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# ANGLICAN CHURCH *of the* ASCENSION

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EAST BURWOOD



20<sup>th</sup> December 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*“Seeking God, Serving with love, Sharing hope”*

## Welcome to Church

### Sentence for Today

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



**For those who have children with them, there is a children's corner in the church for the little ones. During school term, children who are pre-school age and above can attend 'Godzone' - Special Children's Activities - shortly after we begin the 9:30am service.**

## ORDER OF SERVICE

**Entrance hymn: TiS 272** *“Come, thou long-expected Jesus”*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free,  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us for ever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Charles Wesley 1707-88*

### **Acclamation**

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Welcome**

#### ***The Lighting of the Advent Wreath***

Jesus Christ is the light of the world;

**Jesus is our Way.**

With Jesus even dark places are light;

**Jesus is the Truth.**

In Jesus we shall live for ever;

**Jesus is our Life.**

In this season of Advent, we are here to watch and wait and pray for the coming of light into the world. We long for the day when the things of darkness – selfishness and greed, suffering and oppression – shall be no more.

*As four candles are lit:*

One candle to remind us of the prophets, the second for John the Baptist, the third for Mary, and the fourth for us, as we join with them in looking for the coming of Jesus.

God will give you a sign, a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us'. (Isaiah 7:14)

Gracious God, as you came to those who have gone before us, you come to us now in Jesus. Help us to recognise you in those around us and to care for our neighbours as we do for ourselves.

**Lord, by your presence  
light up the past  
that we might learn from it with thankfulness.**

**Light up the present  
that we might live in it with love.**

**Light up the future  
that we might prepare for it in hope.**

**As we watch and wait and pray  
may we be always ready to encounter the Lord  
who is ready and always with us. Amen.**

### ***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.**

### ***The Two Great Commandments:***

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

### ***Invitation to Confession:***

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

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

### ***Confession:***

**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.**

### ***Absolution:***

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.**

### ***Trisagion:***

***Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.***

### ***The Prayer of the Day:***

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.**

*We join together in the following prayer in time of pandemic disease:*

**Lord Jesus Christ, healer and friend,  
come and care for all of us  
through the danger and uncertainty  
of the coronavirus pandemic.  
To people who are sick, bring healing.  
To people who are displaced, isolated,  
or cut off from family, friends or work,  
bring comfort and companionship.  
Work with medical staff as they care for the sick,  
and protect them from harm.  
Give skill and fruitful research to scientists  
as they search for treatments, prevention and a cure.  
To public health authorities, give wisdom  
to decide the best ways to manage  
both this crisis and our anxieties.  
When communities are fearful, give a calm spirit,  
and kindness to neighbours and strangers.  
Through this testing time,  
and through all the risks we face together,  
teach us once again how we can love one  
another as you have loved us.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

### ***Godzone talk and Blessing***

#### ***The ministry of the Word:***

#### ***The first reading: 2 Samuel 7.1-11, 7.16***

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, 19-27**

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

**I have said of your loving-kindness  
that it is built for ever:**

**you have established your faithfulness in the heavens.**

**The Lord said ‘I have made a covenant with my chosen:**

**I have sworn an oath to my servant David.**

**‘I will establish your line for ever:**

**and build up your throne for all generations.’**

**You spoke once in a vision:**

**and said to your faithful one,**

**‘I have set a youth above a warrior:**

**I have exalted a young man out of the people.**

**‘I have found my servant David:**

**and anointed him with my holy oil.**

**‘My hand shall uphold him:**

**and my arm shall strengthen him.**

**‘No enemy shall deceive him:**

**nor shall the wicked hurt him.**

**‘I will crush his adversaries before him:**

**and strike down those that hate him.**

**‘My faithfulness and loving-kindness shall be with him:**

**and through my name his head shall be lifted high.**

**‘I will set the hand of his dominion**

**upon the Western Sea:**

**and his right hand shall stretch  
to the streams of Mesopotamia.  
‘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.**

***The Gospel reading:***

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
according to Luke, chapter 1 beginning at verse 26

**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.**

***The Sermon***

### ***The Creed:***

Let us stand together and 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 for the world to come. Amen.**

### ***The Prayers of the People:***

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*At the conclusion*

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.**

### ***Preparation***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16

***Prayer of Approach:***

We do not presume  
to come to your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord,  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that we may evermore dwell in him,  
and he in us. Amen.

***The Greeting of Peace:***

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: TiS 302 "The angel Gabriel from heaven came"***

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
'All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

'for known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head.  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said.  
'my soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name.'  
most highly favoured lady. *Gloria!*

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
'most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

*Basque Carol, paraphrased by Sadine Baring-Gouls 1834-1924*

***Prayer over the gifts:***

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 for ever.**

## ***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.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who was looked for by the prophets,  
heralded by the Baptist  
announced by an angel,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
and revealed at last to men and women of every race.

By his death on the cross,  
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin,  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Through him,  
you have revealed to us your glory in the community of your love,  
three persons, one God,  
ever to be worshipped and adored.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever 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.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks

he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father,  
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 for ever. Amen.**

***The breaking of the bread:***

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.**

## ***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.**

## ***Invitation to communion:***

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

## ***The Communion***

***Post communion hymn: TIS 703 "As the deer pants for the water"***

**As the deer pants for the water,  
so my soul longs after you.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
And I long to worship you.**

### ***Refrain***

***You alone are my strength, my shield,  
to you alone may my spirit yield.  
You alone are my heart's desire,  
and I long to worship Thee.***

**I want You more than gold or silver;  
only you can satisfy.  
You alone are the real joy giver,  
and the apple of my eye.**

### ***Refrain***

**You're my friend and you're my brother,  
even though you are a King.  
I love You more than any other,  
so much more than anything.**

### ***Refrain***

TIS 703 Martin J. Nystrom 1956-

## ***Prayer after Communion:***

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.**

## ***Commissioning of Parish Council members***

Loving God, Giver of all Gifts, you continually renew the strength of all who wait upon you. Fill the members of our Parish Leadership Team with the zeal of your Holy Spirit, that, in the joy of serving others, they may advance your Kingdom on earth as in heaven.

There are different gifts.

**But it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

There are different ways of serving God.

**But it is the same God who is served.**

God, you work through different people in different ways.

**But it is the same God whose purposes are achieved through them all.**

Let us pray. Holy God, you have chosen yourself a Church in which your Holy Spirit inspires women and men to serve your purposes of love. We welcome with joy the use of the gifts offered to us by these members of your Church of the Ascension, which is the body continuing your ministry in our immediate world today. We commission (names) who offer themselves for service as parish office bearers in the life of our congregation. We thank you for your beloved servants who have responded to your call. We pray that your Holy Spirit may set their hearts on fire with love for you and for those committed to their care. By your example and reassurance, may they encourage others to discover new life in Christ. To you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be glory for ever. **Amen.**

## ***Notices***

### ***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, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***Final Hymn: TiS 675 "Lord, the light of your love is shining"***

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
set us free by the truth you now bring us -  
shine on me, shine on me  
*Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light***

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter your brightness:  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness -  
shine on me, shine on me**

***Refrain***

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
so our faces display your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory:  
mirrored here may our lives tell your story -  
shine on me, shine on me**

***Refrain***

*Graham Kendrick 1950-*

***Dismissal***

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

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**WELCOME TO CHURCH.** . . We are delighted that you are worshipping with us today, please take Communion, whatever your denomination and come and worship with us again. If you are visiting, please make yourself known to Fr. Anthony or to one of our welcomers following the service and do stay for a cuppa and chat!

**NOTICES**

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES:**

Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist, 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Midnight Mass** commences at 11:30pm on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> December. Incense will be used.

**Christmas Day** Eucharist at 9:30am Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> December.

**Wednesday 10:00am Eucharist will recommence on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Friday Coffee & Chat will recommence on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**THE ROSTERS ARE BACK!** This week we are pleased to have:

**Advent Wreath** – Cheryl Hall.

**Welcomers** 8:00am Don Lambourne 9:30am Pat Ludwick & Joanne Waite

**Readers** 8:00am Sue Tregear 9:30am Ros Smith

**Morning Tea** 8:00am Self-service 9:30am Jan & Lyle Mansfield

**Music** 9:30am Heath McKenzie & Josh Waite

**CHRISTMAS BOWL** envelopes are in the narthex, please take one and return it before Christmas placing it in the collection bowl.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**

To help with the additional demand for emergency food relief at this time of year we are holding a special Christmas food and grocery drive for Uniting East Burwood and St Mark's Fitzroy. If you are able to pick up an additional item or two of non-perishable food, cleaning, or personal hygiene products to pop under

our Christmas Giving Tree in the Narthex that would be greatly appreciated. Over the coming weeks we will let you know of any items in particular that Uniting or St Mark's might be running low on and in need of. Thank you in advance!

**PAT'S CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WILL BE DRAWN TODAY FOLLOWING THE 9:30AM SERVICE – TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE:** 1<sup>st</sup> prize is her famous Christmas cake, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize her equally famous Christmas pudding and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize her award-winning mince pies!! Tickets are \$1:00, Can you please return the money/ticket stubs in an envelope and place in the collection bowl.

**PAT'S JAMS ARE AVAILABLE TODAY IN THE HALL!** They make great Christmas gifts, and treat yourself!

**LECTIONARIES:** The Lectionaries for 2021 are available from Christine or Ron. They are \$15 each and are a lovely "burnt orange" colour! The lectionary is an organised daily set of readings for every day of the year and is a really great way to read your Bible, and give you an idea of the sermon theme for each Sunday!

TMA December edition is available in the Narthex, please take a copy.

**News and views on faith from Australia and around the world brought to you by *The Melbourne Anglican*.** This week's NewsStand is now live on TMA's website, using the link <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/newsstand>

## **SAINTS AND HOLY MEN AND WOMEN FOR THIS WEEK**

|          |                                      |
|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday   | THOMAS, APOSTLE AND MARTYR           |
| Friday   | THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS DAY |
| Saturday | STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR           |

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

### **Wednesday:**

Malachi 3.1-4; 4.2-3  
Psalm 25.3-9  
Luke 1.57-66

### **Next Sunday: FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

Isaiah 61.10-62.3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4.4-7  
Luke 2.22-40

## **WE THANK GOD FOR HIS MANY BLESSINGS, LET US PRAY EACH DAY FOR**

*Sun 20:* Pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mothers' Union around the world; Religious Orders serving within the Anglican Church of Australia; Camberwell Grammar School (Paul Hicks, Principal; Charles Butler, Chaplain); St John's Bentleigh (David Powys); Holy Trinity Service Coburg (Abp Philip Freier); St David's Anglican Church, Moorabbin – Diocesan Service (Bishop Paul Barker); St Thomas' Anglican Church, Upper Ferntree Gully – Pastoral Service (Bishop Paul Barker); Holy Trinity Coburg – Confirmation Service (Bp Genieve Blackwell); Parish of St Alban the Martyr, St Albans – Pastoral Service (Bishop Kate Prowd);

*Mon 21:* Locums and all retired clergy; Mission to Seafarers (Neil Edwards, Chair; Onfré Punay, Chaplain); Berwick Anglican Church (Wayne Schuller, Samuel Creek, Reece Kelly);

*Tue 22:* The Anglican Church of Australia (Primate Abp Geoffrey Smith, General Secretary Anne Hywood, the General Synod & the Standing Committee); Archdeaconry of Kew (Greg Allinson); St Agnes' Black Rock (Garry Deverell);

*Wed 23:* The Diocese of Adelaide (Abp Geoff Smith, Asst Bps Denise Ferguson, Timothy Harris, Christopher McLeod; Clergy & People); Caulfield Grammar School (Ashleigh Martin, Principal; Ryan Holt, Amanda Lyons and Kate Jacob, Chaplains); St Alfred's Blackburn North (Peter MacPherson, Mike McNamara, Mark Simon, Nick Curtis);

*Thu 24:* The Diocese of Armidale (Bp Rick Lewers, Clergy & People); Mothers' Union Australia, Diocese of Melbourne (Elaine Longford, President); St John's Blackburn (Andrew Price, Mark Chew); Christmas Eve Service (Abp Philip Freier); St Faith's Burwood – Confirmation Service (Bishop Paul Barker); St Michael's North Dandenong – Confirmation Service (Bishop Paul Barker);  
*Fri 25:* Christmas Day, the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ; The Diocese of Ballarat (Bp Garry Weatherill, Clergy & People); Royal School of Church Music (Roslyn Carolane, Chair); St Paul's Boronia (Vaughn Spring); Christmas Day Service (Abp Philip Freier); St John's Croydon – Pastoral Service (Bishop Paul Barker); The Parish of St Matthew's, Glenroy/Hadfield w. St Linus', Merlynston (Bishop Kate Prowd);  
*Sat 26:* The Diocese of Bathurst (Bp Mark Calder, Clergy & People); Parish of Box Hill (Shane Hubner, Joseph Arou, Alasdair MacKinnon-Love, Esther Zhang);

## **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND**

All who have lost their livelihood due to the Coronavirus. Families, healthcare workers, emergency workers in these uncertain times.

## **THE WORLD**

Containment of the coronavirus pandemic, those suffering and the medical staff.  
A compassionate outcome for Asylum Seekers on Manus Island, Christmas Island, and Nauru.  
Peace, justice, and healing for the people of the USA and a renewed sense of unity and hope.

## **THE ASCENSION COMMUNITY**

Each other and God's presence in the events of the week

Those in special need of prayer: *Helen Daniels, Peggy Horman, Estelle Carman (and daughter Sue), Jean (& Alan) Close, Carole, Joanne, Nelson, Pauline Le Riche (Kym's sister), Paul Maharaj, Graeme Floage (& Lisa), Glenys and Brian Howell, Ethel Lloyd, Elizabeth O'Shannessy, Barbara Stark, Rosemary Roach, Jim Munday, Brittany Lee, Cath Ortlieb, Lyle (& Jan) Mansfield, Dave (& Joy) Richie, Vivienne Aitken (Pat Eadon's sister), Angelo (from Burwood Lodge), Julie, Jackson Munday, Colin Darvell, and others known to us.*

Those working in healthcare and aged care.

The residents and staff at Peter James Centre and Burwood Lodge.

### **Ourselves - as we stay connected through the power of the Holy Spirit in love and prayer**

*Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.*

*We are surrounded by God's benefits.  
The best of these benefits is  
our unceasing expression of gratitude.  
("Institutes of the Christian Religion" by John Calvin)*

ANGELICAN CHURCH  
*of the* ASCENSION  
EAST BURWOOD



378 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 3151

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation.  
We pay our respects to their elders, past, present, and emerging.*

**PRIEST in CHARGE:** Fr. Anthony Frost    **Phone:** 0409 012 543

**PARISH WEB ADDRESS:** [www.ascensionchurch.org.au](http://www.ascensionchurch.org.au)

**FACEBOOK** Please visit and  [www.facebook.com/AscensionBurwoodEast](http://www.facebook.com/AscensionBurwoodEast)

**Email:** [office@ascensionchurch.org.au](mailto:office@ascensionchurch.org.au)

**Pastoral Care contact:** Fr Anthony

**Pew sheet:** Please send all items for inclusion in next week's pewsheets to Ron McKenzie by 5:00p.m. Thursday evening ([r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au](mailto:r.mckenzie@novatechsolutions.com.au).)

*Baptism, Marriage & funerals by arrangement*

**Weekly services**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | 8:00am Eucharist                                    |
|                  | 9:30am Eucharist                                    |
|                  | 'Godzone' children's program during 9:30 am service |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <i>Fr Anthony's day of rest!</i>                    |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | 10:00am Eucharist                                   |
| <b>Friday</b>    | 10:00am – Noon. Drop-in for coffee and chat.        |

**Commitment to Child Safety:** At the Church of the Ascension we follow Christ in being a caring Church welcoming of all, extending his love and invitation of new life.

In ministry to children, young people and vulnerable adults we are committed to providing an environment that is physically, emotionally and spiritually safe and supportive. This includes a culture of child-safety and of inclusivity for people of cultural and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, people with disability or any other specific group.