



3rd December 2023

First Sunday of Advent



Hymns: 271 274 265 275

Sentence

‘Heaven and earth will pass away,’ says the Lord, ‘but my words will not pass away’. (*Mark 13:31*).

The Collect

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths: renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love; to whom be glory forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 64, beginning at verse 1.
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80, verses 1 to 7

R: Restore us, O Lord, and save us

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. **R...**

Stir up your might, and come to save us! Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? **R...**

You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. **R...**

Second Reading

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians, chapter 1, beginning at verse 1.

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

The Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour, says the Lord.

Alleluia!

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark, chapter 13, beginning at the twenty-fourth verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

For the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Prayers of the People

Lord, your people are in darkness, and unprepared for the fulfilment of your promise of salvation. Gather us and our prayers, that we may find the light of wisdom and understanding.

We pray for those who face the near future without hope; families that are broken, people that are unemployed; for the lonely, the abused, and those whose lifestyle and pursuit of society’s expectations is crippling their spirit. Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

We pray for churches that have lost their way; for congregations that are insular and dysfunctional, for church leaders that dominate and demoralise, and for ministers who have succumb to spiritual attack, burnout or temptations of the world. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who act selfishly, and whose aim is only financial gain; for the repentance of those who hoard or squander resources that could be shared equitably and fruitfully with all your people. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who suffer for their faith; for all bearers of the gospel who are persecuted and shunned for daring to dream of a better future for the world; and for children and young people, who are drawn away from Christianity by depraved and ignorant teachings. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in ill health at this time; for those whose bodies betray them, whose minds are afflicted and whose souls are weighted with sadness. We remember those who have asked for our prayers: *Maryann Leonard, Jonathan and Limor Rose, Jeanne Jones, Bill Edge, Sharon and John Simpson, Anni Grimwade, Madeline Allen, Elaine Haddock, Belinda Shannon, Jim Chatz, Barry and Val Watts, Gwen Bushell, Debbie Chilcott, Beryl and Geoff Kirby, Fiona Mctier, David Valentine, Peg and Ken Raeburn, Bishop John Parkes, Edie Simpson, Bruce Seaman, Thomas De Sousa, Mary Cassar, Vince Fazio, and Adeline Bickley.* Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the faithful departed; those whose lives have inspired our own, and those who are free from the anxieties of life, to meet their Lord face to face. We remember those who have died recently...and those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: *Paul Sutton, Peggy Boyd, Lillian Evans, Esma Woods, Albert Boyd, Hilda Maher, Nell Pearce, Angus Cooper, George Poulter, Joan Mclean, Edward Kennard, Edith Whittingslow, Ray Jackson Eric Beaumont, Michelle Potts, Tara Alexander, and Marjorie McDougall,* Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

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.**

Notices

Bible Study – Advent

We will be having an Advent Bible Study on Tuesday December 5th, December 12th and December 19th. This will be at 7.30pm at Christ Church Kilmore (while we take a holiday break from Jeremiah). We will be looking at the beginning of Luke's gospel, and the events leading up to the Birth of Jesus. All are welcome.

Parish AGM and Annual Reports

We will be holding our AGM on Wednesday December 13th at 5.30pm, in lieu of Parish Council. Please can all those responsible for annual parish reports, get these to Caroline as soon as possible please. Reports are required from: Christ Church, St Matthew's, St Stephen's, Transfiguration, Gavan Hall, St Matthew's

Village, Op Shop, Treasurer, Parish Council, Parish Priest, Publicity, Gardening Group, St Matthew's Friendship Group. Thank you.

Carols in the Carpark, Broadford

The Broadford Ecumenical Committee is organising community carols in the carpark between St Matthew's and Gavan Hall. The carol service will be Friday 22nd December, starting from 6pm. BYO picnic with blanket or folding chairs as necessary, while tea and coffee will be provided from Gavan Hall. All are welcome.

Love in Action

Families we serve are feeling the stress of the season to provide for their kids at Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a child for Christmas whereby you are prepared to buy a new and decent gift, please contact Barbara Radford (0412 287 306). Love in Action needs to have these gifts delivered by December 1st.

Alternatively, you can provide a donation to the Love in Action bank account for the volunteers to purchase the gift. Christmas foods are also needed for hampers, including lollies, chocolates, tins of shortbread or biscuits, nuts, chips, Christmas serviettes, etc. Many thanks for your support.

Direct Debit /EFT Offerings – Account details: BENDIGO BANK – Account Name 'Anglican Parish of Kilmore;' BSB 633-000; Account Number 158946921.
Reference: Offertory. An EFTPOS machine is available at Kilmore.

This Week in the Parish:

Monday 4th December: 10am-12pm Op Shop Trading
12pm Op Shop Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 6th December: 2.30pm: Dianella RACF service

Thursday 7th December: 10am: Mass, St Matthew's Broadford
10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Friday 8th December: 10.30am: Blue Cross RACF service
10am-4pm: Op Shop Trading

Saturday 9th December: 10am-12pm: Op Shop Trading

Next Sunday: Second Sunday of Advent 10th December: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15; Mark 1:1-8		
Christ Church, Kilmore	9.00am	Holy Eucharist
St Matthew's, Broadford	11.00am	Morning Prayer
St Stephen's, Tallarook	11.00am	Holy Eucharist
Transfiguration, Pyalong	---	---

Weekly Scripture Readings

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Monday 4th December	Ps 80	Ps 81
<i>Nicholas Ferrar</i>	Isaiah 40:1-17	Isaiah 1:18-31
	1 Thessalonians 1	Mark 4:1-20
Tuesday 5th December	Ps 82; 84	Ps 85; 87
	Isaiah 40:18-31	Isaiah 2:1-18
	1 Thessalonians 2:1-12	Mark 4:21-41
Wednesday 6th December	Ps 86	Ps 88
<i>St Nicholas of Myra</i>	Isaiah 41:1-16	Isaiah 2:19-3:12
	1 Thessalonians 2:13-20	Mark 5:1-20
Thursday 7th December	Ps 90	Ps 119:89-104
<i>St. Ambrose of Milan</i>	Isaiah 41:17-29	Isaiah 3:13-4:6
	1 Thessalonians 3	Mark 5:21-43
Friday 8th December	Ps 89:1-18	Ps 89:19-38
<i>Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Isaiah 42:1-17	Isaiah 5:1-17

	1 Thessalonians 4:1-12	Mark 6:1-13
Saturday 9th December	Ps 89:39-53	Ps 91
	Isaiah 42:18-43:13	Isaiah 5:18-30
	1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11	Mark 6:14-29

Parish Contacts

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Parish Wardens:

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Rebecca Jones, 3 First Street, Broadford, Ph 5784 4057

Julie Wallis, 71 Main Rd, Tallarook, Ph 5792 2854

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Facebook page link: <https://www.facebook.com/AnglicanKilmore/>

**or you can type in Anglican Parish of Kilmore Facebook into the
search bar and it should come up. It's also on the link Services
Online on the website.**

Thoughts for the Week

One of the biggest pushbacks against the Church is the cry of: 'don't indoctrinate me'. We all love our freewill, don't we? And yet, whether wittingly or unwittingly, we actually tend to find ourselves corralled into some form of social or cultural conditioning. In a word: indoctrinated. We don't like to admit that every opinion we form, every shred of belief or value we have in life is affected, conditioned or even pushed by a view that is not our own. So technically, we tend to be fighting a losing battle on the freewill front. We can certainly make up our minds, but we have to pick a side. No man (or woman) is an island, as they say. The point is, it's unfair to say that the Church indoctrinates, or brainwashes, or pushes harmful ideologies, without also acknowledging that secular or humanist ideologies have just as much potential to be harmful. The Church, in practice, may not be the pinnacle of moral fortitude it posits itself to be, but it doesn't make the Church the villain of the piece. It certainly doesn't make God the villain, or the belief in him a path down the wrong rabbit hole. We are all entitled to a viewpoint, but we should bear in mind that when we start using words like indoctrinate, hate speech, or dogma, we are actually creating a creed of our own, as much as we want to stamp out even the term creed, as it pertains to the religion we may be fighting against. In other words, you can't say the Church is intolerant without exercising a degree of intolerance. Even to say the Church is preachy demonstrates, even indirectly, an aspect of your lifestyle that is worth preaching *against*. The gospel message does not exist in a vacuum; it is disseminated in contrary motion to a force working against it. If the Church denounces this thing it calls *sin*, well, it's because *sin* exists, and it is detrimental to individuals and society alike. Jesus didn't teach because he liked the sound of his own voice. He wanted to prevent people from erring too far in a detrimental direction. The Church carries on this practice of teaching because it fears people being indoctrinated *by humanity*. The same humanity that promises life without consequences, like snake oil salesmen peddling placebos. The Church, at least in theory, is neither opiate nor toxin; it is an antibiotic. The gospel, the creed, all that, is preventative medicine for the lethargy, ignorance and vice that all-too-commonly plague our minds.