



# HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH WILLIAMSTOWN

**24<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**8am & 10am Holy Communion**



*On behalf of everyone at Holy Trinity, a warm welcome to this community, a faithful Christian presence in Williamstown since 1854. Holy Trinity welcomes everyone to all services and events, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background. We are moved by our calling as the Body of Christ to ensure all our spaces are safe places for everyone. Thank you for being part of our worship today. Recordings of our Worship services are available on the parish You Tube channel from Sunday each week, links are on our website under 'Services'.*

[www.htw.org.au](http://www.htw.org.au)

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Showing Love to the most vulnerable**



**Christmas Bowl**



Act for Peace

Sisters Srinidhi\* and Mahira\* are Sri Lankan refugees who have been living in refugee camps in India for decades and aren't able to access medical care outside the camps. OfERR, a refugee-run organisation supported by Act for Peace, has been providing crucial support in the camps for over 40 years. Through the Christmas Bowl you can help send health workers into the camps and provide medical care to those who need it. **Please give today.**

\*Names changed for safety reasons

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](http://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188



## PARISH PRAYER POINTS



### For The Church:

- The Episcopal Church in the Philippines
- Ministry to the Defence Force
- Examining Chaplains
- St Matthew's Anglican Church Ashburton

**In our Community:** In our parish cycle of prayer, we pray for all parishioners travelling at this time of year

We pray for those who are suffering or unwell at this time for whom prayers have been requested.

*Immediate need:* Elliot, Leanne Linehan, Lisa Calthorpe, Robert Akins.

*Long-term need:* Ron Bates, Ann Carey, Barb & Brett Hingston, Christa, Heather Jobling, Rev. Mike Jobling, Robert Mander, Laurie McLay, David Mc Culloch, Marjorie Todd, John, Pamela, Zoe, Brent, Rev. Margaret Burt, Derek Schippers, Helen.

We remember those who have recently died, and we remember those whose Years Mind anniversary of death falls at this time, Bet Jones, Robin Grove.

*Please note that the names of those on the 'Immediate need' list will remain for one month only. If there is a need to move them to the 'Long-term need' list, please contact the parish office.*

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*Holy Trinity Anglican Church is on Bunurong Country, the sovereign land of the Yalukit Willam people of the Kulin Nation. We recognise and honour the Indigenous custodians of this land over generations and today, and pay respect to all Elders past and present. We commit ourselves to the path of reconciliation, truth-telling, justice and healing.*

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*Please join in the parts of this service in **bold type**. All directions to stand, sit or kneel are invitations. Please always do as you are comfortable and able.*

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*(please stand)*

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **THE SENTENCE**

This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. *Luke 1.32–33*

## **PRAYER OF PREPARATION**

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.**

## **KYRIE ELEISON**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

## **THE CONFESSION**

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

*Silence may be kept*

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

**Merciful God, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done. We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them. For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us. By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to God 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.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, merciful and gentle: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your light has shone in our darkened world through the child-bearing of blessed Mary; grant that we who have seen your glory may daily be renewed in your image and prepared like her for the coming of your Son, who is the Lord and Saviour of all.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **THE COLLECT PRAYER**

Gracious God, whose eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will: prepare our hearts for his coming again and keep us steadfast in hope, that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom; for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD** *(please sit)*

*The First Reading: 2 Samuel 7.1–11, 16.*

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, ‘See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.’ Nathan said to the king, ‘Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.’ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 89.1–4, 89.19–27. We say together*

**<sup>1</sup> Lord, I will sing for ever of your loving-kindnesses:  
my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness  
throughout all generations.**

- 2 I have said of your loving-kindness that it is built for ever:  
you have established your faithfulness in the heavens.**
- 3 The Lord said ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen:  
I have sworn an oath to my servant David.**
- 4 ‘I will establish your line for ever:  
and build up your throne for all generations.’**
- 19 You spoke once in a vision:  
and said to your faithful one,**
- 20 ‘I have set a youth above a warrior:  
I have exalted a young man out of the people.**
- 21 ‘I have found my servant David:  
and anointed him with my holy oil.**
- 22 ‘My hand shall uphold him:  
and my arm shall strengthen him.**
- 23 ‘No enemy shall deceive him:  
nor shall the wicked hurt him.**
- 24 ‘I will crush his adversaries before him:  
and strike down those that hate him.**
- 25 ‘My faithfulness and loving-kindness shall be with him:  
and through my name his head shall be lifted high.**
- 26 ‘I will set the hand of his dominion upon the Western Sea:  
and his right hand shall stretch  
to the streams of Mesopotamia.**
- 27 ‘He will call to me “You are my Father:  
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.”**

*The Second Reading: Romans 16.25–27.*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.  
For the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand)*

The Gospel according to St. Luke 1.26–38.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

For the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*(please sit)*

**THE SERMON**

*Rev Elizabeth Murray, vicar*

*A time of silence is kept*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(please stand)*

**We believe in one God, who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was born, lived, died and rose again, and is coming to call all to account. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who calls, equips**

and sends out God's people, and brings all things to their true end. This is our faith, the faith of the Church:  
**We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**THE PRAYERS** *(please sit or kneel)*

*The response is usually . . . in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

*Then concluding with*

Almighty God you have promised to hear our prayers,  
**Grant that what we have asked in faith we may by your grace receive, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*We pray together a prayer for growth*

**God of Mission, who alone brings growth to your Church:  
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers, in spiritual commitment  
to you, and in service to our local community,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE GREETING OF PEACE** *(please stand)*

We are the body of Christ.

**His spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Offerings – A collection will be taken up at this time**

*Donations to support the life & work of Holy Trinity are most welcome. We rely on your generosity to enable us to serve our community. Cash donations & cheques can be left in the plate.*

*Cashless giving options: Direct EFT details: BSB: 033100;  
Account number: 490175; or go to [www.htw.org.au](http://www.htw.org.au) and click on  
'Donate now' for credit card payments.*



## **THE OFFERTORY**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God forever.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

*The prayer continues*

...forever praising you and saying:

**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.**

*The prayer continues*

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues*

...in songs of never-ending praise:

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

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, 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.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

**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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament in remembrance that Christ died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All Baptised Christians are welcome to receive communion. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know. If you do not wish to receive communion and would like to receive a blessing, please come forward and indicate to the priest your desire for a blessing by crossing your arms in front of you. You are also welcome to remain in your pew.*

*Everyone is welcome to light a candle while communion is being shared. There are two stations available, one to the left of the sanctuary, and another in the memorial chapel at the back of the church.*

*Prayers of Anointing & Healing are available at this time, when all have received communion. Please wait in the front pew near the candle stand to indicate this wish.*

*Communion is distributed with these or similar words*

The body of Christ the bread of heaven keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

The blood of Christ the cup of salvation keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The priest leads the prayer*

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.

**Take us and use us to love and serve you and all people, in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Notices may be given*

*(please stand)*

## **THE BLESSING**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

# **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 6pm Nativity Service**

**24<sup>th</sup> December 11pm Midnight Mass**

**25<sup>th</sup> December 9am Holy Communion**

## **ALL WELCOME**

# HTW GROUPS

*A great way to connect with people who share your interests.*

## **GARDENING GROUP**

Keen gardeners meet on the Second Saturday of each month between 9.30am-2.30pm. Jobs for various levels of ability, BYO gloves, refreshments provided.

Our next gathering will be **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January**, but you are welcome to potter in the gardens between meetings.

And a reminder that the herb garden has produce you might like to pick. Please use scissors (available in the kitchen or byo).

If anyone would like to be involved in the Garden Group please talk to any of us, there's always room for more helpers.

## **TEXTILE & DESIGN GROUP**

This group of keen and creative makers usually meets on the Fourth Saturday of the month, 2pm in the Parish Centre, but for January, please join us on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January** in the Parish Centre. Anyone interested in all things design and textile that add to our worship space is welcome to come along. Contact: Janice 0409 180 144.

## **ARTS AND FAITH DISCUSSION GROUP**

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this group in its first year. The group will continue in the new year as a monthly Creativity Workshop, a space where the spirituality of the creative process is discussed, explored and put into practise, starting in February. Last Sunday of the month 2.30-4.30pm. Stay tuned for more details.

## **WOMEN OF HOLY TRINITY (WOHT)**

WOHT meets on the Second Thursday of the month 7.30-9.30pm, resuming in February 2024. Please contact Barb Hingston (0424 466 405 - text if you can't get through on the phone), or Delia Paul (0432 562 454), for more info.

## **MEN'S CHURCH GROUP (MCG)**

MCG is in recess until the new year. For more information and to join the WhatsApp group, contact Scott Phillips, Authorised Lay Minister, [sphillips@kpcl.com.au](mailto:sphillips@kpcl.com.au) 0411 751 755.

## **ADA CAMBRIDGE BOOK GROUP**

The book group will next meet in the New Year. We will choose our books for the year then.

# PARISH NEWS

## MORNING TEA AFTER 9.00am SERVICES IN LATE DECEMBER AND JANUARY.

It's suggested that the 8.00am congregation might help provide morning tea after the 9.00am services during this time to give those who usually do this a break from routine. If you are willing to help provide, serve and clean up on one of these six Sundays, please speak to Wilma. Your offer will be gratefully accepted. Thank you to those who have already offered, there are still spaces left.

## SOME PRE-CHRISTMAS JOBS – DONE!!!

My sincere thanks for all those who helped get the many little jobs done before Christmas. THANK YOU!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### DECEMBER

24 <sup>th</sup>	8am only	Holy Communion (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent)
	<i>No 10am service today</i>	
	Christmas Eve	
	6pm	Nativity Service
	11pm	Midnight Mass
25 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Christmas Holy Communion

*Please note: for Sunday worship after Christmas and during January there will be one service at 9am, Wednesday 10am Eucharist will be in recess until February.*

31 <sup>st</sup>	9am	Holy Communion
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### JANUARY

7 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am-2.30pm	Gardening Group
14 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Holy Communion
19 <sup>th</sup>	10am-1pm	Community Lunches resume
20 <sup>th</sup>	2pm	Wedding

## **PARISH ROSTER**

**SUNDAY: 24<sup>th</sup> December Fourth Sunday of Advent  
8am ONLY**

**Reader:**

**First Reading:** 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16

**Psalm:** 89.1-4, 9-27

**Second Reading:** Romans 16.25-27

**Gospel:** Luke 1.26-38

**Intercessor:**

**Eucharistic Assistant:**

**Welcomers/Sidespersons:**

**Flowers:** Christmas team

**NEXT SUNDAY: 31<sup>st</sup> First Sunday after Christmas 9am ONLY**

**Reader:**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61.10-62.3

**Psalm:** 148

**Second Reading:** Galatians 4.4-7

**Gospel:** Luke 2.22-40

**Intercessor:**

**Eucharistic Assistant:** Rev. Andrew Akol

**Welcomers/Sidespersons:**

**Morning Tea:** Ingrid & Christa

**Flowers:** Sue S

If you need to make a swap to your roster, please do and also advise Rev. Elizabeth [vicar@htw.org.au](mailto:vicar@htw.org.au) 0419 106 457.

Thank you.

## ***Safe Ministry is God-honouring, life-giving, harm free***

We strongly condemn any form of abuse and are committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable people, speaking out against violence, and ensuring our spaces are safe for everyone. If you would like to raise any concerns, please contact the independent Professional Standards Body, Kooyoora, phone 1800 135 246

[enquiries@kooyoora.org.au](mailto:enquiries@kooyoora.org.au)

If anyone is in immediate danger, call 000.

## **THE PARISH AT A GLANCE**

**Vicar: Rev Elizabeth Murray**

**Email: [vicar@htw.org.au](mailto:vicar@htw.org.au) Phone: 0419 106 457**

*Day Off Mondays*

**PARISH OFFICE: [office@htw.org.au](mailto:office@htw.org.au) (03) 9397 5330**

***Part-Time Hours and by appointment***

***CLOSED 24<sup>th</sup> December-2<sup>nd</sup> January***

**POSTAL: PO Box 515, Williamstown 3016**

**LOCATION: 255 Nelson Place, Williamstown 30316**

**WEBSITE: [www.htw.org.au](http://www.htw.org.au)**

## **OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS**

*These people give their time and talents to supporting the life of the parish*

### **Authorised Honorary Lay Minister:**

Scott Phillips ..... 0411 751 755

### **Assistant Curate (part-time):**

Rev. Monica Matoc ..... 0421 482 533

### **Wardens:**

Scott Phillips ..... 0411 751 755

Jill Ringrose

### **Treasurer:**

Laurence Gray ..... 0431 322 490

### **Bookkeeper:**

Ian Stewart ..... 0438 070 439

### **Pastoral Care:**

Janice Schmidt..... 0409 180 144

### **Baptism Arrangements & Weddings:**

Rev. Elizabeth.....0419 106 457

### **The Pilot, Parish Journal:**

Kate Strasser .....0417 396 265

### **Community Lunch Program:**

Wilma Robarts ..... 0409 862 292

### **Anglicare Emergency Relief:**

Carol Willis ..... 0439 458 096

### **Organist (Weddings & Funerals):**

John Rivers ..... 0473 028 187

### **Women of Holy Trinity:**

Barb Hingston ..... 0424 466 405

### **Ada Cambridge Book Group:**

Wilma Robarts ..... 0409 862 292

### **Interfaith Dialogue:**

Scott Phillips ..... 0411 751 755

### **Synod Representatives:**

Scott Phillips ..... 0411 751 755

Hayden Jones