

# Anglican Parish of Avon

**Sunday 6 December, Advent Week 2**  
**Priest in Charge, The Reverend Dave Perryman.**

Two lit candles are shown on the left side of the image, with their flames glowing brightly against a dark background. The candles are white and appear to be made of wax.

**A voice of one  
crying out  
in the desert,  
Prepare the way  
of the Lord**

Matthew 3:3

*Peace*

**Welcome – Wunan Njinda to: -**  
**8.30am Worship at All Saints Church Briagolong,**  
**10am Worship at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford,**  
**ALSO Via Zoom, Facebook or ‘Phone-in’.**

***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: 'Comfort, comfort – TiS 647**

*Refrain:*

*Comfort, comfort all my people  
with the comfort of my word.  
Speak it tender to my people:  
All your sins are taken away.*

1. Though your tears be rivers running,  
though your tears be an ocean full,  
though you cry with the hurt of living,  
comfort, comfort.

Every valley shall be lifted,  
every mountain shall be low,  
every rough place will be smoother:  
comfort, comfort.

*Comfort, comfort...*

2. Though your eyes see only darkness,  
though your eyes can see no light,  
though your eyes see pain and sorrow:  
comfort, comfort.

Every night will have its morning,  
every pain will have an end,  
every burden will be lightened:  
comfort, comfort.

*Comfort, comfort...*

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### **Greeting**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# Welcome/Acknowledgement of Country

## Call to Worship

Let us come with a sense of expectation of the new things God can do in our lives.

**Show us God what we need to do personally and as a community to get ready for your coming.**

Come you who are fearful or despairing.  
Come those searching for peace. Come those needing healing and renewal.  
**We come to God in whom we find life.**

Hear God's call to repentance.  
God invites us to plunge into cleansing waters.  
**Returning to God we find forgiveness and refreshment.  
You restore our life. Praise be to God.**

## The 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)*

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

Minister: The glory of the Lord will be revealed, for God has spoken.  
**All: Grass withers, flowers fade, but God's Word lasts forever.**

Liturgical Assistant: We wait with hope for the Word of God to come into the world.

**All: We light this candle as a symbol of our HOPE.**

*The first candle is lit*

Minister: God's glory is known when love & faithfulness meet, righteousness and peace kiss.

**All: We long for the day when peace and goodwill is real across the world.**

**We light this candle as a symbol of PEACE.**

*The second candle is lit*

## **Prayer of Preparation**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleans the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Confession**

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart.

*(1 Corinthians 4.5)*

*Silence for self-reflection*

Therefore, in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**Lord our God,  
in our sin we have avoided your call.  
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.  
Have mercy on us;  
deliver us from judgement;  
bind up our wounds and revive us;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw us to himself,  
and cleanse us from all our sins  
that we may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**The Trisagion** – *We will say the Trisagion together*

**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

## **The 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.**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

### **The First Reading**

#### **A Reading from the Book of Isaiah**

<sup>40</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup> A voice cries out:  
‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
<sup>4</sup> 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.  
<sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall 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 grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
<sup>7</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.  
<sup>8</sup> The grass withers, the flower fades;  
but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
<sup>9</sup> 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!’  
<sup>10</sup> See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup> 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 40.1-11*

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

**Psalm 85** – *We will say the Psalm together*  
**1 O Lord, you were gracious to your land:  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

**2 You forgave the iniquity of your people:  
and covered all their sin.**

**8 I will hear what the Lord God will speak:  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.**

**9 Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:  
and his glory shall dwell in our land.**

**10 Mercy and truth are met together:  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;**

**11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth:  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

**12 The Lord will also give us all that is good:  
and our land shall yield its plenty.**

**13 For righteousness shall go before him:  
and tread the path before his feet.**

## **Early Talk**

## **Gospel Reading**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight” ’,

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John<sup>7</sup>

was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' *Mark 1.1-8*

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

## **Sermon**

### **The Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
who made and loves all  
that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was born, lived, died  
and rose again,  
and is coming to call all to  
account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,  
and brings all things to their true end.**

**This is our faith, the faith of the Church:**

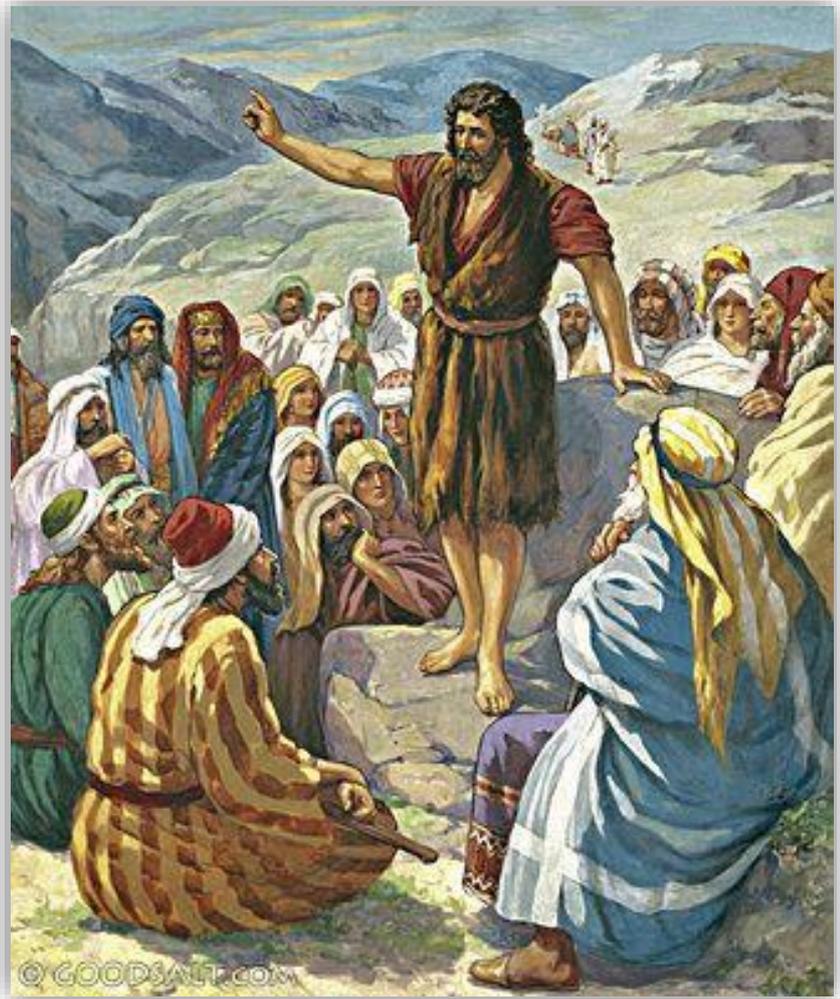
**We believe in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **The Prayers**

*Please sit or kneel for prayer as you are able.*

*Response:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayers.**



*At the conclusion of the prayers:*

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,  
**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Save us from the time of trial**  
**and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom the power,**  
**and the glory are yours**  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

## **The Greeting of Peace**

We are the body of Christ.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.  
For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world

to open for us the way of salvation.  
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,  
we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so, we join our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory,  
for ever praising you and saying:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before he died, he took bread;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you,  
for this is my blood of the new covenant  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins;  
do this as often as you drink it,  
to remember me.

Therefore loving God,  
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,  
his suffering and death,  
his resurrection and ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life  
and this cup of salvation.

With thanksgiving and hope we say:

**Glory to you, Lord Christ;  
your death we show forth;  
your resurrection we proclaim;  
your coming we await;  
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.**

**Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive  
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,  
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,  
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.**

**United in Christ with all who stand before you  
in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlasting praise.**

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread and Communion**

**We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

Draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

*For those unable to receive Holy Communion this Sunday, you may like to practice the tradition of 'spiritual communion' as you watch and listen, the following prayer may be helpful:*

*O Lord Jesus Christ, through your tender mercy grant that as the hem of your garment, touched in faith, healed the woman who could not touch your body, so the soul of this your servant may be healed by like faith in you, whom I cannot now sacramentally receive. In union with the faithful at every altar-table in your Church I desire to be united with you and pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Let nothing ever separate me from your love, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

# The Sending Out of God's People

Almighty God,  
purify our hearts and minds,  
that when your Son Jesus Christ comes again as  
judge and saviour  
we may be ready to receive him,  
who is our Lord and our God.

Father,  
**we offer ourselves to you  
as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

## Announcements

### Final Hymn: 'Amazing grace' - MP 1151

1 Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me;  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

#### *Refrain:*

*My chains are gone, I've been set free,  
my God, my Saviour has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns,  
unending love, amazing grace.*

3 The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

*My chains are gone...*

4 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
the sun forbear to shine.  
But God who called me here below  
will be forever mine.  
*My chains are gone...*

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## **The Blessing**

Live in such a way that you await and hasten  
the coming day of God—  
the day of love and faithfulness,  
the day of righteousness and peace.  
Go now in the confidence that all things  
are possible in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be  
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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## **BULLETIN PRAYER POINTS**

Everlasting God, as we journey through this season of Advent, seeking to make our paths straight for His coming, we now offer our prayers and petitions through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**We pray:-**

\*For safety and protection of our beautiful world. Effective and safe management of climate change.

\*For peace in places of conflict and violence. Provision of safe-haven and new beginnings for refugees.

\*For an end to the racial, social and domestic violence and injustices.

\*For an end to power and aggression by some dictatorships who seek to control the world.

\*For those living with ill health, grief, social unrest and economic hardship through the lens of a world-wide pandemic, particularly those nations where Covid-19 is raging.

We give thanks for your miracle work through our world scientists who have developed vaccines against Covid-19. May they be safe and save millions of lives.

\*Guidance and wisdom for those undertaking the long process of bringing to justice the very few SAS personnel who have committed war crimes against humanity and for compassionate justice for the suffering families in Afghanistan.

For all our defence personnel who dedicate their lives to protecting us and others, from aggression.

\*For the worldwide church, our Diocese, and the churches in our local community.

\*For Bishop Richard and his family as he leads the Diocese through difficult times.

May the Christmas season and year 2021 be a time of healing and peace in our Diocese.

We pray for our Archdeacon the Venerable Brenda Burney, her family, friends, clergy and the parishioners of Bairnsdale as they grieve for Rod and seek to pull together the shattered pieces of their lives.

\*For Dave as he supports Bishop Richard in his role as Chaplain.

\*For guidance, inspiration, and energy for Dave as he leads the parish through this Advent and Christmas season.

\*For Emma and their 4 children.

\*For good discipleship here in Avon, to take Your message of love

\*and concern for everyone into our community.

We give thanks for our emergence out of the Covid-19 shutdown.  
We pray our mainly music families as they prepare for Christmas.

\*For all who support the op shop. Coordinator Bev, volunteers, and all who donate to our ministry and mission.

\*For our Retiring Offertory – Act for Peace, Christmas Bowl.

\*Healing God, we lift to you those who are suffering in our parish. Those with physical, mental, or emotional illness, all carers and for those who are mourning.

*We pray especially for Marion, Aubrey, Paul, Julie, Brenda, Liliias, Marj, Keith, Ruth, Alice, Emma, Crystal, Daryl, Jan and Mick.*

*God of compassion, shower your loving comfort and peace upon the Venerable Brenda Burney, her family, friends, clergy and the parishioners of Bairnsdale as they grieve for Rod and seek to pull together the shattered pieces of their lives.*

Holy God, we ask you to help us make time for true preparations this Advent. In the aftermath of a challenging year, help us to find inner quietness and an awareness of your presence. Let this Christmas be a time when we concern ourselves not so much with material things but focus more on the spiritual gifts you give so unselfishly

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## NEWS AND NOTES

Greetings friends,

**Today, Dave is asking ALL parishioners to join together for an offsite social afternoon tea in the garden at Wa de lock @2pm.**

**We do hope you can all come along.**

**All parishioners can now come to church without needing to book a place.** We are at last permitted to observe our density quotient which at Holy Trinity is 35 persons.

**Please be aware that for the time being we must continue to follow all Covid-19 precautions including sanitising on entry, masks over nose and chin, PLEASE LEAVE MASKS ON AT ALL TIMES,** sanitise hands if masks are touched whilst on face and observe all respiratory tract hygiene. We are not permitted to sing.

Hopefully, one day soon, we will not have to wear masks when indoors and will be able to sing our praises to the Lord.

**Brenda and Christine** departed for Melbourne on Tuesday last after a very busy time. Brenda appearing less stressed than recent weeks and speaking about her new life. Christine will be just a 5 minute walk from Brenda's brand-new apartment. Once again, we wish them every blessing.

**\*\*There is a beautiful card from Brenda on the table in the Link, which all are invited to read.**

**We are continuing to ask for donations of baking** such as slices, mini Christmas cakes, Christmassy cooking, etc etc, for the Christmas thank you to the community for support of our op shop.

**The baking can be brought to church on Sunday, left at Vranek's before 3pm on Monday, or in the Parish Hall on Monday afternoon – thank you so much!**

**This Saturday, 6pm, 12 December there will be a Parish Christmas Dinner at the Avon Valley Food-house** in lieu of the Parish Christmas BYO Party in the Parish Hall. Two course meal @ \$30 per person. We hope everyone will come along for some Christmas cheer as this 'tough' year nears its end.

**\*\*Please book with wardens: Denise, Bev or Paul and indicate your choice of meat: lamb or chicken.**

**\*Please also state special needs such as gluten free or vegetarian meals.** If anyone is in need of financial support with this cost, please speak confidentially to Dave.

**Next Sunday 13 December, 10am,** will be an **All Age Family Service** at Holy Trinity and a **Healing Service in the afternoon at 4pm.**

**Tuesday 15 December** there will be an ordinary meeting of Parish Council at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall.

**We will join together on Zoom for a time of social fellowship at 11.30am today, after the service at Holy Trinity.**

**The Parish Christmas Hamper stationed at the op shop.**

Raffle prizes include a \$100 Petrol Voucher and a great Christmas Hamper. Tickets are \$1 each or 3 for \$2. This is our annual raffle for the parish and **parishioners are asked to please assist with selling tickets – thank you.**<sup>16</sup>

*Robert Fordham and Edie Ashley write:-*

*Dear Friends of The Abbey*

*Over recent months The Abbey Chapter has embarked on a much needed major refurbishment of West Cottage and thanks to some generous donors major upgrades have been undertaken in both the kitchen and the bathroom.*

*However there are further needs to be addressed to bring the Cottage up to a suitable standard for families or groups in need of such a facility when visiting The Abbey. These include floor coverings, window coverings, insect screens and a kitchen setting for six, all of which will be implemented as soon as funds are available.*

*Your assistance with this Appeal will be greatly appreciated. Contributions will be tax deductible and should be addressed to Anglican Earthcare Gippsland Inc Public Gift Fund and can be forwarded to The Abbey, 1-25 First Parade, Raymond Island 3880 or by direct deposit to:*

*Anglican Earthcare Gippsland Inc **BSB: 013-795 Acct No: 2060-78399 – Surname as Reference.***

*For further information please contact Anna at The Abbey 5156 6580 or [info@theabbey.org.au](mailto:info@theabbey.org.au).*

*West Cottage has long been an important feature of the life of The Abbey and with your assistance this can continue into the future.*

*Robert Fordham & Edie Ashley  
On behalf of The Abbey Chapter*

***The Abbey Raymond Island Phone: (03) 5156 6580**  
[www.theabbey.org.au](http://www.theabbey.org.au)*

## **WHATS ON IN THE PARISH**

### **DECEMBER**

#### **OP Shop / Parish Raffle.**

#### **Retiring Offertory: Act for Peace, Christmas Bowl**

*School Holidays: Saturday 19 December to Wednesday 27 January 2020.*

- Mon 7** 3pm. Christmas Afternoon Tea for Op Shop Volunteers at Wa de lock.
- Wed 9** Delivery of Christmas Morning Tea to the business houses of Stratford and other supporters.
- Sat 12** 6pm. Parish Christmas Dinner. Avon Valley Food House.
- Sun 13** Advent 3. All Age Family Worship  
Healing Service
- Sun 20** Advent 4.
- Thurs 24** 6pm Family Christmas Service at Holy Trinity
- Thurs 24** 8pm Christmas Eve, Holy Communion at \*\*St Mary's
- Thurs 24** 11pm. Candle-lite Holy Communion at Holy Trinity
- Fri 25** 8.30am & 10am Christmas Day HC at \*\*All Saints & Holy Trinity.
- Sun 27** First Sunday after Christmas

### **JANUARY**

*Fridays 9.30am Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity*

*School resumes Thursday 28 January 2021*

*\*\*Dave & family will be on Annual Leave after Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> for approximately 2 ½ weeks.*

#### **Retiring Offertory: CBM plus completion of Act for Peace Christmas Bowl**

- Fri 1** New Year's Day. New Offertory Envelopes
- Sun 3** Second Sunday of Christmas.  
All Age Family Worship at Holy Trinity
- Wed 6** The Ephiphany
- Sun 10** 1st Sunday after Epiphany. The Baptism of Jesus  
Healing Service

#### **Sunday 13 December. 3rd Sunday of Advent - Family Service**

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11 Ps 126 or Song Of Mary.

1Thess. 5.12-28. John 1.6-8,19-28

Priest: Dave. Lit Assist: Gail. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Nola

Intercess: Gail. Org: Vic. Camera: Paul

Flowers: Bev T. Sac: Bev/Denise

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

**Email:davidjrperryman@gmail.com**