

## ROSTERS FOR 11th to 17th December

<b>Cleaning:</b> Elizabeth Carroll Jenny Solling	<b>Flowers:</b> Yvonne Tracey Pat Ward
<b>Money Counting:</b> 7.30am Yvonne Tracey 9.30am Jacinda Jackson, Betty Pinkstone	<b>Welcoming/Sidespersons:</b> 7.30am Judy Carroll 9.30am Ray Martin
<b>Linen for December:</b> Nerolie Owens	<b>Lawns:</b> Phil Boulton

# LINK

**ADVENT 2**  
10th December, 2017



Welcome to the Anglican Parish of Orange East,  
incorporating St Barnabas, Orange & St Philip's, March

## ARRIVED — OR ARRIVING?

In recent decades Western society has become increasingly focussed on Christmas as a time of celebration, a time for family and friends, and a time for pausing from the daily round of life. But for hundreds of years, Christmas Day marked the end of the season known as Advent. Not everyone has forgotten this, of course, but it's much less widely observed than it once was.

Advent means 'arrival' or 'appearing' – as when we speak of the 'advent of the personal computer'. And the season of Advent is that period when we remember the arrival of Jesus. Actually, we remember his 'arrivals', the one that occurred a little over 2,000 years ago, and the one that is yet to happen.

Now on reading those last seven words some will immediately think of fringe groups waiting on a beach or a hill because some persuasive but misguided person has told them that "this is the day" that Jesus is coming back. Remarkable really when Jesus emphatically told his disciples that only one person in the universe has that information, God himself. But people keep popping up with their theories!

So what's the connect between these two arrivals of Jesus? Simply this: Christians believe that just as God did the most extraordinary thing imaginable in entering our world as a human being, demonstrating his determination to love us, so Jesus will keep his promise to return and restore this world to perfect goodness. To be a Christian is to live each day in that knowledge and confidence, because we trust in His promises.



Bob Cameron

THIS WEEK		REGULAR ACTIVITIES	
Mon	11th	10.00am Parish morning tea at 1 Wolsley Street 5.00pm Prayer Meeting	<b>mainly music</b> Wednesdays 10.30am during school term <b>Parish Council</b> 2nd Tuesday 7.30pm <b>LLMs Meeting</b> 3rd Tuesday 5.30pm "LEGS" (Ladies Evening Group) 4th Tuesday 7.30pm <b>The Diners</b> 3rd Sunday (bi-monthly) 12.30pm <b>Aged Care Church Services</b> <b>Ascott Gardens</b> 1st & 3rd Tuesday 2pm <b>Gosling Creek Aged Care</b> 2nd Wednesday 2pm <b>Wontama Aged Care</b> 2nd Friday 10.30am <b>Sunday Services</b> 7.30am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion with <i>kidz@barneys</i> <b>Wednesday 10.30am</b> Holy Communion Service <b>Messy Church</b> 3rd Friday 5.30pm–7.00pm <b>St Philip's, March</b> — 1st Sunday 11.30am Holy Communion <b>Baptisms, weddings and funerals — by arrangement</b>
Tues	12th	7.00pm PC & LLMs Dinner	
Wed	13th	10.30am Communion Service at the Rectory 2.00pm Gosling Creek Service	
Thurs	14th	7.00pm Christmas Choir rehearsal	
Fri	15th		
Sat	16th		
Sun	17th	<b>ST BARNABAS</b> 7.30am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 4.00pm Final carols rehearsal 7.00pm <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>	

**For our Prayers (in addition to the December prayer notes):**

- For our Advent and Christmas church services, that many will attend, and that they will encounter the Lord Jesus as they hear his life-giving word;
- For the Diocese of Bendigo, and bishop-elect, the Rt Rev'd Dr Matt Brain, and for the Diocese of Newcastle, and bishop-elect, the Rt Rev'd Peter Stuart, that they will both provide godly, wise and gospel-focused leadership to the churches in those dioceses;
- For the Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy, with Bishop Ian Lambert, chaplains and members of the Defence Forces, remembering those serving overseas and those waiting at home;
- For those discerning the call of God on their lives to lay and ordained ministry, and those recently ordained; also for those involved in counselling, psychotherapy, mentoring, supervising or spiritual direction and other related disciplines;
- For those in special need: Marion Bennett (Bob & Liz's daughter), Pam Egan (friend of Doreen Sherring), Amariah Chown, Gary Neville, Lorraine Culverson, Peggy Culverson, Ray & Joyce, John Polain, Alison, Creighton, Bessie Picker, and others known to us;
- For Harley and Jack, baptised last Sunday, that they will grow to know and love the Lord Jesus and follow him throughout their lives.

Birthdays:     **15th** Sandra Brooks  
                       **17th** Andrew Wood & Diane Bennett

Duty roster for today			Next week – 17th Dec		
<b>Priest</b>	7.30am	Rev'd Bob	<b>Priest</b>	7.30am	Rev'd Bob
	9.30am	Rev'd Bob		9.30am	Rev'd Bob
<b>LLM</b>	7.30am	Liz Smith	<b>LLM/AP</b>	7.30am	Liz Smith
	9.30am	Jacinda Jackson		9.30am	Rev'd Noel
<b>Readers</b>	7.30am	Greg Tracey	<b>Readers</b>	7.30am	Yvonne Tracey
		Fay Ridley			Judy Carroll
	9.30am	Anni Gallagher		9.30am	Jacinda Jackson
<b>Chalice</b>	7.30am	Liz Smith	<b>Chalice</b>	7.30am	Liz Smith
		Bob Smith			Greg Tracey
	9.30am	Jacinda Jackson		9.30am	Jacinda Jackson
		Betty Pinkstone			Rev'd Noel
		Carol Halcroft			Viv Ryan
<b>Children</b>		Margie Mills	<b>Children</b>		Nerolie Owens

**CHRISTMAS STALL**

There will be a stall after both services **TODAY** with Christmas cakes and puddings, and other yummy treats, plus other items. All proceeds will go to support the ministry of this church. Please support the ladies who have made all the goodies.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

As part of our Christmas celebrations this year we will be conducting services of lessons and carols at both St Barnabas (7pm Sunday 17th December) and St Philip's (7pm Tuesday 19th December). It's not too late to join the singing group to provide a lead at both these services. The more that join in the better, and the only requirement is that you love to sing!

There will be two more rehearsals prior to the services — at **7pm this Thursday (14th December)** and at **4pm next Sunday**, both at St Barnabas. Hoping to see you there!

**PARISH MORNING TEA**

There will be a Parish morning tea at 10.00am tomorrow (11th December) at Yvonne Tracey's residence, 1 Wolsley Street. Come along and bring a friend for this great time of friendship and fellowship. All welcome.

**SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICES**

From Sunday 24th December (Christmas Eve) through to Sunday 28th January (inclusive) there will be one Sunday morning service at St Barnabas, which will be held at 8:30am. We will then return to our normal pattern of services from the first Sunday in February.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Please note that the Parish Office will close on Friday 23rd December, and will reopen on Monday 22nd January. In 2018 the office hours will change, with the office being open from 9am to 12noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Parish Office**

Tuesday to Friday  
 9.00am–12.00noon  
 Ph: 02 6362 7729; email: stbarneys@bigpond.com

**Parish Priest – Rev'd Bob Cameron**

Ph: 0409 774 616  
 Email: robcc411@gmail.com

**Website:** [www.stbarnabasanglicanchurchorange.org.au](http://www.stbarnabasanglicanchurchorange.org.au)  
**Facebook page:** [www.facebook/stbarnabasorange](http://www.facebook/stbarnabasorange)

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
chapter 1 beginning at verse 1

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way” –

<sup>3</sup> “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.”

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the River Jordan. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt round his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Readings and Prayers for Sunday 10th December

### TODAY’S SCRIPTURE SENTENCE

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together. Luke 3:4, Isaiah 40:5a

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God,  
you sent your messengers the prophets  
to preach repentance  
and prepare the way for our salvation:  
give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may greet with joy  
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### TODAY’S READINGS IN CONTEXT

#### Isaiah 40:1-11

Most of the first section of Isaiah’s extensive prophecy has been littered with devastating pronouncements of judgement by God on the people of Israel, as well as on the surrounding nations — but now he announces God’s promise of an end to Israel’s punishment and a day of restoration.

#### 2 Peter 3:8-14

Having acknowledged that there are those, even with the church, who scoff at the idea of Jesus’ return, the apostle now assures his readers that the day will indeed come, at the time God has appointed, and that believers should ensure that they are ready.

#### Mark 1:1-8

Today we begin reading our gospel for the coming year, Mark, which opens by showing that the ministry of John the Baptist ushered in the age of the Messiah, as foretold by the prophets Isaiah and Malachi.

### READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK (17th December)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

John 1:6-8, 19-28

# Christmas 2017

#### SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 7PM

Service of Lessons and Carols

at St Barnabas - cnr Dora & McLachlan Streets

#### TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 7PM

Service of Lessons and Carols

at St Philip’s, March - on Burrendong Way

#### CHRISTMAS EVE 6:30PM & 11:00PM

Family Communion & Midnight Communion

at St Barnabas

#### CHRISTMAS DAY 7:30AM & 9:30AM

Holy Communion Services

at St Barnabas



Contact us: 02 6362 7729 - [stbarneyschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stbarneyschurch@gmail.com)

A reading from Isaiah  
Chapter 40 beginning at verse 1

Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her  
that her hard service has been completed,  
that her sin has been paid for,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:  
"In the wilderness prepare  
the way for the LORD;  
make straight in the desert  
a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,  
every mountain and hill made low;  
the rough ground shall become level,  
the rugged places a plain.

<sup>5</sup> And the glory of the LORD will be revealed,  
and all people will see it together.  
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out."  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"

"All people are like grass,  
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

<sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.  
Surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,  
but the word of our God endures for ever."

<sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion,  
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,  
lift up your voice with a shout,

lift it up, do not be afraid;  
say to the towns of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"

<sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power,  
and he rules with a mighty arm.  
See, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense accompanies him.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
he gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

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

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 (NET)

O Lord, you showed favour to your land;  
you restored the well-being of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup> You pardoned the wrongdoing of your people;  
you forgave all their sin. (Selah)

<sup>8</sup> I will listen to what God the LORD says.  
For he will make peace with his people, his faithful followers.  
Yet they must not return to their foolish ways.

<sup>9</sup> Certainly his loyal followers will soon experience his deliverance;  
then his splendour will again appear in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Loyal love and faithfulness meet;  
deliverance and peace greet each other with a kiss.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness grows from the ground,  
and deliverance looks down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup> Yes, the LORD will bestow his good blessings,  
and our land will yield its crops.

<sup>13</sup> Deliverance goes before him,  
and prepares a pathway for him.

A reading from 2 Peter  
chapter 3 beginning at verse 8

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: with the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

<sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

<sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.

<sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him.

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

Our Bible readings each Sunday are taken from the 2011 edition of the New International Version of the Bible (NIV). If you don't have a copy of this version it can be found at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).