to clarify that John's role is one of preparation for another greater figure who is on the way.

Source: mn.catholic.org.au

To arrange direct debit for your regular giving,
please use the account details:
BSB 704 901 Account number 00014573.
Account name Bulimba Anglican Parish

THIS COMING WEEK IN THE PARISH

TUESDAY	12th	9.00am	Guild Meeting
FRIDAY	15th	10.00am	Eucharist
SUNDAY	17th	7.30am 9.00am	Eucharist Eucharist and Children's Church And Baptism

ROSTERED DUTIES 17/12	7.30AM	9.00AM
L.A.'s	Allan	Sarah/Donovan
MUSIC	Wendy	Wendy
READERS	Vanessa/Allan T	Donovan/Linda P
INTERCESSOR	Roslyn	Sarah
MORNING TEA		
WELCOMERS	Laurie	Stephen J
AUDIO VISUAL	Roslyn	Lisa
FLOWERS	No Flowers during Advent	CHURCH CLEANING Wendy/Sara

Locum

Reverend Lindsay Howie Mobile 0490 950 893
Email: howiejenlin@hotmail.com

Associate Clergy

Reverend Karen Jansson Mobile 0459 475 332
Reverend Quinn Humphreys Mobile 0403 531 538

Church Contact

Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 9.30 am to 1.30 pm
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READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.
Luke 3.4; Isaiah 40.5a

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40. 1-11

FELICITY SCOTT MICHAEL SMIT

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

PSALM 85.1-2, 85.8-13

- O Lord, you were gracious to your land:
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- You forgave the iniquity of your people:
and covered all their sin.***
- I will hear what the Lord God will speak:
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.
- Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.***
- Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

In The World: -

- ◇ The Church of Pakistan (United)
- ◇ Ministry to the Defence Force: †Grant Dibden;
Chaplains & Members of the Defence Force

In The Diocese:

- ◇ The Parish Pittsworth: Tony Swansson
- ◇ Church Army
- ◇ St Andrew's Anglican College, Peregrin Springs: Principal - Chris Ivey;
Chaplain - Gary McClellan; Chair of College Council - Rosalyn Cheales;
members of College Council; staff & students

Pray for those in need:

Bronwyn, Duncan Family, Kerrie, Douglas, Helena, Roy, Williamson Family, Helen, Lisa,
Rev Paul Bland, Joan, Pam, Dorothy, Gary, Rev Karen, Samantha, Ian, Brian, Karen S, Roy F.

**11. Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

**12. The Lord will also give us all that is good:
and our land shall yield its plenty.**

**13. For righteousness shall go before him:
and tread the path before his feet.**

SECOND READING: 2 PETER 3.8–15A

TONY RIGBY SARAH DAVIES

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

GOSPEL: Mark 1. 1-8 Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight"',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayer for our new Archbishop Elect Jeremy Greaves

Almighty God, by your Son Jesus Christ you gave many excellent gifts to your apostles, and commanded them to feed your flock. Bless Jeremy now called to be our next Archbishop. So fill him with your truth, and clothe him with holiness, that as a pastor of your Church he may diligently preach your word, and rightly teach your people, to the glory of your name, and the benefit of your Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Prayer for our new Rector Elect Paul Mitchell

Gracious God, giver of all that is good, by your Holy Spirit you have appointed various orders of ministry in your Church. Bless Fr Paul now called to be our next Rector. So fill him with your truth, and clothe him with holiness, that he may faithfully minister here among us, to the glory of your name and the benefit of your Church. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, until the ages of ages. Amen.

In Memory

11th December—17th December

Reginald John Chamberlain (2010) Pixie Smith (2011)
John Henry Lawrence (1980)



ADVENT STUDY 2

MYSTAGOGICAL REFLECTION - DWELLING WITH GOD IN AN ARTWORK

Let's be still and know God more deeply as we encounter him present with us in art.

- 1. Reflection:** Encounter with Christ in the beauty of art...
- 2. Recollection:** What do you see? *An invitation to focus on the work and notice the detail. What story is the work telling? What elements have been used to create the work, colour, line, shapes, tones, textures? What symbols or gestures might there be within the elements? What is happening?*
- 3. Reflection:** What captured your attention? What moved your heart? What is God revealing to you? How does this relate to your life? *An invitation to be attentive to Christ present in the encounter and to share what you notice.*

4. Faith sharing: How is this work leading us into the Mystery and teaching us about God, Christ, Church, liturgy, and Christian life? *An invitation to connect your experience and the meaning you have found in the artwork, with what Christ is revealing in the living tradition of our Anglican faith.*

5. Connection: Why does what Christ is revealing in the work matter to us now? What's happening in our world and neighbourhood right now? *An invitation to consider how the work can encourage us in our faith.*

6. Conversion: How is your encounter with Christ in the work inviting you to change, to live the mystery?

What is dying? What is being raised up?

Contemplate — rest in the presence of God. Conclude your gathering with the blessing.

Blessing: We travel in time; may God walk with us into eternity. We travel in hope; may God sing with us through the darkness. We travel in wonder; may God dance with us in holy joy. So may the blessing of the God of glory, Traveller, Storyteller, Dancer, be in us today and every day. Amen.

Source: mn.catholic.org.au

MYSTAGOGICAL REFLECTION - DWELLING WITH GOD IN THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

The following study can be led in a group or may also be a personal reflection.

Listen to God say to you ... Be still and know that / am God (Ps 46:10)

Moved by the Holy Spirit in response we pray... Open my/our ears to the Word of God... Open my/our heart(s) to the love of God... Open my/our mind(s) to the wisdom of God...

Let us listen for the words of everlasting life...

Each step finishes in silence before the guide invites the group into the next step ...

1. Encounter with Christ in the Word proclaimed ... Listen (Gospel: Mark 1:1-8)

Proclaimed without the liturgical dialogue that usually introduces and concludes it.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.' A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

2. Recollection: What happened? *An invitation to recall what happened in the text. The detail is important — characters, scenery, actions. No interpretation, just what happened.*

3. Reflection: What word or phrase captures your attention? What did you experience/feel? What is God revealing to you? How is this relevant to your life? *An invitation to be attentive to Christ present in the encounter and to share what you notice.*

4. Faith sharing: How is the meaning found in your encounter with Christ in the scripture connecting with the season of Advent? *An invitation to connect your experience and the meaning you have found in it, with what Christ is revealing in the living tradition of our Anglican faith.*

5. Connection: Why does what Christ is revealing matter to us now? What's happening in our world and neighbourhood right now? *An invitation to explore the essential connection between liturgy, faith and life.*

6. Conversion: How is your encounter with Christ inviting you to change — to become more and more Christ like? *What is dying? What is being raised up?*

Contemplate — rest in the presence of God. Conclude your gathering with the blessing

Blessing: We travel in time; may God walk with us into eternity. We travel in hope; may God sing with us through the darkness. We travel in wonder; may God dance with us in holy joy. So may the blessing of the God of glory, Traveller, Storyteller, Dancer, be in us today and every day. Amen.

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