



Anglican Church of Australia

Diocese of Melbourne

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

**PARISH OF BURNLEY**

ph: 9943 8442

stbartsburnley 'at' gmail.com

www.stbartsburnley.org.au

## **Worship Bulletin**



**First Sunday of Advent  
27<sup>th</sup> November 2022  
10.00am Sung Mass**

**Welcome to St Bart's!**

*We are an inner-city Anglican church in the progressive catholic tradition welcoming people of any race, language, culture, age, ability, gender or sexual orientation.*



*We recognize and give honour to the first peoples of Australia, and especially of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nations, past, present, and emerging, the traditional custodians of the land on which this parish has its mission and ministry.*

## ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, BURNLEY

### Our Vision

To live as citizens of, and invite others into, God's Kingdom.

### Our Mission

The Mission of St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Burnley, is to be a community who values the blessings and trust in the promises of God's Kingdom within the cultural and social context of Richmond, Melbourne:

- To live humbly before God and with all people
- To be dependent on God's comfort
- To be gentle with people and all Creation
- To hunger and thirst for the right ways of God
- To show mercy and compassion toward others
- To live with purity in motive and deed
- To be passionate for peace
- To persevere in the face of opposition

*Based on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10) Adopted by the 2015 Annual Meeting*

### CHILD SAFETY COMMITMENT

*St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Burnley commits to meeting all of the standards of the Child Safety Code of Conduct of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, and the Victorian Government's mandatory Child Safe Standards (Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015, Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Oversight and Enforcement of Child Safe Standards) Act 2016). The parish community seeks to promote the cultural safety of all children, including Aboriginal children, who come to us from a culturally or linguistically diverse background. We also seek to ensure the safety of any child with a disability. The parish community affirms that all children who come to St Bartholomew's have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to ensuring that children's best interests are met within our parish. We have zero tolerance towards child abuse. The parish community actively works to listen to and empower children within our community.*

*Facilities including disabled and baby change room are located in the front entrance of the main hall. Enter via the main door of the hall. For all able access see welcomer.*



*If you want to ensure regular giving to St Bart's, but find you never have the right amount in cash, or are sometimes unable to attend on Sundays, then*

**St Bart's Direct Transfer** may work for you.

**Account Name:** St Bartholomew's Anglican Church Burnley

**BSB:** 703 122

**Account Number:** 05009430

*As a reference you can use your own name, or you can use 'Offering' & your name will remain anonymous with your personal details not appearing on the St Bart's bank statement.*

## 10:00am SUNG MASS

<b>Presider:</b>	<i>Rev James Brady</i>
<b>Deacon &amp; Preacher:</b>	<i>Rev Graeme Brennan</i>
<b>Sub-Deacon:</b>	<i>Cynthia Nyholm</i>
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Linda Kent</i>
<b>Cantor:</b>	<i>Garry Warne</i>
<b>Mass Setting:</b>	<i>Christ Church Mass – Philip Matthias</i>

## GATHERING

**Choral Introit:** I look from afar

Palestrina, arr. Richard Shephard

*The Introit is sung as the Sacred Ministers enter to commence the liturgy.*

**Hymn** (AM 45) O Come, O come, Emmanuel

*(Tune: Veni Emmanuel)*

## INVOCATION & GREETING

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## SENTENCE

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. <sup>Isaiah 2.3a</sup>

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

True light of the World, our Saviour Jesus Christ, be blessed in these lights we kindle to announce your advent among us. Come as our teacher, come as our peacemaker, come to us and bring us your light; Jesus, be blessed both now and for ever. **Amen.**



## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Jesus, light of the world, you come from the family of David, the ancient king of your people.

**Be our king too: a king who is fair, a king who is peaceful. Amen.**

## ADVENT WREATH ANTHEM

### ADVENT CANDLES TELL THEIR STORY (AM 26)

**Advent candles tell their story as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory, 'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
changed for gladness on that Day.**

## INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*Sisters and brothers, as we prepare to celebrate these sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins.*

## CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith confident in God's forgiveness.

**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, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## COLLECT

Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 2: 1 – 5

*The Lord gathers all nations into the everlasting peace of the kingdom of God*

A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 122: 1 – 2, 4 – 9



I rejoiced when I heard them say: "Let us go to God's house". And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. *R/*

Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. *R/*

For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgment of the house of David. *R/*

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: "Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!" *R/*

For love of my brethren and friends I say: "Peace upon you!" For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. *R/*

## SECOND READING

Romans 13: 11 – 14

*Salvation is nearer to us now.*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.

Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy.

Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (AM 374)



Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. <sup>Psalm 85.7</sup>



## GOSPEL

Matthew 24: 37 – 44

*Keep awake, therefore, you also must be ready*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

✠ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

“As the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## SERMON

*Fr Graeme Brennan*

## THE CREED

Let us together 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 of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for all people and for the Church throughout the world.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith: receive the prayers we offer:

*After each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord:  
**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**



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.**

### THE PEACE *(Stand)*

We are the Body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*The Peace is shared*

*Notices and announcements*

## THE SACRAMENT

**OFFERTORY (AM 37) Hark, what a sound** *(Tune: Highwood)*

*During the Offertory Hymn the altar is prepared. Gifts of bread, wine and the collection are gathered and brought to the front of the church. At the end of the hymn, the celebrant invites all present to prayer.*

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord God, by this holy exchange of gifts, you share with us your divine life. Grant that everything we do may be directed by the knowledge of your truth, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

### 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 now and always, 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 and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. 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:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,  
 God of pow'r and might, Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -  
 - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

And now, Father, we pray that we who receive these your gifts of bread and wine according to our Saviour's word may be partakers of his Body and Blood.

*The Celebrant takes the bread in his hands and says:*

For on the night he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, his almighty Father, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'TAKE, EAT. THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU. DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.'

*The Celebrant takes the cup in his hands and says:*

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 WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION 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 ri-sen, Christ will come a - gain.

Therefore, in obedience to his command, we commemorate and celebrate his saving passion and death, his mighty Resurrection and Ascension into heaven and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

We thank you that by your grace alone, you have accepted us in Christ; and here we offer you a spiritual sacrifice, holy and acceptable in your sight. Through Christ, receive this our duty and service, and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts may, by your Holy Spirit, be one body in Christ, and serve you in unity and peace.

In your grace and mercy, bring us to the joy of your eternal kingdom with all the company of the redeemed. May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father eternal, in songs of never-ending praise:

Bless - ing and ho - nour and glo - ry and pow'r are\_ yours for ev - er and e - ver. A - men.

## RITE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour 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 forever. Amen.**

## FRACTION

We who are many are one body in Christ,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

### FRACTION ANTHEM

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have  
 mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have  
 mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world,  
 grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

### THE INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

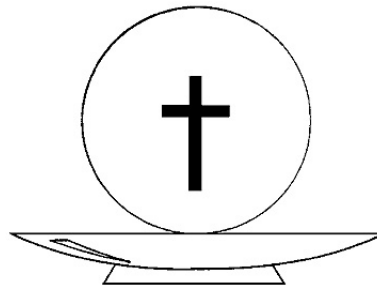
✠ This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Holy Communion is administered with these or similar words:*

The Body / Blood of Christ. **Amen.**

*All communicant members of any Christian Church are invited to receive the Sacrament. All others are very welcome to come forward for a blessing.*



### COMMUNION SENTENCE

Let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ. Acts 2.36

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever. **Amen.**

Father . . . **we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

**HYMN** (AM 38) Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding  
(Tune: Merton)

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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

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 upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

## POSTLUDE

## PRAYER DIARY

**For the sick, suffering, frail with age, and those who grieve:**

Milenka Skoblar, Mira Krslovic, Joy Turner, Bruce Kelsall, and Hank, and for those with ongoing or immediate needs: Fr Robert Whalley, Bp John Parkes, Peter Bryce, Howard, Stephen and Nilani

**Recently Departed:** Brian Porter, Priest (29<sup>th</sup> Oct); Richard Cacopardo.

**and for those whose Anniversaries of death occur in Years mind:**

Elizabeth Murrell & Phyllis Window (29<sup>th</sup>), Ronnie King, (30<sup>th</sup>), Vi Wise & Beryl Coombe (Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>), William Lord, Van Tuon Nguyen & Denis Palmer (2<sup>nd</sup>), Molly Bramich & Beryl Sambell (3<sup>rd</sup>).

## Prayer at the Time of Choosing an Incumbent

Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak your Word and minister your Sacraments; an encourager who will equip your people for ministry and enable us to fulfil our calling. Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience, and to us give warm and generous hearts, for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

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## Prayer for Ukraine

*In February, when war in Ukraine began, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote a prayer for the country and its people:*

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. **Amen.**

*Archbishop Justin Welby & Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

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## St Bart's Vicarage Renovation Appeal



*The last major capital expenditure on St Bart's Vicarage was in 1990, some 32 years ago. That work has proven long-lasting in conjunction with some updating of areas in the house over the past 10 years, including: a new kitchen, areas with new flooring, renovated ensuite shower, new carport, paving, and new back garden. There are now other areas of the*

*house that require attention to maintain a reasonable living standard, including: a new family bathroom, new flooring, back veranda work and a complete interior redecorating. We won't be able to achieve it all at once but we do need to get the major items fixed as a matter of urgency so to house an additional priest in 2023. If you could consider donating to the Vicarage Renovation Appeal, it would be much appreciated. You can donate via a specific EFT (below), by cheque (payable to St Bartholomew's, Burnley) or by cash.*

**Account Name:** St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, Burnley

**BSB:** 703 122    **Account Number:** 05009979



**FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Sunday, 27 November 2022 – Advent Sunday (Year A)**

**10.00am Sung Mass**

**5.00pm Mass**

**Monday, 28 November**

10.00am to 12noon Richmond Churches Food Centre

**Thursday, 1 December**

**10.00am Mass**

St Bart's Opportunity Shop is temporarily closed for refitting

**Sunday, 4 December – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

**10.00am Sung Mass**

**5.00pm Family Service & Meal**

Adjourned Annual Meeting (briefly following Sung Mass) + Op Shop Q&A

**Monday, 5 December**

10.00am to 12noon Richmond Churches Food Centre

**Tuesday, 13 December**

7.30pm St Bart's Book Club in the Café: Truman Capote, A Christmas Memory

**Thursday, 15 December**

**10.00am Mass**

7.30pm Parish Council Meeting

**Wednesday, 21 December**

**7.30pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**

**Saturday, 24 December: CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5.00pm Family Carols**

**11.00pm Vigil of Carols & Midnight Mass**

**Sunday, 25 December: CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10.00am Mass & Carols**

**Sundays 1, 8, 15, 22 January 2023**

**10.00am Mass** *and refreshments*

**Sunday 29 January 2023**

**10.00am Mass** *followed by Summer Garden Party*

**Anglican Church of Australia ~ Diocese of Melbourne**  
**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**  
**PARISH OF BURNLEY**

*ph: 9943 8442      stbartsburnley 'at' gmail.com      www.stbartsburnley.org.au*

**2022 PARISH MINISTRIES**

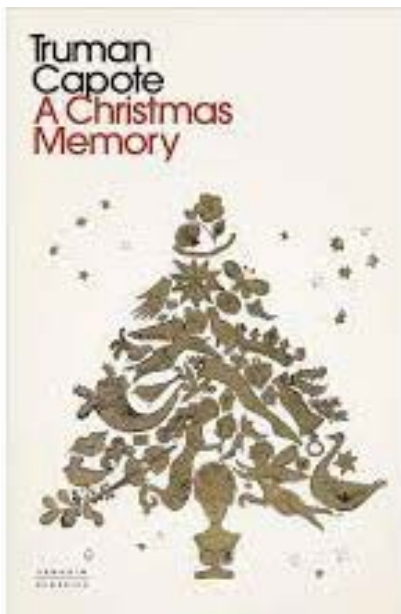
**Bell Ringers**

**Captain:** Jonathon Harrison

- jmharrison 'at' iinet.net.au  
0490 450 974

**Book Club**

*(Tuesday, 13 December @ 7.30pm  
in Café)*



**Co-ordinator:** Ann Brady

- ajbrady 'at' cobwebs.id.au  
0423 723 009

**Opportunity Shop**

*(Temporarily closed for refitting)*

**Climate Action Group**

**Convenor:** Kathy Kozlowski  
kathykoz45 'at' yahoo.com.au

**Sanctuary Guild**

**Sacristan:** Jonathon Harrison

- jmharrison 'at' iinet.net.au  
0490 450 974

**Richmond Churches Food Centre**

*(Mondays, 10.00am to 12noon)*

**Manager:** Francis Flood

- rfoodcentre 'at' gmail.com  
0493 104 144

**St Bart's Close**

*(1-4/2 Canterbury Street,  
Richmond)*

**Guardian:**

- stbartsburnley 'at' gmail.com    0473 493 153

**Social Enterprise Cafe**

**Committee Chair:** Glenis Heath  
glenisheath 'at' gmail.com

## 2021/2022 PARISH GOVERNANCE



### Churchwardens:

- Helen McDonald (People's)
- Cynthia Nyholm (People's)
- Glenis Heath (Vicar's)

### Parish Council:

*(meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7.30pm)*

- Trevor Blake
- Glenis Heath
- Helen McDonald
- Cynthia Nyholm
- Dr Muriel Porter
- Tom Ransom

### Parish Administrator:

Warren Collins

- 03 9943 8442
- 0408 020 446
- stbartsburnley 'at' gmail.com

### Parish Honorary Treasurer:

Tom Ransom

- 0400 187 584
- transom2000 'at' gmail.com

### Parish Honorary Secretary:

Dr Muriel Porter

- 0430 575 874
- murielporter5 'at' gmail.com

### Incumbency Committee:

- Don Heath
- Dr Muriel Porter
- Helen McDonald  
(Churchwarden)

### 53<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Synod Representatives:

Ann Brady & Jonathon Harrison  
Dhakshini Saravanamuttu  
(alternate)

### Child Safety & OHS Compliance

**Churchwarden with Oversight:**  
Glenis Heath

### Compliance Officer:

Jonathon Harrison

- 9943 8442
- stbartscompliance 'at' gmail.com

## WORSHIP SUNDAY

**10.00am SUNG or SOLEMN MASS**

**5.00pm MASS**

## MID-WEEK

**Thursday 10.00am Mass**

## MINISTRY TEAM

*To prevent internet spamming 'at' replaces the @ symbol*

### Locum Tenens:

❖ Rev Graeme Brennan

0473-493-153

g.j.milpara 'at' gmail.com

### Associate Clergy:

❖ Rev Canon (Emeritus) Jim Brady

0422-566-184

fjhbrady1 'at' gmail.com

❖ Rev Barry Brown

0478-767-728

brbrown1910 'at' hotmail.com

❖ Right Rev Alison Taylor

0417-593-833

amtaylorms 'at' outlook.com

### Honorary Lay Reader:

❖ Dr Muriel Porter

0430-575-874

murielporter5 'at' gmail.com

### Candidate for Holy Orders:

❖ Tim Collison

0420-954-601

tcollison 'at' gmail.com

### Organist and Director of Music:

❖ Linda Kent

0423-240-464

lkent56 'at' me.com

### Weekly Bulletin, Prayer Diary & Rosters:

❖ Warren Collins

0408-020-446

stbartsburnley 'at' gmail.com

## The Advent Wreath

In the northern hemisphere, the Advent-Christmas season occurs when there is a shortage of flowers and so greenery has always figured very largely in the decorations for this season of Advent. Hence, the many references in carols to sweet-scented greens, yew and pine-logs and fir branches, etc. If you have ever kept Christmas in the north, you will recall the sweet and heady scent of these fragrant green branches in churches during this season.

A wreath is made and stood or suspended in the church to remind us by these evergreens of the eternal and ceaseless love of God that is ever fresh and never changes. On each Sunday in Advent, a purple candle is lit as a way of reminding us of the onward march of time. As we draw near to the Feast of Christmas, so we are drawing near, each one of us, to the fulfilment of our own time of destiny.

Christians believe that the whole of Creation is advancing in God's purposes and plan towards fulfilment and perfection. The central white candle therefore signifies this perfection and, when lit on Christmas Day, it is a sign of the fulfilment already of God's promise to us in the birth of Jesus Christ.

The wreath remains in place until the end of the Christmas season, usually about February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

### **Weekly Reflection: Advent – a time of hope.**

Dear Friends of St Bart's,

It is said that while there is life, there is hope. This has even a deeper meaning in reverse: while there is hope, there is life. Hope comes first; life follows on.

Hope gives power to life, for hope is strength. The amount of energy in the world is equal to the amount of hope in it.

Hope sheds light into millions of despairing hearts. It is the miracle medicine of the mind. It inspires the will to live. It is a doctor's most powerful ally. It is a shield against defeat and failure. It never sounds the retreat. It revives ideals and renews dreams. As long as there is hope, no situation is impossible.

Advent summons us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

In the final analysis, Christ is our only hope.

Fr Graeme (*Locum Tenens*)

## Icons as a Guide to Advent – Dr Alison Asquith, PhD

A previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams has written two beautiful and accessible books on understanding and praying with icons: *Ponder These Things: Praying with Icons of the Virgin\** and *The Dwelling of the Light: Praying with Icons of Christ*. These books offer brief meditative and instructional reflections on a series of popular icons. For example, Williams explains how the icons are painted with a certain perspective to draw our eyes to a certain place on the icon – and how they help us recover our spiritual focus. Williams uses close-up images of the icons to explain the fine points of the meaning behind the colours, symbols, and composition of the icon.

Throughout these books there are insightful observations about the life of faith. For instance, as he writes about the Eleousa Icon (*Virgin of Loving Kindness*), the baby presses against Mary's cheek as she looks out at the viewer. He reflects on the heavy burden that Mary will now bear as the Mother of God's Son. Even amidst the expectancy of Advent, we are reminded that our journey leads to the cross.

Williams has used each of these books on icons in adult small group gatherings in Advent. Each book lends itself to a four-week long small group gathering for the season. Participants were asked to read each chapter before the discussion. Icons and candles were placed around the room. Each session began with quiet prayer and then moved into the discussion. Williams' style in each book is extremely accessible and provocative.

Here at St Bart's, we could use the icons of the first book, *Ponder These Things*, in a similar way as well as using the images for our bulletin cover. In individual devotion, each icon (*there are four*) could be contemplated as Williams suggests over the four weeks in Advent. It could be that Rowan Williams' thoughts and ideas may change us and even enrich our observance of the season of Advent.

\* Reference: Rowan Williams (2002), *Ponder These Things: Praying with Icons of the Virgin*: Canterbury Press, Norwich. (This book is available at St Peter's Bookroom East Melbourne.)