

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

19 December, 2021

*We welcome you to St. Oswald's Church and to this service, especially if you are new or a visitor among us. Please make yourself known to the welcomers, so that they may introduce you to other members of the congregation. Please join us in the hall for refreshments after the service.*

*We acknowledge the sovereign country of the Wurrundjeri people of the Kulin nation on which we gather.*

**Outline of Today's Service from  
A Prayer Book for Australia**  
[Eucharist Setting **Together in Song 757**  
and Hymns 10 am Service only]

### Advent Liturgy Page 2

**Opening Hymn**                      **TiS 290**

**Holy Communion Page 119**

### The Collect

**Readings**    Micah 5: 2—5a  
                  Psalm 80: 1—7  
                  Hebrews 10: 5—10  
                  Luke 1: 39—45

**After the Sermon P. 124**

**Offertory Hymn**                      **TiS 291**

**After the Collection**                **P. 127**

**Prayer after Communion**        **P. 143**

**Final Hymn**                              **TiS 161**



### Today's Ministries

<b>8 am</b>	Reader	<b>J. Warfe</b>
	Counting	
<b>10 am</b>	Reader	<b>R. Pritchard</b>
	Cantor	<b>P. Johnson</b>
	Intercessor	<b>C. Adams</b>
	Welcome /	<b>W. Johnson</b>
	Offertory	<b>L. Lath</b>
	Counting	
	Morning Tea	<b>D. &amp; C. Adams</b>
	Covid	<b>L. Williams</b>
	Cleaning	<b>P. Carr</b>



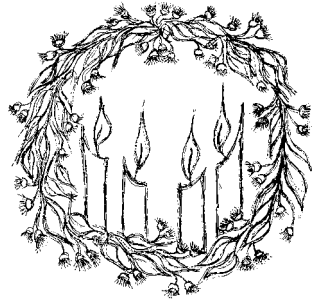
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**Hearing Aid  
Induction Loop  
Area  
Use Your Telecoils**

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## **Advent Liturgy — Advent 4—Mary**

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother.'



**I am the servant of the Lord.  
Let it be to me according to his word.**

*The fourth candle is lit*

Jesus is the light of the world  
**A light no darkness can ever put out.**

*All Sing*

- 1. 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**
- 2. Prophet voices loudly crying,  
Making pathways clear;  
Glimpsing glory, self-denying,  
Calling all to hear.  
Through their message—  
    challenged,  
Shaken -  
Hearts awoken:  
God is near**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. Mary's gift, beyond all telling,  
was to give Christ Room.  
She gave God a human dwelling  
in a mother's womb.  
Who could guess the final story?  
— cross and glory;  
Empty tomb!**

## From the Vicar

It is the Sunday before Christmas, and it feels like the Grinch has made a return to steal it away again. In some ways, this year feels less like the festive Christmas we are used to than 2020. Few Christmas lights, few Carol Services, few festive displays, no carol singers in the shopping precinct.

I suspect it's the combination of two years of lockdowns, scares, misinformation, and uncertainty. Covid has not left us and neither has the fear of catching it. We are on full alert all the time, uncertain about where we can go and what we can do.

At the same time, the rhetoric coming from our leaders is the same - it's all about the economy! We must save the economy, boost the economy, economy, economy, economy! We have had incentives, Black Friday Sales (distasteful on a number of levels) and the drive to get overseas students back (before Australians living overseas).

Yes, the Grinch has stolen Christmas and I fear he won't give it back in time.

There is a sense of the dread facing Mary and Elizabeth without the hope they find within them and with each other. Yet Mary and Elizabeth remind us that in the darkest of moments hope is alive and is born.

It takes faith to discover it.

## Glenn

### Intercessions

#### For the church:

The Church of the Province of Central Africa; The Diocese of Gippsland; Police Force Chaplains and members of the Police Force; St John's Toorak.

#### For those who face challenges in daily living:

Lesley Whitehead, Gaye Loughrey.

#### Departed

Frederick Sales, Stephen Edwards, Matthew Edwards, Ruby Cole, Barbara Jessop, Lois Neville.

## Diary for the week

**St Oswald's Facebook page**

<https://www.facebook.com/stoswaldchurchgleniris>

go to Videos on left side of screen

**You Tube—St. Oswald's Glen Iris**

**Sunday 19 December— TONIGHT**

7.30 pm **Service of Carols and Readings**

**Tuesday 21 December**

10 am **Morning Prayer**

**Wednesday 22 December**

10 am **Holy Communion**

**Thursday 23 December**

10 am **Morning Prayer**

7.30 pm **Choir Practice**

**Sunday 26 December —Live streamed**

**First Sunday after Christmas**

8 am **Holy Communion**

10 am **Family Eucharist**

**Readings 26 December**

1 Samuel 2: 18—20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3: 12—17

Luke 2: 41—52

## Parish Contacts

Church Office 9885 0149

Open Monday-Wednesday 9am-1pm

**Vicar**

Rev. Glenn Loughrey

Mobile 0418 911 714

**Churchwardens**

Tim Andrews 9885 4659

Dick Adams 9885 1054

**Organist**

Daniel Brace 0412 806 034

**Treasurer**

Helen Rehn 9885 7477

**Vestry Secretary**

Tom Fetherston 0411 730 752

Carol Harrison )

**Hall Hire** ) **0419 535 085**

**Pew Sheet Notices** )

Email [carolh@bigpond.net.au](mailto:carolh@bigpond.net.au)

**St. Oswald's Website**

<http://www.stoswaldsgleniris.net.au>

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



## Sharing God's love this Christmas

It's been 10 years since the civil war broke out in Syria with thousands of families still living in neighbouring countries like Jordan. The challenges refugees face no longer make front page news, and now COVID-19 has made life even harder. Through the Christmas Bowl, you are helping our local partner provide support for families, including food rations and hygiene kits, along with psychosocial care. **Please give today.**



**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl](http://actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl)**

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

## Covid-19 Regulations

- For the vaccinated there is no longer any limit on the number of people attending church services.
- Attendees must provide proof of vaccination, preferably by linking their digital certificate to their Service Victoria check in app.
- It is not necessary to book if you wish to attend Church.
- The 10:00am service will be live streamed if you wish to follow the service from home.
- All must check into St Oswald's using the QR Code poster. A Covid Marshal will assist you if you do not have a smart phone. In this case you must show a paper copy of your vaccination certificate and give your first name, surname and phone number and photo ID (eg drivers licence).
- Mask wearing is no longer mandatory in the Church. You are strongly encouraged to wear a mask if the church is full, if people are less than 1.5m apart and if people are indoors for 2 hours or more. You are welcome to wear a mask at church if you feel more comfortable. Mask wearing is mandatory for those not disclosing vaccination status.
- People serving refreshments or food before or after services, including fully vaccinated services, must wear masks. Self-service food is not allowed.
- Please maintain social distancing at all times (keep 1.5 meters from other parishioners).



Today's readings highlight what for me is the essence of Christianity: That Jesus came to save us, particularly the lowly, downtrodden and insignificant – that is, you and me. Sometimes I think we (and the powers that be in all aspects of life) place too much emphasis on who we are, where we fit in society and how important someone (us included) might be. Jesus and Mary both epitomise the humblest of origins, insignificant in the wider world. We should remember this – we have been chosen by God to represent his values on this earth and live our lives to be an example of his love.

- Pray that we may always act to reflect God's love, and work to empower those who have little power or position to lift themselves up.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan.

*Text: Anne Marie Troutman: Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans  
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## **St. Oswald's Church – Caring Food**

You will be aware that many people in our community are doing it very tough due to COVID, with lockdowns and job losses. We have been wondering how we can help. We have come up with a plan to provide some food relief to those people who need it in our local area, and for this I am asking for you to get involved if you can.

The plan is to provide a shopping bag containing basic food items to be collected from the church on a certain day, probably Wednesday morning.

Our task as a church community is to provide these bags, which should contain the items listed below, and can be left at the church foyer when the church is open, or I can pick them up from your home. You could perhaps make up 1, 2 or 3 bags each time, but if you feel unable to put a complete bag together, we are happy to accept monetary donations. Once we begin, this will be an ongoing project and we hope you will continue to provide these donations regularly – but any contribution will be appreciated. We are trying to achieve a system where the food does not need to be handled and sorted, hence the need for the supply of full bags. This collection will replace our annual collection for Anglicare for the time being.

People who would like this food support will make direct contact with Glenn, or via Samarinda or Ashburton Support Services. The food bags, one per person, will be available for collection from the church each Wednesday morning between 11.00 am and 12.30, or will be delivered by me or Peter. The scheme will be limited and not be open to the general community or widely publicized – and we will see how it goes, and make changes as we need to.

The food needs to be placed in a green shopping bag and should include the following items (approximate value \$25.00):

- Soup (tinned or packets of cup of soup)
- Rice/2 Minute Noodles
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Baked beans/tinned spaghetti
- Tea Bags (small)

- Coffee (small instant)
- Long Life Milk
- Dry biscuits
- Sweet Biscuits
- Block of Chocolate (or any other treat)

For any more details or information about the scheme, please contact me (0417 315 542) or Peter Johnson (0417 548 896) or email judysjohnson@icloud.com.

Thank you for your support of this new initiative, which we hope will be helpful in our community.

Best wishes

**Judy Johnson**

### **Music today—From the Organist**

Advent is almost over. Our patient waiting, quietly alert to the signs that the Saviour is almost with us, are about to be rewarded. I've enjoyed so much wonderful Advent music from Win and the choir; I thank you all and for the kindness and support each of you has shown to me earlier on in the month.

Rather than focus on the history or origins of any particular work, I was thinking this week about the associated and shared memories that relate to the Carols we have been singing and listening to over the past weeks. You might be surprised that some of this music is completely new to me.

Growing up outside of the church, watching and listening to Carols from afar, I knew in my heart that one day I would be part of this musical tradition. I'm so grateful that this year I am making these memories together with you at St Oswald's.

And a special thanks to Carol for all her work in the administration of the pewsheet and related Christmas booklets. I'm taking a break from my regular column, returning Feb, so I can focus on the launch of the Courtyard Choir. In the meantime, Happy Christmas.

**Daniel Brace**

# TODAY'S READINGS & PRAYER

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment  
of what was spoken to her by the Lord. *Luke 1.45*

## Prayer of the Day

**God made known  
in the friendship of women,  
the word of greeting  
and unseen life enwombed;  
give us the courage  
of the teenage mother  
who brings into the world  
a song of joyful revolt  
and a God who needs her love;  
through Jesus Christ,  
the one who is to come. Amen.**

## **A Reading from the Book of Micah**

[Micah 5: 2—5a]

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.  
If the Assyrians come into our land  
and tread upon our soil,



we will raise against them seven shepherds  
and eight installed as rulers.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80: 1—7**

Colin Mawby

Show the light of your coun - te - nance, O Lord God of  
hosts, and we shall be saved.

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**Cantor:**

<sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;

<sup>2</sup> Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, **R**  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

<sup>3</sup> Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation.

<sup>4</sup> Turn us again, O God,  
show the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved. **R**

<sup>5</sup> O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?

<sup>6</sup> You feed them with the bread of tears;  
you give them abundance of tears to drink. **R**

<sup>7</sup> You have made us the derision of our neighbours,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

<sup>8</sup> Turn us again, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. **R**

## A Reading from the Book of Hebrews

[Hebrews 10: 5—10]

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God"  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).'

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices  
and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to  
the law),

<sup>9</sup> then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to  
establish the second.

<sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the  
body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church,  
**Thanks be to God.**

***Please Stand***

*Fintan O'Carroll*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu ia al - le - lu - ia

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**Gospel Acclamation:** I am a servant of the Lord;  
May his will for me be done.

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

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

# Christmas Services

**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**TONIGHT**

**7.30 pm Carols & Readings**

## **Christmas Eve** **24<sup>th</sup> December**

4 pm Children's Service  
7.30 pm Eucharist & Carols

## **Christmas Day** **25<sup>th</sup> December**

8 am Holy Communion  
10 am Parish Eucharist & Carols

Enquiries: 0418 911 714