

Season of Advent

Third Sunday of Advent

Third Sunday of Advent



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 85 619 070 1033



Baptism, Confirmations

and
Parish Celebration

Church of the Resurrection 10.30 am

*The Parish of Gisborne acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land,
the peoples of the Kulin Nations,
and we pay our respects to their elders, living, past and emerging.*

The Parish of Gisborne is committed to being a Child Safe organisation.

Welcome

We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who joins us for worship. Whether you are a visitor or a regular parishioner of the Anglican Church, you are invited to join us in Holy Communion. Please make yourself known to us and if you would like more information about our community and ministry, then please take a copy of our welcome brochure, visit our website or ask one of our sidespersons.

Today's worship:

On a day when the Church focuses on the phrase “Gaudete”, it is indeed joyful to have back with us Bishop Kate Prowd. We welcome into the Church through baptism Robert Murray, and our Confirmees with Robert, his children Christian and Susannah, his nephew Caleb Wright, and Ethan Eva and Darren Carr.

“Gaudete” is from the first two lines of a hymn published in the 1500s “Gaudete, gaudete! Christus est natus Ex Maria virgine, gaudete! and means “Rejoice, rejoice, Christ is born of Mary the Virgin, Rejoice! To make a distinction regarding the day, it became customary to wear Rose coloured vestments. This tradition lives on in parts of the Church, most notably the third candle, the candle for “Joy” is usually rose pink. Some people even colour their hair “Rose Pink”!

Today, we also rejoice in the public declaration of faith of these young people, and add our own “Alleluias” to the continuing hymn of praise of the birth of our Lord.

We welcome our Bishop Kate Prowd as preacher and presider

Scripture readings: Isaiah 35.1-10 Psalm 146
 James 5.7-10 Matthew 11.2-11

Wednesday: 10 am at St Paul's
 Jeremiah 23.5-8, Psalm 72.15-21; Matthew 1.1-17

NEXT WEEK:

Fourth Sunday of Advent Isaiah 7.10-16 Psalm 80.1-7,17-19
 Romans 1.1-7 Matthew 1.18-25

Parish Fire Policy:

If a **CODE RED** day is declared [this is the most extreme rating] and this occurs on a Saturday or Sunday – then please note that all services and/or parish activities will be cancelled on that day.

This policy will also apply during the week and to all our centres. For other fire danger ratings, it is important that everyone implement their own fire plan.

Your own fire plan must always take precedence even if you are on a rostered duty.

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The Gathering of God's People

*The ministers may have already entered in silence.
Advent is a time for waiting and preparing.
Our liturgical colour today is PINK. It signifies the presence of JOY.
We sit in silence.*

*After a while, a bell will ring.
A member of the congregation prepares to light the pink candle.*

A minister begins:

Joy has dawned upon the world.
It has been promised from the dawn of creation.
It has come to us through our ancestors in faith.
It was revealed to us in the life of Jesus.

Joy has dawned upon the world.

A silence is kept.

And now, may this be the place and time,
when heaven and earth become one,
and we, in word and flesh,
know ourselves to be beloved.

Joy has dawned upon the world.

A silence is kept.

The candle of joy joins the candles of hope and peace.
Each is no longer alone, but together provide illumination
that will not be quenched.

**As we draw closer to Christmas,
these are symbols for the gifts
that will renew our lives, and transform the world.**

A silence is kept, and then the following is sung.

**Joy, joy, joy -
We praise you, Christ, with joy!
Our peace, our hope, our love and treasure,
Highest calling, deepest pleasure!
Joy, joy, joy -
We praise you, Christ, with joy!**

Tune: Stille, stille, stille
Words by Ken Bible
© 2006 by LNWhymns.com.
CCLI Song #4663940.

The presider greets the people.

✠ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

There is one Body and one Spirit;
there is one hope in God's call to us.

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,
one God and Father of all.

A minister says

Let us affirm our trust in God's mercy,
and confess our need of forgiveness.

Cantor

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your own image.
Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Cantor

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death. Rescue us
from slavery to sin.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Cantor

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with
one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Presider pronounces The Absolution

Almighty God,

who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:

✠ pardon you and set you free from all your sins,

strengthen you in all goodness

and keep you in eternal life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray:

Keep us, O Lord,
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 Ministry of the Word

As we prepare to hear God's holy word through the scriptures:
open our hearts and minds, Lord. Amen.

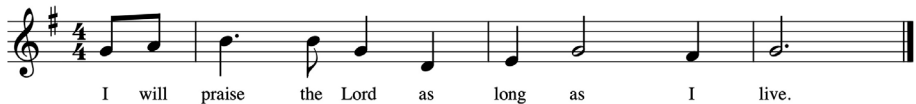
All sit for the Readings.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 35.1-10

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 146



I will praise the Lord as long as I live.

Praise the Lord, O my soul:
while I live will I praise the Lord;
as long as I have any being,
I will sing praises to my God.

Put not your trust in princes,
nor in any human power,
for there is no help in them.
When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth;
on that day all their thoughts perish.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth,
the sea and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong
and bread to those who hunger.
The Lord looses those that are bound;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous;
The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;
he upholds the orphan and widow;
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.
The Lord shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

A reading from the letter of James.

James 5.7-10

May your word live in us
and bear much fruit to your glory.

All stand for the Gospel Reading.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

Matthew 11.2-11

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the Gospel, the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord,:

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Breaking Open the Word

The Presentation

The bishop invites all candidates and their sponsors to stand in view of the congregation. The bishop invites the sponsors of confirmation candidates to present the candidates.

We welcome those who have come to be baptised and confirmed.
I invite their sponsors to present them now.

The sponsors answer

We present Robert who comes to be baptised and confirmed.

We welcome Christian, Susannah, Caleb, Ethan and Darren who come to be confirmed.

The Decision

The bishop says to those who are to be baptised and to receive the laying on of hands.

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

I reject them all.

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

I renounce all that is evil.

The bishop says to the candidates

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

I will, with God's help.

The bishop says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

We will.

The minister says

Let us pray for Robert who is to be baptised, and those who have affirmed their baptism and are to receive the laying on of hands.

Grant, merciful God, that these persons may be so buried with Christ in baptism that the new nature may be raised up in them. May the fruit of your Spirit grow and flourish in them. **Amen.**

Give to their sponsors the desire to share with them what you have revealed in your holy gospel. **Amen.**

Give to those who come to affirm their baptism, strength and grace that they may faithfully serve you all their lives. **Amen.**

May they know Christ's forgiving love and continue in the fellowship and service of his Church. May they proclaim, by word and example, the good news of God in Christ. **Amen.**

We thank you for the ministry we have in your world and to each other in the household of faith. Hasten that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Christ. **Amen.**

The Baptism

The priest comes to the place where the water for baptism is, and begins the thanksgiving.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The priest or other minister continues

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your kingdom.

Thanks be to God.

The priest continues

And now we give you thanks that you have called Robert your servant to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that he who is baptised in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May Robert die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

The priest says to candidates

I now ask you to affirm as yours the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The priest says to the congregation

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith:
We believe in one God:
✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Robert is brought to the water.

Robert, I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Robert, I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are marked
as Christ's own for ever.

Live as a disciple of Christ:
fight the good fight,
finish the race,
keep the faith.

**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

Robert is presented with a candle.

God has brought you out of darkness
into his marvellous light.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

God has called you into his Church.

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as a member with us of the body of Christ,
as a child of the one heavenly Father,
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

As the procession returns to the Sanctuary, the following litany to the Holy Spirit is sung:

Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit de - scend on us, de - scend on us; we ga - ther here in

6

1-7 8.

Je - sus' name. Hmm _____ Come Ho - ly name. _____

**Come, Holy Spirit,
descend on us, descend on us;
we gather here in Jesus' name.**

Cantor:

1. Come, Holy Spirit.
2. Come, Breath of Heaven.
3. Come, Word of Mercy.
4. Come, Fire of Judgement
5. Come, Great Creator.
6. Come to unite us.
7. Come to disturb us.
8. Come to inspire us.

John L. Bell. (b 1949-)
Sing Praise 96

Confirmation

The bishop says

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth.
Blessed be the name of the Lord
now, and for ever. Amen.

The bishop continues

Almighty and everliving God,
you have given your servants
new birth by water and the Spirit,

and have forgiven them their sins.
Strengthen them, we pray, with the Holy Spirit
that they may grow in grace.
Increase in them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of discernment and inner strength,
the spirit of knowledge and true godliness,
and fill them with wonder and awe at your presence,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Those who are to be confirmed kneel before the bishop, who lays a hand upon each of them saying
Strengthen, Lord, your servant *Robert, Christian, Susannah, Caleb, Ethan,*
and Darren with your Holy Spirit.
Empower and sustain him/her for your service. **Amen.**

The Bishop makes a sign of the Cross on each candidate's forehead using the Chrism Oil and says
Robert, Christian, Susannah, Caleb, Ethan, and Darren,
you are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked as Christ's own forever.

The congregation joins with the bishop in saying this prayer after all the candidates have received
the laying on of hands.

Defend, O Lord, these your servants
with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until they come to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

The Greeting of Peace

The God of peace make us holy in all things
that we may be ready at the coming of our Lord Jesus.

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Offertory and Offertory Hymn

**Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the sound of this refrain:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.**

Every eye shall now behold him
robed in awesome majesty;
those who have betrayed and sold
him,
pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply shamed before him,
deeply shamed before him,
deeply shamed before him
shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what
rapture,
with what rapture
gaze we one those glorious scars!

**Sing amen! let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for your own;
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly;
hallelujah! Come, Lord, come.**

Charles Wesley
Together in Song 273

The gifts of the people are brought to the Lord's Table.

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.
With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.
Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.
**With joy, we make this offering.
May these offerings be released
to bring joy to the despairing,
protection for the vulnerable
and comfort to the distressed.Amen.**

Act for Peace

The Great Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We begin our praise

We love to praise you, holy God,
for your beautiful world
and your wonderful ways.
You are the shepherd of your people.
You gave us good commandments
and you sent your messengers to guide us.

Our hope for a reign of everlasting joy

We give you thanks because through baptism
you invite us into the fullness of your kingdom,
promising that we, with all the faithful
are called to be children of the Most High God.
As a priest he offered up his life on the cross
that by his one sacrifice
he might present to you an eternal kingdom;
a kingdom of truth and life;
a kingdom of justice, love, joy and peace.

So we praise you, living God,
singing our song with angels and saints
and Christians everywhere:

1 Cantor:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho _____ ly Lord, God of pow'r and God _____ of might.


2 All:
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho _____ ly Lord, God of pow'r and God _____ of might.

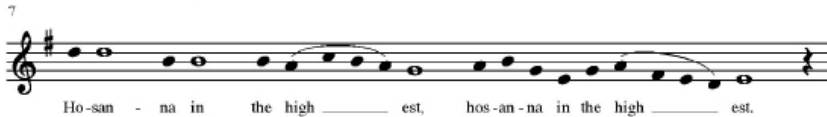
3 Cantor:
Heav - en and earth _____ are full _ of your glo _____ ry.


4
Ho-san - na in the high - est, hos-an-na in the high _____ est.

5 All:
Ho-san - na in the high _____ est, hos-an-na in the high _____ est.

6

6 Cantor:

 Bless - ed is he _ who comes in the _ name ____ of _ the Lord.

7

 Ho-san - na in the high ____ est, hos-an-na in the high ____ est.

8 All:

 Ho-san - na in the high ____ est, hos-an-na in the high ____ est.

With this bread that we bring

And now, Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you
 for the meal you shared with us
 on the night before you died.

You took the bread
 and blessed it
 and broke it
 and gave it to your friends. You said:
 “This is my body.
 Take it and eat it
 in memory of me.”

With this wine that we bring

Then you took the cup of wine,
 and blessed it,
 and gave it to your friends to drink.
 You said:
 “This is my blood.
 It is God’s guarantee that sins will be forgiven.
 Every time you drink it,
 do this in memory of me.”

We remember Jesus

So we do what you command us,
 and we remember:
 you lived and died,
 you rose in glory,
 you sent your Holy Spirit,
 and you will come again at the end of time
 to bring us home to God.

Cantor/All

Christ has died, Christ is ris en, Christ will come a gain.

Epeclesis: the Sending of the Holy Spirit

Now, Holy Spirit, we praise you
 because you help us pray.
 Come to us in this celebration,
 and make us your holy people.
 Feed us at this table
 with the body and the blood of Christ.
 Make our faith grow.

Commissioning:

Send us to be your messengers to the world.
 Spread the Good News of Jesus
 by our words, our actions and our love.
 Teach us to praise the living God,
 through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 with every breath you give us.

Cantor/All.

A men. A men. A men A men.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done
 on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.**

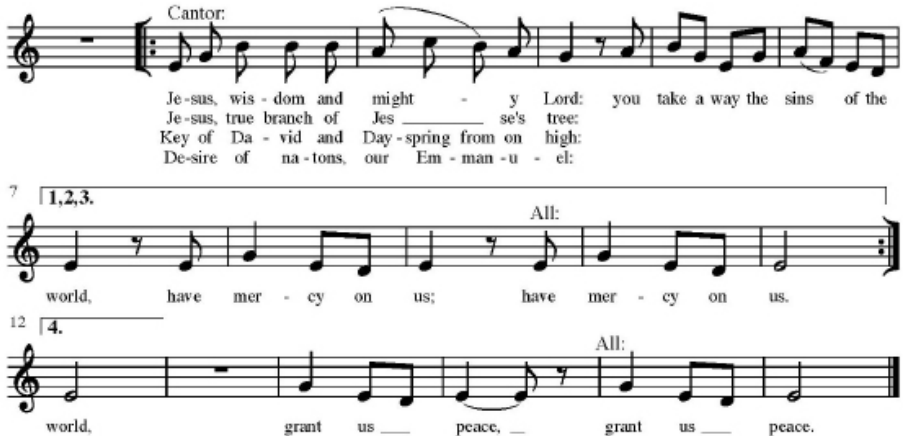
**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body

for we all share in the one bread.



Cantor:

Je-sus, wis-dom and might - y Lord: you take a way the sins of the
Je-sus, true branch of Jes - se's tree:
Key of Da-vid and Day-spring from on high:
De-sire of na-tions, our Em-man-u-el:

7 | 1,2,3. All:
world, have mer-cy on us; have mer-cy on us.

12 | 4. All:
world, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

All are welcome at his supper. Come.

Anthem during Communion
Wake, awake, Philip Nicolai, harm. J S Bach.

Post Communion Prayer

We have gathered, with hearts and minds open to God.

**We leave, in the faithful
company of the triune God,
a sacred presence for our living.**

We leave, to build shalom.

We leave, to follow the pathways of peace.

We leave, to love without ceasing.

**We leave, ready for joy to
break out afresh.**

Post Communion Hymn

1. The voice of God goes out to all the world;
his glory speaks across the universe.
The great King's herald cries
from star to star:
'With power, with justice,
he will walk his way.'

2. The Lord has said,
'Receive my messenger,
my promise to the world,
my pledge made flesh,
a lamp to every nation, light from light':
with power, with justice,
he will walk his way.

3. The broken reed he
will not trample down,
nor set his heel upon the dying flame.
He binds the wounds,
and health is in his hand:
with power, with justice,
he will walk his way.

4. Anointed with the Spirit
and with power,
he comes to crown with comfort
all the weak,
to show the face of justice to the poor:
with power, with justice,
he will walk his way.

5. His touch will bless the eyes
that darkness held,
the lame shall run,
the halting tongue shall sing,
and prisoners laugh in light and liberty:
with power, with justice,
he will walk his way.

TIS 282

Luke Connaughton 1917—79

Blessing and Dismissal

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted;
give honour to all; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
in the name of Christ. Amen

Postlude at Church of the Resurrection
Toccat, Théodore Dubois.

TONIGHT

Lessons and Carols
Church of the Resurrection
7.30 pm

NOTICES

Appeal for Anglicare Broadmeadows Women's Charity House

For underwear and socks (new) for children under the age of 5. Please give me a ring and I will arrange collection from the Church of the Resurrection, Macedon. Thank you and God Bless, Rosemary Homewood, Ph. 54287152.

Grand Charity Raffle!

The Proceeds of this raffle will be for both Asylum Seekers and Refugees at Broadmeadows and also at the Thai-Burma border. There are nine prizes including a Christmas hamper donated by Neal Street Medical Centre Doctors. Tickets are \$5.00 for 3 and are available from Elaine Millar (Gisborne), Margaret Poyser (Riddells Creek) and Popsy Colquhoun and Rosemary Homewood (Macedon). The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 22nd December at the Church of the Resurrection, following the service. Please support this special effort for the end of the year. God Bless, Rosemary Homewood.

Christmas Program

Christmas Eve	5.30 pm	St John's Riddells Creek
	11.00pm	Carols, followed by
	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass at Church of the Resurrection
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Christmas Eucharist at St Paul's, Gisborne

Sundays in the Holidays:

December 29	10 am	Church of the Resurrection
January 5	10 am	St John's, Riddells Creek
January 12	10 am	St Paul's, Gisborne
January 19	10 am	St Paul's, Gisborne (post Bric'a'brac)
January 26	10 am	Church of the Resurrection

CODE RED DAYS: no services. Please implement personal fire plan.

Wednesday 10 am

January 22 and 29	St Paul's, Gisborne
January 8	Church of the Resurrection
January 15	St John's Riddells Creek

Vision Australia

Large and extra large print calendars for 2020 are for sale priced at \$15.00 each, available from Elaine Millar 5428 2522.

This week in the Parish

Sunday December 15th ADVENT 3

10.30 am Eucharist, Baptism and Confirmation Church of the Resurrection
7.30 pm Lessons and Carols

Monday December 16th

9.30 am Play Group Parish Hall
1.00 pm Play Group Parish Hall
1.30 pm Card Group Parish Centre

Tuesday December 17th

9.30am Play Group Parish Hall

Wednesday December 18th

10.00 am Eucharist St Paul's, Gisborne
2.30 pm Christmas Celebration The Oaks

Thursday December 19th

9.00 am Mount Macedon Primary School Christmas Assembly
10.00 am DEADLINE PEW BULLETIN
6.00 pm Meeting AA Parish Centre, Gisborne

Friday December 20th

Saturday December 21st Thomas, Apostle and Martyr

5.30 pm Eucharist St John's, Riddells Creek
7.30 pm Carols under the Viaduct Riddells Creek

Sunday December 22nd ADVENT 4

9.00 am Eucharist St Paul's, Gisborne
10.30 am Eucharist Church of the Resurrection, Macedon

Parish Office: 32A Fisher Street, Gisborne PO Box 325, Gisborne 3437
Phone: (03) 5428 4038 gisborneparish@bigpond.com
Vicar: Fr Dennis Webster (03) 9012 3365 (will relay to a mobile service)
Wardens: Alison Kitching, Tony Woodgate, Mary Duggan

Child Safe Officers: Debra Saffrey-Collins; Mary Duggan

The Parish website is having a major overhaul. Rosters, as well as two formats of the pew bulletin are available to download.

St Paul's Op Shop

To keep the Shop open on Saturday mornings further volunteers are required to assist at the counter next year from 10.00am – 1.00pm on a monthly basis. A commitment is required now before the yearly roster is compiled. Please advise or phone Graeme or Elaine Millar, 0413 781 501 or 5428 2522

Food Centre

On behalf of the Food Centre, thank you all for your generous support in our opening year. With not only all the Churches combined behind this project, we welcome the wider community support.

In the new year, we look forward to your continuing support, either financially or by bringing food (non-perishables) to the Church to put in the baskets, or the Opp Shop Food Chest. Alternatively, food can be left at the GREAT office. Fr Dennis; Tony Woodgate, Jim Lindsay.

Thanks

Fr Dennis extends his thanks for the kindness, community affirmation, attendance and gift on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee of being a priest last Tuesday. The gift of the stole (to be made by the Southern Sudanese Project at Box Hill) was very moving. Every blessing to all in the Parish.

Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne Local Hero Award 2019

Last Sunday evening at the Gisborne Community Carols, our own Lorna Howard was presented with the Local Hero Award in recognition of her many years of dedicated care and ministry to children across the Riddells Creek and Gisborne communities. A much deserved award: congratulations Lorna.

The Oaks Christmas Service

On Wednesday, at 2.30 pm the Churches will be hosting their annual Christmas Service and Communion in the LEP room. Family and friends are most welcome to attend.

Riddells Creek Christmas Carols December 21st

The Parish will be hosting the annual Christmas Carols under the most perfect arched bridge of Victoria, adjacent to the Riddells Creek Lake and extensive goose zoo! If you can help in anyway, talk with Mary Duggan or Fr Dennis.

Christmas Closures

With the coming of the end of the school year, many of our volunteer organisations will be moving into the Christmas and Summer break. Please enjoy, stay safe, and arrive back refreshed in the New Year, ready to bring God's joy, love and peace again in the year of Christ's perfection vision: 20-20.