



# REACH OUT

## ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2010

### Advent 2 (Sunday 5th December)

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist  
followed by morning tea

### Advent 3 (Sunday 12th December)

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist  
followed by morning tea

### Advent 4 (Sunday 19th December)

- 8.00 am Eucharist
- 9.30 am Sung Eucharist  
followed by morning tea

- 7.00 pm **9 Lessons & Carols**  
followed by supper

Advent means “coming” and is the season of watching and waiting and preparing for the Christmas season. Advent is a season of expectation: “The king shall come.” The colour for Advent is violet and the season is marked by the lighting of candles.

Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ where “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” At Christmas we celebrate that God is with us. Carols are sung, gifts are given and the colour for the season is white.



### CHRISTMAS EVE (Friday 24th December)

- 11.00 pm Carols
- 11.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass

### CHRISTMAS DAY (Saturday 25th Dec)

- 9.00 am Christmas Day Mass

**[christmas@christchurch.com](mailto:christmas@christchurch.com)**

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A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH ESSENDON  
DECEMBER 2010

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Vicar: Fr John Mathes

Telephone: 0417 407 768 or 9379 2770

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# FJ's reflection

**DEAR PARISHIONERS,**

**PLEASE KEEP JESUS THE FOCUS OF CHRISTMAS**

In the hustle and bustle of shopping, wrapping gifts, sending cards and attending special events, it is easy to miss the entire point of Christmas – Christ himself. There are many simple ways to keep Christmas focused on Christ.

Make it a priority to send out Christmas cards that point people to Christ. Whether it is through the design or the wording, send out cards that focus on Christ and the meaning of Christmas as opposed to Santa or other secondary matters. Enclose a Christmas letter with your card and make a point of sharing what Christ is doing in your life. The letter can be brief, but this is the one time of the year that is especially natural to share what Christ is doing in your life with all of the people who are important to you.

Place all of the Christmas cards you receive in a pretty box or basket. Each day, take a card out of the box, read it, and pray specifically for the person who sent it. Consider going through the cards again and again, specifically praying for the sender all year.

Attend carol services and make a point of singing Christmas carols that clearly share the significance of Christmas.

Give out small plates of star-shaped cookies and attach a little card about the significance of the Star of Bethlehem and Jesus.

Sing a different Christmas carol each evening after supper. After singing, discuss the meaning of the carol and then sing it again.

Attend a Christmas Eve service as well as the Christmas Day service.

Display a crèche or nativity scene in your living room or another room where your family gathers each day.

There are lots of other things you can do to keep Jesus the focus of Christmas. See what you can do to keep Jesus in Christmas

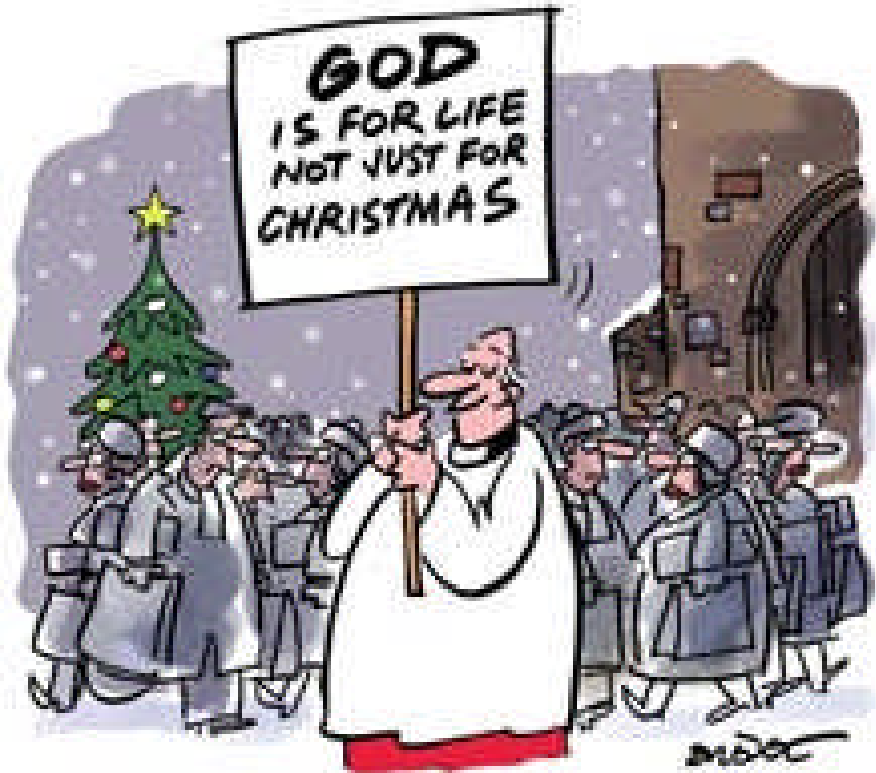
## **CHRISTMAS & END OF YEAR BREAK UP**

Instead of all the groups in the Church having Christmas break ups—it is planned to have one Christmas End-of-year break-up on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December @ 12 noon at Essendon Football Club. All Parishioners are welcome. Please put your name on the sheet in the narthex if coming...

The Lord be with you...

Your Vicar

*Fr John*

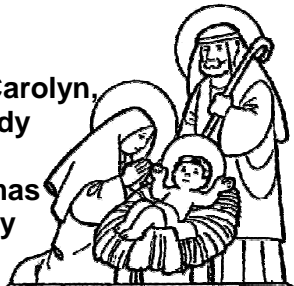


**HAVE YOU SEEN THE  
LATEST ON OUR  
WEB PAGE — CHECK OUT  
[www.essendonanglican.org.au](http://www.essendonanglican.org.au)**

**INTERESTING WEB PAGES**

[www.dsimp.com](http://www.dsimp.com)  
My life, death and LIFE in Australia  
Dave Simpson's incredible story  
about a motorcycle accident which  
killed his girlfriend and left him a  
quadriplegic, about his recovery,  
marriage, children and acceptance  
of Jesus.

Fr John & Carolyn,  
Jillian & Trudy  
wish all a  
holy Christmas  
and a healthy  
new year.



**"DO NOT BE AFRAID.  
I BRING YOU GOOD  
NEWS OF GREAT JOY  
THAT WILL BE FOR  
ALL PEOPLE..."  
(LUKE 2:10)**

# My Wish

By Joan Talbot



Long, long ago, in a far distant land  
Which is now beset with strife,  
In the then small town of Bethlehem,  
Christ began his earthly life.

Two thousand years and nine have passed  
Since the Prince of Peace was born,  
But this land still suffers many scars,  
And its mothers continue to mourn.

I wonder what our Lord must think  
As He views this from on high?  
This small land in such division.  
It must cause Him to grieve and sigh.

What will it take for men to see  
That war is a futile thing ?  
Why can't we stop and listen  
To the song the angels sing.

This Christmas, my wish and heartfelt hope  
For mankind, one and all,  
Is that we hear the wonderful message of  
peace  
Brought by the babe in the cattle stall.

Happy Christmas

*Joan Talbot is a parishioner at Holy Trinity  
Ararat and dear friend of FJ*



## DATES FOR DIARY 2010

CHRISTMAS & END OF YEAR BREAK -  
UP Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December 12 noon

at Essendon Football Club  
for all Parishioners

**PLEASE NOTE OP SHOP**  
closes for CHRISTMAS  
Wednesday 22nd December 2010  
And re opens on  
Tuesday 18th January 2011

## EssACC 2011 DATES

### COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed 23rd Feb 7.30 pm Essendon

### BBQ

Sun 6th March 11.30 am Aberfeldie  
Bring salad & drink. Meat provided

### COMBINED SERVICE

Easter 5 Sun 29th May  
9.30 am at St Andrew's Aberfeldie

### INDOOR BOWLS NIGHT

Date to be confirmed in June/July  
Organised by Strathmore

### EssACC DINNER

Date to be confirmed in August  
Organised by Strathmore

### COMBINED SERVICE

Michaelmass Sun 25th Sept  
9.30 am at Christ Church Essendon

Other committee meeting dates to be  
determined at February meeting.  
Chairman for 2011: Fr Kenneth Lay  
Secretary—to be appointed from  
Essendon

## ADVENT PRAYER

Loving heavenly Father,  
into the darkness, confusion, helplessness  
of our world and of our lives  
you promised a Saviour, the true  
Light of the world.

We praise you, that in answer to all our  
hope and needs, he came.

We thank you with all our hearts that,  
though God, he came as man to  
planet earth to rescue us for a life  
that lasts in joy for ever.

O Jesus, our Light and our Life, lead us  
and teach us.

Teach those who are teachers and  
parents that they may teach others  
to follow you.

To children, young people, and adults,  
who hear your Gospel of grace, give an  
open heart to listen and obey.

O Redeemer, you came to give your life  
that I may have life abundant.

The star and the manger, the cross and  
the empty tomb all tell me of your  
agony and your victory.

O Emmanuel, let your radiant presence fill  
hearts and home with songs of  
celebration melody. Amen

*(Contributed by Neliya)*





Christmas in the OpShop -  
Ruth, Margaret, Barbara, Jean and Claire



Beth and Michael Pang on their wedding  
day - Saturday 20th November 2010

## **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

**PLEASE NOTE OP SHOP  
closes for CHRISTMAS  
Wednesday 22nd December  
2010**

And re opens on  
Tuesday 18th January 2011

Op Shop working bees to be  
held on  
Mon 10th, Wed 12th & Mon  
17th January 2011 from 9.30  
am onwards.

Magazines in good condition  
are needed

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Christ Church Op Shop is  
looking for volunteers to  
assist in its  
programme. If you have  
time available and are  
interested, please contact Fr  
John or members of the  
OpShop Committee

## Advent

Advent reflections are often marked by a sense of waiting and longing. They remind us not only of our great need for God but also of the brokenness of the world, mirrored by the brokenness in our hearts. This suggestion is a contrasting daily exercise. In order for God to more fully enter our lives, let us more fully enter our own. Spend this time naming how God has done “great things” in us.

Each day beginning with the first of December write down 2 items:

- Something in your world you give thanks for
- Someone in your life you give thanks for

Having become more present to your passing days, you may see how God is with you. By the last day of the year, you will have a page of gifts. And as the new year starts, you might, with Mary, “treasure these things” in your heart. Not waiting, but entering.

From a booklet titled *Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas*  
by John F Kavanaugh.

Contributed by Gail

## 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 17th.

Please support the shop again this year.

16 charities represented including Anglicare.

# December Saint - St Thomas Becket



Thomas Becket was the best friend of Henry II who was king of England. Thomas and Henry did everything together, they went hunting, riding and feasting.

Henry had a problem. He wanted to change the law. At the time any ordinary person who committed a crime such as murder would go on trial and could be sentenced to death. But if you were a priest all you had to say was, 'I am innocent', and you would go free. Henry wanted the priests to go on trial but the Pope would not let this happen.

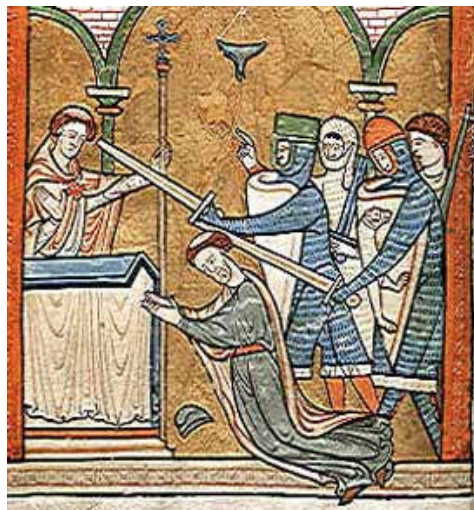
Henry made his friend Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, hoping that Thomas would change the law, but Thomas wouldn't. Henry and Thomas had a big argument and Becket ran away to France. Henry went to France to make peace because he still wanted to be friends with Thomas.

Becket came back to England but he still would not allow the priests to be put on trial. He also excommunicated some of the priests who supported the King. This made Henry very angry and he shouted, 'Who will rid me of this priest?'

Four knights had been listening at the door they thought the king wanted Thomas Becket killed so they went to Canterbury Cathedral where Thomas was praying. There in the Cathedral on 29th December 1170 they murdered Thomas Becket.

Henry was very sad when he heard what had happened he did not blame the knights he blamed himself. To show how sad he was, he walked barefoot though Canterbury while some monks whipped his back. Thomas Becket was made a saint and the priests were still not put on trial.

His feast day is 29th December



# Reflections on the Eucharist

This is a series of reflections on what we do each Sunday at the Eucharist so as to help us understand more what we do and why.

## PART 15 LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

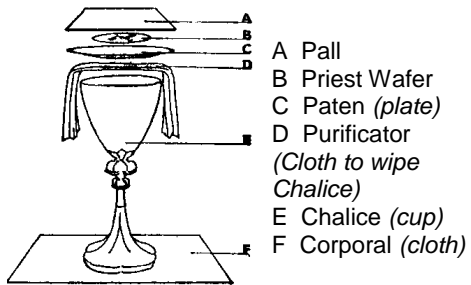
On the eve of his passion, Jesus farewelled his disciples in the course of a Jewish ritual meal (Passover). He invested new meaning and asked his followers to continue to do what he had done in memory of him.

The shape of our liturgy of the Eucharist is basically that of the rite carried out by Jesus at the last supper. We take bread and wine, we give thanks, we break the bread, we consume the consecrated elements.

The terminology commonly used to describe this four fold pattern is: the preparation of the gifts, the Eucharistic prayer, the breaking of bread and the communion.

For sometime the early church continued to practice the celebrating the Eucharist in conjunction with an ordinary meal. When congregation sizes grew it became not practical and there was also a move from private homes to public buildings (churches).

We come together not to offer another sacrifice which parallels that of Jesus at the last supper. Our faith tells us that we unite ourselves with the very sacrifice of Jesus, offered 'once and for all', perpetuating it 'throughout all the ages until he comes again'.



## PART 16 PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

At the beginning of the liturgy of the Eucharist, our focus of attention turns from the lectern and the ministry of the Word to the altar.

The altar is the table of the Lord. The altar should be covered by a cloth. There should be a cross on the altar and candlesticks placed on or around the altar.

When we prepare to the Eucharist, another cloth is put on the altar (corporal) together with the prayer book and the Chalices and purificators (cloths to wipe the chalices). The bread on a paten and in a ciborium are also placed on the altar suggesting that something important is about to happen.

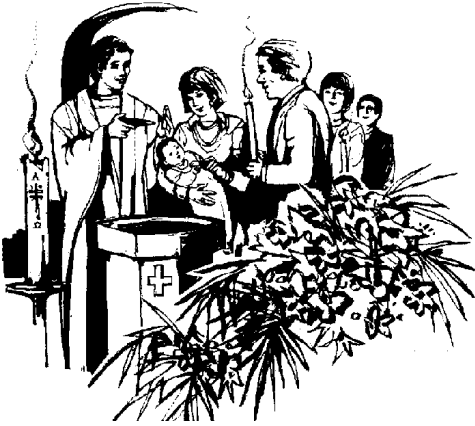
We are often distracted while the altar is being set up with the collection being collected and a hymn sung.

The law required that each adult male Jew to pay a half shekel annually towards the upkeep of the temple—an obligation which Jesus himself fulfilled. Visitors to the temple also contributed.

The early Church members not only brought the bread and wine for worship but also food, clothing and money to distribute to the poor etc...

We are called to make a sacrifice and give back to the church part of what God has given us in the form of a money collection.

## The Sacraments – Part 2 - Baptism.



As this discussion is about baptism, I offer my apologies for those who read my discussion “the water of life” for boring them with repetition.

One cannot be a Christian unless one is baptised, indeed the Gospels tell us so. This does not mean that only baptised Christians go to heaven; others go there too. God understands each ‘individual circumstance’; and always shows mercy to all the righteous, no matter what or who they are.

Water is a very powerful symbol because it holds keys to life and death. It gives us life because no animal or plant life can exist without it. It can also kill us by drowning. Water is indeed a faithful servant, but a cruel master. The Gospels tell us that Christ was given powers over water, and with it powers of life and death. John’s Gospel amplifies this: because water has cleansing properties, we can each wash with it to prevent disease. In Christ’s time, nothing was known about germs and bacteria. People believed that illness was either a punishment for sin, or the sick person was a victim of demons. Hence water was believed to wash away sin.

John the Baptist was the proclaimer, preparing people for Christ’s coming. John baptised with water only which symbolised the ritual washing away of sin in accordance with Jewish law; the method was immersion. Baptismal water is blessed, and God puts his grace into it prior to baptism taking place.

Jesus Christ baptised with water and the Holy Spirit, which is what we do today. Water is used and the candidate is baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We are baptised into God’s grace and into Christ’s death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit is present at every baptism, irrespective of whether the candidate is aware of it or not. The Holy Spirit remains with the candidate for all time; guiding them and helping them to grow in faith. Baptism is not a vaccination against sin, we are after all ‘frail children of dust’ and still commit sin. The evidence of the small pox vaccination I had when 18 months old remains on my arm, however the protection has long expired. Baptism however is everlasting and needs to be done only once.

There are two methods of baptism: the first is immersion which represents death by drowning and being resurrected. (we die to Christ and rise to Christ as we come out of the water FJ) The second is affusion (meaning to pour) where water is poured over the head. This represents the Holy Spirit descending on the candidate, as he did when John baptised Christ in the river Jordan. It also represents a waterfall, where the drowning and resurrection are symbolically present. Neither method of baptism is better or more holy than the other. All that is required for a valid baptism is water, the Holy Spirit, and that the candidate is baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

In an emergency, such as the pending death of an infant, any confirmed Christian can administer a valid baptism although ideally a priest is called.

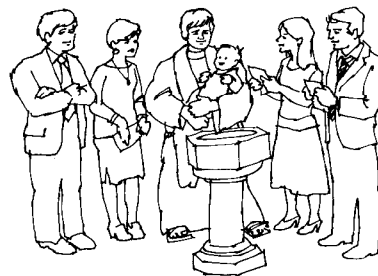
Fonts are octagonal to represent the eighth day, which is the day of redemption following the seven days of creation. They are placed as close as possible to the porch way or entrance of a church to symbolise the first steps one takes in entering the Christian faith.

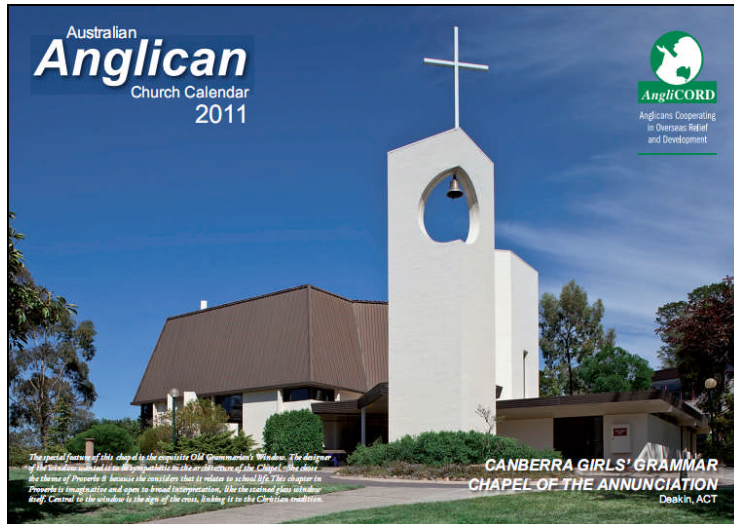
It is a grave sin to rebaptise someone, and if and doubt exists as to whether the person has been baptised, or that their baptism is valid, then the words “if you have not been baptised, then I baptise you in the name of ...etc’ are used. This avoids the sin of rebaptism.

When we make a sign of the cross with holy water upon entering or leaving a church, we are reminding ourselves that we are baptised and must live up to the promises we made or were made on our behalf. When holy water is sprinkled over a coffin, it reminds us that the deceased was baptised and now shares in his resurrection. Neither of these are meant to be a top up or a booster for baptism; indeed to treat them as such is sacrilegious.

All Christian Churches administer valid baptisms which are recognised by other Christian Churches. The Baptist and Churches of Christ will only baptise adults by total immersion and require everyone joining their church to be baptised again. The first converts were converts from other religions and were baptised as adults. However their children who were raised in the children faith were baptised as infants. It is not appropriate to refuse to baptise infants as Jesus himself commanded us ‘to suffer the little children to come unto him.’

*Christine L. Robins B.Theol.*





The much loved and highly sought after Australian Anglican Church Calendar is now available to buy in its 2011 edition.

The Australian Anglican Church Calendar is unique: there is nothing like it anywhere else in the global Anglican Communion.

Now in its seventeenth year, this wonderful publication demonstrates the great diversity of Anglican Churches across Australia: large, small, urban and rural.

The Primate of Australia, the Most Rev'd Dr Phillip Aspinall, reminded Anglicans that the calendar also raises funds for the work of AngliCORD, an Anglican overseas relief and development agency.

“Every calendar you buy goes to help people in the developing world through AngliCORD,” Archbishop Aspinall said.

This year production of the calendar passed from St Augustine’s parish in Mentone Victoria, to AngliCORD which is committed to maintaining both its quality and character.

Individual copies of the 2011 calendar cost just \$14 each (including postage and packaging).

Calendars are available for order now - order form can be found on the notice board in the narthex, or just call Margaret Elsey on 9390 9234 and she will add your name to the form. Cost is \$14 per calendar. Money would be appreciated when ordering.

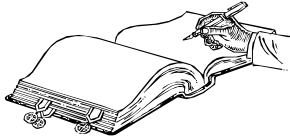
These calendars make a great gift, are ideal for us as well so we can keep abreast of special church days, and they also support the work of both Christ Church and AngliCORD.

## A Whimsical Theology of Christmas Toys

- *Atheism*: There is no toymaker.
- *Polytheism*: There are many toymakers.
- *Darwinism*: The toys made themselves.
- *Capitalism*: He/she who sells the most toys in a garage sale, wins.
- *Communism*: Everyone gets the same number of toys, and we'll jail you if we catch you selling yours.
- *Presbyterian*: These toys were chosen for you to play with, and these were chosen for me to play with.
- *Methodist*: Those who have the right method of playing with their toys, win.
- *Anglican*: We don't care where the toys came from; let's just play with them anyway.
- *Baptist*: We have played with this toy this way for years, and we are not going to change.
- *Unreformed*: There are no bad toys and no bad toy players.
- *Pentecostal*: Those whose toys can talk and jump and speak in tongues, win.
- *Assembly of God*: Name the toy and claim it.
- *Seventh-Day Adventist*: He/she who is a vegetarian and plays with their toys on Saturday, wins.
- *Christian Science*: Toys are figments of your imagination.
- *Amish*: People who play with toys that have batteries, lose.
- *Catholic Monasticism*: He/she who denies themselves the most toys, wins.
- *Greek Orthodox*: There is only one toy, and it is in our church. It was our toy first.
- *Catholicism*: No, it was ours first.
- *Televangelism*: Send me \$100 a month and I will tell you how you, too, can have more toys!



## From the Registers



### **Marriage:**

Michael Pang &  
Lilibeth Candolita  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2010



## Parish Information:

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Items for inclusion in Reach Out need to be with the Editor *no later* than last Sunday in the month.

Opinions expressed in the ReachOut belong entirely to the person writing the article, and not necessarily to the parish, vicar, editor or parish representatives.



# PARISH DIARY



# December 2010

## SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> – Advent 2

8.00 am Eucharist  
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** – St Nicholas  
Vicar's day off

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>**  
9.30 am Craft Christmas Break-up

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>**  
10.00 am Eucharist  
7.00 pm Bible Study

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup>** – Advent 3  
8.00 am Eucharist  
9.30 am Sung Eucharist  
11.00 am Vestry  
12 Noon Parish Xmas Break-up

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup>**  
Vicar's day off  
Xmas gifts taken to Anglicare

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>**  
10.00 am Eucharist  
11.00 am Bible Study  
1.30 pm Essendon Nursing Home  
2.00 pm Trevi Court Mass

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup>** Advent 4  
8.00 am Eucharist  
9.30 am Sung Eucharist  
**7.00 pm 9 Lessons & Carols  
followed by supper**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup>**  
Vicar's day off

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>** – St Thomas  
10.00 am OpShop Christmas Sale

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
10.00 am Eucharist  
10.00 am OpShop Christmas Sale  
4.00 pm OpShop closes for Christmas

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Eve  
11.00 pm Carols  
11.30 pm Christmas Eve Mass



**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Day  
9.00 am Christmas Day Mass

**SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup>** – Holy Family  
8.00 am Eucharist  
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup>**  
Vicar's day off

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** – The Innocents

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>**  
10.00 am Eucharist  
11.00 am Bible Study

## JANUARY 2011



*(Continued on page 16)*

# PARISH DIARY



# January 2011

## SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> – Epiphany

8.00 am Eucharist  
9.30 am Sung Eucharist



## **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Vicar's day off

## **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am Eucharist

## SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of our Lord

8.00 am Eucharist  
9.30 am Sung Eucharist  
followed by morning tea

## **Monday 10<sup>th</sup>**

Vicar's day off  
9.30 am OpShop Working Bee

## **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>**

9.30 am OpShop Working Bee  
10.00 am Eucharist

## SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OS 2

8.00 am Eucharist  
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

## **Monday 17<sup>th</sup>**

Vicar's day off  
9.30 am OpShop Working Bee

## **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am Craft meeting  
10.00 am OpShop re-opens for 2011

## **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>**

10.00 am Eucharist

## SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> – OS 3

8.00 am Eucharist  
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

## **Monday 24<sup>th</sup>**

Vicar's day off

## **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Australia Day**

10.00 am Eucharist

## SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> – OS 4

8.00 am Eucharist  
9.30 am Sung Eucharist

## **Monday 31<sup>st</sup>**

Vicar's day off

## **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb**

9.30 am Craft starts for 2011

## **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Presentation**

10.00 am Eucharist  
11.00 am Bible Study

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