



St George's Anglican Church | Malvern

Welcome to St George's

3rd Sunday of Advent

13 December 2020

CHRISTMAS AT ST GEORGE'S

Christmas Eve

Thursday 24 December

Holy Communion for Christmas

10:15am

Children and Families Service

5:00pm

(Come dressed as angels, shepherds or kings)

Festival Eucharist

10:30pm with Cath Connelly – Celtic Harp

(Registrations are advisable. Please ring or text Fr Ray on 0419 371 613)

Christmas Day

Friday 25 December

Festival Eucharists

8:00am and 10:00am

(It is advisable to register)

Locum Vicar: Fr Ray Cleary



296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern

www.stgeorgesmalvern.org

Today 13 December	8.00am 10.00am 5:00pm	Eucharist – Fr Ray Cleary Eucharist with Hymns – Fr Ray Cleary Eucharist with Meditation – Fr Ray Cleary
Tuesday 15 December	9:15am	Morning Prayer (Zoom)
Thursday 17 December	9.00am 10.15am	Morning Prayer Eucharist
Friday 18 December	9.00am	Morning Prayer
Next Sunday 20 December	8.00am 10.00am 5.00pm	Eucharist – Fr Ray Cleary Eucharist with Hymns – Fr Ray Cleary Eucharist with Meditation – Fr Ray Cleary

ZOOM SERVICES THIS WEEK AT ST GEORGE’S, MALVERN

Tuesday, 15 December 2020

9.15am Morning Prayer, ID: 830 8676 0354, Password: SGM3144, or you can connect by putting into your search browser the following, [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/830 8676 0354](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83086760354)

SERVICES DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ST GEORGE’S, MALVERN

50 people will be permitted in the Church at each service other than for the 5.00pm Children’s and Family service which will be held outside.

Sunday, 27 December 2020

9.30am - Eucharist with Hymns

5.00pm - Eucharist with Meditation

FROM THE LOCUM VICAR

The presence of the Christmas tree in church from today reminds us, if we actually need to be reminded, that Christmas is fast approaching. Our televisions, newspapers and invitations to meet with family and friends at this time for Christmas drinks and gatherings of all sorts tell us that Christmas has already arrived. Others will be travelling to family and visiting relatives, leaving before the celebrations here at St George's before Christmas begins.

Sadly, we have not been able to have the range of musical offerings at this time of the year due to the virus and the hope all will return in 2021.

This year, as we have heard so often has been like no other with the Covid 19 virus and the impact on our community life and across the world. Many have lost their lives while others have experienced loneliness, isolation and anxiety and still others affected by the virus have recovered. We give thanks for the leadership of our health personal, research staff and community group including our churches who have stepped up to respond. Leadership at all levels have experienced challenges not previously known and have sought to respond to encourage the safety and well-being of the community. Throughout the year, God has remained with us experiencing the pain and suffering and continues to offer hope and comfort.

The purest among us in the church will remind us that Christmas actually begins on the 25th December for 12 days till the feast of the Epiphany, and the arrival of the three wise men on the 6th January. A colleague of mine still refuses to open his Christmas presents until that day. Whatever your own circumstance at home or away, may the Christmas season bring you peace and hope.

On another matter, like me, I am sure you have received in the mail numerous requests for financial support to a variety of charities including our Anglican ones, such as Anglicare, The Brotherhood of St Laurence, Anglican Overseas Aid, Anglican Board of Missions, The Church Missionary Society and others like the Christmas Bowl. How one decides how to give and how much can be a challenge. Some of us will give an amount to each organization or if you are like me, I have chosen to give a larger amount to a smaller number of agencies. Whatever method you may choose consider how much you will spend on your own Christmas celebrations when making your decision.

"Since 1949, the Christmas Bowl appeal has brought compassionate Christians together to help bring hope and safety to the world's most vulnerable communities." Of all the appeals at Christmas, this one is worthy of your support and encouragement. Details of the work of the Christmas Bowl can be found on the brochures available in the church.

Shalom
Ray

Reflection from Common Grace

Will Small reflects on how God's peace can be found even in wounds, loss, and vulnerability.

And he will be our peace

*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”
Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.
He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.
And he will be our peace
when the Assyrians invade our land
and march through our fortresses”.*

Micah 5:2-5a

If I scroll through this sequence of verses as if they are an Instagram feed and seek a quick dopamine hit the winning phrase is clearly: *'And he will be our peace...'*

In this anxiety-laced, hustle-sick, pandemic-shaped, modern madness who doesn't want peace? Sign me up.

But, the next part of the sentence is a little less joyous.
'...when the Assyrians invade our land...'

When. Not, if.

The reality of invasion.
Like these stolen lands.
Like those innocent ones detained.
Like that spreading disease.
Like our plastic-filled ocean.
Invasion, invasion, invasion.
This peace is not the extinguishing of suffering or an early exit. It is not an Assyrian-proof forcefield.
It is an alternate reality, somehow available, even in the middle of invasion.

It reminds me of that other poem where the guy lacks nothing, lays down in green pastures, gets refreshed by quiet waters etc...even though he walks through the valley of the *shadow of death?*

Or that thing about the meek being blessed or the last being first or the treasure in clay jars or *this* audacious claim: *'though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we are being renewed day by day'* (2 Corinthians 4:16).

There's a theme here, isn't there?

The life, the blessing, the peace is found in the wounds, the loss, the vulnerability.

Dizzying paradox everywhere. Yet it makes sense of my reality.

The more I lose my rigid religious tendencies the more I find living water. The more I surrender control, the less I worry about what may come. Every part of me that dies, makes resurrection a possibility.

Wouldn't it be nice if this satirically 'unprecedented' year ended with renewal glamorously rolled out and vaccines readily available for racism and narcissism and greed (oh, and COVID-19).

But that's not how it happens.

The good news isn't a fantasy scenario or an escape from this weary world. It's the presence of God, *right where you are*. As vulnerable and precious and real as Christ in the cow trough. Where the *deep* peace is actually located.

Whatever you suffer, grieve, face — these may still press at your sides on Christmas morning and weigh on your shoulders on Boxing Day, and creep in with the first light of New Year's Day. But, his peace comes even in the midst of the invasion.

'Though you are small...', '...he will be our peace'.

Though you are weary, there is rest.

Will Small is a poet, podcaster and the founder of Lead by Story. He and his wife Sam lead a small church of 'spiritual misfits' on the Central Coast called Meeting Ground.

****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.

Today we light the third candle rejoicing in the Lord

Sentence: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice! The Lord is near.

WELCOME

Hymns will be sung at 10.00am

HYMN

Christ is the world's Light, he and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our Brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high.

Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the glory, God in man my brother:
Glory to God on high.

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

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.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Readers:

8.00am – Miriam Cherry

10.00am – Suzie Hill

First Reading

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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

Psalm: The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
For you, Lord, have looked with favour on your lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed;
You, the Almighty, have done great things for me:
and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you:
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the aid of your servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Second Reading

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for

wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

But we appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to respect those who labour among you, and have charge of you in the Lord and admonish you.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-12

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

Gospel Acclamation

ALL Alleluia, Alleluia, **Alleluia, Alleluia**
The spirit of the Lord is upon me
He sent me to bring good news to the poor
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 John
ALL **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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 – Malcolm Tadgell

10.00am – Judy Wright

*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 the Falkland Islands (Extra-Provincial to Canterbury) (Bp Timothy Thornton); The
Diocese of The Murray (Bp Keith Dalby, Clergy & People); Beaconhills College (Tony Sheumack,
Principal; Peggy Kruse, Chaplain); The Parish of Holy Trinity, Bacchus Marsh w. Christ Church,
Myrniong and St George's Balliang (Richard Litjens, Heidin Kunoo); St John's Anglican Church, Upper
Beaconsfield – Pastoral Service (Bishop Paul Barker); St Paul's Cathedral – 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 Jeffrey-James Browne who passed away suddenly.

We also pray for Cecil Macnaughtan, John Lindley Daish, George Matthews, Colin Harris, Lorna Hope Wroughton Fulton, Gladys Lewis *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

Bread of the world in mercy broken,
wine of the soul in mercy shed,
by whom the words of life were spoken,
and in whose death our sins are dead:
look on the heart by sorrow broken,
look on the tears by sinners shed;
and be your feast to us the token
that by your grace our souls are fed.

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.**

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

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and forever more!

THE BLESSING

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

POSTLUDE

Nun Freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein BWV 734 J.S. Bach
(Dear Christians, one and all rejoice!)

BIBLE READINGS: 20 December	4th Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-27	Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

NOTICES

ANGLICARE APPEAL

Today with the Christmas tree present in the church, we are encouraged to support Anglicare and their gifts for children who are in Foster or residential care. Children and young people who are not able to be at home at Christmas with family. If you bring a wrapped present, please indicate on the outside, the age and gender of the child or young person for whom the gift maybe appropriate.

VOLUNTEER ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS WEEK AND JANUARY 2021

Thank you to all who currently participate in our restricted rosters.

I will be completing by Monday, 14 December, the roster for all Christmas week services and up until 31 January. Please let me know by email, see contact details on back page of the Pew Sheet, if you will not be available at any time during that period to serve on the roster. If I do not hear from you, I will assume that you are available for any service until 1st February! If you are not currently a reader, intercessor, Covid Safe Officer or server and would like some information or a bit of training, please also be in contact with me.

Again many thanks for your continued service to our worship.

Brenda

LARGE PRINT PEW SHEET

If you would find it helpful to have a large print - A4 size of the Pew Sheet, please contact Nisha in the Church Office, see back page for contact details. The envelopes will be labeled with your name and available for you, as you arrive at church, to take home with you after the service.

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 Covid 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 at each service.

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.

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
Ravi Renjen 0412 399 897