

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday Happy Australia Day  
Wednesday Golf Group meet @ 6am  
Thursday World Day of Prayer meeting @ 10am

### Prayer for Australia Day

We bless you, God of the universe,  
for this land,  
for its contrasts of landscape and climate,  
for its abundance of wealth and opportunity.  
We bless you for our history,  
with all its struggles in adversity,  
its courage and hope.  
Give us in our diversity  
tolerance and respect for each other  
and a passionate commitment to justice for all.  
Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others.  
we ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Please pray for:** Paul; Frances; Isla; Albert, Ivan; Peggy;  
Peter; Stephen; Amanda; Ernie & Irene; George & Maureen;  
Lois; Barry; Fred & Joan; Cameron; Ron



*Happy birthday to David Moller on 24<sup>th</sup>;  
Howard Martin on 26<sup>th</sup>; Chris Foster on 29<sup>th</sup>;  
Alison Dunne on 30<sup>th</sup>*

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## Welcome to Worship



## Epiphany 3

24<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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**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**

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**Sentence:** The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel. *Mark 1:15*

### Collect of the Day

Bountiful God,  
through your Son you have called us to repent of  
our sin, to believe the good news,  
and to celebrate the coming of your kingdom:  
teach us, like Christ's first apostles,  
to hear the call to discipleship,  
and, forsaking old ways,  
to proclaim the gospel of new life to a broken  
world; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Today's readings:

Jonah 3:1-10  
Psalm 62:5-12  
1 Corinthians 7:29-31  
Mark 1:14-20

### Next Week:

Deut 18:15-20  
Psalm 111  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13  
Mark 1:21-28



## Epiphany 3 – Mark 1:14-20

*Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”*

*As [Jesus] passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea . . . “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

The day of the Messiah has dawned; but newness demands change: a “turning away” (the original meaning of the word **repentance**) from business as usual and a complete trust in the life and love of God. Simon and Andrew’s “abandoning” of their nets and James’ and John’s “abandoning” of their father in today’s Gospel illustrate the total trust and commitment Jesus demands of those who would be his disciples.

When Jesus calls us to “repent,” he’s not calling us to cease and desist; he’s not calling us out for our sins and failures. “Repentance” is a call to change, to look at our lives and our world in a new light, to become the person of hope and faith we seek to be; to repent is to look, not backward with regret, but forward with hope — not downwards at our own shortcomings, but upwards at God’s love.

Jesus began his ministry by calling simple fishermen to be his most trusted friends. Although the Twelve were hardly scholars or men wise in the ways of the world, Jesus saw beyond their gruff simplicity to call forth from them faith, sincerity and integrity. As Mark’s Gospel unfolds each Sunday this year, the first disciples will misunderstand Jesus (if not miss the point entirely), desert him and even deny and betray him.

To follow Christ means “abandoning our nets” of self-interest to embrace the needs of others; Jesus calls us to follow him along the difficult path of humility and selflessness. If we are going to realise his call to be “fishers of men,” we have to be willing to cast our nets into waters that are deep and turbulent, waters we do not know, waters that threaten the safety and security of our small boats.

The Gospel is about possibilities: Christ came to show us how it is possible to love life to the fullest, if we dare to make forgiveness, reconciliation and selfless charity the centre of our lives.