

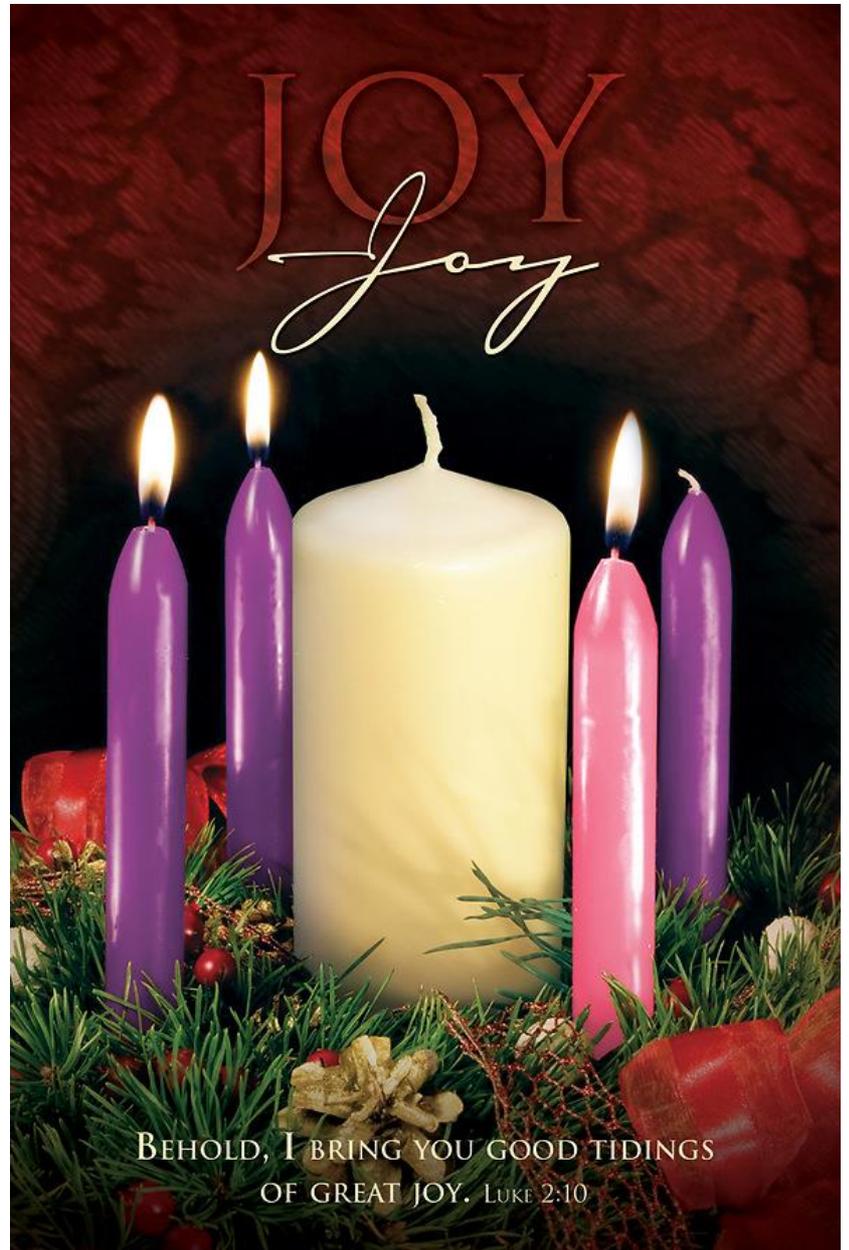
Anglican Parish of Avon

**Sunday 15
December,
Advent 3.**

**Priest in Charge,
The Reverend
Dave Perryman.**

***Welcome – Wunan
Njinda to: -***

***A Service of Holy
Communion - 8.30am at
All Saints &
10am Holy Trinity
Church, Stratford.***



**Today we welcome, through Holy Baptism,
Dawson Edward, Grant- Mackay into the family
of God's Church**

You are invited to light a 'Prayer Candle' and enjoy morning tea after the Services. Toilets are located at the rear of the Hall. Holy Trinity is fitted with a hearing loop. Please note that the Holy Trinity Chancel floor slopes up from the front pews to the Lectern; please use the handrail as needed and take care, thank you.

We acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai people as the original inhabitants of this land. We acknowledge their elders past and present and their children who are their hope for the future.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: MP 393 'Joy to the world . . .' (V1, 2)

Welcome and Introduction.

Greeting, Call to Worship.

Sentence of the Day

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.' *Isaiah 35.3–4*

Lighting of the Advent Candle.

We light this third Advent candle - joy.

It joins the candles of hope and peace.

Each is no longer alone, but together provide illumination that will not be quenched.

As we draw closer to Christmas, these are symbols for the gifts that will renew our lives, and transform the world.

O God, come journey with us through Advent.

Give us courage to spread joy in the world. Amen.

Preparation for Baptism.

Confession and Absolution

Prayer of the Day

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming:

strengthen our weak hands,

make firm our feeble knees,

and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom,

so that our hearts may rejoice

as we behold the majesty of our God.

We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

³ A voice cries out:

‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

⁶ A voice says, ‘Cry out!’

And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
‘Here is your God!’

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep. *Isaiah 40.3-11*

Hear the word of the Lord
thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Book of James

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5.7-10

Hear the word of the Lord
thanks be to God.

‘Early Talk’

Gradual Hymn: **MP 3**
‘Abba Father . . .’



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
³ and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’
⁴ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see:
⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?’

⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces.

⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11.2-11

For the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Homily



The Presentation for Baptism

The Baptism

Intercessions and Lord's Prayer.

We pray:-

- For our broken world. For an end to dictatorships, political incarceration, persecution, violence and wars. For new hope, justice and relief for refugees and asylum seekers.
- For the victims suffering horrific burns, the families of the deceased and all who are suffering as a result of the tragic volcano eruption on White Island.

- We give thanks for the wonderful services and volunteers in our country. The people of the CFA, SES and Police Force etc. Support organisations such as Red Cross, Lions and so many more.
- For Bishop Richard's spiritual leadership of the Diocese.
- For the Cooperating Parish of Churchill / Boolarra / Yinnar. For the Diocese of Ballarat: Garry Weatherall.
- For our parish ministry and mission. For Dave's leadership and teaching. Empower us Lord to grow in numbers and take your loving grace into the community.
- For Jordyn, baby Dawson's sponsors and supporters, as they present Dawson Edward Grant-Mackay for Baptism into the family of God's Church.
- For the Stratford Community Carols by Candlelight this evening. For the community to join with us in joyful caroling and celebration of the birth of Jesus.
- For those who coordinate and work to sustain our op shop and mainly music programs. For Team Leaders, May at mainly music, Bev and John at the op shop.
- For a time of joy, safety and refreshment for our mainly music families over the summer vacation.

**For this month's Retiring Offertory in support of The Christmas Bowl.*

We pray for the sick and suffering and all who care for them. We pray for those for whom this day will be long and hard, for those struggling with despair or depression, for those in hospital and at home.

We pray especially at this time for *Phillip, Peter, Ruth, Aileen, Peter T., Brenda, Alice, Kerrie, Scarlet, Boyd, Brian, Jacob, Emma, Crystal, Pete, Prec, Bruce, Geoff, Isobel, Daryl, Jan, Bob, Craig, Richard, Gail, Karen, Julie and Mick.*

In your goodness and mercy grant them health of body, soundness of mind and peace of heart.

Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: MP 1151 'Amazing Grace . . .'

Offertory Prayer

The Great Thanksgiving and Holy Communion.

Prayers after Communion.

Announcements.

Final Hymn: MP 796 'You will go out . . .'

Blessing / Dismissal.

Recessional Music.

APBA & NRS portions reprinted with permission, Copyright Broughton Publishing Pty Ltd.

NEWS AND NOTES

Today we welcome and pray for Jordyn, baby Dawson, his sponsors and all those supporting him as he is Baptised in to the family of God's Church. Dawson Edward Grant-Mackay is May and Ron's great grandson.

The final Community Carols planning meeting attended by our own members took place on Thursday last after mainly music. Long laid plans are now taking place and we pray this evening will be a great success . . . which brings us to the next item . . .

Don't forget The Stratford Community Carols by Candlelight this evening. Commencing at 6pm or before, is the free family BBQ and fun time for people of all ages. Santa is expected to 'drop in' at approximately 6.20pm. At 7pm we will commence a time of community carolling and stories about the birth of our saviour Jesus.

Please encourage people to come! Flyers are still available.

After many months of missing the decades of tremendous electrical backup and support given by Steve Nichols, we have at last found a supportive electrical company.

Marathon Electrical have provided within 24 hours, services for which we have been unable to get an electrician on site.

Now Marathon have offered an electrician 'on site' for electrical 'backup' at the Stratford Community Carols this evening – free of charge. Not only that, the electrician will have a CFA generator on site for emergency power. There are just 3 x 10amp power points at the Apex Park and our needs are greater. We are most grateful for this support and service.

Next Thursday

- **9.30am** mainly music volunteers will gather for an end of year morning tea at Wa De Lock.
- **11am the Anglican members of the Community Carols Planning Group will convene for a post Community Carols de-brief in the Parish Hall**

- **7.30pm a 'Blue Christmas Service'**, a service of 'Remembrance and Hope' will take place at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Stratford. All are welcome.

According to reports, The Men's Christmas Breakfast at 8.30am next Saturday, with some surprises in store, will be well worth attending.

The final session of mainly music for 2019 took place on Thursday. It was a delightful session of Christmas song and dance. Dave thanked team leader May for her dedication to the program and her caring ministry to the children and families throughout the year. He thanked Bev H for her leadership support, all volunteers and of course the families who come to share in the music and fun. It was with sadness that we said goodbye to 2 of the older children who will not be returning next year. Parents and children were delighted with the little gifts they received on their departure.

We have been invited to a Blue Christmas Service - a Service of Remembrance and Hope, at St Andrew's Uniting Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 19 December. Flyers featuring more information about this very pastoral service are available in the Hall.

Please note the Christmas Services flyer in the Bulletin. You may like to pass a copy on to family or friends . . . many more flyers are available, just ask Denise.

On Christmas Eve, Bishop Richard will be preaching at the All Saints Church Christmas 8pm Service, something very special for All Saints parishioners and visitors.

Bishop Richard will then preach at the 11pm Candlelight service at Holy Trinity. Always a lovely service, it will be a little more special this year as we share the first minutes of Christmas 2019 with our Bishop and Priest in Charge Dave.

The 6pm Family Service at Holy Trinity is a great time for children as they dress in Nativity costume and participate in the service. All children from all denominations and otherwise are most welcome!

The Christmas Day services this year will be at St Mary's Munro and Holy Trinity Stratford. Morning tea will not be served after the service in Stratford as parishioners are keen to move on to wherever they are having Christmas dinner / lunch.

Please refer to the Diary on the inserted page and 'Announcements' for important dates this week and next.

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH THIS MONTH

DECEMBER *Christmas Bowl . . . Act for Peace.*

Fridays 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity

School Holidays: Saturday 21st December to Tuesday 28th January 2020.

Thus 19 9.30am mainly music Volunteers' Morning Tea at Wa De Lock.

11am Community Carols Event De Brief, Anglican Members.

7.30am Blue Christmas Service at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Stratford

Sat 21st Men's Breakfast Group. Christmas Breakfast

Sun 22nd Advent 4. 8pm Ecumenical Service of Lessons and Carols at the Cathedral

Tues 24th 6pm Family Christmas Service at Holy Trinity.

Tues 24th 8pm Christmas Eve, Holy Communion at **All Saints. Bishop Richard Attending.

Tues 24th 11pm. Candle-lite Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Bishop Richard Attending.

Wed 25th 8.30am & 10am Christmas Day HC at Munro & Stratford.

Sun 29th First Sunday after Christmas

JANUARY

Thursdays 9.30am mainly music during School Term

Fridays 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity

School resumes Wednesday 29 January 2020

Dave and family on leave 7th till the 20th January

Retiring Offertory: Project 123

Wed 1 New Year's Day. New Offertory Envelopes

Sun 5 The Epiphany of Our Lord. The Baptism of Our Lord.
All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity

Sun 12 First Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Trinity Roster – 22 December, Fourth Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 7.10-16. Ps. 80.1-7,17-19. Romans 1.1-7. Matt. 1.18-25

Priest: Dave. Lit Assist Vic, Judy K. Read: Julie Ferg, Gail.

Intercess: Vic. Org: May. Sides: Bev T Kerrie S. PPT: Paul

Flowers: Nola. MT: Bev T & Bev H. Sacristan: Denise

Parish of Avon: The Reverend David Perryman: 0401 035 379.

Email:davidjrperryman@gmail.com