

SUNDAY LITURGIES at St John's.

- 8am—Eucharist
- 10am—Sung Eucharist
- 3pm Liturgy in Bahasa Indonesia
- 6pm Liturgy of Light

January 1 : Naming & Circumcision
8am & 10am only. (No 3pm this day)

Numbers 6.22-27; Psalm 8;
Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.15-21

January 8 : Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3. 1-12; Matthew 2.1-12

January 15 : Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42.1-9; Psalm 29;
Acts 10.34-43; Matthew 3.13-17;

January 22 : Epiphany 3

Isaiah 9.1-4; Psalm 27.1-10;
1 Corinthians 1. 10-18; Matthew 4.12-25

January 29 : Epiphany 4

Micah 6. 1-8; Psalm 15;
1 Corinthians 1. 18-31; Matthew 5.1-12

February 5 : CandleMass

Malachi 3.1-4; Psalm 84;
Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

ST JOHN'S PARISH RETREAT 2017 : March 31 to April 2 at Santa Casa, Queenscliff.
Numbers are limited. Registration required. Speak with the Vicar.

ST GEORGE'S MALVERN SUMMER SCHOOL 24, 25 & 26 January 2017. Excellent teaching in a relaxed atmosphere. www.stgeorgesmalvern.org

LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2017

Ash Wednesday— 1 March

Liturgy of Ashes –
11.30am; 8.00pm

Palm Sunday—9 April

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday—13 April

8.00pm then Vigil of Prayer
all night until ...

Good Friday—14 April

9.30am Liturgy of the Cross

Easter Day—16 April

**6am Easter Vigil,
Reaffirmation of Baptism,
and Sung Eucharist**
followed by breakfast.
10am Eucharist



CONTACT WARTA JEMAAT

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CAMBERWELL
Christmas 2016

My Dear Friends,

How are we to celebrate this feast, known by its ancient symbols and images which have their origins in an era so unlike our own? How are we to 'pay homage at the Crib', such that we may receive the timeless truth of the Crib, yet as those who live in the 21st century, knowing what we now know about the origins and structure of the universe? To be comprehensible and credible in our time Christmas must cohere with what we now know.

Certainly, it's no use celebrating Christmas as though we are ignorant of the universe's 13.8 billion years of evolution, and our place in the vast cosmic drama. We can no longer regard 'salvation' in the terms of an eternal static-state three-decker cosmos, in which all beings had fixed places. Crucially, in celebrating the birth of the "Saviour who is Christ the Lord", it is no longer possible for us to regard the birth of Christ as God's eternally-fixed pre-conceived 'solution' to restore 'chosen' bits of humankind to an 'original perfection'. For this simply makes no sense in a dynamic evolutionary universe originating in an immense fireball 13.8 billion years ago, a universe in which all things are interconnected in the great web of life.

The church's doctrine of Incarnation is very clear about insisting on the *full humanity* of Jesus: "The Word became flesh and lived among us." That being so, then there's no getting around the fact that, in his *human* aspect, "Jesus emerged by way of evolution," writes Iliia Delio, "as you and I did." To be fully human *requires* this. "The carbon in his body came from the stars and the elements in his blood were first in the explosion of the Big Bang. His distant ancestors, like ours, were the ancient primitive cyanobacteria that blanketed earthly life about 3.8 billion years ago." This is what being 'becoming flesh and living among us' requires.

What about Christ's *Divine* aspect? This great feast also proclaims that: "No one has ever seen God, it is God the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, who has revealed God." The word translated into English as 'bosom' in Greek literally means 'hollow', 'emptiness'. 'The only Son is in the *emptiness* of the Father' - how remarkably like what quantum physics now tell us. It is the Son – matter, flesh, embodiment, the living Word, Spirit-infused energy embodying creative authority – who reveals the Divine Emptiness. The Son – who is the "reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being" - *reveals* the fullness of the Divine energy from which all things came to be. Moreover, to all who received the Divine energy has been given power to become 'children of God'; all of whom are formed in the *emptiness* of the Father, all created to reveal God's glory.

Continued

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To light candles at a Crib in the middle of a late December night, then - to 'adore the child in the manger', to sing of 'redeeming grace', to hope for 'God and humans reconciled', 'veiled in flesh the Godhead to see', that 'we may no more die', to enter meaningfully into this mystical vision of the 'incarnate Deity' - we must do so as those who are *fully conscious of our mutual origins in the universe as we now know it*, and as those *formed in the emptiness of the Father and called to reveal God's glory*.

Incarnation, then, is a high calling! We are not only *products* of evolution – children of God, made in God's image and likeness – we are ourselves *evolution in process*, evolution become conscious, God-bearers, each uniquely called to incarnate the Divine-energy in an ongoing creation, to 'abide in' the self-giving love of the Lover. We are even to do 'greater works' than the works of the One whose birth we celebrate! May the holiness and joy of this great feast renew us all in this great calling as God-bearers.

With my love, David

SERVICES

WELCOME! to this sacred space. May you find fresh encounter here with the Holy. We are glad to have you join us in the sacred liturgy. With generations of Christ's followers we are all welcomed around the banquet table of the Word made flesh—regardless of gender, race, colour, sexual orientation, social status or any other distinction. And you are warmly invited to join us for bubbles in the narthex after the Midnight Mass.

Christmas Eve

5.00pm Christingle Service
11.00pm Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm Midnight Mass
followed by bubbles

Christmas Day

10.00am Sung Eucharist

ARCHBISHOP PHILIP'S CHRISTMAS

MESSAGE is now available on the TMA website: <http://tma.melbourneanglican.org.au/news/archbishop-christmas-message-151216>
A transcript is on the notice board and copies are on the table in the narthex.

LUNCH—CHRISTMAS DAY and/or

NEW YEAR'S DAY: If you would like to join us at **12noon** in the Rutherford Room on Christmas Day and/or New Year's Day, please put your name on the list on the board. Perhaps you may wish to bring a savoury or sweet to share. Keith Dempster.

THANKS! My heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed so much, in so many ways, in preparations for and in leading our Christmas celebrations. Cleaners, cooks, gardeners, musicians, singers, readers, intercessors, welcomers, printers, flower arrangers, servers, money counters - what a tremendous act of communal celebration. Thank you all very much! *Fr David*.

ON THE TABLE IN THE NARTHEX you will find the following resources:

THE SEASON A Resource Booklet '*Advent-Christmas-Epiphany: a guide to the season*'.

WHAT IS CHRIST'S MASS? : Do you know someone who might appreciate a copy.

2017 PLANNING UPDATE: Copies of the revised Parish Liturgical planner contains dates and events for the year.

VICAR'S REPORT on Parish Council meeting held in December.

PLEASE take copies of any of the very informative brochures on the table.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE CHOIR. 2017 marks the fifth year of our Choral Foundation. This programme has been a joyous and significant innovation, raising the quality of our weekly worship and bringing young people into our faith community to share and develop their musical talents. To maintain the Foundation we need more people to contribute. Please speak to our Director of Music, David Byrne, if you would like to support the Foundation.

VICARAGE CHRISTMAS OPEN

HOUSE: Judy and I extend a warm invitation to everyone at St John's to join us for a Christmas celebration at our home, The Vicarage. Come any time between 1pm and 5pm on **Saturday 31 January**. Please bring only the gift of yourselves (i.e. nothing else). We look forward to welcoming you all.
Fr David.

KEEP UP TO DATE with the St John's Camberwell website online. stjohnscamberwell.org.au. The parish website is updated regularly and is a valuable resource for notices, sermons and an online version of Contact."

SERVERS: If you are interested in joining the serving team please speak with the vicar or Ross Smith.

THE CHOIR is in recess for January and will resume with choir practice on Thursday 2 February.

MIDWEEK EUCHARISTS: There will be midweek Eucharists during Christmas/Epiphanytime on Tuesdays at 12 noon, Wednesdays at 11.30am, except Wednesday 6 January, when the Eucharist will be at 6.30pm followed by The Curry Night.

YEAR'S MIND: We remember before God, Leon Moore, Edward Bradshaw, Christine Petrie, Ronald Paterson, Maisie Johnson, Helen Moore, Marjorie Lambert, Ernest Legg, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

THANK YOU from the Flower Guild for the donations towards the cost of Christmas Flowers.

THANK YOU to all at St John's for the help given to me throughout the year in the office and for many kindnesses shown. I am very appreciative. *Dawn Sullivan*.

THANK YOU for the wonderful response to the Anglicare Christmas Toy, Gift and Food appeal.

ENVELOPES are available in the church for donations to The Christmas Bowl (Act for Peace) and also for Anglican Board of Mission.

CONTACT—One edition for the 5 Sundays of January will be available next week. Notices for that must be in the office by 1pm on Thursday 3 February. Regular issues will resume for Sunday 5 February.

TMA—THE MELBOURNE ANGLICAN paper – December/January issue is available in the narthex. Please take a copy.

KIDZ@CHURCH at 10am is in recess for the holidays, resuming for the Feast of Candlemass on 5 February. Please make use of children's activities at the back of the church during holidays. Enquiries to Clare Tomasov.

LITTLE SEEDS PLAYGROUP will be back for Term 1 on Wednesday 1 February at 9.45am.