

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tonight Nine Lessons & Carols @ 7pm
Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm
Tuesday Community BBQ between 4-8pm
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6am
Thursday Rev Josie @ church from 10am -12 noon

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS – is tonight at 7pm. After the service we'll have some champers, tea, coffee, mince pies, shortbread and cake in the hall. It's a yummy way to finish the evening.

COMMUNITY BBQ – is on in the car park over the next 2 Tuesdays from 4pm, everyone's welcome. Last week Tabitha and her husband James served just over 100 people. A fabulous effort!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES TIMES

Christmas Eve Nativity Play @ 5 pm
Midnight Mass @ 11 pm
Christmas Day Family Service @ 9 am

Please pray for: Paul; Frances; Isla; Albert, Ivan; Jean; Peggy; Jodi; Jan; Siew; Dennis & Dorothy; Simon, Toni; Peter; Laura; Stephen



*Happy birthday to Val Jones for today;
Ann Hamilton-Cowan & Elisabeth Stokes on
10th; Pamela Henning on 12th*

Wardens -	Phone:
Judith Smith	Phone: 9246 3745
Parish Priest – the Reverend Josie Steytler	Phone: 0421 115 438

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Welcome to Worship

Advent 2

6th December 2020



We are a warm-hearted community who are delighted to have you worshipping with us today ...

Our Mission is to

- Know God personally
- Love and respect one another deeply
- Disciple and serve those around us

Sentence: 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

Collect of 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 in Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Today's readings:

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Next Week:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Song of Mary
1 Thess 5:12-28
John 1:6-8, 19-28



Advent 2 – Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were being baptised by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John's brief appearance in Mark's Gospel begins a new era in the history of salvation. Mark's details about John's appearance recall the austere dress of the great prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1: 8). The Jews believed that Elijah would return from heaven to announce the long-awaited restoration of Israel as God's kingdom. For Mark and the synoptics, this expectation is fulfilled in John the Baptist. In the Baptist's proclamation of Jesus as the Messiah, the age of the prophets is fulfilled and the age of the Messiah begins. John's baptism with water is an act of hope and expectation in the Messiah's baptism in the very Spirit and life of God.

Each one of us is called to be a prophet of Christ. The word **prophet** comes from the Greek word meaning "one who proclaims." Not all prophets wear camel skins and eat locusts – there are prophets among us right now who proclaim in their ministries, in their compassion and their kindness, in their courageous commitment to what is right that Jesus the Messiah has come.

To be a prophet of God's justice begins with embracing God's vision of what the world can and should become and then giving one's self totally and unreservedly to realising that vision. In the baptismal call to become prophets of the God who comes, we are to do the work of transforming the wastelands around us into harvests of justice and forgiveness, to create highways for our God to enter and re-create our world in charity and peace.

As an "Advent people," we are caught (like the Israelites returning to Jerusalem – Reading 1) between a world that is dying and, at the same time, a world waiting to be reborn. The work of Advent is to bring about that rebirth: to prepare a world that is ready for the Lord's coming.

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