

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
DIOCESE OF BALLARAT
ST PAUL'S - BAKERY HILL



"If God is for us, who is against us?" (Rom 8:31)

**Christmas Eve
24th December 2018**

Living our Faith and Witnessing to Christ's Love

Welcome to St Paul's Church! We acknowledge the Wathaurung people, the traditional custodians of this land. Visitors are asked to make themselves known to the Welcomers. You are invited to wear a St Paul's name tag. Communicant members of all Christian traditions are invited to receive communion; anyone is welcome to receive a blessing. Please join us for refreshments after the Parish Eucharist.



**Welcome to this special family Eucharist for
Christmas!**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again we come to celebrate Christmas, the birthday of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

In "How the Grinch stole Christmas" we hear Dr Seuss: "Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"

All the shops tell us about Christmas – only to encourage us to spend up – and too often with more than we can afford.

The Norwegian Nobel Laureate and novelist, Sigrid Undset, wrote:

"And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans--and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused--and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself."

Christmas is about the greatest gift of all: Jesus of Nazareth: God who has come to us to bring us into the fullness of the life of the Kingdom of God.

So let us celebrate Christmas in thankfulness and worship; and in generosity, not just to loved ones, but especially to those who are poor, lost and lonely.

May the Love, Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you all.

Fr. Graham

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

All stand for the Processional Hymn

1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle-shed
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. And through all his wondrous Childhood
day by day like us He grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

5. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven
set at God's right hand on high,
when his children gather round
bright, like stars, with glory crowned.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95) alt

Welcome to our Eucharist

Setting the Nativity scene

The children join in, bringing the figures for the Manger. They help arrange the figures in the Manger.

Carol

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

In the name of God: Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

Advent Wreath Liturgy

Christmas Eve – Light

Throughout this season we have lived, waited, and remembered the hope, peace, joy, and love of God found in Christ. (Light Candles) Tonight we gather together and light candles in honour of the Christ Child.

With the birth of Christ, salvation has drawn near. The God who ordered the chaos of the universe has come down into the chaos of our world. The Word which was with God at the beginning came down and lived with us. While we were yet living in the valley of the shadow of death, the light of new life burst forth.

We light this candle for Christ.

On this night, we remember God has come in the Christ Child.

On this night of nights, we have come together as God's family to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour Jesus. Let us trust in God's mercy, confess our sins and claim his gift of forgiveness:

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and son of Mary:

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

We are truly sorry and we ask you to forgive us:

Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

Help us by your Spirit to live in newness of life:

Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

The presiding priest pronounces the Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on us ✠ forgive us our sins, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

Gloria in excelsis is said or sung together

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

Let us pray...

Good and gracious God, on this night long ago, you gave us your Son,
our Lord, wrapped in swaddling clothes, our Saviour lying in a manger.

On this holy night draw us into your love. Join our voices with all the heavenly hosts that we may sing of your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Christmas Story by Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!

A Chinese Carol – Holy night, blessed night (Sheng ye Jing)
Sung by Ruth Li

Stand and say together:

Alleluia, alleluia! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son:
and they shall name him Emmanuel, **Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (2:8-20)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas message—Fr Graham

THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE

*** BY LUCY WHELOCK [Pg 69]**

Two little children were sitting by the fire one cold winter's night. All at once they heard a timid knock at the door, and one ran to open it. There, outside in the cold and the darkness, stood a child with no shoes upon his feet and clad in thin, ragged garments. He was shivering with cold, and he asked to come in and warm himself. "Yes, come," cried both the children; "you shall have our place by the fire. Come in!" They drew the little stranger to their warm seat and shared their supper with him, and gave him their bed, while they slept on a hard bench. In the night they were awakened by strains of sweet music and, looking out, they saw a band of children

in shining garments approaching the house. They were playing on golden harps, and the air was full of melody. Suddenly the Stranger Child stood before them; no longer cold and ragged, but clad in silvery light. His soft voice said: "I was cold and you took Me in. I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was tired, and you gave Me your bed. I am the Christ Child, wandering through the world to bring peace and happiness to all good children. As you have given to Me, so may this tree every year give rich fruit to you." So saying, He broke a branch from the fir tree that grew near the door, and He planted it in the ground and [Pg 70]disappeared. But the branch grew into a great tree, and every year it bore wonderful golden fruit for the kind children.

* From "For the Children's Hour," by Bailey and Lewis. Used by permission of the authors and the publishers—Milton Bradley Company

Carol – Dressing the Christmas tree

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
How steadfast are your branches! (Repeat)
Your boughs are green in summer's clime
And through the snows of wintertime
O Christmas Tree, o Christmas Tree
How steadfast are your branches!

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
What happiness befalls me (Repeat)
When off at joyous Christmas-time
Your form inspires my song and rhyme
O Christmas Tree, o Christmas Tree
What happiness befalls me

O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree
Your boughs can teach a lesson (Repeat)
That constant faith and hope sublime
Lend strength and comfort through all time
O Christmas Tree, o Christmas Tree
Your boughs can teach a lesson

And now children and families with lighted candles gather around the Nativity Crib and sing:

Joy to the world

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
let earth receive its king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and Heaven and nature sing,
and Heaven and nature sing,
and Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;
let us their songs employ;
while fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders, of His love

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with those around you.

THE OFFERTORY

During the hymn, the bread and the wine and money gifts are brought to the altar.

Carol - Hark! the herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh, the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased in human flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

Hail! the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail! the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more need die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

The Presiding Priest says the Offertory Prayer, to which the response is

Blessed be God for ever.

Please remain standing.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer

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 him thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues ...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues ...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues, concluding

... in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

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

Agnus Dei is said or sung.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins 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.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*Communicant members of all churches are welcome to receive
Communion; anyone is welcome to receive a blessing.*

Post Communion Hymn: Silent Night

1. Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin mother and
child
Holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glory streams from heaven afar.
Heavenly hosts sing: Hallelujah!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

3. Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) tr. John Freeman Young (1820-85) alt.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The presiding priest says the post-communion prayer

God our Father, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus our Saviour. May we share his life completely by living as he has taught us:
Most loving God,

You send us into the world you love.

Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit, Amen.

The priest pronounces the Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, and the peace of the Christ Child, be God's gift to you this Christmas: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ:

Thanks be to God.

Recessional hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him born the king of angels:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

True God of true God, Light of light eternal,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created:

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God, glory in the highest':

Words: Latin 18th cent. Tr. By Frederick Oakley (1802-80) and others
Music: melody by J.F Wade (1711-86) arr. by David Willcocks (b.1919)

Christmas Quote: 'If each one of us could make of our heart a manger, then Christ could come again to this earth.' ~Angelus Silesius

On behalf of St Paul's parish I thank you for joining us in this celebration of Christ's birth. We pray the blessings of Emmanuel (God-with-us) on all our children, our families and our community. And we wish you and yours a very happy & holy Christmas and a healthy & blessed 2019. Fr Graham

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ST PAUL'S CALENDAR

Orders are now being taken for the 2019 parish calendar. If you wish to order one, please write your name on the list at the back of the church and place \$10.00 in a marked envelope in the collection plate.



It began on Christmas Day 1949, when a minister named Rev Frank Byatt in Victoria placed a simple empty bowl on the table before him. He humbly asked his friends and family to contribute what they felt the cost of the meal had been. Rev Byatt asked that they consider their own good fortune in being able to share a Christmas meal together in comfort and safety. And he invited them to share God's blessings of love and friendship in the form of a gift to help people who had fled the horrors of World War Two and were suffering as refugees.

This invitation to Australian Christians to stand by men, women and children living through conflict and displacement is, sadly, more important than ever. For the first time in history, there are nearly 60 million displaced people in the world who need our help.

The Christmas Bowl appeal is our way of forging a loving connection between our Christian community here in Australia and people around the world who are experiencing dreadful hardship and suffering.

If you would like to donate to the Christmas Bowl there are envelopes available in the church.



Parish Directory

Bishop

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Associate Clergy

The Rev'd Canon Geoffrey Tisdall

The Rev'd Malcolm Thomas

Parish Secretary:

Lisa Smith

Organist:

Ken Turner

Priest's Warden:

Julie Werner

Churchwarden:

Mark Stewart

People's Churchwarden:

Heather Clinton

Treasurer: (interim)

Julie Werner

Parish Council Secretary:

Lisa Smith

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