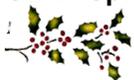


WEEKDAY SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S
Tuesday to Saturday, 8.30am: Morning Prayer
Wednesdays, 10am: Holy Communion & discussion

Dates For Your Diary...

TODAY 3pm 	Quire St Nicolas - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols Traditional Christmas service made famous by the choir of Kings College Cambridge. Retiring collection goes to the parish.
Tue 24 Dec 10pm 10.30pm	Christmas Eve Congregational Carols Midnight Mass
Wed 25 Dec 9.30am	Christmas Day Sung Eucharist



Christmas Bowl
Envelopes on the back table

This Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the theme for this week is *love*.

How do we share God's unconditional love with those who have suffered unimaginable violence?

When their city of Hama came under siege, Rima (pictured above with her son) and her husband Kateb fled for Jordan with their children. As they were escaping, one of their young sons was killed by a chemical strike, and died an agonising death.

Since then, the family have been living in refugee camps in Jordan, staying together in tents, with no way to support themselves. But they were brave and resilient and have found the strength to carry on.

Thanks to your support they are able to access food packages and hygiene kits from Act for Peace's partner in Jordan, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). Rima now also brings in a small income for her family by selling Syrian food.

Through the Christmas Bowl, you can share God's love by helping to support Syrian refugees like Rima and her family as they rebuild their lives.

- ◆ Please pray for Syrian families who have travelled far from their homes, leaving almost everything behind.
- ◆ Please pray for refugees and migrants that they may receive the food, healthcare and support they need, and that they might be able to live a dignified life.
- ◆ Please pray for an end to the violence in this region, that people might live together in peace, security and with respect for each other.



We acknowledge the Kooragang people who are the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. The Kooragang people have loved and cared for this land for many thousands of years, continuing into the present and on into the future. We who have come later also love and care for this land and together we can work to make it a better place for us all to live.

St John's Church

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Phone: 08 8223 2348

Email: stjohnsanglican@adelaide.on.net

Fourth Sunday of Advent 22 December, 2019

9.30am

Celebrant
 Preacher

SUNG EUCHARIST

Peter Balabanski
 Peter Balabanski

**The service begins on p.119 of the green prayer book*

HYMNS

Introit 283
 Gradual 277
 Offertory 208
 Recessional 241

(Together in Song)

Long ago, prophets knew
 He who by a mother's love
 Jesus has come
 So God loved the people

Setting
 Anthem
 Postlude

Matthias + Trisagion
 Song of Mary (R Shephard
 Matthew Atherton)

Communicant members of any Christian denomination are welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's Table.

Following the service, morning tea will be served in the hall.

In the event of an emergency, please leave the church and assemble outside the Victoria Grove Apartments, directly east of the church on Halifax Street.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest:	Rev Peter Balabanski	8223 1014
Peter's email & mobile no.:	peter.balabanski@gmail.com	0427 733 230
~ Monday is Peter's day off and the office is closed ~		
Priest's Warden:	David Iveson	0418 840 080
People's Warden:	Jane Osborn	0424 083 914
Chairman Parish Council:	David Plumridge AM	0417 088 992
Principal Organist:	Seungyeon Choi	0430 076 659
Music Coordinator:	Nicola Beveridge	0402 144 258
Treasurer:	Wendy Farrell	0412 853 149
Verger:	Michael Cant	0416 775 648
Office (Tue, Wed & Thu):	Barbara Murray	8223 2348

ABM Reflections

Isaiah 7.10-16; Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-25
They shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us'. What a profound concept – that God should take on human form and become one of us – what the poet John Betjeman called 'the most tremendous tale of all' in his poem, 'Christmas'. We wait in anticipation for the Incarnation when God comes to us wearing the clothes of humanity, and allows us to become like God by participating in God's life. Alleluya! Salvation is at hand!

Prayers

Pray for:

- ♦ Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement: His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome; His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; The Revd Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council; The Reverend Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches;
- ♦ St Francis, Trinity College, Gawler: Dave MacGillivray ;
- ♦ The Ministry District of Southern Flinders (Georgetown, Gladstone, Jamestown, Laura, Spalding, the North East Mission): priests John Fowler, Wendy Cooper, Sr Sandra, and Deacon Sarah Wiles;
- ♦ An increase in vocations to ordained and licensed ministry in Diocese of The Murray.
- ♦ The family and friends of Ross Goode as we mourn his loss.

Pray for those recovering from illness or surgery:

David, Anna, Donald, Jilifi, David, Milton, Rosemary, Rachel, Ann, Lynette, Martyn, Julie, Fatimeh, Chris, Jo, Jane, Nicola, Norman, Thomas, Brittany, Atrina, Judith, and Dorothy.

Pray for those who are unable to make it to our weekly services:

Tony and Pauline, Doug, Pamala and Fae.

Advent is the start of the Church year

The Parish Council is charged with maintaining the pastoral and missional work of St John's, together with maintaining the fabric of the church buildings and grounds. As we start the new year of the church Calendar, it is an opportunity to re-assess our giving to help maintain our presence as a Parish. Please give this your prayerful consideration. Remember that e-giving is a good way to give regularly, and does away with having to find the right cash each week. *Wendy Farrell can advise.*

The Light of the World

Each of the Sundays in Advent is themed to mark the approach of the one who is to come. The first Sunday's focus is the promise of that coming one. The second is focussed on the prophets who declared this promise. Last Sunday, we spent time with the last of those prophets, John the Baptist. And this morning, we spend time with Jesus' mother – and of course with Joseph too. So the three violet candles on the Advent Wreath stand for the promise, the prophets and the Baptist; the rose candle for next Sunday stands for Mary, and the white candle is lit at the Christmas services to show that the light of the world has finally arrived.

Parish Council Report

At last Sunday's meeting, it was decided that we would be able in the new year to run our exam invigilation service on a voluntary basis thanks to Sandy Williamson and a small group of dedicated volunteers mentored by David Iveson. We will conclude the services of Kevin Simms who has given valuable service to the parish and the students over a long period of time.

The Messiah was a great success with a cheque for \$3000 going to St Johns Youth Services and proceeds from the refreshments going to St John's.

The painting firm of AJ Blunt will start work on the painting of the church in the new year and we are very grateful for a generous donation towards the cost of this work which will enable us to bring forward other essential maintenance work.

Following a report from Pauline Atkinson and Peter, Council has decided that with our partners St Mary Magdalene, the Cathedral and Anglicare, we have decided that it is time to review the operation of the Magdalene Centre. The centre has moved to Gilbert St, collocated its services and is now run by Anglicare, so it would seem to be time to review our role in its operation.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in February 2020.

Our Finances for November were:

Offerings, fund raising and other income, totalled \$26,299.70; total expenditure was \$16,268.44 (It costs on average \$20,221-00 per month to run the parish).

David Plumridge AM

Peter's Weekly

I never tire of thanking God for the welcoming, generous, caring spirit of this parish. Your response to my two appeals for help has been heartwarming.

Yesterday, I was able to deliver eleven frozen turkey rolls to St Luke's Mission at Whitmore Square – that's 22 kg of Christmas dinner for Adelaide's needy and lonely – and it was very, very gratefully received. I can still deliver more by Monday 2.00 pm if any late donations come in, so don't be shy; they are setting 300 places this year!

And on Wednesday, Bliss was able to make the move to her new cottage, and while it has proven impossible to secure a removalist until later, we can be confident that your donations so far received or promised are pretty well going to cover the expense of completing the move. Your gifts, emails and notes have expressed an uncomplicated love and care that is simply inspiring! Bless you and thank you!

This is my last weekly before Christmas, so there are several events to bear in mind:

This afternoon at 3.00 pm, **Quire St Nicolas** presents the traditional **Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**. The offering will go to support the work of God through this parish – all welcome!

On Tuesday night, we have the **Christmas Midnight Mass** (10pm Carol Singing, then 10.30pm Midnight Eucharist);

On Wednesday, **Christmas Day** itself, we gather for a joyful family celebration of Christ's birth (9.30am);

And on Sunday 29th, we will mark the **festival of our patron**, St John, Apostle and Evangelist.
Every blessing, Peter