

## Notices

### PRISON FELLOWSHIP ANGEL TREE

Gifts or cash to purchase presents for the children of prisoners need to be given to Alan or Beth by the 14th December. Due to the late notice this year we will collect these donations from your home if necessary. Please ring 98748112.

There are two thank you cards on the noticeboard. The first is from Alan Lyons' family for the many messages, cards, donations and flowers they have received. The second is from Shirley Gilbert for those at St Edward's who have organised to collect and bring her to church on Sunday mornings.

**Prayer requests** –Please let Beth Gibbs or Liz Helmond know.

### Prayers of the people

- Rev Ken Rogers who is having chemotherapy every three weeks until February. He is slowly improving which is encouraging.
- We give thanks to God for the healing in the life of Katrina's niece Allison Jessup whose scans show no sign of the cancer.
- For Pauline Robertson who has returned home and is still recovering from pneumonia.
- Please pray for Barbara Watt as she recovers from her broken foot. She is now at home resting.
- For Peter, the brother of Liz, who is undergoing treatment for stomach cancer.
- Pray for Ken Rowe who has moved to Goodwin Close, Blackburn Sth where he is settling in, and for Frank Dawe who has returned home.
- For Peta Foote's daughter Lorna who has developed lung cancer.
- For Des Andrews whose ulcer on his leg is slowly healing.

Please pray for the work of Michael, Melanie & Aaron Viljoen – Wycliffe Bible Translators. And also for the ministry of Rev. Anne & Noel Nixon – BCA, Qld.

## Welcome to St Edward's

Christianity does not begin with a book that became a best seller. It does not really even begin with Jesus, although obviously, it is dependent on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the religious movement which followed. Rather, it begins with a slightly eccentric figure: John the baptiser, who creates a storm of interest when he begins preaching in the wilderness. It was time, he announced to his countrymen, that they must repent of their sins, be baptised and get ready for the coming of the Messiah who will be far greater than John himself (Mk 1:7).

Mark, who wrote this gospel, notes that John's role is like that of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3). His prophetic preaching is presented as the fulfilment of Malachi 3:1 which warned that Elijah would come again just before God judged Israel. Even his eccentric appearance (a coat of camel's hair and his eating locusts and honey), is a reference to how John is the fulfilment of that eerie figure Elijah. Mark's point is simple: John, who baptises, is the fulfilment of OT expectations and his arrival marks the commencement of the long waited age of the Messiah. Although John baptises with water, this Messianic figure who comes after him will baptise them with the Holy Spirit, and this will mark the beginning of a new age: the age of the Messiah. But what does John demand of the crowd? Repentance: they need to confess their sins before they are baptised. John's message, like Jesus (Mk 1: 14-15), makes demands before baptism is administered. Otherwise, it would be merely 'cheap grace' as Dietrich Bonhoeffer would say later.

## St Edward's Anglican Church

2<sup>nd</sup> Sun Advent  
10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### Address

59 Edinburgh Road  
Blackburn Sth  
Victoria 3130  
Office: 9877 3665

### Minister

Rev Rob Culhane  
rculhane@optusnet.com.au  
Mobile: 0412 832 328

### Service times

Sunday 8 & 10 am  
Thursday 10 am

### Wardens

Barbara Watt	9802 2846 0416 298 133
Stephen Smith	9898 4945
Alan Gibbs	9874 8112 0412 717 534

Website: [stedwards.org.au](http://stedwards.org.au)

**Verse of the day**

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.”

(Luke 3:4; Isaiah 40:5a)

**Prayer of the day**

**Merciful God,  
 you sent your messengers the prophets  
 to preach repentance and to prepare the way for our salvation:  
 give us grace to heed their warnings and to forsake our sins,  
 so 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.**

**Readings**

New Testament	2 Peter 3:8-15a	(p. 1224)
Psalm	85:1-2, 8-11	(APBA, 311)
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8	(p. 1002)

**Hymns**

270 “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist cry”  
 OHP “Thou didst leave thy throne”  
 284 “O bless the God of Israel”

Praise and Thanksgiving to God

Welcome, Verse of the Day and verses of scripture (Sitting)

Thanksgiving prayer (OHP) (APBA, 36)

**Song:** 270 “On Jordan’s bank the Baptist cry”

Ministry of the Word

New Testament	2 Peter 3:8-15a	(p. 1224)
Psalm	85:1-2, 8-11	(APBA, 311)
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8	(p. 1002)
Affirmation of faith		(APBA, p. 37)
The Sermon		

**Song:** 572 (i) “O thou who camest from above”

Confession of sin

Confession and Absolution (OHP)	(APBA p. 38)
Declaration of God’s forgiveness	(APBA p. 39)
Assurance of God’s forgiveness	(APBA, p. 39)

Ministry of prayer + Lord’s Prayer (APBA p. 40)

Notices

Sending out of God’s people (OHP) (APBA p. 40)

**Song:** 284 “O bless the God of Israel”

Benediction (APBA, p. 40)