



The Diocese of Wangaratta  
**The Anglican Parish of  
Kilmore**

with Broadford, Pyalong & Tallarook

**15th December 2013**

**Third Sunday of Advent**



*A warm welcome to our visitors please stay  
and enjoy coffee after the service*

**Hymns: 269, 265 (candle), 161 (psalm), 105, 647, 272 (tune 136)**



**The Magnificat**

*Introit Hymn*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

**[The third candle, the candle of joy is lit.]**

[All Sing]

*O come, O come, great Lord of might  
who to the tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times did give the law  
in cloud and mystery and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*



**[The people are invited to join in the dialogue responses.]**

Loving God, we open ourselves to you,  
**trusting that this is how you made us:  
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.**

Show us the creative power of hope.

**Teach us the peace that comes from justice.**

Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.

**Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice  
For God has created you with the capacity for joy.

**We will find what makes us joyful,  
And make that our gift to the world.**

Trust in God's good will for all of creation  
and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

**We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.**

**We will offer ourselves to God's goodness.**

**We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.**

## SENTENCE

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.' *Isaiah 35.3-4.*

## THE COLLECT

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 35. 1-10**

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah*

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, 'Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.' Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, and those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## FOR THE PSALM Hymn 161

## SECOND READING

**James 5. 7-10**

*A reading from the letter to the James*

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

I am sending my messen- | ger before you,  
who will prepare your | way before you.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## GOSPEL

Matthew 11. 2-11

*A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew*

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**For the Gospel of the Lord.**

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

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## THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord Jesus Christ, like John the Baptist we want to know if you are the Messiah. You tell us to listen and to take notice of you in this world, and then, from experience, you talk about the kingdom of heaven. Open our eyes to see the lame walking, cures occurring, and hope rising in the kingdom that shall come, all as evidence of your presence among us.

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Soon, Jesus, comes the Day of Christmas, your incarnation. Help us and all in your Church be like children, to feel the excitement of your coming. Bless those proclaiming your advent; preacher, pastors and priests, and hear us as we pray for our Bishop John, and for our parish as we eagerly await with expectant hearts.

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Holy Spirit, we need your counsel. We do not wait well. We wait impatiently with hope for peace and joy to come to your broken and bruised world. Hold in your

embrace those who suffer the indignity of war and aggression, and those striving for peace.

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

We remember, Lord, that you set the prisoners free, and gave justice to the wronged. We pray for our nation and community; for the homeless and unemployed; those living with threats of job loss; for those living on the margins of society; for those seeking asylum and those held in detention; open all our hearts to their situation that we may respond with generosity.

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Gracious God, we name those whom we know have special needs for healing, e pray for them and for all suffering distress of body or mind; for those who grieve and those living with anxiety, loneliness or fear; and for the dying. Hear us as we speak aloud, or in our hearts, the names of those who need you, even as we whisper our very own names .....

**Request for prayer from:** *Heather Turnbull, Chris Schafer, David Flower, Tom Scrivens, Glen Turnbull, Darren Winfield, Norma Hedley, Justin Quigg, Kelly Quigg, Karen Goodger, Michael Farrell, David Parsons, Matthen, Nicole, Alex Impols, May McCormack, Dawn McCormack, Carol Boase, Lyn Ryan, Linda, Bruce Mitchell, Fr Michael Nelson, Mark Bennetts, Mandy, Seth Gunther, Adrian Walsh, Cliff & Glenda Stomann, Tom, Sandra & Bianca Davidson, Peter Cannon, Alma Smith*

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Ever-loving God, you call the beloved into your presence with singing and rejoicing; we pray for the recently departed and those whose years mind occurs this week.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord; **and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Stir up your power and come: **Be born anew in us.**

Dearest Father, your glory is made manifest by the strength you give us as your believing people. Fear dissipates when you are near. Weak knees no longer tremble. We want to sing, and joy replaces doubt. We reach for you with our feeble hands, but it's your hand that holds us fast, keep us in your embrace as we pray for ourselves and those we love.....we pray in the name and hope of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray; **Our Father ...[pg. 124]**

**Year's mind:** Today we remember before God those whose anniversary of death occurs this week: 18th Jeffrey Morgan, Robert Pratt, Gladys Martin, Elsie Chuter, Dianne Margaret Humm; 20th Ian Poulter.

**Saint's Days and Holy Days:** 21st Thomas, Apostle and Martyr.

## Reflections on the readings

The invitation to find fullness of life in the commonwealth of God resonates through all of this week's readings. God's grace and love cover and protect those who seek God's reign, and God guides them – provides a 'way' for their journey – bringing them joy and gladness as they enter God's home. The journey, though, is not easy, even though it is protected. It is a journey requiring patience (James), and in which the poor, the needy, the vulnerable and the weak are to be served and protected – for these are the marks of God's reign, both in those God 'chooses' (like Mary) and in the Messiah God's people seek to follow (as in Matthew's Gospel). But patience is certainly required - even as John the Baptist expected change to come quick with the ministry of the Messiah. Ultimately, though, those who endure and stay on the path will find an end to their suffering (and that of those they have served) and eternal joy. What an awesome vision!

*Adapted from John de Veer (2013) [www.sacredise.com](http://www.sacredise.com)*

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## Notices

### **Retiring Collection for Philippines Disaster**

Please support the ABM Philippines Emergency Appeal - a retiring collection or donate to the Philippines Emergency Appeal through ABM on 1300 302 663, email [info@abm.asn.au](mailto:info@abm.asn.au), or at [www.abmission.org/philippines-emergency](http://www.abmission.org/philippines-emergency).

**Retiring Collection for Bishop's NSW Bushfire Appeal** - please give generously - funds will be sent to Diocese of Sydney to help those in need.

**ABM Advent Appeal** envelopes are available in the Narthex.

### **Empty Christmas Tree**

As is our custom, for an empty Christmas tree during Advent in Christ Church to put donations of Christmas presents for those in need. All donations will be given to Anglicare. Wrapped gifts, need to be labelled as being suitable for girl or boy and what age range.

### **Festival of Lessons and Carols at Christ Church**

On Sunday evening 22nd of December is our annual Festival of Carols at Christ Church. The children from Church 4 Kids, will be dressing up and assisting with the nativity and singing. The Service starts at 6.30pm, preceded by a BBQ at 5.00pm. Meat will be provided, please bring salads to share. Please invite families, neighbours and friends to come and sing Carols and hear again the Christmas story. Families with children involved in the service need to be at the church by 5.30pm to get costumes and instruments. Helpers are needed for to sing with the singing group, read, give out books, cook the BBQ or help dress the children - please see Fr Kim or Caroline.

## **Festival of Lessons and Carols Raffle**

We are selling tickets for a raffle (Christmas basket of goodies, preserves and wine, and small basket of toiletries) to help defray the costs associated with our Festival of Lessons and Carols at Christ Church on the 22nd. Tickets are \$1 each. Your support is needed and your generosity appreciated. Tickets on sale at the back of Christ Church (Broadford, Pyalong and Tallarook parishioners please see Fr Kim after your services to buy your tickets). We have secured the services of an organist from Melbourne and there will be associated costs including printing, advertising, BBQ etc. Please help spread the word about our Festival of Lessons and Carols and invite your family, friends and neighbours.

## **Photographs**

Wanted! A willing photographer from each parish centre to take photos of whatever is happening at their churches. We have visitors to the website and Facebook pages, and it would be great to have news and photos from all centres there. Please email any photos and articles to Caroline at [email@carolineburge.com](mailto:email@carolineburge.com). If you are unable to email but have actual 'real' photos, these can be scanned and return them to you.

**Pew Sheets for this Sunday** and previous weeks are on the parish website.

**Direct Debit Offerings** - Parish Account details: CBA Account Name 'Kilmore Anglican Parish'. BSB 063-698. Account Number 1018 4649.

**Next Parish Council Meeting** 7.00pm 18th December, at Gavan Hall - Short meeting and then dinner for Council Members and partners.

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## **Parish life this week**

Third week of December

Monday 16th	1.30pm St Matthews Friendship Group, Gavan Hall
Tuesday 17th	5.00pm Bishop in Council
Wednesday 18th	7.00pm Parish Council Meeting & Dinner, Gavan Hall
Thursday 19th	10.00am Eucharist St Matthews 10.00am Eucharist Willowmeade 2.30pm Eucharist Caladenia 4.00pm Eucharist Dianella
Friday 13th	10.00am – 4.00pm Op Shop Church House
Saturday 14th	10.00am – 12noon Op Shop Church House

**Next Sunday: 22nd December 2103**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35.1-10; Magnificat; James 5.7-19; Matthew 11. 2-11

Christ Church	9am 6.30pm	Holy Eucharist Festival of Lessons & Carols
St Matthews	11am	Morning Prayer
St Stephens	11am 7.30pm	Holy Eucharist Community Carols
Transfiguration	4pm	No service this day

**Christmas Services 2013**  
**Sunday 22nd December**

6.30pm Christ Church Kilmore - Festival of Lessons & Carols  
*(this will be preceded by a BBQ at 5.00pm)*

7.30pm St Stephen's Tallarook - Community Carols

**Tuesday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

5 pm Church of the Transfiguration Pyalong - Christmas Mass

11pm St Matthew's Broadford - Christmas at Midnight

**Wednesday 25th December - Christmas Day**

9am Christ Church Kilmore - Christmas Day Mass

11am St Stephen's Tallarook- Christmas Day Mass

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**Parish Clergy:**

**Rector** Fr Kim Benton 9 Union Street Kilmore 3764 Ph 5782 1155  
m 0407569343; [kim@revkim.org](mailto:kim@revkim.org)

**Priest (PTO)** Fr John Young 9/40 Powlett Street Broadford 3658 Ph 5784 2224

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