

## A Parish Ordination

On Saturday 1 February 2014, God willing, the Archbishop will ordain Andrew Bunting as a deacon in the church. This ordered ministry will rest on a lifetime's faithful discipleship and ministry in the church, including many years here at St John's. The occasion that will be so profoundly significant for Andrew will also be an occasion of great celebration for St John's. We celebrate with you, Andrew. We are grateful for your rich ministry among us, and assure you of our prayers as you prepare for ordination, and ministry at Sorrento-Rye.

## WARDENS AND VESTRY MEMBERS

Churchwardens:	Dr Graham Pratt Prof. Kerry Pratt
Vestry:	
Hon. Secretary	Mr Andrew Porter
Hon. Treasurer	Mr John Manton
Members	Dr Simon Bolch Mr Bruce Brabender Mrs Cathy Hayes Mr Lucky Kalonta Dr Muriel Porter Mrs Norma Powell Ms Alicia White

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	(Saturdays to Thursdays) Email: <a href="mailto:vicar@stjohnscamberwell.org.au">vicar@stjohnscamberwell.org.au</a>	
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	Email: <a href="mailto:kuncoro@rusman.com.au">kuncoro@rusman.com.au</a>	
Hon. Assoc. Priest:	The Revd Dr Brian Porter	0407 552 425 (M)
Hon. Assoc. Priest:	The Revd Helen Creed	0437 002 455 (M)
Hon. Assoc. Priest:	The Revd Michelle Trebilcock	0408 511 397 (M)
Director of Music:	Mr David Byrne	9836 5456
	Email: <a href="mailto:music.director@stjohnscamberwell.org.au">music.director@stjohnscamberwell.org.au</a>	
Children's Ministry:	Clare Tomasov	9882 4851 (O)
	Email: <a href="mailto:children@stjohnscamberwell.org.au">children@stjohnscamberwell.org.au</a>	
Parish Administrator:	Mrs Dawn Sullivan	9882 4851 Email: <a href="mailto:office@stjohnscamberwell.org.au">office@stjohnscamberwell.org.au</a>



# CONTACT

## ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CAMBERWELL CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY

My Dear Friends,

On behalf of the clergy, Churchwardens, and Vestry I wish you Christ's peace and joy during this Christ's Mass-Epiphany celebration – not just a day, but a season of celebration which culminates on the feast of Candlemass on 2 February. My heartfelt thanks to all who have laboured lovingly to make these celebrations possible, beautiful, and joyful: musicians, flower arrangers, caterers, cleaners, printers, verger, sacristan, welcomers, servers, readers, intercessors, Christingle-makers, gardeners... And thank you to all of you who have kept the feast.

It's worth asking, what is the reason for this celebration? What is the purpose of the birth of Jesus? The usual answer goes something like this: Jesus' birth is God's demonstration of God's love for us, a love we are to emulate by loving others. That might sound reasonable. But does God's love for humankind have its origins in Jesus' birth? Actually, no. Creation existed long before the birth of Jesus. Love was the fiery Big Bang at in the beginning, and nothing exists apart from Love's transforming fire. Love is the origin, the source, the font of all that is. So if Love already was, what then is the reason for the birth of Jesus? The usual answer is found in Handel's famous chorale, in the familiar carols, prayers, scriptures, and popular meditations on the Christmas story: though loved, humanity was sinful and had to be saved. *Iesus* literally means 'he saves'. As someone said to me recently, Christianity is a religion of rescue.

Though this picture of humanity, creation, God, and Christ has been powerfully effective in making Christendom, in our time we have come to see that it creates far more problems than it solves. In a static cosmos - such as the writers of the scriptures and the crafters of doctrines lived – rescue religion made sense. In an evolutionary cosmos it makes no sense – it is, literally, nonsense to most thinking people now. Shouting more loudly in the modern marketplace about Christ the rescuer-from-sin is both unconvincing and repellent. This is a major headache for the churches, which seem to have staked just about everything in rescue religion.

But the birth of Jesus wasn't given as a panacea for anxious religion looking for a cuddly blanket. Moreover, from an evolutionary perspective Jesus' birth opens up astounding new vistas of human potential and consciousness – much as the Hubble telescope is revealing to us a cosmos of unfathomable immensity and mystery, such as our forebears could not have imagined. This good news is only visible when we no longer regard this birth as a 2000 year old historical event in a static cosmos, concretised by sentimentalised images, and when we realise that rescue religion is merely a developmental stage in human consciousness that must be transcended, not the cosmic grandeur towards which Jesus' birth points.

I wish you and those you love peace and joy, as together we continue to meditate upon the astounding good news announced in the birth of Jesus.

Fr David Moore

**WELCOME !** 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 morning tea following the liturgy in the Rutherford Room.

**CHRISTMAS DAY EUCHARIST: 9am.** Then share lunch with us from 11.30am for 12.30pm in the Rutherford Room.

**NEW YEARS DAY : WEDNESDAY**

**1 JANUARY: EUCHARIST** at 11am followed by **SHARED LUNCH** in the Rutherford Room. Please enter details on the notice at the back of the church if you intend coming to the lunch.

**SUNDAY SERVICES at St John's.**

- 8am
- 10am
- 3pm Indonesian Congregation
- 6pm Contemplative Service

**December 29 : Christmas 1**

*Isaiah 63. 7-9; Psalm 148;  
Hebrews 2.10-18; Matt 2.13-23.*

**January 5 : The Epiphany**

*Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14;  
Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12.*

**January 12 : Baptism of Christ**

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

**January 19 : Epiphany 2**

*Isaiah 49.1-7; Psalm 40.1-11;  
1 Corinthians 1.1-9; John 1.29-42*

**January 26 : Epiphany 3**

*Isaiah 9.1-4; Psalm 27.1, 4-9;  
1 Corinthians 1.10-18; Matthew 4.12-23;*

**February 2 : Candlemas**

*Mal. 3. 1-4; Psalm 84; or Psalm 24.7-10;  
Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2. 22-40.*

**WEEKLY WEDNESDAY SERVICES** at 11.30am resume on 8 January. BYO lunch in the Dempster Room follows the service—Tea/coffee provided.

**CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY:** A resource booklet is available in the Narthex to help you keep this important season - **Advent-Christmas-Epiphany: a Guide to the Season.**

**COMMUNION AND CURRY** is on January 8. Commencing at 6.30pm in the Chapel for the Eucharist followed by a curry meal in the Rutherford Room.

**OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS** in January. The Parish Office will close at 3pm on Christmas Eve and will re-open at 10am on Tuesday 28 January. During this time clergy will be available and the office phone will be monitored.

**THE CHURCH** will be open as usual with the following exceptions: Thursday 26 December; Monday 27 January, when the church will be closed.

**MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER** is on weekdays at 8.30am and 5.00pm respectively.

**SPECIAL DIARY DATE:  
SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2014**  
10.30am at St Paul's Cathedral  
**The Ordination of Deacons**

**Andrew Bunting and Kuncoro Rusman**

All welcome to attend the Cathedral Service.

There will be celebrations in the Rutherford Room at St John's after the Service.

**1.30pm Andrew Bunting**

**4.00pm Kuncoro Rusman**

*All parishioners are welcome and encouraged to attend either or both of these receptions.*

**RICHARD WILSON'S** last Sunday with us is **February 9**. There will be a special lunch in the Rutherford Room to say farewell to Richard. Watch the noticeboard for details. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Richard place it in a marked envelope in the Sunday offering.

**FUTURE DATES**

**OFFICE RE-OPENS:** Tuesday 28 January at 10am.

**VESTRY PLANNING MORNING:** 8 February—9am to lunchtime.

**FAREWELL** for Richard Wilson—Sunday 9 February

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** 5 March

**FAMILY CAMP** at Philip Island — Friday 7 March to Monday 10 March 2014—Brochures available at the back of the church.

**PARISH RETREAT**—Friday 28 March to Sunday 30 March

**ECUMENICAL LENTEN STUDIES** Tuesdays 11, 18, & 25 March, and 1, & 8 April.

**HOLY WEEK:**

Palm Sunday 13 April  
Holy Thursday 17 April  
Good Friday 18 April

**EASTERTIME:**

Easter Vigil 20 April 6am\*  
Easter Day 20 April

**\*NB: EASTER VIGIL AT 6AM** followed by champagne breakfast.

**PATRONAL FESTIVAL:** 4 May 10am only followed by lunch.  
NB: No 8am this day.

**ASCENSION DAY:** 29 May—6.30pm

**TMA The Melbourne Anglican** is not published in January.

**PRAYER JOURNAL: Advance Notice:** Watch out for the Journal of Scripture and Prayer for February/March which will be available in late January.

**YEAR'S MIND:** We remember before God, those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Week commencing: 29 December:**

Maisie Johnson, Marjorie Lambert, Ernest Legg, Russell MacDougall, Jean Carter, Neil MacKenzie, Norman McPhee, Ivor Morgan, and Pauline Brown.

**W/comm. 5 January:**

Mary Rowe, William Barnett, Kevin Curnow (Priest), Selwyn Hooper, Brian Sergeant, Lorna Dobney, and Olga Louch.

**W/comm. 12 January:**

Thea Aston, Beth Withington, Ivon Bromilow, Mary Bagnall, Ken Lenton, Stella Pratt, William Kemp, and Marguerite Putnam.

**W/comm. 19 January:**

Gwen Legg, Geoff McCombe, Margery Scott, John Dempster, and John Wilson (Bishop).

**W/comm. 26 January:**

Marcus Galbraith, May Barrow, Reginald Bailey, and Amanda Leech.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION OR RECEPTION** into the Anglican Church. Please speak to the Vicar.

**THANK YOU** from the Flower Guild for the donations towards the cost of Christmas Flowers and thank you from the congregation for the wonderful arrangements that the Flower Guild does during the year.

**USED STAMPS** are of value to the Church Missionary Society. They sell to stamp dealers and the money raised is used to support the Mission's work. There is a container on the table at the back of the church to leave stamps.

**"CONTACT"** will resume on Sunday 2 February. Notices should be in the office by 1pm on Thursday 30 January.