**Advent 1 – A Southern Cross Liturgy**

In the night sky of the Southern Hemisphere, the four central stars of the Southern Cross shine permanently above us. From ancient times, these stars offered travellers and ocean navigators who looked up to them, a sure sense of direction, the way to true south. In this season of Advent, we remember and anticipate the coming into the world of the Light that enlightens everyone.

In blessing this Advent candle wreath, let us pray:

Lord God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you. Bless us and our Advent candles. May the light that shines forth from them light our way as we journey towards Christmas, just as the Southern Cross has guided pilgrims through the ages. We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.  **Amen.**

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the beginning of the Christian liturgical year. We celebrate the beginning of another year by looking to the end of time when the culmination of history will point to the authority of Jesus. We light the candle which depicts the star Acrux in the Southern Cross constellation to remind ourselves of the growing light of the dawn of the Kingdom of God. (The candle is lit).

Let us offer ourselves anew as witnesses to the advent of Christ’s glory, seeking to make Christ’s light and love known to all:

**O come, O come Emmanuel;
you are our light and our salvation:
Come Lord Jesus Christ.**



**WEEKLY BULLETIN: 28 November 2021**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

On this Advent Sunday we begin a new year in the Church’s calendar: Preparation for the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus, followed by the major events of his life, death and resurrection whilst considering what implications this has for us.

We begin each service in these 4 weeks with an individual or family lighting the candles of our Advent Wreath, with a prayer to follow. Explanations of the symbolism of it will be given in the service and sermon this Sunday and in summary form on the next three Sundays.

The Prayers being used this year are adapted from the work of a friend and former parish colleague in South Africa, written with a theme of the Southern Cross and navigating our way through life guided by the Spirit of God. Since that constellation is a major feature on the national flag of Australia it is very appropriate to us.

On Sunday 5th December, once again Rev Owen Strong will preside and preach at the Eucharist at 7.30am; at 9.30am, I will preside at the Eucharist and Norma Graham will preach.

On Sunday 12th December, our preacher will once again be Rev Simon Kim and as before, he will kindly provide sermon notes.

Do you have strong hopes, wishes and prayers for the New Year? I remind myself of these challenging words from the famous English preacher John Wesley, written as an encouragement in the practice of living by grace:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can,
In all the ways you can, in all the places you can,
At all the times you can, to all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

We have fun, fete and festival times ahead:
Advent Blessings to you all.

**Nic Denny-Dimitriou**

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**Parish News:**

**PARISH TELEPHONE NUMBER HAS CHANGED….0401 118 184**

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FETE DECEMBER 4: NEXT SATURDAY!!!!!**

**3pm – 6 pm**

So you can be ready for a fun day, don’t forget to pre-buy your “fete money”. Karen will have tickets available after 9.30 service today, or you can pop into the office next week and pick them up from Kim. There will also be 2 stations at the fete to make ticket purchase easy.

Some stalls will still accept cash, but this is an individual stall preference - change may be limited!!! Any questions about how this will work, or the Fete in general, please ask Karen Green (0407 645 814).

**SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS CAROLS:** This will be a simple family evening in the church with storytelling and carol singing at 6.30pm.

**CAKE STALL: PLEASE BAKE FOR OUR CAKE STALL on 4th DECEMBER**.
Whatever you enjoy baking - cakes, slices, biscuits - would be gratefully received on the day.
For assistance with delivery of cakes please parish office.

**SWEET STALL:** Di Jones and Judy Ford would love to receive items for the sweet stall.  Some ideas, include fudge, rocky road, marshmallows or Christmas goodies - rumballs, snowballs and white Christmas or you may have something special to add?  We are more than happy to collect any contributions prior to the day. For more information phone parish office.

**EVACUATION PROCEDURE:**In event of an emergency during a church service we ask that you listen for directions from the person/s leading the service. If requested to exit the church building, please do so in a calm manner and head directly to the evacuation point on the church grounds. DO NOT re-enter the church building until it has been declared safe. If requested to remain in the church, please do so for your safety. Your safety is extremely important to us in all emergency situations.

**Community News:**

**PRIMARY ICHTHUS:** The Diocese annual youth camp is on from 5-8 January 2022 at Camp Maranatha, Yandina. Registration closes 13 December. Register at [www.aycf.org.au](http://www.aycf.org.au). For more information see the church noticeboard.

**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT:** The Diocese retreat is from 4-6 February 2022 at Pointro Campsite, Maroon Dame. Ages 18 – 25. Register at [www.aycf.org.au](http://www.aycf.org.au). For more information see the church noticeboard.

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|   | OT  | Psalm  | NT  | Gospel  |
| 28 Nov  | Jeremiah 33.14-16 | 25.1-10 | 1 Thessa. 3.9-13 | Luke 21. 25-38 |
| 5 Dec | Malachi 3.1-14 | Song of Zechariah APBA pg.10 | Philippians 1.1-11 | Luke 3.1-6 |

Parish Contacts:

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