

Sharing God's love in our community:
Faith, Hope, Fellowship



Christmas 2017

NB
There will not be a Service on Wednesday, 28th December

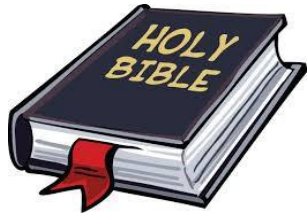
Merry Christmas to all
NB There will not be refreshments served following the 11.30pm Christmas Eve Service, or the Service on Christmas Morning.

CHRISTMAS STALL
Thanks to all who cooked goodies, made items etc etc for the Stall last week. Also those who donated prizes for the raffles. Around \$400.00 was raised and will go towards the Christmas Bowl. Well done all!!!
There are envelopes available in the narthex for those who would like to give an extra donation.

Sunday, 7th January will be Sonya's last Sunday.
Can everyone please bring a plate of food for a shared lunch.
Thank you.

If you have any Pew Sheet notices, please contact Vanessa 0412 356 654 or wenvan@optusnet.com.au by Wednesday 5pm.

Readings for 31st December, 2017
1st Reading: Isaiah 61. 10 - 62..3
Psalm: 72: 1 - 7, 10 - 14
2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 1 - 12
Gospel: Matthew 2: 1 - 12



PARISH MINISTRY TEAM
The Rev'd Sonya Paterson (8293 5050)
Parish email: plymptonanglican@internode.on.net
Rev'd Peter Miller (Hon Priest) 0400 915 847
Ven Conrad Patterson (Hon Priest)
WARDENS
Mrs Francine Kerwin (away)
Dr Pauline Glover 0408 410 010
Parish website: <http://anglicanparishofplympton.com.au/>
Facebook: Church of the Good Shepherd Adelaide



CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Sunday 24th December 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Children's Christmas Service (no Holy Communion)
11.30pm Christmas Eve Service
Monday 25th December 9.00am Christmas Day Service
Wednesday 28th December NO SERVICE

DIARY OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY	Fourth Sunday of Advent	24th December
	8.00am	Eucharist
	10.00am	Children's Christmas Service (no Communion)
	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Service
MONDAY	Christmas Day	25th December
	9.00am	Christmas Day Service
TUESDAY	Stephen, Deacon & First Martyr	
WEDNESDAY	John, Apostle & Evangelist	
	NO SERVICE	
THURSDAY	Holy Innocents	
FRIDAY		
SATURDAY		
SUNDAY	First Sunday after Christmas	31st December
	8.00am	Eucharist
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist

During Holy Communion we invite everyone to come forward as you are able, to receive the bread and wine (if this is your Christian practice) or a blessing.

You may sit, kneel or stand during any part of the service, including while receiving Communion.

Low gluten wafers are available - please let the priest know if you need one.

BIRTHDAY: Isobel Varcoe (29th)

PRAYER REQUESTS: Charmaine Fuller, Kel Pitman,
Rhiannon Henry-Edwards, Bradley Ryder,
Hank Middleton and those on the long term prayer list.
Please see Vanessa if you would like a name added to either list.

YEARS MIND: John Laphorne Kym Boyley Jacqueline Schwarz

Prayer of the week *Adelaide Anglicans*
O Lord, raise up your power and come among us, and with great might succour us, that, whereas through our sins and wickedness we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

WELCOME to Fr Peter Thomson who joins us today

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

24 December

Those who attend worship this morning will experience a nine months' time shift between this and the Christmas Eucharist. Let the reverberation of Mary's words carry you through the rest of this day as you make ready for your celebration of Christmas. 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

Take a deliberate time out to pray this afternoon – seek out a quiet space.

Christmas Day

25 December

The whirlwind rush of preparation for Christmas often leaves us breathless and restless. As with the shepherds, as you return home this morning, praising God for all that you have heard and seen at the worship; with Mary, take a moment to ponder and treasure the place you have for this Christ child.

Rejoice in the good news of great joy for all the people.

St Stephen, Deacon and First Martyr

26 December

The first of three Feast Days deliberately placed as a part of the celebration of the Nativity. The Gospel reading brings such a dramatic change of mood while some of our fridges still groan with Christmas leftovers. It is a brutal reminder of betrayals and disappointments we all experience in life. Those who follow the Christ child must also be ready to suffer for his sake. How difficult is it then, to respond as Stephen did, as described in the Acts reading?

Pray for forgiveness for betrayals and disappointments we are responsible for.

St John, Apostle and Evangelist

27 December

We celebrate the Feast Day of 'the other disciple' of the Gospel reading who outran Simon Peter to the tomb; looked in and saw the linen wrapping lying there; but took a step back and did not go in. After a pause, he entered the tomb and we read of the very moment of faith for 'the other disciple' – he *saw* and *believed*.

Pray that we might nurture a thoughtful reflective faith in the light of God's truth.

The Holy Innocents

28 December

This is the last of three Feast Days set in the Nativity celebration and it brings the same, and even deeper sense of gut wrenching horror as the stoning of Stephen. Yet, the history is repeated in almost every war – and even at peacetimes, as children are abused and treated as nothing.

Pray that God might transform even the most tragic and appalling events and fill them with meaning and purpose; so as to comfort and heal all who are affected by them.

Text: Atsushi Shibaoka © ABM, 2017