

# THE BRIDGE

THE ANGLICAN

PARISH OF

OCEAN GROVE & BARWON HEADS  
St Peter's Ocean Grove & All Saints' Barwon Heads

OUR MISSION STATEMENT –

‘TO KNOW CHRIST, AND MAKE CHRIST KNOWN’

VICAR: THE VEN. Jill McCoy; 52 562 446; 0425 805 827; jillm@ogbha.org.au

HON. ASSOCIATE PRIEST: REV Jill Poole; 0437 450 329; jillrpoole@gmail.com

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## Christmas 2020

### Christmas Worship



#### Christmas Eve

9:00 pm Holy Communion All Saints' Barwon Heads  
11:30 pm Holy Communion St Peter's Ocean Grove

#### Christmas Day

9:00 am Holy Communion St Peter's Ocean Grove  
9:30 am Holy Communion All Saints' Barwon Heads

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> December

9:00 am Holy Communion St Peter's Ocean Grove  
11:00 am Holy Communion All Saints' Barwon Heads

#### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December – No service

#### READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEXT SUNDAY

Friday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 9:2-7 Ps. 96 Titus 2. 11 – 14 Luke 2. 1 – 14 (15 – 20)
SUNDAY 27 <sup>th</sup>	Isaiah 61. 10.- 62. 3 Ps 148 Gal.4. 4 – 7 Luke 2. 22 - 40

A percentage of our Christmas Offertory will be given to the Christmas Bowl

Our Vicar is on leave from 26<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

Please contact Jill Poole for any pastoral matters, and one of the church wardens for any other urgent matters.

We welcome Hugh Kip Koop in Baptism at All Saints' this Sunday

**OUR 'normal' WEEKLY SERVICE TIMES WILL BE:**

SUNDAYS	7:45 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	9:30 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's
	11:00 am	Holy Communion	All Saints'
WEDNESDAYS	10:00 am	Holy Communion	St Peter's

Saturday Morning Prayer Group: will be in recess for the next 2 weeks.

*It will resume, in St. Peter's Chapel, on Saturday 9th January at the new time of 9.00am. All are welcome. Please feel free to come regularly, or whenever you have a need for prayer.*



**VICAR'S VOICE**

I'm sure that most of you grew up, as I did, with the story of Jesus birth in a stable because the hospitality sector was unable to provide accommodation for his parents. But recent Biblical scholarship, and a better understanding of Middle Eastern social norms, has led to a re-evaluation of this narrative. In Jesus' time, animals owned by small householders were not housed separately in a barn or stable, but in a space at one end of the single-room dwelling, with a feed trough (also called a manger) dividing the dug-out animal quarters from the family space. We also know that the social obligations of hospitality would mean that Joseph, who had sufficient family connections to require him to return to Bethlehem for the Roman census, would have had family who would have been willing to offer him and his betrothed accommodation. More than that, it would have been a great insult to them if Joseph had declined their offer of hospitality.

This offers us a very different picture of the physical circumstances of Jesus' birth. This is not the story of someone marginalised, alienated, rejected. This is not a birth that happens outside of the ordinary patterns of human life. The birth of Jesus – Immanuel, God with us – is indeed extraordinary. But it is also remarkably ordinary. For me, this doesn't in any way diminish the story of Jesus birth. Indeed, it enriches it and provokes me to ask some different questions.

Here we have a picture of people going about the ordinary tasks of life, experiencing all the pressures of too many demands on their time and resources, but still making room for the infant Jesus. Not out in the shed, but welcomed into the very heart of their lives. We too are challenged to make space for Jesus.

Andrew and I wish you all a truly blessed Christmas, as we once again celebrate the wonder of God with us in the ordinary-ness of life.

Blessings, Jill.

We worship on the traditional lands of the Wathaurong People of the Kulin Nation,  
and we acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present

"But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, little among the thousands of Judah;  
from you shall He come forth for Me, to be ruler in Israel,  
and his goings-forth are from of old,  
from the days of eternity." Micah 5:2



**The following general regulations apply whenever you are coming to St Peter's or to All Saints' for any reason:**

- 1.If you feel unwell, have a cough, sore throat, fever, or loss of taste or smell, have recently had contact with a person diagnosed with COVID19 or awaiting the result of a COVID19 test or are yourself awaiting the results of a COVID19 test you may not enter church property
- 2.**Masks must be worn at all times.**
- 3.Whenver you enter the church building you must register your attendance, and sanitize your hands.
- 4.You are required to maintain a respectful distance of 1.5 metres from others at all times.

There are also some specific things you need to be aware of as you come to worship together. The State Government requires that we have a 1 hour interval between the end of one service and the start of the next. This means that our service times will be 7:45 am and 9:30 am at St Peter's, and 11:00 am at All Saints.

The early service will be 45 minutes long.

We will not be passing the offertory plate around the church. A plate will be available near the entrance. Please place your offertory in it as you arrive.

To assist with cleaning, alternating pews will be used at St Peter's for the 7:45 and 9:30 am congregations. **Please observe the signs on the ends of the pews.**

THERE WILL BE A CAMERA MOUNTED IN THE SANCTUARY DURING THE 9:30 SERVICE TO ALLOW THOSE WHO WISH TO CONTINUE USING **ZOOM** TO PARTICIPATE AT HOME.

If you need information changed or put into the Bridge, **email or message me**  
- Isobel Dean [Parish Directory] by 5pm. Wednesday.  
Ring me only if you can't get a written copy to me, as then it is more likely I will print the right message.

**DAILY READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK STARTING 28th DECEMBER**

MONDAY 28	Pss. 143; 146	Isaiah 30. 1 - 14	John 1. 19 - 34
TUESDAY 29	Ps. 145	Isaiah 30. 15 - 28	John 1. 35 - 51
WEDNESDAY 30	Pss. 148; 149	Isaiah 30. 29 – 31. 9	John 2. 1-12
THURSDAY 31	Ps. 83. 1 - 8	Isaiah 31	John 2. 13-25
FRIDAY 1	Ps. 113	Genesis 17. 1-13	Colossians 3. 12 - 17
SATURDAY 2	Pss. 5; 6	Isaiah 32	John 3. 1 - 21

**WHAT'S ON OTHER DAYS THAN SUNDAY**

NOTE THAT ON DEC. 25,26 AND JAN. 1 THEY WILL NOT BE OPEN

Tuesday	Op Shop 9.30 - 1	All Saints'
Wednesday	Op Shop 9.30 – 1. Jigsaw Library 10 -12	All Saints'
Friday	Op Shop 9.30 - 1	All Saints'
Saturday	Op Shop 9.30 – 1 Jigsaw Library 10 -12	All Saints'

**AND SO, BETHLEHEM!**

**PRAYER FOCUS FOR DECEMBER** Our world is a fragile place in need of healing, where arrogance and self-interest seek to undermine your common good, and those in need take second place to those who have.

Embrace this world, wash it in your tears of mercy and love, and bring healing and restoration into its brokenness dear Lord, we pray.

We give You thanks that science is continuing to increase our understanding of the world we live upon and the bodies we live within, but we pray that knowledge gained by research and technology might not simply be profit-driven, but kindle a growing desire for the common good of all, that rich and poor alike might see the benefit.

Would it be that all humankind become good stewards of this earth, and that peace between all people and nations be restored. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**ASK GOD TO HELP OUR FRIENDS,**

**IN THE NAME OF JESUS, FOR THE HEALING OF BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT—**

Wendy Hudson, Deb Podbury, Glenys Russell, Betty Boyd, Faye & Ken Bermingham, Jim Wilson, Alex Slocombe, Dot Sutcliffe, Pat Brady, Catherine Fane, Elizabeth Polley, Jill, Betty Boyd, Judy Beach and those we know personally and are not on this list.

For those with illnesses which medication will no longer help, give courage, strength and comfort in their faith of the joy of eternal life, and to those recently bereaved, give comfort and strength.

**FOR OUR MEMBERS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE GIVE PEACE AND COMFORT -**

Hilda Clyne, Shirley Dodgshun, Kaye Middlehurst, Anne Shady, Jean Wadey, Beth Ward, Jenny Wood, Shirley Trimble, Stella Scheiner, Keith & Kaye Houston and Ross Smith.

Please let the prayer team know about additions and subtractions for our prayer list, so that we can keep it up to date

**MISSION SUPPORT GROUP NEWS** Please remember in your prayers those missionaries who are away from their home countries this Christmas, and who will be missing contact with families and close friends.

Pray also for those who are due to end their missionary service around this time, but who cannot get home because of the Covid19 restrictions on international travel.

Pray for mission organisation administrators who are trying to help missionaries make the transition home.

Please pray for missionaries like our Link Missionary Rowan, who want to get back to their mission location, but are stuck at home because of the virus. Pray that they will have patience while they wait, and that they will continue to find new ways of keeping in touch with those they seek to serve.



**PRAYER CHAIN** If you would like us to pray for you, contact the Vicar on 0425 805 827.



**SNAIL MAIL MINISTRY** If you think there is someone who would appreciate a 'Thinking of You' card from the Parish, ring Jill Poole and she will attend to it.

**STAMPS---** *remember what they are for? ---Well, Jill Poole has another use for them [ the used Christmas ones] on the cards the craft group make. Please save them and give them to her.*

**Check out the Parish website if you haven't already. You may find something you didn't know about.**

The Sunday sermons are available on the parish website [www.ogbha.org.au](http://www.ogbha.org.au)