

Anglican Parish of Avon

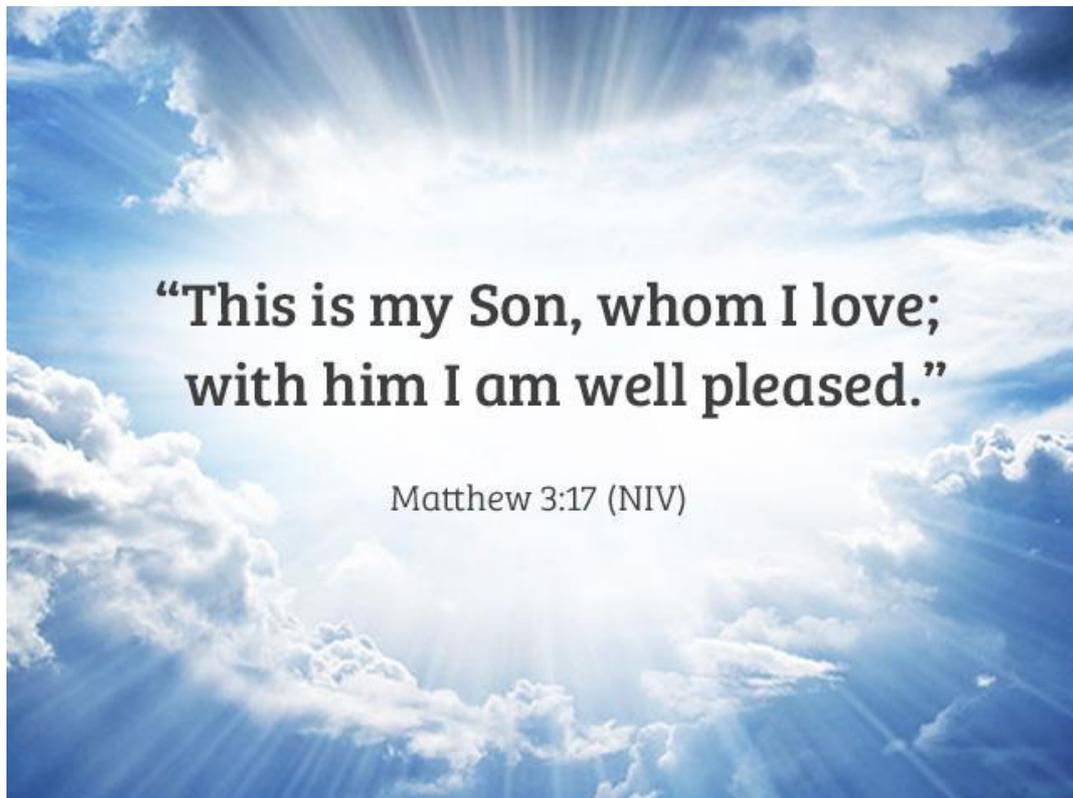
Sunday 12 January, The Baptism of Our Lord

Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman.

A Very Warm Welcome to The Reverend Heather Toms, Presiding & Preaching in the Parish Today.

Welcome – Wunan Njinda to: -

A Service of Holy Communion - 8.30am at St Mary's & 10am Holy Trinity Church, Stratford.



**All are welcome to worship in our
parish today.**

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 Kumai 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: TiS 432 'Christ is made the sure foundation . . .'

Welcome and Introduction.

Greeting and Sentence

A voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' *Matthew 3.17*

Prayer of Preparation

Gloria

Prayer of the Day

God of grace and glory,
you call us with your voice of flame
to be your people, faithful and courageous.

As your beloved Son
embraced his mission in the waters of baptism,
inspire us with the fire of your Spirit
to join in his transforming work.

We ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The texts for this week offer insight not only into Jesus' identity and calling but also into our own. Jesus emerges from the waters of baptism and hears the truth of his identity: Beloved Child of God. The same can be said of each one of us. While baptism might mark a beginning in the Christian journey, we are called beloved children of God. Isaiah reminds us that this is not a passive identity, but an active calling to God's work of justice in the world. How are you living out the truth of your identity and calling as God's beloved?

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

- ¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
- ³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- ⁵ Thus says God, the Lord ,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
- ⁶ I am the Lord , I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
- ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- ⁸ I am the Lord , that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
- ⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them. *Isaiah 42.1-9*

Hear the word of the Lord
thanks be to God.

Psalm 29

- ¹ Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven:
ascribe to the Lord glory and might.
- ² **Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name:
O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness.**

- ³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord upon the great waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation:
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.**
- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar-trees:
the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶ **He makes them skip like a calf:
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the Lord divides the lightning-flash:
the voice of the Lord whirls the sands of the desert,
the Lord whirls the desert of Kadesh.
- ⁸ **The voice of the Lord rends the terebinth trees,
and strips bare the forests:
in his temple all cry ‘Glory.’**
- ⁹ The Lord sits enthroned above the water-flood:
the Lord sits enthroned as a king for ever.
- ¹⁰ **The Lord will give strength to his people:
the Lord will give to his people the blessing of peace.**

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’ *Acts 10.34-43*

Hear the word of the Lord
thanks be to God.

‘Early Talk’

Gradual Hymn:
**TiS 585 ‘I heard the voice of
Jesus say . . .’**



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

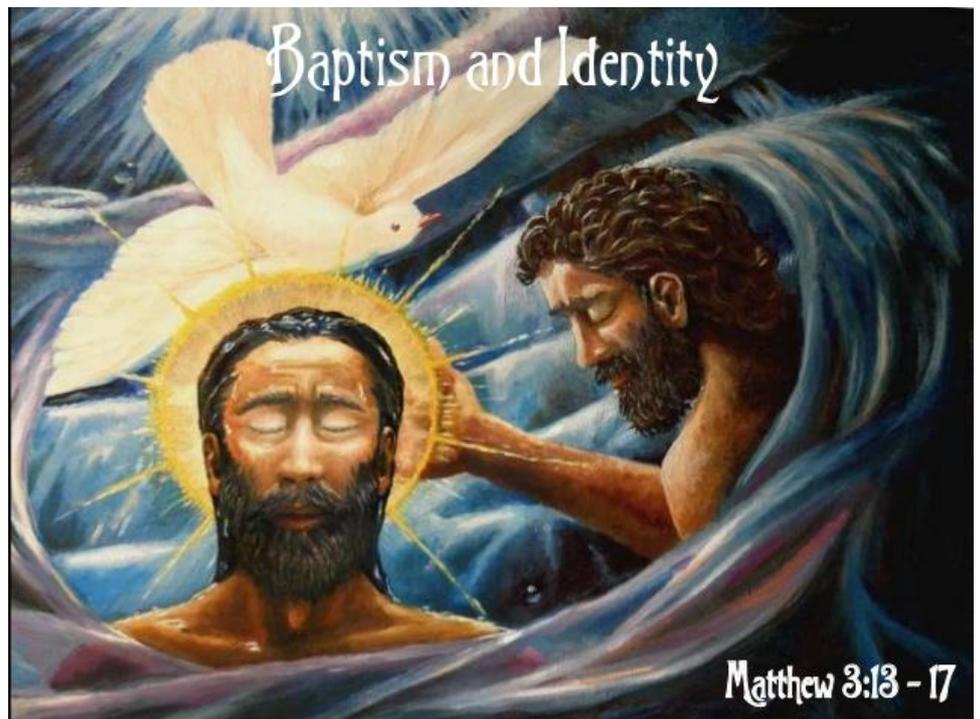
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, ‘I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?’ ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, ‘Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.’ Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.’

Matthew 3.13-17

For the Gospel of the
Lord,
**praise to you Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Matthew 3:13–17 Jesus begins his public life as teacher, preacher, and healer by requesting baptism from John. Matthew’s account of Jesus’ baptism includes an interesting exchange between Jesus and John. It touches on question



echoed throughout the centuries, “if Jesus is Son of God and without sin, why does he need to be baptized?” Even John, the one sent to “prepare the way” and Jesus’ relative, is confused and hesitant. Jesus responds with an assertion reminiscent of our Isaiah text, that “this is the way to fulfill all righteousness” (3:15). For the writer of the gospel of Mathew, Jesus’ baptism is not about forgiveness of sins, but about righteousness.

Sermon

Creed

Intercessions and Lord's Prayer.

Sisters and brothers,
our baptismal vows call us to compassion and mercy
on behalf of those in need.
We offer our prayers for the church and the world.

Lord, hear us as we pray:-

*For the whole human family. May a new sense of shared humanity be drawn upon us this new year and unite us in care for one another and for all that You have created.

*For all who have no secure shelter, both the homeless in our midst and the many millions in refugee camps around the world. May we become more determined than ever to work for their relief.

*God of our land, we pray for all who are suffering from the horrific devastation of bushfires in our country. For those who have lost loved ones, for their families and friends, for the loss of property and possessions and for suffering animals. We give thanks for our wonderful fire fighters and all emergency services and the many volunteers who assist and support those who have lost so much. For the generosity of so many and may this generosity continue.

Lord may drenching rain soon fall upon our parched lands.

*We pray for your Church throughout the world. Giving thanks for Bishop Richard's leadership and the exemplary example he sets for Christian ministry and pastoral care in our Diocese.

*For The parish of Drouin, clergy and people.

*We give praise and heartfelt thanks for the blessing of our Priest, Dave, and his beautiful family. May we be ever appreciative and supportive of his grace and devoted ministry. May Dave, Emma and their boys enjoy a restful and refreshing holiday and may they and all parishioners travel safely through this holiday season.

*For a time of joy, safety and refreshment for our mainly music families and op shop volunteers over the summer vacation. For the coordinators of these ministries.

**** For generous giving to the Retiring Offertory in support of the victims of the East Gippsland Bush fires via the Diocesan Appeal.**

*For our community, for families, friends, neighbours, for those with whom we work and those with whom we worship.

We lift to you, those who are alone or forgotten and those who are in prison.

May we reach out and freely offer them the precious gift of our time.

*We pray for the sick, the sad and suffering, and all who care for them.

We pray especially at this time for *Phillip, Peter, Ruth, Aileen, Peter T., Brenda, Mark, Alice, Kerrie, Scarlet, Boyd, Brian, Jacob, Emma, Crystal, Pete, Bruce, Geoff, 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.

**God of compassion, shine your comfort and peace upon the family and friends of the late Prec Jones as they reflect and give thanks for his precious life.*

**Hold in your comfort Lord, those who mourn the death of Heather Snowden. Grant them your courage and peace.*

Lord God,

you revealed your Son in the waters of the Jordan
and anointed him with the power of the Holy Spirit
to proclaim good news to all people.

Sanctify us by the same Spirit,

that we may proclaim the healing power of the gospel
by acts of love in your name. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Greeting of Peace

Offertory Hymn: TiS 270 ‘On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s cry . . .’

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion.

Sending out of God’s people.

Announcements.

Final Hymn: ‘Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine . . .’

Blessing.

Dismissal and Recessional Music

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NEWS AND NOTES

Today we extend a very warm welcome to Locum Priest and parish friend, The Reverend Heather Toms who is presiding and preaching in our parish today and next Sunday. Dave and family are away on a very much needed 2 weeks break.

However, Dave will be returning to preside over 2 funerals this week.

Thursday 1pm, 16 January, we will reflect and give thanks for the life of Prescott (Prec) Jones. Prec was a truly dedicated member of this parish. A worshipper at St Mary's Munro, he was a vestry / parish council member for more than 3 decades, a synods-man, a nominator and was granted permission to administer the chalice during Holy Communion – to name but a few of his outstanding services to God's church.

We hold Prec's family and friends in our deepest thoughts, love and prayers.

Also, we hold in our special thoughts and prayers, the family and friends of Heather Snowden, especially thinking of Heather's father Graham, her fiancé, sisters and all members of the Snowden family.

At this stage we believe Heather's funeral will be on Saturday morning 18th Jan. but has yet to be confirmed

Avon parish will be catering for the gathering after both funerals. The Jones family will host an afternoon tea in the Mechanics Hall and it is believed that the Snowden family will host a gathering in our parish hall.

Wendy Philbey and Bev Thatcher are coordinating catering and will be requiring baking and assistance. Please speak to Bev and Wendy at morning tea following the service today. St Mary's and All Saint's ladies please ring Bev or Wendy.

The Retiring Offertory for the next 2 weeks will be donated to the Diocesan collection of funds to assist those suffering devastating loss as a result of the Gippsland fires. This is an opportunity to donate money via a pathway that will go to the coalface of where it is needed.

Authorities are advising that donations of produce, products and other items are now in great supply and that money is very much needed.

Paul will speak about the Diocesan fund during announcements today.

As many would know, the Reverend Dr Dean Spalding has resigned from the position of Rector of the Parish of Drouin to take up a teaching position at St Paul's Warragul. Drouin Parish is hosting a Farewell High Tea in honour of Dean, Kate, Merri, Emily and Elizabeth today. We pray for the nominators of Drouin Parish as they seek a new Rector. Congratulations and best wishes to Dean and family as they move on to the next part of their journey.

WHAT'S ON IN THE PARISH THIS MONTH

JANUARY

Fridays: 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity

School resumes Wednesday 29 January 2020. mainly music commences in Feb.

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

Retiring Offertory: Project 123

Wed 15 Parish Council Reports to Secretary

Sun 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany. Parish Council Reports due.

Wed 22 **Safe Church Ministry Meeting.**

Thurs 23 **11am. Family Fun Fair Planning Meeting**

Fri 24 Summer Parish Dinner at Briagolong Hotel

Sun 26 Third Sunday after Epiphany. Australia Day

Mon 27 Public Holiday

Tues 28 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting

Wed. 29 *School Resumes.*

FEBRUARY

***Kid's Movie Nights to commence this month then monthly thereafter.*

Op shop Easter raffle commences. Lions Dinner this month

Thursdays 9.30am, mainly music, during school term, in the Parish Hall

Fridays 9am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity

Retiring Offertory: MAF

Sun. 2 Fourth Sunday after Epiph. All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity

6pm Ecumenical BBQ at Holy Trinity Church Stratford

Thurs 6 mainly music commences for 2020.

Sun 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. Rev Heather Toms. 4pm Healing Service

Thurs. 13 National Apology to the Stolen Generation

Sat 15 Men's Breakfast group

Sun 16 Sixth Sunday after The Epiphany. 7.30pm Carol's Meeting.

Rev Heather Toms Preaching & Presiding

Holy Trinity Roster – 19 January, Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7. Ps.40.1-14. 1 Cor 1.1-9 John 1.29-42.

Priest: Heather. Lit Assist May, Paul. Read: Wendy, Nola.

Intercess: May. Org: Vic. Sides: Megan, Nora, Bev H. PPT: Denise

Flowers: Wendy. MT: Judy K, Marion. Sacristan: Denise

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

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