

Notices

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

Please note: on Sunday 30th 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 7th.

Expressions of thanks and gratitude

- Eileen Comber would like to say thank you for the flowers, cards, phone calls and best wishes following her recent surgery.
- Pixie would like to thank the anonymous person who welcomed her back last Sunday with the gift of a poinsettia left on her organ bench.
- **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.

Recommended book buy: "Watch for the Light. Readings for Advent and Christmas." Plough Publishing House, New York. Rated 4.5 stars. Available from Amazon Books – Various copies available around AUS\$30; Depository - AUS\$35.

Prayers of the people

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

- Alan Gibbs has been in Knox Hospital and has had a pacemaker fitted.
- 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.

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

The first recognition by someone that Mary's child was special and not an embarrassment was by her relative Elizabeth. Mary had gone to visit her. On entering her house, Mary had given her a greeting and in response, Elizabeth's child (who would be called John the Baptist), leapt in recognition that Mary's child was the promised Messiah and was now in his presence (Luke 1:39-45).

The joy present in the meeting of these two women cannot be contained in the Bible's ink. There is blessing abounding and flowing over which cannot be contained. God's blessing is the happiness which comes when his favour is bestowed on his people. Elizabeth announces that Mary will be 'blessed among women and blessed is the child she bears.' (Lk 1:42). But there is more: 'Blessed is she (Mary), for her trust and faith in what the Lord had said to her about what would be accomplished by her willingness to be a 'servant of the Lord' and the mother of Christ (Lk 1:45).

The way in which God has sent this blessing upon these two women is none other than the Holy Spirit working as God's agency. He (the Holy Spirit), has filled Elizabeth and whose power has 'overcome' Mary (Luke 1:35), enabling her to conceive. What was unable to be imagined, an elderly woman and a young virgin, now both share in joy of their pregnancies and particularly that both have in some way become the agency for God's blessing upon his people and to our world. They never imagined that either would become part of God's bigger plan to send the long awaited Messiah, the Saviour and Son of God. As Paul writes: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). What can barely imagine what God's purpose is for our lives if we give ourselves to him wholeheartedly.

St Edward's Anglican Church

23rd December 2018
4th Sunday of Advent

Address

59 Edinburgh Road
Blackburn Sth
Victoria 3130
Office: 9877 3665

Minister

Rev Rob Culhane
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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

Verse of the Day

“Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.
He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.”

(Psalm 130:7-8)

Prayer of the Day

**Gracious God,
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son:
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through 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

Old Testament	Micah 5:2-5a	(p. 933)
Psalm	Song of Mary	(APBA, 425)
Gospel	Luke 1:39-56	(p. 1026)

Hymns

275 “Hail to the Lord’s anointed”
287 “No wind at the window” (John Bell)
312 “Once in royal David’s city”

10 AM (Holy Communion, 2nd Order, APBA, p.119)

Gathering in God’s name

Verse of the Day

Hymn 272 “Come thou long expected Jesus”

Prayer of Preparation

(APBA, p. 119)

Prayer of the Day

Ministry of the Word

Old Testament	Micah 5:2-5a	(p. 933)
Psalm	Song of Mary	(APBA, 425)
Gospel	Luke 1:39-56	(p. 1026)
Sermon		

The Nicene Creed

(APBA, p. 123)

Hymn OHP MP 749 “What child is this” (Tune: Greensleeves)

Notices

Prayers of the people

(p. 124)

Lord’s Prayer

Confession and Absolution

(pp. 125-127)

Hymn 312 “Once in royal David’s city”

Holy Communion – Thanksgiving 1 (APBA, p. 128) + Advent

Preface (APBA, p. 148)

Prayer after communion: p. 148.

Hymn OHP MP 589 “See him lying on a bed of straw”

Sending out of God’s people