

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday Patchwork Group meet @ 12.30pm
Tuesday Community BBQ between 4-8pm
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6am
Thursday Service at Woodlake @ 11am

COMMUNITY BBQ – is on in the car park for the last time next Tues from 4pm, everyone's welcome. Last week Tabitha and her husband James served American Burgers.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS – if you would like to donate towards the flowers please speak with Irene or the Reverend Josie.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES TIMES

Christmas Eve Nativity Play @ 5 pm
Midnight Mass @ 11 pm
Christmas Day Family Service @ 9 am
Christmas 1 27th Dec ONE SERVICE ONLY @ 9am

Please pray for: Paul; Frances; Isla; Albert, Ivan; Peggy; Peter; Laura; Stephen; Amanda; Ernie & Irene; George & Maureen; Lois



Happy birthday to Ron Allardice on 17th

Wardens - Phil Goulding	Phone: 9247 4978
Judith Smith	Phone: 9246 3745
Parish Priest – the Reverend Josie Steytler	Phone: 0421 115 438

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Welcome to Worship



Advent 3

13th 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: Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God.
Isaiah 61:1-2

Collect of the Day

Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Today's readings:

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

Next Week:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-27
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38



Advent 3 – John 1:6-8, 19-28

[John] came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

God has revealed himself to his people through the incarnation of his Word, Jesus the Christ. In today's Gospel, John the Baptist points to this revelation as standing "among you whom you do not recognise."

Forms of "baptism" were common in the Judaism of Gospel times – in some Jewish communities, it was through baptism rather than circumcision that a Gentile became a Jew. But John's baptism was distinctive: His baptism at the Jordan was a rite of repentance and **metanoia**, a conversion of heart and spirit. The Baptist's ministry fulfilled the promise of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36: 25-26): that, at the dawn of a new age, the God of Israel would purify his people from their sins with clear water and instil in them a new heart and spirit.

Light is the central image of today's Gospel: John proclaims the coming of the Messiah as the light who will shatter the darkness that envelops

our world, the light who illuminates our vision with compassion and justice.

The coming of Christ calls us to the work of making a straight road for him, of transforming the barren deserts around us into harvests of justice and peace, of reflecting the light of his forgiveness and mercy in our midst. We are all called to this kind of "prophetic" work begun by John at the Jordan River: to use whatever skills and resources we possess to bring hope into prisons of despair, joy into deserts of sadness, love into broken hearts and spirits of stone.

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