

THE BRIDGE

THE ANGLICAN PARISH
OCEAN GROVE & BARWON HEADS
St Peter's Ocean Grove & All Saints' Barwon Heads

OUR MISSION STATEMENT -

'TO KNOW CHRIST, AND MAKE CHRIST KNOWN'

VICAR: THE VEN. Jill McCoy; 52 562 446; 0425 805 827; jillm@ogbha.org.au

HON. ASSOCIATE PRIEST: REV Jill Poole; 0437 450 329;

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CHRISTMAS 2021 "All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ."

VICAR'S VOICE What is the most precious Christmas present you've ever received? Perhaps it is a very special piece of jewellery, or an obscure bit of kit for your favourite hobby, given by someone who loved you very much. Perhaps it is the first thing that special pre-schooler in your life ever made for you 'all by themselves'. Or the perfect, thoughtful something from someone who is no longer here to give or receive.

We all have gifts that we treasure, for all sorts of important reasons. But the most precious Christmas gifts can't be wrapped, or ordered online, or discovered in the mailbox. There is a real danger, in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of Christmas activities, plans and expectations, that they might get overlooked, or even forgotten. Some of them are the intangible gifts we can give to others – time to listen, caring actions, love and support. And some of them, God reaches out to give us – hope, peace, joy, love – all embodied in Jesus. I pray you will have time to stop and open yourself to receive these precious gifts this Christmas.

Andrew and I wish you all God's richest blessings this Christmas, and thank you for your cards, gifts and good wishes. Being part of this community is another of God's precious gifts to us.

Blessings, Jill.

CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY 24 TH Dec.		
6.30 pm	All Saints'	Children's Service
6.30 pm	St Peter's	Children's Service
9.00 pm	All Saints'	Holy Communion
11.15 pm	St Peter's	Holy Communion
CHRISTMAS DAY SATURDAY 25 TH Dec.		
9.00 am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
9.30 am	All Saints'	Holy Communion
BOXING DAY SUNDAY 26 TH Dec.		
9.00 am	St Peter's	Holy Communion
11.00 am	All Saints'	9 Lessons & Carols

IF YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, WOULD PREFER TO RECEIVE COMMUNION AT HOME AT CHRISTMAS PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

New government regulations mean our services are open to all, BUT refreshments can only be served after the service to those who can demonstrate that they are vaccinated against COVID19. We strongly encourage continued mask wearing, particularly when you are not 1.5 metres from other people, and when singing.

ZOOM CODE NUMBER 488 270 257

WHAT'S ON USUALLY



MONDAY	Hearts and Crafts 10 – 1	St. Peter's Hall O. G
TUESDAY	Prayers-personal – 10 –12[on leave from 20/12 to 18/1]	St. Peter's Hall O. G
WEDNESDAY	Op shop 9.30 - 1 Jigsaw Library - 10am - 12	All Saints' Hall B.H
FRIDAY	Op Shop 9.30 - 1	All Saints' Hall B.H
SATURDAY	O p Shop 9.30 – 1 Jigsaw Library - 10 am - 12	All Saints' Hall B.H
SATURDAY	Prayers 9am	St. Peter's Chapel

NORMAL SERVICE TIMES

DAY	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
Sunday	8 am	St. Peter's	Holy Communion
Sunday	9.30 am	St. Peter's	Holy Communion
Sunday	11 am	All Saints'	Holy Communion
Wednesday	10 am	St. Peter's	Holy communion
Saturday	9 am	St. Peter's	Prayers



READINGS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

24 th Dec Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 Ps 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20
25 th Dec Christmas Day	Isaiah 62:6-12 Ps 97 Titus 3:4-8a Luke 2:1-20
26 th Dec Christmas 1	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Ps 148 Col. 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. *It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.*

1. The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ. **2.** Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments. **3.** Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love. **4.** The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. **5.** The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. **6.** The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. **7.** Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. **8.** The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes. **9.** Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control. **10.** The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments. **11.** The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples. **12.** The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

We worship on the land of the Bengalat clan of the Wathaurong people and we acknowledge and pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

May you be wrapped up in God's love; found deep in His everlasting wings; carried and kept -safe and cherished. May the healing power of Christ breathe across you

FOR THE HEALING OF BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT.

Wendy Hudson, Deb Podbury, Glenys Russell, Betty Boyd, Jim Wilson, Pat Brady, Faye & Ken Bermingham, Alex Slocombe, Dot Sutcliffe, Elizabeth Polley, Judy Beach, David Bayne, Dawn White, Janet Paisley, Doris Loewy, John Bartley, Bev Stephenson
Diana Wilson, Marcel, Alison Fane and Mark Johnstone,
and those we know personally and are not on this list.

FOR THOSE WITH ILLNESSES WHICH MEDICATION WILL NO LONGER HELP, AND TO THEIR LOVED ONES-give courage, strength and comfort in their faith of the joy of eternal life

TO THOSE RECENTLY BEREAVED - give comfort and strength.

FOR OUR MEMBERS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE give peace, comfort & contentment.

Hilda Clyne, Shirley Dodgshun, Kaye Middlehurst, Anne Shady, Jean Wadey, Beth Ward, Jenny Wood, Shirley Trimble, Stella Scheiner, Ross Smith and Keith & Kaye Houston.

Please let Jill know about additions and subtractions for our prayer list.

Our Prayer Chain. Join the team who pray -contact Anna or Lyn 0418 171 787.

If you would like us to pray for you, contact the Vicar on 0425 805 827.

- **Saturday Morning Prayer 9.00 am St Peter's**

PRAYER FOCUS FOR December. This will be hard...challenging! Go and sit for 15mins or so each day, at your front gate, in your car, on a seat...anywhere where you can see or meet people passing by, and **pray a short prayer in your heart** for everyone you meet, talk to, or even just see. They all need prayer. If you can't manage to go out and see people, remember people who have passed by in your life lately, and pray for them. Make it a challenge for yourself. If you can't think of what to pray for them, ask The Holy Spirit to help you. If you think you can't do this, then just pray for yourself that you will be able to. It all starts with you, pray them into God's grace and love.

Mission Support Group News: Christmas Bowl Appeal: If you intend to make a donation to the Christmas Bowl, but have not yet done so, you can still put an envelope in the offertory plate at either church on 24th, 25th 26th, or next Sunday (2nd Jan.). Whatever has been collected within the parish will be sent away in the week following the 2nd.

A big thank you to those who have contributed, either directly, or through the parish.

YOU CAN GIVE BY : Putting money **in the giving envelopes** found in each church, and - posting it to Christmas Bowl, or placing it in the offertory bowl during any Christmas service.

: Putting money **in your own envelope** and placing it in the offertory plate.

: Giving online by going to actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

We live in a world desperately in need of truth. Deception, false teaching, and misguided philosophies lead many people astray. Thankfully, we know that truth came to us at Christmas. His name is Jesus. Jesus Christ was born into a world much like ours. It was divided by politics, class and race struggles, injustice, and people needed hope—the hope of a Saviour. [taken from the Billy Graham Evangelistic News Letter]

Daily readings beginning 27 December

Monday 27	Ps. 140	Isaiah 60. 12 -22	John 1. 1-18
Tuesday 28	Pss. 2; 36	Genesis 4. 1 -10	1 Peter 4. 1 -10
Wednesday 29	Ps. 145	Isaiah 62.	John 1. 35 -51
Thursday 30	Pss. 148; 149	Isaiah 63. 1-9	John 2. 1 -12
Friday 31	Ps. 83. 1-18	Isaiah 63. 10 -19	John 2. 13 -25
Saturday 1/1/22	Ps. 113	Deut. 30:6-20	Acts 3:1-16

CANDY CANES. The story tells of a Candy maker in Indiana who wanted to make a candy that would help us remember who Christmas is really about. So, he made a Christmas Candy Cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ. He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus. Hard candy to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church, and firmness of the promises of God. The candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus. It also represented the staff of the "Good Shepherd". The candymaker then included red stripes. He used three small stripes and a large red stripe to represent the suffering Christ endured at the end of his life.



Taken from HTB -Bible in One Year- Nicky Gumbel

PROVERBS 31:1–9 Who are the voiceless in our society who 'cannot speak for themselves'? Who are the people that you and I should be speaking up for?

They will surely include the following:

The poor About 10% of the world's population go to bed hungry every night. Every few seconds, poverty takes a child's life. Today, and every day until we act, thousands of children die of avoidable diseases or because they live in poverty. Millions under the age of five die every year. Over half of these early child deaths are due to conditions that could be prevented or treated with access to simple, affordable interventions. They are the 'poor and destitute' (v.9, MSG).

The enslaved There are probably now more slaves globally than at the height of the transatlantic slave trade. Human trafficking enslaves millions of people around the globe, many of them under the age of eighteen. Slavery is a terrible injustice. 'Speak up for justice' (v.9a, MSG).

The unborn Those in the womb have no voice of their own. The journalist, Nigella Lawson, who describes herself as 'pro-abortion', has written, 'If anecdotal evidence is anything to go by (and I suspect it is), [abortion] is becoming more and more a value-free, post-facto alternative to contraception.' Yet few people have the courage to speak up for the unborn today – who have 'no voice' (v.8a, MSG).

The prisoners Many around the world are in prison unjustly and even those who are in prison justly are often treated inhumanely. But the vast majority are in no position to 'speak for themselves' (v.8a).

THE BRIDGE: If you have pew-news, or want anything added or changed, please text or email me [so that I get the message right] or ring Isobel Dean - ref. Parish Directory, by **Wed 10 pm**