

## Notices

- **The Christmas services times will be 11 pm on Christmas Eve and 9:30 am on Christmas Day.**

**Please note: from Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December** and throughout January, there will be one combined service at 9:30 am.

The Thursday morning service will pause after Christmas and resume on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

- **At the AGM the following were nominated for wardens:** Chris Ross-Stubbs, Stephen Smith and Jenny Lynch has been nominated as the vicar's warden. Dennis Mills was nominated for the Parish Council, and I have nominated Eileen Comber (treasurer), and one other. Beth Gibbs and Ray Walker were nominated to the Incumbency committee.

- **ANGEL TREE APPEAL** Thank you to all who donated gifts and cash to the Angel Tree Appeal this year. The donations were greatly appreciated and will be distributed to children over the coming weeks. A receipt for the cash is attached to the notice board in the narthex. Alan Gibbs.

- **Liz Helmond** wishes to thank you all so much for your kind wishes, cards, etc. Your thoughts and prayers are really appreciated. I am home from rehab now thankfully, but it's a long road; walking with the Lord.

## Prayers of the people

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

- Pauline Robertson has now been moved to the Epworth Camberwell for rehabilitation.
  - Eileen Comber has returned home following her surgery.
  - Liz Helmond is now at home following her hip operation and rehabilitation. Pray for a good recovery and for Robin and family.
  
  - Pixie Pinkster who is still recovering from minor surgery to her legs but improving.
  
  - Thank God for the conversational English classes which have concluded for the year. We will resume in February 2019.
- Please pray for the work of Michael, Melanie & Aaron Viljoen – Wycliffe Bible Translators in Cameroon.** They are currently back in Melbourne on a holiday and deputation.

## Welcome to St Edward's

As we approach Christmas, it is our tradition to read the gospel stories about John the Baptist. Not because of the birth of Jesus, but because John announces the arrival of the Christ, "the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie".

It seems odd, at first, that John would be using baptism as a rite. Baptism was not used by Christians until after the death of Christ, and we don't think of baptism as a Jewish custom. However, immersion in naturally sourced water ("Mikva") had become an important ritual for Jews for restoration to a condition of "ritual purity" after becoming "defiled" (e.g. after contact with a corpse, or with blood), or for converts to Judaism.

John's message is that the Jews have not been fulfilling their mission on earth, which is to: "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done." (Isaiah 12:2). It is time for them to change their ways (repent) because the day of reckoning is at hand; hence why John calls them to undergo baptism: a ritual of purification and a sign of their repentance.

But John also goes on to say "I baptize you with water. But He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." With the arrival of Jesus, the obsession with the need for ritual purity and obedience to the law (when it was divorced from their heart's repentance), is replaced with a need for purity of heart, and a loving relationship with our Father in heaven. As Jesus will later teach his disciples: "What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them" (Matthew 15:11). "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mark 2:27)

## St Edward's Anglican Church

**16<sup>th</sup> December 2018**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

### 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

8 am & 10 am.

### Wardens

Jenny Lynch	9877 6338
Mobile	0490 951 549
Stephen Smith	9898 4945
Chris Ross-Stubbs	0438 353 340

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

**Verse of the Day**

“Do not fear: the Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.”

(Zephaniah 3:16-17)

**Prayer of the Day**

**Almighty God,  
you sent your Son into a world  
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff  
and evil clings even to what is good:  
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,  
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for him  
whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near,  
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Ministry of the Word**

New Testament	Philippians 4:4-8	(p. 1181)
Psalm	Song of Isaiah	(APBA, 391)
Gospel	Luke 3:7-20	(p. 1029)

**Hymns**

216 “Rejoice the Lord is king”  
265 “O come, O come Immanuel”  
OHP “Thou didst leave thy throne”

Praise and Thanksgiving to God

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

Thanksgiving prayer (OHP) (APBA, 36)

**Song:** 108 “You holy angels bright”

Ministry of the Word

Psalm	Song of Isaiah	(APBA, 391)
Gospel	Luke 3:7-20	(p. 1029)
Apostles Creed (OHP)		(APBA, p. 37)
The Sermon		

**Song:** 265 “O come, O come Immanuel”

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

Testimony, sharing + Prayer + Lord’s Prayer (APBA p. 40)  
Notices

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

**Song:** 287 “No wind at the window” (John Bell)

Benediction (APBA, p. 93)