



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Welcome to St George's

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

6 December 2020



**"To come out of this pandemic better than we went in, we must let ourselves be touched by others' pain."**

*Pope Francis*

<b>Today 6 December</b>	<b>8.00am 10.00am 5:00pm</b>	<b>Eucharist – Rev’d Brenda Williams Eucharist with Hymns - Rev’d Brenda Williams Eucharist with Meditation – Rev’d Brenda Williams</b>
<b>Tuesday 8 December</b>	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer (Zoom)</b>
<b>Thursday 10 December</b>	<b>9.00am 10.15am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer Eucharist</b>
<b>Friday 11 December</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Next Sunday 13 December</b>	<b>8.00am 10.00am 5.00pm</b>	<b>Eucharist – Fr Ray Cleary Eucharist with Hymns – Fr Ray Cleary Eucharist with Meditation – Fr Ray Cleary</b>

**ZOOM SERVICES THIS WEEK AT ST GEORGE’S, MALVERN**

**Tuesday, 8 December 2020**

***9.15am Morning Prayer, ID: 890 7406 2691, Password: SGM3144, or you can connect by putting into your search browser the following, [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/890 7406 2691](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89074062691)***

**FROM THE LOCUM VICAR**

Last Saturday and Sunday, there was a sense of optimism and hope as we gathered first for the ordination of Brenda to the priesthood and then for our worship gatherings on Sunday when there were many smiling faces. I know from my conversations with people over the past weeks how much church has been missed by many and in particular receiving the sacrament. We give thanks to God and for the efforts of so many people for the care and attention that has been seen at so much of community life, for the leadership and compassion particularly for those who have lost loved ones and the willingness of so many to reach out in new ways to neighbours. The pandemic is not over in many parts of the world and we also need to be on guard here in Australia to prevent any further outbreaks. The news of a vaccine is welcome, but I suspect we will have to adjust to the reality that the virus will not be fully eliminated, and we will need to be on our guard.

It is no longer necessary to reserve a seat at our three services on Sunday and I encourage you to come back to Church unless you feel compromised. For those who are wary of returning, please be assured with have all the protocols in place and if you would like either Brenda or myself to bring communion to you that can be arranged. Please call the parish office direct and request a date and time.

Today’s Gospel has John confronting the reality of our sin and brokenness. It is a call to start afresh John is pointing beyond himself to the one who is to come Jesus. Advent calls us to refocus our thoughts away from all that distracts us at this time of the year and to focus on the one who is to come among us the child at Bethlehem. We are further reminded that this same child will be the crucified Lord.

Shalom  
Ray

## THANK YOU

What delightful occasions last Saturday and Sunday were as The Archbishop ordained me to the Holy Order of Priest here at St George's, and then I joined with you in presiding at the Eucharist at 10am on Sunday. Whilst the proceedings incurred much extra work for many people, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all who were involved in ensuring that the decorations and preparation of the church, the service and refreshments afterwards all went seamlessly. Whilst it was so sad not to be able to offer a general invitation to all parishioners, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who attended, watched the live stream, offered their thoughts, prayers and well wishes in many different ways. Your support and care of me has been much appreciated.

Parishioners may not be aware that the parish covered many costs which would normally be provided the Diocese. I particularly wish to thank the Wardens for their generous decision to cover these costs and for the flowers, refreshments and Book Token given to me on behalf of the parish.

Thank you one and all for your love expressed in so many ways.

*Brenda*

## REFLECTION

### **We are a Risen People**

The Covid-19 virus crisis has challenged us all. What it has done for me is to reawaken the precious gift that Jesus gave us on the Cross at the climax of Lent when He was tested and loved us still. Because of this and through Him we are a Risen People.

Easter came and went this year and with the restrictions we were not able to celebrate or even publicly acknowledge that significant event as we have done so in the past. We could only do so through the talents of our locum vicars, Fr Ray and Fr Ray. Not the same though, as we were in lockdown for months and our focus was through that prism.

Now that we are beginning to successfully emerge from those restrictions, I'm mindful of the fact that Easter will still come to St George's, but late. This is a year unlike any other we have experienced.

*Elsbeth Jones*

## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. GEORGE'S**

The protocols associated with the Pandemic has meant that we have had to a change ours plans for Christmas this year. At the time of writing this note, there are limits on the amount of singing that is permitted. Masks still need to be worn in Church. With the need to be proactive and to care and protect all who will wish to worship at Christmas please note the arrangements.

### **Christmas Eve**

10.15am - Holy Communion for Christmas

5.00pm - Children and families Christmas service followed by barbecue under the Gum trees at the front of the Church

10.30pm - Festival Eucharist for Christmas

{Registrations will be necessary for this service. Please ring or text Fr Ray on 0419 371 613. This service will also be live streamed}

### **Christmas Day**

8.00am and 10.00am - Festival Eucharists

{It is advisable to register}

50 people will be permitted in the Church at each service other than for the 5pm Children's and family service which will be held outside.

### **Sunday, 27 December 2020**

9.30am - Eucharist with Hymns

5.00pm - Eucharist with Meditation

***\*The bell rings as we gather together. Text printed in bold is said by all.***

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also, with you.**

**Sentence:** 'Heaven and earth will pass away', says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.'

### WELCOME

**Hymns will be sung at both 8.00am and 10.00am**

### **HYMN**

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
come then and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings from the King of kings.

To him who left the throne of heaven  
to free us all, let praise be given;  
and praise be to the Father done,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One.

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

*Silence is kept*

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in  
newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness  
to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Kyrie eleison*  
Lord have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy,**  
Lord have mercy.

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

#### THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**Readers:**

**8.00am – Bryan Elmes**

**10.00am – Gavin Watson**

**First Reading**

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'  
And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
'Here is your God!'  
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

**Reader** For the Word of the Lord  
**ALL** **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

O Lord, you were gracious to your land :  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.  
You forgave the iniquity of your people :  
and covered all their sin.  
I will hear what the Lord God will speak :  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.  
Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him :  
and his glory shall dwell in our land.  
Mercy and truth are met together :  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;  
Truth shall flourish out of the earth :  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.  
The Lord will also give us all that is good :  
and our land shall yield its plenty.  
For righteousness shall go before him :  
and tread the path before his feet.

## **Second Reading**

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him.

*2 Peter 3:8-15a*

**Reader** For the Word of the Lord  
**ALL** **Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**ALL** Alleluia, Alleluia, **Alleluia, Alleluia**  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:  
All people shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, **Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Reader** The Lord be with you  
**ALL** **And also with you**

**Reader** Hear the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**ALL** **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,  
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;  
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

*Mark 1:1-8*

**Reader** For the Gospel of the Lord  
**ALL** **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

## THE HOMILY

*Silence is kept*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us stand and together affirm the faith of the Church

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### THE PRAYERS

Led by:

8.00am – Fr Ray

10.00am – Robin Barrett

*Prayers are offered for the world and for the church. Please join in the response, led by the Intercessor.*

Let us pray to the Father through the risen Christ who is close to us now and always.

*Silence is kept*

#### **For the Anglican Church**

We give thanks for Fr Gregory Seach as he prepares to come among us.

We pray for Reformed Episcopal Church of Spain (Bp Carlos López-Lozano); Yarra Valley Grammar School (Mark Merry, Principal); The Parish of the Holy Name of Jesus, Vermont South (Victor Fan); St Dunstan's Camberwell – Pastoral Service (Bp Genieve Blackwell).

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**For all in need**

May all who are in trouble, in need or sickness find peace and refreshment in you. We pray for Georgia, Jenny, Sam, Milroy, Coral, David, Tony, Paul, Christine, Lei and her family, Keith, Peter, Ann, Leon, Erica, Josh, Eric, and members of the Parish in hospital facing surgery or recovering from an illness.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**For the Faithful Departed**

We pray for Colin Lachlan McInnes, Peter Reid, Maurice Street, Frederick Davis, Vera Eastaugh, Harriet Hood, Janette Mary Ray, Colin Prain *whose anniversary of death we remember this week.*

Intercessor: Almighty God you have promised to hear our prayers.

**All Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE GREETING OF PEACE**

*We greet one another with a sign of peace. The table is laid and our offerings received.*

We are the body of Christ

**His spirit is with us**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also, with you.**

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

God has spoken by his prophets,  
spoken his unchanging Word;  
each from age to age proclaiming  
God the one, the righteous Lord!  
In the world's despair and turmoil  
one firm anchor holds us fast,  
God is king, his throne eternal,  
God the first, and God the last.

God is speaking by his Spirit  
speaking to our hearts again,  
in the age-long word expounding  
God's own message, now as then.  
Through the rise and fall of nations  
one sure faith yet standing fast:  
God still speaks, his word unchanging,  
God the first and God the last.

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given, and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour Christ has taught we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. Amen.**

#### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body.

**For we all share in the one bread.**

#### **AGNUS DEI**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The sacrament of the Eucharist is given with these words*  
The body of Christ. **Amen.**

While congregants receive communion, the following anthem will be sung:

Communion Motet: *Jerusalem surge* Schmoll

Text and translation

***Jerusalem surge, et sta in excelso, et vide  
jucunditatem quae veniet tibi a Deo tuo.***

Arise, O Jerusalem, and stand on high, and behold  
the joy that comes to thee from thy God!

*Once all have received, we pause for a moment of Silence.*

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God for whom we wait  
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life  
and the cup of salvation.

As we joyfully await your son,  
keep us ever watchful  
that we may be ready to stand before him  
on the day of his coming.

**Most loving God,  
you send us into the world you love.  
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage  
in the power of your Spirit.**

## HYMN

O day of God, draw near  
in beauty and in power;  
come with your timeless judgment now  
to match our present hour.

Bring justice to our land,  
that all may dwell secure,  
and firmly build for days to come  
foundations that endure.

O day of God, draw near  
as at creation's birth;  
let there be light again,  
and set your justice in the earth.

#### THE BLESSING

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

#### POSTLUDE

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* J.S. Bach BWV 659

BIBLE READINGS: 13 December	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Song of Mary - APBA page 9	John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### NOTICES

#### MEMORIAL GARDEN

The Parish Memorial garden is in regular use by many in our community. It is place of rest, solace and prayer for departed loved ones. It is also a space for reflection and contemplation. If you are using the gardens during the pandemic, please maintain social distancing and wear a mask.

#### PEW BULLETIN

With Coved restrictions being eased, St George's is now able to accommodate up to 50 people in Church on any day. The number is 50 due to the fact that there are still protocols we need to observe. It will not be necessary to register your intention to attend any of the services unless advised otherwise.

Copies of the pew bulletin will be available in hard copy from this Sunday at each service.

#### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

As is the usual practise of the parish, a Children's Christmas Service will be held this year on Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December at 5.00pm.

It is planned that this short (40 minute) service will be held on the front lawn, weather permitting, with a BBQ to follow. The church will be open for families to take the opportunity to view then crib scene in the church after the service outside. Please invite your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbours to come with children dressed as: PROPHETS - carrying a scroll, SHEPHERDS - head gear of towel with cord to secure in place, KINGS - dressed in rich coloured gown and carrying a gift, or MARY & JOSEPH - dressed in blue dress or dressing gown with head gear.

#### ONGOING COVID REQUIREMENTS

As we continue to follow both State Government and Diocese regulations regarding easing of Covid 19 restrictions, we are unable to enjoy refreshments yet, have sides persons, full choir or a full complement in each sanctuary party.

Due to Covid restrictions regarding singing, we are not able to hold our Advent Carol Service this Sunday. We will observe minimal singing in Church for the present.

Covid Safe Officers [CSOs] continue to be required at all services to maintain our compliance. If you, or any one you know, would like to train as a CSO, particularly for Sunday 8.00am or 5.00pm services, please let me or Brenda know.

The following restrictions are still being enforced, whilst in the church or on the property:

- Face masks in Church should continue to be worn, covering nose and mouth, at all times [unless you have an exemption]
- Sanitize your hands-on arrival and immediately prior to leaving the property
- Sign-in in the place you are using: Vestry, Office, or at the Parish Centre entrance for those on site generally eg in the garden, or in the South Transept if using the church.
- When on the property, but not attending a service, sign-in using the red headed sheet
- Please note the requirement to clean all areas and items you have personally touched or used whilst on site. Disinfectant wipes, of the stipulated grade, are provided for your use
- Those using the Vestry ... please be mindful that the space only allows a maximum of two people at any one time.

#### **DONATION**

On Sunday, 24 January 2021, Fr Ray will be presiding at his last service at St George's. This will be followed by the traditional Parish Barbeque during which we would like to acknowledge the tremendous service that Fr Ray has provided to our congregation during a very difficult and challenging 2020. We would like to take the opportunity to thank and farewell him and provide him with a lasting memento from St George's.

If you would like to make a donation towards a presentation to him, please place your cash donation into a **firmly sealed envelope** marked clearly as 'DONATION FOR Fr RAY' and place either:

1. In the collection plate
2. Hand to Nisha in the office (Her hours are: Tuesday 9.30am-12.30pm and Thursday 9.30am-3.00pm)
3. Hand to a Warden
4. Hand to the Sides person (if there is one)

If you have any difficulties, please contact any of the Wardens. (Numbers are in the pew Bulletin)

**PARISH DIRECTORY**

296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, VIC 3144

**LOCUM VICAR**

Fr. Ray Cleary

Phone: 0419 371 613  
Email: ray@theclearys.com.au

**ASSISTANT CURATE**

The Rev'd Brenda Williams, Priest  
Works: Sat - Tues and Thurs

Phone: 0481 162 667  
Email: curate@stgeorgesmalvern.org

**HONORARY ASSOCIATE PRIEST**

The Rev'd Bill Michie

**ORGANIST & DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Elizabeth-Anne Nixon

Email: music@stgeorgesmalvern.org

**CHURCH OFFICE**

**(Note: For the present time, the office will only be open on Thursdays from 9.30am to 12.30pm. However, you can call the office number and leave a message or alternatively, you can send an email)**

Nisha O'Brien

Monday-Friday 9:30am-12:30pm  
Phone: 9822 3030  
Email: office@stgeorgesmalvern.org

**WARDENS**

Jenny Weller-Newton 9570 7731  
Judy Mallinson 0414 752 957  
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