



Christmas Day Eucharist  
2020

Christmas Day 9.00 am  
St Paul's Gisborne

*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.  
We acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.  
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 speak to one of our welcomers or visit our website [anglicanparishgisborne.org.au](http://anglicanparishgisborne.org.au).

From the Parish Priest

As the time arrives for us to gather as one body to remember the birth of our Lord, it is good for us to be here, and to allow ourselves to enter into the joyous peace that only Jesus can bring to the world. Often, we overlook the need for quiet and reflection at this time of year. Today, let the worries of the past year give way to the Prince of Peace, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

Please be mindful of not only those in our community who find this a difficult time of year, but also, those living in areas where there is much hardship. I commend to your generosity the Christmas Bowl appeal.

To those of you who will be travelling during this holiday time, I wish you a safe journey and a time of renewal and refreshment. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to our worship this Advent/Christmas season.

A joyful and blessed Christmas to you all.

Fr Dennis

Fr Dennis Webster



The poster features a central photograph of a woman, Martha, holding a small animal. To the left, a 'Christmas Day' banner is present. A circular seal on the left reads 'THE CHRISTMAS BOWL SINCE 1949'. The 'Christmas Bowl' logo is in the top right corner. The main text reads: 'Merry Christmas! In Zimbabwe, the coronavirus is pushing already vulnerable families to the brink without the support they need to survive. Through your gift this Christmas Bowl, Act for Peace's local partner will help families like Martha's to grow their own food and become more food secure. This Christmas, you can shine Christ's light by giving life-changing training, seeds and tools to families in Zimbabwe. Please give today.' A blue banner at the bottom contains the contact information: 'CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)'. At the very bottom, small text reads: 'The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188'.

Please give as generously as you can. You can place your donation at the back of the church or you can use the envelope to send your donation directly to the Christmas Bowl.

*Presider at 9 am Fr Dennis Webster*

*The words printed in bold type are said or sung by the people.*

*The bell rings and we stand for the Introit hymn*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
let earth receive its king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;  
let us our songs employ;  
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Isaac Watts 1674—1748 alt

Gathering in God's Name

- ✠ **Blessed be God: Father Son and Holy Spirit.  
Blessed be God's Kingdom now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The Presider welcomes the people*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the most high Jesus Christ  
with the Holy spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.            Amen.**

*The prayer of the day is said by the Presider*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
your birth at Bethlehem  
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:  
accept our heartfelt praise  
as we worship you,  
our Saviour and our eternal God. **Amen.**

### The Ministry of the Word

As we prepare to hear God's Holy Word through the scriptures  
**open our hearts and minds, Lord.**

*The people sit for the reading from the scriptures*

First Lesson Isaiah 62.6-12

*After the lesson*

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

*The following response is said or sung*

**Response : Today is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord,  
sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless the Lord's name.            *Response*

Proclaim God's mercy day by day.  
Tell the Lord's glory among the nations,  
and wonders among the peoples.            *Response*

Let heaven and earth rejoice and be glad,  
the sea and its creatures thunder praise,  
the land and its fruit show forth its joy.

*Response*

Let trees and forests shout for joy  
at the presence of God, for the Lord is come,  
at the presence of God who rules the earth.

*Response*

Second Lesson     Titus 3.4-8a

*After the lesson*

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

*The people stand and sing the Gradual hymn*

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by:  
yet, in your dark streets shining  
the everlasting light,  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in you tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King  
and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
their great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel.**

Phillips Brooks 1835-93 alt.

*All stand for the Gospel Reading.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
and we have seen his glory.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

Luke 2.8-20

**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  
Fr Dennis Webster, Vicar

Affirmation of Faith

Let us stand and together affirm the faith of the Church.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**  
**he came down from heaven,**  
*was incarnate of the Holy Spirit*  
*and the Virgin Mary*  
*and became truly human.*

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**  
**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**  
**in accordance with the Scriptures;**  
**he ascended into heaven**  
**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge**  
**the living and the dead**  
**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,**  
**the giver of life,**  
**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**  
**who with the Father and the Son**  
**is worshipped and glorified,**  
**who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic**  
**and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism**  
**for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**  
**✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

*The people may stand or sit for the prayers*

Let us pray for the world and the church.

<p>Intercessor <b>People</b></p>	<p>For your love and goodness <b>we give you thanks, O God.</b></p>
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*At the conclusion of the prayers the intercession book may be placed on the altar as a sign of our prayers being offered as we pray:*

**Almighty Lord,**  
**hear our prayer**  
**and fulfil your purposes in us,**  
**as you accomplished your will**  
**in our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

Christ the light of the world has come  
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

*Silence may be kept.*

In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

**Father God,  
we are sorry  
for the things we do and say and think  
which make you sad,  
and for not thinking of others  
before ourselves.  
Please forgive us,  
and help us to love you and other people  
more and more. Amen.**

*The Presider pronounces God's forgiveness*

May God who loved the world so much  
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour  
✠ forgive us our sins  
and make us holy to serve him in the world,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Greeting of Peace

*All stand for the Greeting of Peace with these words*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.  
We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All exchange a greeting of peace*

*An offertory hymn may be sung during which the gifts of the people – bread, wine, and alms are collected and brought forward*

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new-born king,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all you nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in human flesh to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
Glory to the new born King.

Hail! The heaven-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings:  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more need die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the new born King.

Charles Wesley 1707 –88 and others  
Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-47

*The gifts of the people are presented*

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.

**Heavenly child,  
born as one of us yet still one with God,  
bless us and our gifts we share  
to the greater glory of your Holy Name. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

*The people remain standing*

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 offer our praise on this Holy Day*

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, ever-living God.

You created light out of darkness  
and brought forth life on the earth.

You formed us in your image  
and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away from you, and our love failed,  
your love remained ever steadfast.

You made a covenant to be our God,  
and spoke to us through your prophets.

*The Story of Jesus begins*

In the fullness of time  
you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ  
to be our saviour,  
and at his birth the angels sang  
glory to you in the highest  
and peace to your people on earth.

Therefore with the angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

*The Sanctus and Benedictus is sung*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**✠ Blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest!**

*God is with us:*

Blessed are you, merciful God,  
and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.  
As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem  
and there found no room,  
so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem  
and was despised and rejected.

As in the poverty of a stable Jesus was born,  
so, by the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection  
you gave birth to your church,  
delivered us from slavery to sin and death  
and made with us a new covenant  
by water and the Spirit.

*With this bread that we bring:*

As your Word became flesh,  
born of woman on that night so long ago  
so on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

*With this cup that we bring:*

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.'

United to God and one in love,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*We remember Jesus:*

And so, in remembrance of his birth,  
his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and exaltation,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice.

*We pray for the presence of the Holy Spirit*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and our celebration:  
may these gifts of bread and wine  
be for us the body and blood of Christ.  
Make us one with him and with each other,  
and one in service to all the world,  
until the day of final glory comes  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet  
with all your saints for ever.

*The Doxology*

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, heavenly Father,  
in songs of never-ending praise:  
**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and Communion

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

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

### The Sending Out of God's People

God our Father,  
whose Word has come among us  
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:  
may the light of faith illumine our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds;  
through him who is Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

*The people sing the post-communion hymn*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:**  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

**True God of true God, Light of Light eternal,  
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created:** *O come ...*

**See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:** *O come ...*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,  
'Glory to God, glory in the highest':** *O come ...*

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing:** *O come ...*

John Francis Wade c.1711-1786

*The Presider gives the blessing over the people*

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,  
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will:  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
be with you this day and for ever more. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Services during the Summer Season:

December 27	10 am	St John's, Riddells Creek
January 3	10 am	St Paul's Gisborne
January 10	10 am	Church of the Resurrection
January 17	10 am	St John's, Riddells Creek
January 24	10 am	St Paul's, Gisborne
January 31	10 am	Church of the Resurrection
February 7	10 am	Church of the Resurrection.

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

**Farewell to Benjamin, Emily, Germaine and Lavinia Clements**

In what can only be described as a most unusual Parish placement, our student reader, Benjamin Clements is concluding his time with us today.

A lot of plans that were possible during Ben's time with us came to an abrupt halt and change of direction as the lock down of Church and community took effect before Easter.

During this year, Ben continued, with the assistance of his family, to be involved with the worship and pastoral life of the Parish through leadership on-line. He has shown himself to be a gifted communicator and preacher. His understanding of life in the 'liturgical' side of the Church spectrum has also been one of considerable growth and this is reflected in the way that Ben has contributed to the Parish.

One of Ben's lasting contributions to the life of the Parish will be the Parish Logo that will continue to reflect his creativity, but also, our own 'new normal' going forward. Based on the roof lines and predominant colours of the region, especially in autumn, it is a clear symbol of our place in the Macedon Ranges. Ben will be transferring to Hoppers Crossing. This will enable him to experience multi-cultural ministry in one of Melbourne's fastest growing areas.

We pray for God's continuing blessing upon Ben's ministry, and together with Emily, Germaine, Lavinia, and the one more on the way, we assure them of our continued prayers.

## Archbishop Justin Welby's Christmas Message

'And the Word became flesh and lived among us' (John 1.14)

As we approach once again the commemoration of the nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ we do so against the backdrop of a year dominated by a global pandemic. Coronavirus infections have caused widespread sickness, many thousands of deaths and an economic crisis around the world. The situation of our world was already fragile, with other public health emergencies, continuing conflicts and climate change affecting the lives of God's world and God's people. The pandemic has exacerbated the inequalities in the world, with the poorest and most vulnerable most deeply affected.

In recent correspondence I have been asked on more than one occasion whether Christmas should be postponed this year as it cannot be celebrated with all the liturgical and social customs and traditions that the people of God value so much. However, as I look around the world and through the world's history it is clear that the celebration of the incarnation is always grounded in our acknowledgement that the world is fragile and suffering. Our Lord was born in our fallen world and it is in his birth, death and resurrection that we find hope. People face sickness, war, displacement and poverty every day and, in joy and suffering alike, the birth of Christ is marked and celebrated as a constant reminder of our salvation.

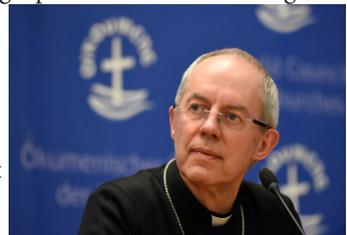
As the early teacher of our faith Justin Martyr wrote:

He became a human being for our sakes, that becoming a partaker of our sufferings, He might also bring us healing. (Second Apology, Chapter XIII)

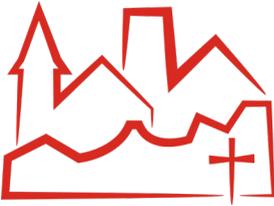
Christ came to a suffering world to bring healing, reconciliation and hope. As I hear stories of the response of the Church to human suffering in different parts of the world I see that hope made real. Churches and individual Christians are reaching out in love to those in need: most often not from a position of power, but in vulnerability. That is exactly the sort of love that we celebrate at Christmas. Love that gets its hands dirty. Love that is open and generous. Love that, without great ceremony, makes a difference. Jesus Christ, the light of the world, shines even in the darkest times: for that we are thankful and in that we rejoice.

For many in different parts of the world this will be a different Christmas. I pray that wherever Christians are they may find that hope, comfort and joy that comes from Jesus Christ.

In that light and hope I convey my greetings to you and to the faithful throughout the world, praying that, in the strength of God we all may continue to be the ministers of Christ to the world he came to save.



# PARISH DIRECTORY



## ANGLICAN PARISH OF **GISBORNE**

MACEDON | RIDDELLS CREEK | GISBORNE

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St Paul's: 32 Fisher Street, Gisborne  
Church of the Resurrection:  
6 Honour Avenue, Macedon

Vicar: The Rev'd Dennis Webster  
Honorary Asst Priest: The Rev'd Dr Alan Smith  
Associate Clergy: The Rev'd Jeff Berger  
The Venerable Alan Hughes  
The Rev'd Graham Snell  
The Rev'd David McMillan  
Parish Office: Lyndsey Hamilton  
Child Safe Officers: Debra Saffrey-Collins  
Mary Duggan  
Hon Children's Minister: Lorna Howard  
Op Shop: Janine Sanders (St Paul's Gisborne)  
Christine Clark (Charity's Secret, Riddells Creek)  
Director of Music: Dr Dianne Gome

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