



REACH OUT



Christmas@EssendonAnglican.com

Advent 2 (Sunday 4th December 2011)

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Advent 3 (Sunday 11th December 2011)

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Advent 4 (Sunday 18th December 2011)

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Advent 4 (Sunday 18th December 2011)

7.00 pm 9 Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE
(Saturday 24th December 2011)

11.00 pm Carols
11.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY
(Sunday 25th December 2011)

9.00 am Christmas Day Mass

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH ESSENDON
DECEMBER 2011

Vicar: Fr John Mathes

Telephone: 0417 407 768 or 9379 2770



FJ's reflection

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

HEALING SERVICE

Starting in February 2012 on the first Monday of the month, Rev'd Fred Cook will be running in our Church a Healing Service from 7.30 pm for an 8.00 pm start. There will be music, bible readings, testimonies, teaching, prayer and ministry. All welcome

OPSHOP

The OpShop will close for the Christmas break on Wednesday 21st December at 4.00 pm and will reopen on Tuesday 17th January at 10.00 am. Thank you to all who work hard in the OpShop.

ANNUAL MEETING

Thank you to all who attended the Annual Meeting. The following are the results of the elections.

Churchwardens: Elected: Alan Wilson, Bill Howard
Appointed by Fr John: Margaret Elsey

Members of the Vestry:

Elected: Sue Adams, Vera Burrows, Jamie Lingard & Sue MacMillan
Appointed by Fr John: Katherine Anderson & Tony Clayton
Retiring: Corrin Dekker & Christine Robins

Lay representatives to the parish Incumbency Committee

Elected: Jamie Lingard, Alan Wilson
Appointed by Wardens: Margaret Elsey

Lay representatives to EssACC

Elected: Chris Angus and Sue MacMillan

Secretary: Appointed by Vestry: Alan Wilson

Treasurer: Appointed by Wardens: Margaret Elsey

We thank Corrin Dekker and Christine Robins for their contribution to Vestry.

Copies of the Annual Report can found in the Narthex of our church or can be downloaded from our web site at www.essendonanglican.org.au

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Like Easter, Christmas is an important festival in the Christian Calendar and it is important that all Christians be in Church during the Christmas Season. We would not miss Christmas parties and even New Year's Eve parties and yet sadly many do not make it a priority to worship the Christ Child at Christmas. We would love to see you during this holy time...

CHRISTMAS

Fr John, Carolyn, Jillian and Trudy wish everyone associated with the Parish a holy Christmas and a healthy new year.

SOMETHING TO PONDER - The Christmas Gift

The great American short story expert, O. Henry, wrote a famous Christmas story. It is about a young married couple who were very much in love. Christmas was approaching and they wanted to give a present to one another. But they were very poor and had no money for presents. So each one, without telling the other, decided to sell his or her most precious possession.

The girl prized above all else her long golden hair. She went to a hairdresser and had it cut off. She then sold it to buy a lovely watch chain for her husband's watch. He, in the meantime, went to a jeweller and sold the only watch he had to buy two beautiful combs for his beloved's hair.

On Christmas, they exchanged their gifts. At first they cried, then they laughed. There was no hair for the comb, and no watch for the watch chain. But there was something more precious and that was the idea behind their gifts: each had deprived self of the best to give to the other...

A gift is no gift if it does not cost us something, if it does not contain a part of ourselves.



The Lord be with you...
Your Vicar

Fr John.



10 Questions

SUE MacMILLAN

SUE MacMILLAN is active in the OpShop and on Vestry as well as assisting in the Choir and the Sanctuary. She is an experienced hockey player and has 3 grown up children and one grand daughter. Fr John recently asked her 10 questions...

FJ Where were you born?
Sue: Essex, England

FJ Where do you live?
Sue: North Essendon

FJ Career in life?
Sue: Physical Education teacher

FJ If you could change some thing what would it be?
Sue : Remove the emotion of anger

FJ Favourite holiday destination?
Sue: Thorpeness in Suffolk England

FJ Favourite colour?
Sue: Blue

FJ Favourite food?
Sue: Thai food

FJ AFL Football Team
Sue: Carlton

FJ What is one thing you want to do before you die?
Sue: Visit Scandinavia

FJ Past and present involvement at Christ Church?
Sue: OpShop, Vestry, Choir, Flowers, Lay Minister, Have been a Warden, Sacristan in the past.

FJ Thank you Sue...

Christ & Christmas

For centuries, the Russians told a legend about a young prince called Alexis. He lived in a gigantic ornate palace, while all around him lived hundreds of poor peasants in filthy hovels. The prince was moved to better their lot. So he began to visit them. But he could not make any real contact with them. They always treated him with high respect, and felt ill-at-ease with him.

Then he thought things over and one day came out to the people dressed as a rough and ready young doctor who wanted to devote his life to the poor. He started by renting a rat-ridden shack on a back street. He wore old torn clothes, just like the people. He lived on the plainest food. Often he did not know where his next meal would come from. He made no money because he treated everyone free and gave away his medicines. Before long, he won the love and respect of all the people. As Prince Alexis, he had never succeeded in doing that.

Little by little, he transformed the whole spirit of the place: settling quarrels, reconciling enemies, helping people to live decent lives.

No one guessed that this young doctor was in fact the Prince himself, who had abandoned his palace and gone down among his people to become one of them.



That is a parallel to the story of Christ and Christmas Day.



The Straw in the Christmas Crib

When the shepherds of Bethlehem visited the Infant Jesus, one of the younger boys took along some straw from the crib. "What have you got there in your hand?" asked one of the shepherds.

"Just some straw from the crib where the baby was sleeping." "Straw?" laughed the others. "That's just rubbish. Throw it away." The little boy shook his head and said, "No. I'm keeping it. These pieces of straw remind me of that baby, and what the angels said about him."

The next day the shepherds asked the boy, "Do you still have those pieces of straw? You do? Look! Why don't you throw away that worthless stuff?" "No, it is not worthless," said the little shepherd. "God's baby has slept on it." "So what?" the others answered. "It's the baby that is important and not the straw."

"That's where you're all wrong," explained the little shepherd. "This straw IS worth something. If there were no straw in the crib, what could the poor baby have slept on? No, this handful of straw tells me something. It tells me that God makes use of small worthless things. God needs us, little people, to help him do his work."



Too Busy to Wake Up

As we enter Advent it is very easy to get caught up in the world's view of the season; parties, presents, bustle and rush. Use this prayer and action periodically during Advent to wake you up to God's presence.

Prayer:

Too easily, Lord of Light, we curry the convenient slumber of consumerism. We rush headlong in a hurry to entertain ourselves. Wake us gently, gracious God, a little more each day, that with all your saints we might live our lives spiritually alert, more fully aware of your sustaining and guiding presence.

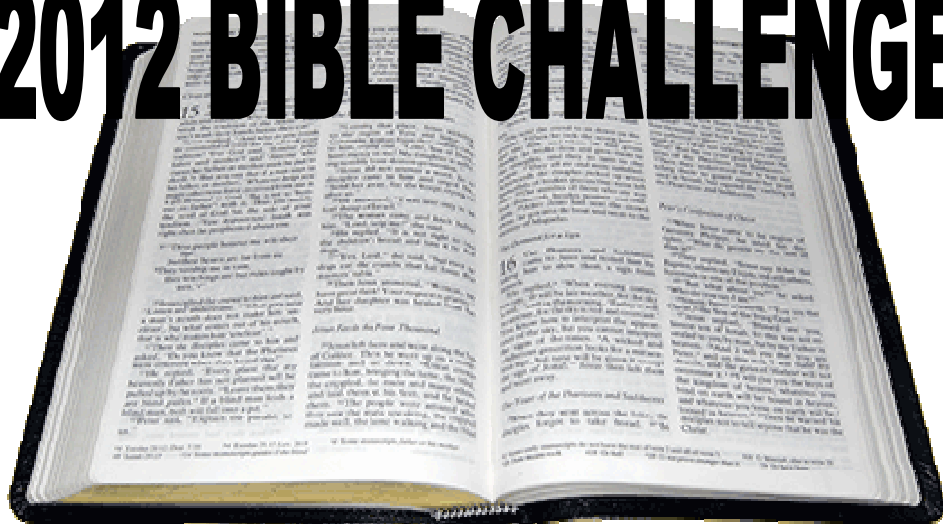
Action:

Wear your watch or your favourite bracelet on your opposite hand today (or, if you are very brave, wear mismatched socks or something outrageously garish). The point, of course, is to awaken you spiritually, to remind you that every moment the eternal intersects the temporal. When you do notice your subtle (or outlandish) "act of devotion," recite this simple sentence prayer: "Lord, awaken me to your loving presence."

Advent and Christmas Wisdom from G K Chesterton, Liguori, 2007

THE CHILD OF
CHRISTMAS
IS THE KING
OF KINGS!

2012 BIBLE CHALLENGE



Did you know that a recent survey found that at least 45% of church goers have not read the bible in its entirety. We would like to make a positive change in this area and encourage you to take up the 2012 Bible Challenge. To know God well, we must know his Word.

Fr John has organised 3 different reading plans to choose from to read the bible in 12 months. It means setting aside each day 15-20 minutes (sometimes less).

As you read a section each day you can tick the box to say you have read it and see your progress through the year.

There are three different reading plans in the Narthex or can be obtained from Fr John to pick from:-

1. Variety: - where each week we read on Monday from the letters of Paul, Peter James and John (Epistles). Tuesday from the books of the Law. Wednesday from the History books telling the story of the ancient kings of Israel including King David and Solomon. Thursday from the Psalms, the early hymn book of the temple worship. Friday from the Poetry

and wisdom books. On Saturday from Prophecy and the stories of the prophets. Lastly on Sundays we read the Gospels and the book of Acts telling the story of the early Christian Church.

2. Canonical: - where we read the bible from cover to cover starting with Genesis in the Old Testament and concluding with the book of Revelation in the New Testament.

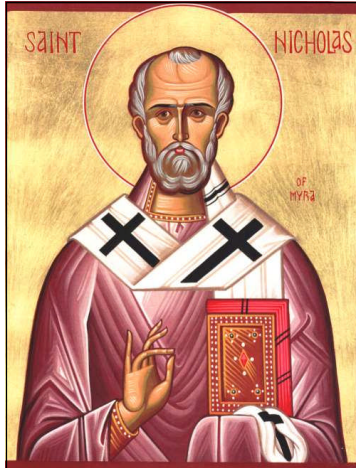
3. Chronological: - where using recent historical research, we read the bible in the order the events in the Bible occurred.

Fr John challenges all to join him and this is something important to do at least once in your life. 2012 is the time.

It is important to use a modern translation of the bible that is easy to read. If you do not have a modern translation of the bible please talk to Fr John and he can assist you.

It is also important to spend time quietly reflecting and praying after you have finished the readings.

December Saint: St Nicholas of Myra



St NICHOLAS OF MYRA

Nicholas was a native of the western part of what is now Asiatic Turkey. He became Bishop of Myra in the fourth century, and there are many stories of his love for God and for his neighbour.

The best-known story involves a man with three unmarried daughters, and not enough money to provide them with suitable dowries. This meant that they could not marry, and were likely to end up as prostitutes. Nicholas walked by the man's house on three successive nights, and each time threw a bag of gold in through a window. Thus, the daughters were saved from a life of shame, and all got married and lived happily ever after.

Because of this and similar stories, Nicholas became a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

Pictures of Nicholas often show three bags of gold next to him. Nicholas became the patron of an Italian city called Bari, which is where his body is now buried. Bari was a centre of the pawnbroking business, and hence a pawnbroking shop traditionally advertises by displaying three gold balls over its front.

There is a story of a wicked innkeeper who murdered three boys and salted their bodies to serve to his guests, to save on the butcher's bill. Nicholas visited the inn and confronted the innkeeper, who confessed his crime, whereupon Nicholas prayed over the brine-tub and the three boys leaped out unharmed.

Other stories have him saving the lives of three innocent men who had been condemned to death.

Still other stories have him coming to the rescue of drowning sailors.

Nicholas has always been popular with children, mariners and pawnbrokers.

In many countries, Nicholas visits children on his feast day, 6th December, and brings them gifts then. In these countries, there is usually no exchange of Christmas presents, but there may be gifts again on January 6th, the feast of the coming of the Wise Men, who brought gifts to the Holy Child of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. In America and Australia, it may be thought necessary to yield to outside pressure and let Nicholas distribute gifts on December 25th.

We are told, but it is uncertain, that Nicholas was imprisoned for his faith before the accession of Constantine, and that he was present at the Council of Nicea in 325.

We may note in passing that the picture of him as roly-poly is a later development. Early stories indicate that he was generous to others, but not given to self-indulgence.



Reflections on the Lord's Prayer



PART ONE

Ask ten people what they mean by 'prayer' and the chances are that the majority will indicate something which means persuading God to do something which he would otherwise not be inclined to do, or for some reason he needed to be reminded about. As we pray the Lord's Prayer we hopefully see prayer differently. Prayer is rather a means by which we engage with God in the work of his kingdom, or as somebody once said 'conspiring with God towards the healing of creation.'

Prayer is a readiness to rest in the presence of God trying to look at life through his eyes, bringing our activities under his sovereign will.

These reflections are about the Lord's Prayer and I hope that it will help us all as we think about prayer in general, what it is and why we do it.

Clearly Jesus thought prayer was important; he prayed often and he spoke

with God as he struggled with important issues in his life to try to discover God's will for him. Luke and Mark in particular shows how Jesus prayed often and especially prayer occurred at all the major points of his ministry. Think of the prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Gethsemane prayer of Jesus is helpful, it demonstrates that, for Jesus, prayer was a means by which he was able to put his life on track, so that he was able to be obedient to God and follow his ways.

Whilst the Lord's Prayer has been likened to the opening of the Kaddish prayer of the Synagogue and other Jewish prayers, it is unique in its finished form. Jesus uses the prayer to encourage his disciples to follow his example of spending time talking to God, seeking God's will and following patterns of prayer.

In the Lord's Prayer Jesus recognises that true spirituality is not something ethereal and removed from daily life. Actually it is about committing ourselves to live by God's ways in our ordinary daily living.

For the record perhaps a glimpse of what Jesus considered to be good 'spirituality' can be seen in the Gospel of Luke Chapter 10:25 where we read of a man who comes to Jesus and asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus agrees that the man is correct when he says,

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' ; and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

Then of course Jesus goes on to speak of the parable of the Good Samaritan. The message is simple and yet remarkably hard, it is this: The spiritual path to eternal life is about how we show love to God and others. The truly spiritually enlightened are those who love God and who demonstrate this by putting the needs of others before their own.



Around the Parish

At the recent OpShop Annual Meeting & Luncheon, Sue MacMillan presented flowers and paid tribute to Joyce Tattam who had faithfully assisted in the OpShop and on the Committee for many years.



OUR DOOR IS OPEN is an new theme on our web page— do you recognise anyone in the picture...

Early Dates for 2012

JANUARY 2012

Tues 17th Jan 10.00 am OPSHOP reopens

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday 12th Vestry

Wed 15th 4.00 pm OpShop Info
afternoon tea for volunteers

Wed 15th EssACC Committee at
Strathmore at 7.30 pm

Sun 19th EssACC BBQ@
Aberfeldie 11.30 am
Bring salad & drink.
Meat provided

Tues 21st Shrove Tuesday

Wed 22nd Ash Wednesday

Mon 27th 9.00 am OpShop Committee

MARCH 2012

Sun 18 (3rd Sun) Warden's Meeting

APRIL 2012

Sunday 1st Palm Sunday

Thursday 5th Maundy Thursday

Friday 6th Good Friday

Saturday 7th Easter Vigil

Sunday 8th Easter Sunday

Sun 15th (3rd Sun) Vestry

Mon 23rd 9.00 am OpShop Committee

MAY 2012

Sun 13th NO Warden's Meeting

Wed 16th EssACC Committee at
Aberfeldie at 7.30 pm

Sunday 27th EssACC Service (Pentecost)
9.30 am at Strathmore

Monday 28th Musical Luncheon

JUNE 2012

Sun 10th Vestry

Mon 25th 9.00 am OpShop Committee

JULY 2012

Sun 8th Warden's Meeting

Date to be confirmed EssACC social night
(can be indoor bowls or something else)
Organised by Strathmore

AUGUST 2012

Wed 8th EssACC Committee
at Essendon at 7.30 pm

Sunday 12th Vestry

Date to be confirmed EssACC Dinner
Organized by Essendon

Mon 27th 9.00 am Op Shop Committee

SEPTEMBER 2012

Sun 9th Warden's Meeting

Sun 23rd (OS 23 B) EssACC Service
9.30 am at Aberfeldie

OCTOBER 2012

Sun 14th Vestry

Mon 22nd OpShop AGM

NOVEMBER 2012

Sun 11th Warden's Meeting

Mon 19th 9.00 am Op Shop Committee

Wed 21st EssACC Committee at
Strathmore

Sun 25th Christ the King
9.00 am Eucharist,
10.00 am cuppa,
10.45 am Annual Meeting.
12.30 pm Parish Luncheon

DECEMBER 2012

Sun 9th Vestry

Sun 23rd 9 lessons & carols

Mon 24th Christmas Eve

Tues 25th Christmas Day

PLEASE PUT THESE DATES
IN YOUR DIARY
MORE DATES & DETAILS COMING

Ladies @ Leisure and Men's Dinner Group
dates coming

Film night is always 1st Friday in month.

Craft is Tuesdays mornings in Tern time.

9 LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday 18th December

5.00 pm BBQ in Parish Centre

Meat provided

Bring a salad or desert

Put name on sheet in Narthex

7.00 pm 9 Lessons and Carols

Theme: Luke's story

assisted by Melbourne Women's Choir

plus Katherine Anderson's

Flute ensemble

All welcome

**HAVE YOU SEEN THE
LATEST ON OUR
WEB PAGE — CHECK OUT
www.essendonanglican.org.au**

Essendon Combined Charities Card Shop now open

Location: Uniting Church North Essendon,
132 Keilor Road, North Essendon.
(next to Primary School)

Hours - Thursday: 9.30 am — 4.00 pm

Friday: 9.30 am — 4.00 pm

Saturday: 9.30 am — 12.30 pm

Shop will close on Friday December 16th.



Please support the shop again this year.

16 charities represented including Anglicare.

Reverse Christmas Tree

Thank you to all who have provided gifts for children to decorate our Christmas Tree.

All the gifts will be given to *Anglicare* and they will be collecting the gifts on Monday 12th December to distribute to the children at their Christmas Party.



ARCHIVES

The Parish Archives are now stored in 3 cupboards in the back office in the Parish Centre. If you have any parish historical documents at home—could you give them to Fr John to be stored.

Fr John is also collecting photos of past vicars. If you have a good clear photo of a previous vicar could you let him borrow the photo to scan and he will return the photo to you. We are in particular wanting pics of Paul Fortè, Dick Pidgeon ...



INVITATION to the HOLY LAND

Carolyn and Fr John are organising with Inner Faith Travel, a once in a life time trip to the Holy Land to walk in the steps of Jesus. This will be a special opportunity to travel with a friendly group of people with an experienced local tour guide who will safely guide us through Israel as we walk in the steps of Jesus. As well as planning to have a lot of fun and laughter, we also hope this tour will be spiritually encouraging and an uplifting experience.

Please see Fr John or Carolyn for a brochure with a lot of additional details. They are happy to answer all your questions and to provide more information.

Come with us and visit Caesarea Philippi, Mt Carmel, Nazareth, Lake Galilee, Capernaum, Dead Sea, Jordan River, Jerusalem and Bethlehem and many other sites. We will sail of Lake Galilee, walk around Jerusalem (the golden city) and see the birth place of our Lord.



Act for Peace is part of the Australian Council of Churches and organises each year the Christmas Bowl Appeal to raise money to combat poverty. Envelopes are in the Narthex and we encourage you to support this worthy cause...

give Courage
give Hope
give Peace

Give to the
Christmas Bowl
Freecall: 1800 025 101
Web: www.ncca.org.au



OPPORTUNITY SHOP

will close for the Christmas break on Wednesday 21st December at 4.00 pm and will reopen on Tuesday 17th January at 10.00 am.

HEALING SERVICE

Starting on Monday 6th February 2012, Rev'd Fred Cook will be running in our Church a Healing Service from 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm start.

There will be music, bible readings, testimonies, teaching, prayer and ministry. All welcome

This service will continue on the first Monday of each Month.

PARISH INFORMATION

The Anglican Parish of Christ Church, Essendon is found on the corner of Mt Alexander Rd and Marco Polo Street, Essendon. (Melway Page 28 F2)

Web page:
www.essendonanglican.org.au



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Items for inclusion in Reach Out need to be with the Editor no later than the 15th of the month of publication.

Opinions expressed in the Reach Out belong entirely to the person writing the article, and are not necessarily the opinion of the parish, vicar, editor or parish representatives.

CHRIST CHURCH OP SHOP

Come and check out the gold mine of items available in the CHRIST CHURCH OP SHOP

Tuesday to Friday 10 am-4 pm
Saturday 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

JIG SAWS

Do you love them? If so, perhaps you could help. The Op Shop has dozens and does not like to sell them unless they are ALL complete. It is no use just counting the pieces. The puzzle has to be completed before we sell it.

Please contact Sue Mac (9374 2110) and she will deliver a puzzle to you.

INTERESTING WEB PAGES

<http://www.poetrylibrary.edu.au/>
The Australian Poetry Library is now available to the public, it contains tens of thousands of poems from hundreds of Australian poets, all free for you to view...



PARISH DIARY DECEMBER 2011



SUNDAY 4th – Advent 2

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Monday 5th - Vicar's day off

Tuesday 6th

- 9.30 am Craft Break-up

Wednesday 7th

- 10.00 am Healing Mass

SUNDAY 11th – Advent 3

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist
- 11.30 am Vestry

Monday 12th - Vicar's day off

Tuesday 13th

Wednesday 14th

- 10.00 am Chant Mass

SUNDAY 18th Advent 4

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist
followed by Morning tea
- 5.00 pm BBQ Christmas Gathering.
See notice in Parish Centre
- 7.00 pm 9 Lessons & Carols

Monday 19th - Vicar's day off

Wednesday 21st

- 10.00 am Eucharist
- 1.15 pm Essendon Nursing Home
- 2.00 pm Trevi Court Mass
- 3.00 pm Ardmillan Place Mass
- 4.00 pm OpShop closes for Christmas

Thursday 22nd

- 1.00 pm Home Communions



SATURDAY 24th – CHRISTMAS EVE

- 11.00 pm Carols
- 11.30 pm Christmass Eve Eucharist

SUNDAY 25th – CHRISTMAS DAY

- 9.00 am Sung Eucharist

Monday 26th - Vicar's day off
Boxing Day

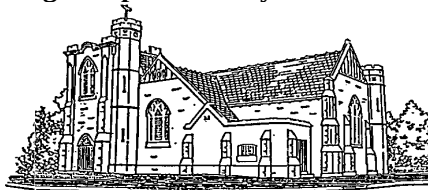
Wednesday 28th – Holy Innocents

- 10.00 am Mass

SUNDAY 1st – Holy Family

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Please see weekly pew sheet for any changes in parish diary.



PARISH DIARY JANUARY 2012



SUNDAY 1st – Holy Family

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Monday 2nd - Vicar's day off

Tuesday 3rd

Wednesday 4th

10.00 am Healing Mass

SUNDAY 8th – Epiphany

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Monday 9th - Vicar's day off

10.00 am OpShop working bee

Tuesday 10th

Wednesday 11th

10.00 am Chant Mass
10.00 am OpShop working bee

SUNDAY 15th Baptism of Jesus

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist
followed by Morning tea

Monday 16th - Vicar's day off

10.00 am OpShop working bee

Tuesday 17th

10.00 am OpShop re-opens

Wednesday 18th – Conversion of Paul

10.00 am Eucharist

SUNDAY 22nd – OS 3

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Monday 23rd - Vicar's day off

Tuesday 24th

9.30 am Craft Planning Day

Wednesday 25th

10.00 am Eucharist

SUNDAY 29th – OS 4

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Monday 30th - Vicar's day off

Wednesday 1st February

10.00 am Healing Mass

Friday 3rd

7.30 pm Film Night

SUNDAY 5th – Candlemass

8.00 am Eucharist
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

Please see weekly pew sheet for any changes in parish diary.

