



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**



**Second Sunday of Advent**

**4<sup>th</sup> December 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:</b>	<i>Rev Graeme Brennan</i>
<b>Sub-Deacon &amp; Preacher:</b>	<i>Tim Collison</i>
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Linda Kent</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 30) Come, thou long-expected Jesus

(Tune: 95 Stuttgart)

## 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

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;  
repent, and believe in the good news. <sup>Mark 1: 15</sup>

## 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)

**John the Baptist, by his preaching and by water poured,  
brought to those who heard his teaching news of hope restored:  
'Keep your vision strong and steady, and be ready for the Lord.'**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

*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

God of all peoples, whose servant John came baptising and calling for repentance: help us to hear his voice of judgement, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# THE WORD

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 11: 1 – 10

*With righteousness he shall judge the poor.*

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On that day: a shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Hear the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 72:1 – 2, 7 – 8, 12 – 13, 17

**Response:**

In his days ju - stice shall flou - rish and peace 'till the moon fails.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son, your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. *R/-*

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. *R/-*

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. *R/-*

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name. *R/-*

## SECOND READING

Romans 15.4-9

*Christ has saved all people.*

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name."

Hear the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (AM 374)



Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. <sup>See Luke 3.4, 6</sup>



## GOSPEL

## Matthew 3: 1 – 12

*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.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, John said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? "Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

SERMON

*Tim Collison*

## 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 46) On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
(Tune: Winchester New)

*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.'

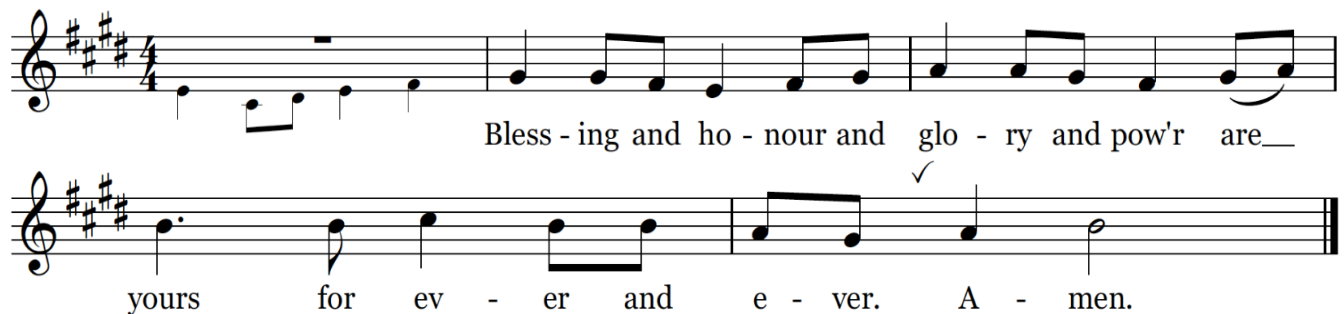
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



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:



## 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

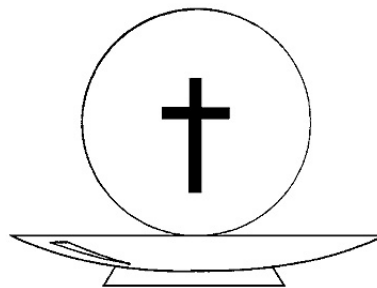
✠ This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**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

Save us by your might, Lord: answer our prayer, so the people you love may be rescued. Psalm 60.5

## 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 42) Longing for light, we wait in darkness**

(Tune: Christ be our Light)

## 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:** Milenka Skoblar, Mira Krslovic, Joy Turner, Bruce Kelsall, Hank, Robert Whalley (Priest), John Parkes (Bishop), Peter Bryce, Howard, Stephen, Nilani, Vivien, and Neville.

**Recently Departed:** Richard Cacopardo; Jean-Pierre Pavillon; Bishop Jeremy Ashton (24<sup>th</sup>)

**and for those whose Anniversaries of death occur in Years mind:** Kaye D'Arcy (4<sup>th</sup>), Gary Adams, Thomas Hegerty & Nelson Mandela (5<sup>th</sup>), Mark Chrimes (6<sup>th</sup>), Sister Winifred Muriel, CHN (7<sup>th</sup>), Wendy Smith (9<sup>th</sup>) & John Hamilton (10<sup>th</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, 4 December 2022 – Second Sunday of Advent

**10.00am Sung Mass**

**5.00pm Mass**

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

### Monday, 5 December

10.00am to 12noon Richmond Churches Food Centre

### Tuesday, 6 December

St Bart's Opportunity Shop is temporarily closed for refitting

### Thursday, 8 December

**10.00am Mass**

### Sunday, 11 December 2022 –Third Sunday in Advent (Year A)

**10.00am Sung Mass**

**5.00pm Mass**

### Monday, 12 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*

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**ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**  
**PARISH OF BURNLEY**

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

**2022 PARISH MINISTRIES**

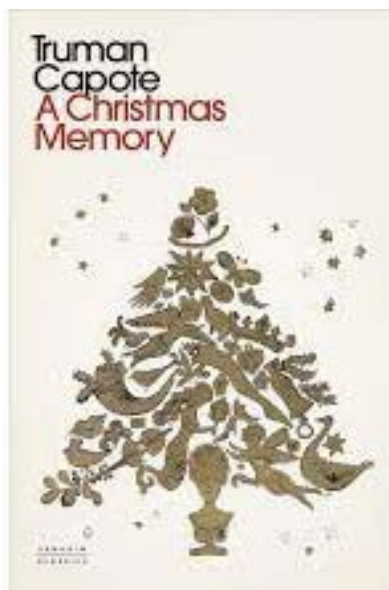
**Bell Ringers**

**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

**Richmond Churches Food Centre**

*(Mondays, 10.00am to 12noon)*

**Manager:** Francis Flood

- rfoodcentre 'at' gmail.com  
0493 104 144

**Social Enterprise Cafe**

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

**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

**St Bart's Close**

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

**Guardian:**

- stbartsburnley 'at' gmail.com    0473 493 153



## 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  
0427-321-744                      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' gmail.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

## Weekly Reflection

Dear Friends of St. Bart's,

The coming of Christ and the end of the world that the early Christians looked for didn't happen. Nor did the year 1000 (*or was it January 1, 1001?*) usher in the New Age. Neither, do I think, will 2023 – nor the year after for that matter bring about *'the end'*. Adventism of every kind is a gross presumption. The world remains the same old world. The slave-holding society of the Roman Empire in Christ's own day gave way to the feudal world of the 11<sup>th</sup> century and that gave way to other things – until our own day, with all the threats and promises of Economic Irrationalism.

There is no Utopia, never has been, never will be. That is not what Advent is about, nor is it what *'the Coming of the Lord'* is about. What Advent proclaims is the openness of God to humanity and, more importantly, the openness of God to you and me personally. Salvation doesn't happen in isolation; it is the whole of humanity that is redeemed. As individuals we are offered the free gift of eternal life in Christ *in the Church*. The Kingdom of God has come: it is the task of the Church to make known this Good News.

Although we are to live in this world and identify with all the good that is in the world, we are nevertheless to live as though the Kingdom has already come. The world has its rules and its natural order. The Kingdom also has its rule and its supernatural order. Today's readings help our reflection on this great mystery.

Wishing you His grace and peace,

Fr. Graeme (Locum Tenens)

### **FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS – DON'T MISS IT!**



Lots of your Favourite Carols on Wednesday evening, 21<sup>st</sup> December, at 7.30pm. Sing your heart out. **But be seated early!** Followed by drinks in the Guild Room. **Bring a plate of nibbles.**

## Thirty Years of Women Priests!

Thirty years to the day since the first women priests were ordained in St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, the Cathedral will host a Eucharist at 6pm on Tuesday, 13 December, to celebrate this significant anniversary.

Archbishop Kay Goldsworthy AO, Archbishop of Perth – Australia's first woman bishop – will preach at the service, at which Bishop Kate Prowd will preside.

Parishioners are warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will follow in the Barbara Darling Room, so for catering purposes, please book online at [www.eventbrite.com.au/e/30th-anniversary-of-the-ordination-of-women-priests-in-the-anglican-church-tickets-464830108367](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/30th-anniversary-of-the-ordination-of-women-priests-in-the-anglican-church-tickets-464830108367)

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

Continuing with last week's theme of Icons as a Guide to Advent, the previous Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams' books on understanding and praying with icons suggest that the Icon known as the ***Hodegetria*** (or *She who shows the way*) on the front cover is worthy of contemplation for the Second Week in Advent. It is one of many styles that depict the Mother of God.

It is a simple representation of the Christ child who sits cradled by his mother's left arm while she points to him with her right. In most versions, his eyes are on her, and he sometimes has a hand raised in blessing.

