

DECEMBER 2024

SUNDAY	Advent 1-4, Christmas Eve & Day, First Sunday after Christmas
MONDAY	2.12 <i>Francis Perry, founder Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne</i> 9.12 10.00 Bucklands Southern Cross, 16.12 10.30 The Pines Southern Cross 30.12 <i>Josephine Butler, social reformer</i>
TUESDAY	3.12 10.30 Morning Coffee Good Shepherd <i>St Francis Xavier, priest & missionary</i> 24.12 7.30 Christmas Eve <i>The Birth of our Lord</i> 31.12 John Wycliffe, teacher & reformer.
WEDNESDAY	10.00 am Eucharist 4.12 <i>St Nicholas Ferrar, deacon & man of prayer</i> 18.12 12.00 Christmas Lunch Good Shepherd 25.12 9.00 Christmas Day <i>The Birth of our Lord</i>
THURSDAY	26.12 St Stephen, Deacon, First Martyr
FRIDAY	6.12 <i>St Nicholas of Myra, bishop & philanthropist</i> 13.12 <i>St Lucy, Martyr & virgin</i> 27.12 St John, Apostle & Evangelist
SATURDAY	7.12 <i>St Ambrose of Milan, bishop & teacher</i> 14.12 <i>St John of the Cross, mystic & teacher.</i> 21.12 St Thomas, Apostle & Martyr 28.12 Holy Innocents Silence in the Church 5.30 <i>followed by a shared meal.</i>

*Everyone is invited to the Lord's table to receive the Eucharist or a Blessing.
Simply hold out your hand for the bread, bow your head for a blessing.*

PRAYER REQUESTS: Gwen James, Corina Moore, David King.
A *long-term prayer list* is on the altar. It is for people known to us those with long term concerns or who wish for confidential prayerful inclusion in worship, in the quiet of our hearts and minds.
Let us know if you would like someone's name included on this list or in the Pew Sheet.

DECEMBER YEARS MIND

1-7: 1 Peter Doherty, 2 Colin Paull, 6 Craig Roeger, 7 Ellinor Hearn
8-14: 12 Patricia Wescombe, Patricia Wade, Joan Nienaber,
13 Murray Boughan, 14 Philip Grundl, Joan Payne
15-21: 15 Margaret Boughan, 16 Shelia Claridge, 20 Jane Fanning, Phyllis Gooden
22-28: 24 John Laphome, 25 Kym Boyley,
29-4:31 Neil Varcoe, 2 Jennifer Middleton, Catherine Godlee

REST IN PEACE

We pray for the family and friends of those who mourn the loss of those whom they love

Prayer of the Week

Advent 1 Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Advent 2 Merciful God, who sent your messenger John the Baptist to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed his warning and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Advent 3 Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you: come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end and your children may live in peace, honouring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Advent 4 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.**

1st Sunday After Christmas Almighty God, you have shed upon us the light of your incarnate Word: may this light, kindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prompts for Faith Sharing.

Advent 1 Advent is a time of preparation and a time of waiting. What spiritual practises make waiting fruitful for you? Today's gospel is disturbing. Yet we are called to be people of hope, peace & joy. How do you; how does your life reflect peace, hope and joy in a world where panic, chaos & despair are clearly present?

Advent 2 Both John & Jesus spend time in the desert before taking on their public ministry. What are the desert places in your life where you nurture time with God in solitude & prayer? Some people just come to church at Christmas & Easter. How does this make you feel? What assumptions do you make that you may need to challenge in order to be radically hospitable?

Advent 3 The prophet Zephaniah tells us, '*The Lord, your God, is in your midst.*' How have you experienced God in this last week? Paul exhorts us, '*Have no anxiety at all.*' Think about how you might free yourself from this burden & give all your anxiety to God?

Advent 4 Hebrews proclaims, '*we have been consecrated*', that is set apart for a holy purpose. In what ways is your life consecrated? How does your joy point to the Risen Lord in your life? Who are your spiritual friends?

Christmas The incarnation is God's self gift to us all. In the midst of a flurry of gift giving & receiving today's celebration is an invitation to focus on the gifts of life, love & relationships. How do we too, share ourselves with others? Do we deeply listen? Are we truly present? What more of ourselves could we generously share at little or no cost?

1st Sunday After Christmas How does your family support you? How do you experience your church? A house of God? A place of shelter & welcome? Something else? Imagine your 12 year old self? Would you and Jesus been friends? What are your recollections of conflict with parents? Does Jesus experience of this resonate with you?