



## The First Sunday of Advent Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Christ Church Lutheran  
31 Swanport Rd  
Murray Bridge

Holy Cross Lutheran  
31 Florence St  
Murray Bridge

Zion Lutheran  
427 Schenscher Rd  
Monarto

We want everyone in the Murray Bridge regional communities to know the love of Jesus and be in a saving relationship with Him.

**WELCOME...** TO OUR BULLETIN. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND LEAVE YOU STRENGTHENED FOR THE CHALLENGES AND JOYS OF THE COMING WEEK!

**All Services and Events subject to COVID restrictions.** *Due to the COVID 19 situation, the rules, restrictions and guidelines for our safety are changing. Sometimes this is very quick and late, there may not be enough notice to let everyone know, we thank you for your understanding.*

Please follow the directions of the people in charge at our services.

**\*\*\*Masks are required until further notice\*\*\***

### **Sunday: 28<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent**

- 9am Holy Cross – Lay Reading  
9am Monarto - Holy Communion Service, Pastor David Buck  
9:30am Christ Church - Worship in the Hall – Pastor Graham Harms.  
Join us for 9am Cuppa and fellowship before Worship.  
6pm **Advent Fellowship Evening** John Dohler Hall, Sausage Sizzle with an Advent Message, Activities and Carol Singing. A warm invitation is extended to all

### **Next Sunday: 5<sup>th</sup> December**

- 9am Holy Cross – Holy Communion – Jacob Fabich is preaching  
9:30am Christ Church - JD Hall, Delton Schiller will lead a relaxed informal worship service with Holy Communion, 9am Cuppa and fellowship before Worship.  
11am Monarto - Holy Communion Service, Pastor Paul Calnan  
11am Christ Church – Traditional Worship in the church led by Ian Kluge

***Visitors most welcome to join any of our services***

**Christ Church Office hours:** Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-12noon – **Closed Wednesday.**  
Ph 8532 6553 email: christchurch.murraybridge.sa@lca.org.au  
Website: [www.cclutheranmb.org.au](http://www.cclutheranmb.org.au) Add: 5 Marchand St, Murray Bridge  
After Hours please phone: Chairperson, Warren Doecke - 0417 804 663

**Holy Cross office hours:** Tues, Wed 10am-1pm; Thurs, Fri 9am-2pm – **Closed Monday.**  
Ph 8532 4577 email: hcoffice@internode.on.net Add: 31 Florence St, Murray Bridge  
Pastor Paul Calnan is available by phone Tues to Fri 9am to 6pm Mobile: 0417 466 611 or email: [paul.calnan@lca.org.au](mailto:paul.calnan@lca.org.au) If you require pastoral care outside of these hours please contact Ministry Team Chair: David Schirmer or Council Chairperson: Alan Packer

**CALL UPDATE:** Pastor David Kuss has accepted the Call to the Shared Ministry in Monarto and Murray Bridge. Please continue to keep Pastor David and his family and the Holy Cross Birdwood Congregation in your prayers.

## General Notices

### SHARED MINISTRY TASK GROUP:

**\*\*\* NEW UPDATE \*\*\***

The Shared Ministry Task Group are calling a joint meeting of all three congregations to inform members on areas that they have been discussing for the Shared Ministry on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm, at Christ Church John Dohler Hall, Swanport Rd. Some items to be discussed include forming a combined Prayer Team, joint Pastor and Office accommodation, one name for the Shared Ministry; setup an account for payroll contribution's and ratify a joint website for all congregations

Shared Ministry Task Group members are **Holy Cross:** Greg Herrmann, Joanne Pfeiffer, Barry Stoddart; **Christ Church:** Warren Doecke, Yvonne Stiller, Trent Mueller; **Monarto:** Colin Wegener, Raelene Barolo.

**ADVENT EVENING:** You are invited you to an **Advent Fellowship** evening of fellowship at John Dohler Hall on Sunday evening – **28th Nov at 6pm**. The evening will consist of an Advent message and activities; a sausage sizzle and Carol Singing. We would love to share this time and celebrate together as a community.



**NEXT YOUTH:** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas party 🎄.

From 5-8:00pm. at Cynthia Dutschke's place, 347 Adelaide road, White Hill. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be provided. Please bring a \$5-10 Kris Kringle gift.



**SPIN Kids Camp** is a Christian camp for children in Year 4 to 6 in 2021. It aims to provide a welcoming, safe and fun Christian environment for the young people of our communities to gather in Christian fellowship, learn about God and His Word, grow in their faith, and meet other Christian friends their own age. Children of all backgrounds are welcome, from people who have been regularly worshipping members of a church community for many years to those who have never set foot in a church before. In fact, SPIN is a great way for young people to experience a little of what a Christian faith is all about,

and start their journey with God!

SPIN is administered by the Lutheran Church of Australia, SA-NT District. Members of all denominational backgrounds are very welcome and encouraged to attend and participate.

For more information head to <https://www.blueprintministries.org.au/camps/spin/>.

**THRIFT SHOP:** We are holding a short **Thrift Shop on Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Nov and Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Dec** at JD Hall. **A huge thank you to all who have already offered to help.** If you can help on those days or with set up on Monday or pack up on Wednesday please contact Yvonne or Janelle in the Christ Church office. Many thanks

**MONARTO MEMBERSHIP:** Please note, Jim and Heather Courtney have transferred their membership to Zion Monarto as of Monday 22nd November.

### ROSTERS:

**Christ Church:** We will be putting together the next roster for January and looking at February. Please email the office with any dates that you are not available **by 28<sup>th</sup> Nov**. Many thanks.

**Holy Cross:** Rosters for next year are being drawn up – please let the office or Trudy Gogel know if there are dates you are unavailable. Many thanks.

**Murray Bridge Christmas Carols Sunday** 5th December 2021 from 6.45 pm at the Wharf Precinct, Sturt Reserve, food available from 5pm. It will be a free ticketed event to comply with Covid requirement, book your tickets at [trybooking.com/buzrj](http://trybooking.com/buzrj) - More info contact Ian Kluge 0427313537

### NEWSLETTERS:

**Christ Church & Holy Cross** Newsletters are available from either church offices or services.

**CATERING HELP:** Can you help with donating food and/or assisting on the day for Funerals? If you can, please contact; **CHRIST CHURCH** – Julie Mueller 0407 045 149 or Joyce Stiller 8532 1116.

**HOLY CROSS** – Service Guild Velma Zerk 0438 325 611 or Rhonda Packer 8532 2876.

**CHANGE OF TIME to 1pm:** Sunday **December 12th at 1pm**, in the **JD Hall Andre Rieu** will delight music lovers with his **Christmas Down Under concert**. Come along and enjoy the screening of the concert Andre and his orchestra performed in the Sydney Town Hall in November 2018. Donation entrance, with all proceeds going to the Myanmar Damadi Children's Home. Enquiries to Dianne Kluge on 0408 807 008.

**LADIES FELLOWSHIP:** Next gathering is **9<sup>th</sup> Dec**, 11:45am at Church of Christ Cafe.

**WOMEN'S GUILD:** meeting Dec 8th at 11am, at Church of Christ. Devotion: D Pfeiffer.

Christmas Luncheon in COC Coffee Shop. Offering: Australian Lutheran World Service.

Please Ring Eleanor Waldhuter on 853210445 before 1st Dec to book in for Christmas Luncheon Cost is \$25.

**ELDERS, CHRIST CHURCH:** Elders Meeting has been moved forward to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Dec – 7.30 p.m. due to a Special Leadership Meeting (Finance) on the 13th.

**THANK YOU:** A very grateful & huge thankyou to everyone who helped in any way to present the Christmas Tree Festival this year. Also for those who have supported us in this mission outreach to our community here in Murray Bridge over the years. We are thankful and appreciate your interest and encouragement. It has been a blessing. The Christmas Tree Festival Team.

**CHRISTMAS TREES FROM HOLY CROSS-BIRDWOOD:** Holy Cross, Birdwood have Christmas trees available for purchase again this year. They are able to offer the high quality trees at \$50 each. Please note that delivery can only be arranged for orders of 10 or more trees. Trees will be delivered to Holy Cross Murray Bridge at 9am, Saturday 11th December 2021. **Orders close Friday 3rd December.** The trees will need to be paid for at time of delivery. Please ring Sandra Gates 0438324150 (from Holy Cross Murray Bridge) to place your order.

**REG – Regular Electronic Giving:** Have you considered using REG for your weekly offerings? Forms are available from either church office to set up with your LLL account or use the following details:

**Christ Church:** BSB 704942 Acc # 100311504

**Holy Cross:** BSB 704942 Acc # 51176

**WANTED: Artificial Lawn:** 1.2 x 1metre piece of artificial lawn to be used for Nativity Scene display in Holy Cross Church. If you are able to help out; please speak to Alan Packer 85322876 or Cynthia Dutschke 0400 0406 052

**FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLOR** available at Holy Cross Church office Murray Bridge on Tues or Thurs by appointment for a range of issues for example: - individual counselling – grief and loss, life transitions, relationships, trauma and relationship issues - couple counselling.

Bridget is a registered nurse, midwife and child health nurse who has recently graduated from Tabor College with Masters of clinical counselling and is passionate to serve those in the community who are struggling and needing a listening ear to clarify life's problems. Using an integrated approach of counselling and Christian spirituality, she welcomes new clients from any area of life and offers compassion, empathy and insight and support to those who struggle. 0460 321 334 | 08 8351 3644 | [bhannaford@lutherancare.org.au](mailto:bhannaford@lutherancare.org.au)

**DVD MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION:** Helpers are needed to distribute the Holy Cross Service DVD's to the Swanport Village, Murray Heights and house bound in Murray Bridge if you can assist please speak to Bob Eggers or ring him on 85311207

**SAFE CHURCH TRAINING:** **Level 1 Training** will be held **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 9am-4pm at JDH.**

The following need to complete this training: Pastors [incl Emeriti in active service]; Governance, Council & Committee members; Safe Church Coordinators; Ministry Leaders / Decision Makers; Employees & Volunteers; Synod Delegates; Chaplains / Elders / Pastoral Assistants / Lay Readers / Worship Leaders / Ushers; Volunteers working vulnerable adults and/or with children u/18. This covers nearly everyone! Congregation members welcome to attend also. Registration is essential via

<https://www.lca.org.au/departments/ministry-support/professional-standards/training-prof-standards/>

Please contact Christ Church Office for more details or your Safe Church Coordinator.

## Prayers:

**Prayer of the day:** Stir up your power, Lord, and come. Protect us, so that we may be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins, and saved by your deliverance. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **AMEN**

## Prayers cont.....:

### Also pray....

- ✚ Continue to pray for the teachers, children & families at Concordia Kindy, Unity and surrounding schools.
- ✚ Pray for outgoing Bishop Pastor John Henderson and our Bishop-elect Pastor Paul Smith. May God continue to bless them and all they come in contact with
- ✚ Pray for Pastor David Kuss, his wife Ilona and their family on his acceptance of the Lead Pastor call to the combined shared ministry at Holy Cross, Christ Church and Zion Monarto.

**Please Pray for ...** (Please note, before visiting check with family for any visitation allowances and/or restrictions)

**Christ Church:** Martha Aartsen, Jasmine & Winston Dance, Lores Frahn, Audrey Jaensch, Irene Kuchel, Margaret Kuchel, Bryan Lees, Joy Lienert, Andy & Colleen Nicholls, Oscar, Amelia & Josh Noye, Peter Paech, Joyce Pope, Leo Schulz, Vena Shinnick, Sandra Thiele, June Walker & their Carers.

**Holy Cross:** Ian & Fay Baxter, Judy Brereton, Olga Burgemeister, Lila Grocke, Maxine Gogler & Vicki Gollasch and family, Trevor, Christabel and Kyle Hage, Bert & Nita Hyam, Elizabeth Klitscher, Leila Koehler, Glen Koop, Matt Kruschel, Joy Leighton, Erin, Travis, Cooper, Brady & Taylor Lienert, Betty Nulty, Brenda O'Reilly, Stan & Lorna Peltz, Jim & Marion Poole, Erwin Rohrlach, Neil Schubert, Reg Schwartz, Barb Taylor, Clarita Venn & their Carers.

**Resthaven:** Joyce Ahrens (CC), Norm Bensch (HC), Lorna Burrett (HC), Doris Hein (Mon), Margaret Koop (CC), Dot Noller (CC), Murray Piltz (CC)

**Lerwin:** Phylis Courtney (HC), Glad Hausler (CC), Stewart Jaensch (CC), Dorothy Klitscher (HC), Eric Kuss (CC), Alice Kowald (HC), Betty Paech (HC)

**Craigmore Resthaven:** Ivy Roennfeldt (CC)     **Golden Grove Helping Hand:** Joyleen Rosenzweig (CC)

**Meningie Hospital Aged Care:** Kurt Unger (HC), Felicity Woods (HC)

**St Paul's Aged Care, Hahndorf:** Margaret Pfeiffer (HC) **Warner Close, M/Bridge:** Colleen Fawcett (CC)

**Tailem Bend Hospital:** Pat Gogel, Phyllis Koop, Bevan Schulz (All HC)

## Birthday Congratulations

Happy 80th Birthday to Leon Paech for 24<sup>th</sup> November

Happy 99th Birthday to Erwin Rohrlach for 2<sup>nd</sup> December

If you would like to be included in our Prayers or have your Birthday, Anniversary or any other special occasion announced, please email or call your church office.

## Baptismal Birthday Celebrations This Week

29<sup>th</sup> Sebastian Wiegold (HC)  
Tamara Wohlfeil (Mon)

30<sup>th</sup> Klaus Brodde (Mon)  
Heidi Law (CC) 30<sup>th</sup>  
June Walker (CC)

### December

1<sup>st</sup> Helen Schubert (CC)  
Dennis Steinborner (HC)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bevan Schulz (HC)  
James Zorich (CC)

4<sup>th</sup> Luke Richards (CC)

5<sup>th</sup> Carl Beauglehall (CC)  
Pauline Burgemeister (CC)  
Bog Eggers

## COMING EVENTS – Subject to COVID restrictions (Please advise the offices of any changes)

Sun 28th	9am	Monarto Service
	9am	Holy Cross Service
	9.30am	Christ Church Service in JDH
	6pm	Advent Evening, JDH
Tues <b>December</b>	30th - Wed 1st Dec	Thrift Shop, JDH
Wed 1st	9:30am	Senior Care Team - Ed Centre
Sat 4th	9am	Safe Church Training
Sun 5th	9am	Holy Cross Service – Pastor Paul - Jacob Fabich is preaching
	9:30am	Christ Church Service in JDH
	11am	Monarto Service – Pastor Paul Calnan
	11am	Christ Church Service in Church
	5pm	Youth Christmas Party @ Cynthia Dutschke's
	6.45pm	Christmas Carols – Warf Precinct, Sturt Reserve food available from 5pm Book your free tickets at <a href="http://trybooking.com/buzrj">trybooking.com/buzrj</a>
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Bible Study – Holy Cross Sunday School Rooms
	7pm	Christ Church Worship Team, Ed Cen
	7:30pm	Christ Church Elders meet, Ed Cen
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup>	10am	Bible Study – Christ Church, Ed Cen
	4pm	Ministry Team meeting – Holy Cross meeting room
	7:15pm	Holy Cross Church Council Meeting – bring nibbles etc for Christmas break up
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	11am	Women's Guild meeting, Church of Christ Bookshop followed Women's Fellowship at 11:45am

## **THIS WEEKS READINGS & HYMNS/SONGS:**

- ✠ **Holy Cross** *Readings*: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36; *Songs*: The Advent of our King; Psalm 25; Drawn to the Light; How the World Was Won; Come, Lord Jesus, Come; When the Lord Returns
- ✠ **Christ Church (JDH)** *Readings*: Jeremiah 33:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36; *Songs*: God will make a way; How the world was won; Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus; Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace); I am the Bread of Life; Come People of the Risen King
- ✠ **Monarto**: *Readings*: Psalm 25:1-10, Jeremiah 33:14-16: 9-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:20-36. *Songs*: O how shall I receive you; Come, Lord Jesus, come; O come, O come, Immanuel; Daughter of Zion; When the King shall come again.

## **OTHER WAYS TO WORSHIP:**

**FACEBOOK:** Holy Cross Lutheran Church Murray Bridge / Christ Church Lutheran Murray Bridge / Music Ministry Online

**YOUTUBE** Holy Cross Lutheran Church Murray Bridge / Christ Church Lutheran Murray Bridge / Music Ministry Online

**Christ Church Web Page:** <http://www.cclutheranmb.org.au/>

**Music Ministry email:** [musicministrymb@gmail.com](mailto:musicministrymb@gmail.com)

**Christian radio now live!** – Murray Bridge 87.6 FM SA

**Other Livestreamed Services etc** – Go to LCA Church@Home:

<https://www.lca.org.au/worship/wpp/churchhome/>

click on View@Home to see services online, Pray@Home for prayer resources and Faith@Home for other options.

**Sermons4Kids- Stories of the Bible:** <https://sermons4kids.com/>

# ROSTERS

## Holy Cross

	28 NOV 9AM	5 DEC 9AM	12 Dec No Service
<b>Sign In/ Greeters</b>	Velma Zerk R Packer	Trudy Gogel K Stoddart	
<b>LS Server</b>	N/A	M Gerlach	
<b>Lector</b>	Judy Sacco	J Weincke	
<b>PA/MM</b>	T Hanckel	Amy Gates	
<b>Video</b>	N/A	A Wegener	
<b>Marshal</b>	J Pfeiffer	B Stoddart	
<b>Ushers</b>	G Hermann Judy Sacco	Bob & Myrna Gerlach	
<b>Bell Ringer</b>	Bruce Kuchel	Bob Gerlach	
<b>Altar Guild</b>	N/A	G Schirmer	
<b>Flowers</b>	Jan Richards	L Rosenzweig	
<b>Musicians</b>	M Gogler	J Kuchel E Paech	
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Y Patterson, C Schache, S Kramer	A Pearce, D Pfeiffer A Weincke	
<b>Ministry Team</b>	L Rosenzweig	M Woidt	M Woidt

## Christ Church

	JDH 9:30 5-Dec	Church 11am 5-Dec	JDH 9:30 12-Dec
<b>COVID Marshal</b>	K Franklin	G Pohl	D Schmerl
<b>Elder/Assist</b>	G Schubert	G Korzeba	W Doecke ♥ I Kluge
<b>Wardens</b>	I Kluge	M Mueller J Pohl	P & V Jaensch
<b>Greeters</b>	B & L Zadow	G & M Schultz	S Lutze G Schubert
<b>Tea/Coffee</b>	C Beauglehall D Kluge		R & M Hermann
<b>PA</b>	N Mann	W Taylor	T Lees
<b>Data Projector</b>	E Mann	C Doecke	B Lablack
<b>Video</b>	R Jericho	R Jericho	R Jericho
<b>Counter</b>	Y Stiller	G Korzeba	V Jaensch
<b>Grounds Roster</b>			
<b>Water &amp; Care</b>	T Koch	Y Koch	Harry & Inez

### Monarto

5<sup>th</sup> Dec: **Wardens:** Jan & Klaus B. **Reader:** Heather C

12<sup>th</sup> Dec: **Wardens:** Maxine P. **Reader:** Barolo. **Cuppa:** Maxine P.

### Monarto Congregation Contacts

<b>Elders</b>	Haydn Hein	0428 898 639	Maurice Wegener	8531 1060
<b>Chairman</b>	Trevor Hilton	0439 839 022		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Colin Wegener	0407 030 241		
<b>Secretary</b>	Jan Brodde	8532 5050		

### Christ Church Congregation Contacts

<b>Elders:</b>	Dawn Hampel	8532 4138	Denise Lohmeyer	8531 0935
	David Pech	0420 849 344	Janelle Traeger	8535 4290
	Graham Schubert	0408 848 920	Ian Kluge	0427 313 537, 8531 3449
<b>Chairman</b>	Warren Doecke	0417 804 663, 8572 6019		
<b>Cong. Secretary</b>	Cheryl Doecke	0427 804 663, 8572 6019		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Carlien Hohls	0415 919 043		
<b>Church Secretary</b>	Yvonne Stiller	8532 3445		
<b>Prop. &amp; Maintenance:</b>	Nathanael Mann	0439 506 826		

### Holy Cross Congregation Contacts

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Alan Packer	8532 2876
<b>Ministry Team</b>	David Schirmer	0459 943 682
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barry Stoddart	email: hctreasurer@internode.on.net
<b>Property Chair</b>	Greg Herrmann	0438 785 040

## Rejoice! There's a Retreat coming!

So many women regretted the absence of a retreat at the beginning of 2021. The good news is that we are planning one for the usual weekend in January, 2022 – but not the usual live-in event. For our first occasion of holding a different kind of retreat, we're using the excellent facilities at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Para Vista.

The retreat will run from Friday evening, January 14 until Saturday evening, January 15. The Friday evening session is 6.30 pm for a 7 pm start, and is due to finish at 9 pm. At the conclusion you can sleep at home, if you live close enough. Or if you make arrangements to stay with relatives or friends who are close enough, you can go to them. Or if you have nobody you can stay with, we have some willing hosts nearby, but we'll need to know your accommodation need by December 15, so that we can make suitable links between hosts and guests. (See enrolment form.)

**We are also seeking more suburban hosts within cooee of Para Vista, to make it possible for country or outer metro women to attend. Contact me if you can be a host – just like the good old days of billeting for synods!**

Saturday begins with registration at 8.30 am and will conclude at 9 pm. (Same sleeping arrangements as Friday.) The whole day's yummy food will be prepared by the local catering group at Para Vista. They have a weekly ministry, providing meals for the community, so they've had plenty practice!

Total cost for full-time: \$70.

There'll be all the usual benefits that retreats provide: fellowship, spiritual growth, singing, laughter, viewing stalls, buying books, renewing friendships and making new ones, etc. The only thing missing will be the camaraderie of an overnight stay. But that's something you can share over two bed 'n' breakfasts with your host or guest, whether it be a friend, relative or a *new* friend.

We have a great theme: 'Stop, listen, lean on Me.' And I'm sure you know who is meant by the word 'Me' with a capital M! Our chaplain, Pastor Michael Dutschke, will lead some sessions on listening to God. We'll also have input from some women speakers: Karen Pietsch and Kerry Norman.

This time there's no formal Sunday session, so you will be free to worship wherever you wish.

The enrolment form is attached to the November *Tidings Newsletter* or contact Lois Kupke on the details below.

Lois Kupke - 0410 590 012; [kupkell@yahoo.com](mailto:kupkell@yahoo.com)

# Concordia Kindergarten Christmas Movie Morning



You are invited to watch our special Christmas movie, presented by the children of Concordia Kindergarten. This movie shares the story of the very first Christmas.

Please book a ticket (via Try Booking website) and come along to watch the kindy children sing the songs (this is a live action movie). The movie will be viewed on the big screen at Holy Cross Church (next to kindy). We hope to see you there!

As we are using the church as our venue, they require us to check in upon arrival, sanitise hands and maintain social distancing. Guests will be informed of the COVID safety rules at the time. Don't forget to bring a mask! Thank you 😊

Details: (you have a choice as to which day suits you better)

Thursday 2 December 2021 @ 9:30-10am

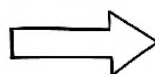
Or

Friday 3 December 2021 @ 9:30-10am

Where: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 31 Florence St, Murray Bridge.

Book in by scanning this QR code or type in this web address into your browser:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BVYGB>



If you cannot access a device to book a ticket, the staff at the Lutheran Homes Office would be happy to book on your behalf. Please ring them on 85324260 or email them at: [retire@mblvillages.com](mailto:retire@mblvillages.com)





## "LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



There is a man. Daily he stands looking out from his lounge room window. One day he mutters to himself, "I don't know. The view doesn't appear as clear as it once did. He shrugs, closes the curtains and goes back to reading the daily paper.

Then one day, while he is looking through the window, there is a knock on the door. He closes the curtains. On opening the door, standing on the doorstep is a very good friend. He invites his friend in for a cup of coffee and wanders off to turn on the kettle. His friend, standing in the lounge room, comments, "Mate, it's a bit dark in here. Mind if I open the curtains?" "Help yourself" is the distracted reply.

The man comes to stand by his friend, hands him a cup of coffee. They stand gazing at the window. His friend takes a sip of coffee, "As I came up the path, I noticed the garden looks good!" "Thanks. I've got a good gardener. But I don't get to see it that much." With a nod, his friend replies, "Yeah. Window could do with a bit of a clean. I know it's pretty big and high, but I can come round and give it a go over." Taking his friend's empty cup and limping toward the sink, the man replies, "Thanks, mate. Don't bother. She'll be right."

There is a man. He stands looking through the now opaque images of life. He notices the "splotch of sadness", steadily growing out from one corner towards the dark memories of "hurt". In the middle is what was once only a speck. Still, over time, "longing" mixed with "wistfulness" is growing and covering more of the image. The "grey fingers of loneliness" continue, like mould to grow upward, threatening to obliterate what little "light of joy" remains. Where once the brightness of joy, peace, happiness, fulfilment, all washed through his life, now they struggle to make an impression.

There is a man called Jesus. He stands by the man and says, "I am here to help. I have the power of a loving God. My whole reason for being is to love and support you and all who need my presence. Read about my love through the pages of my story of love. You will find the book in many places, even on the web. It is called "The Bible". Or, you can trust me and my words and just talk to me. You may not see me, but I am here.

Will you accept the help and talk with the one standing by you, even if you cannot see him? You might be surprised how clear life can become.

God bless,

Kevin



# GROWING FAITH at home

**28th November 2021**  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
*The coming of Jesus*

## SHARE

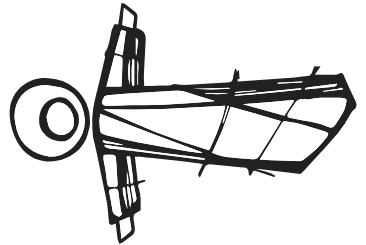
share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

What is something you are really looking forward to at the moment?

2

Jesus tells us that one day he will come again in glory. How do you imagine his return? What can we do to "watch" for him to return?



## Devotions



READ Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man
M	Jeremiah 33:14-16	The promise of restoration
T	1 Thess 3:9-13	Timothy's encouraging report
W	Micah 4:1-7	The Lord's coming reign of peace
T	Luke 17:22-37	The day of the Son of Man
F	Romans 13:11-14	Our salvation is near
S	Psalms 25:1-10	In you I put my trust
S	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord

## TALK

Talk about the Bible verse. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

## Rituals and Traditions



### PRAY

Lord Jesus, we are waiting and watching for you to come again. Help us to always trust your words. Amen.



### BLESS

May the Lord help you to stand strong in your faith and be ready for his coming again.

## Advent

Advent is a time for preparing, a time of waiting and watching. We celebrate Advent with the colour BLUE as this communicates the message of hope. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that one day Jesus will come again.

## Creative Response

Have you set up and decorated your household Christmas tree? When this is done, take some time for a Christmas tree blessing. Gather around the tree and use the following ritual.

Leader: This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful, and of God's goodness. It stands in our home as a tree of light, a sign of Jesus' presence with us as the Light of the World. He was the shoot that grew from the stump of Jesse to become a branch that gives us shelter.

Reader: Jeremiah 33:15-16

All: God of all Creation, we thank you for this tree. Bless us as we gather around it. May its lights light up our hearts with your love, joy and peace. May the gifts placed under it remind us of the great gift of your Son Jesus. Amen.



Finish the ritual with a 'countdown' towards the lighting of your tree. Have each household member point out their favourite Christmas tree decoration.

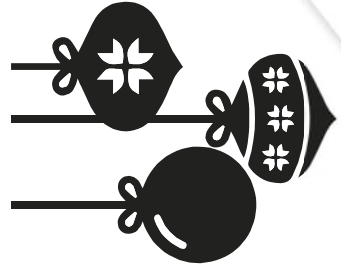
## mealtime prayer

Lord Jesus, bless our home with hope this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts, make us ready for your coming again. Amen.

## Service



Make some Christmas decorations using various craft materials (cardboard, coloured paper, glue, glitter etc). Give these away to neighbours and friends as a sign of Christmas cheer.



verse for the week  
(Jesus said)  
"Heaven and earth  
will pass away,  
but my words will  
never pass away."

LUKE 21:33

