

DIARY DATES

Holy Innocents—Eucharist 12 noon
Thursday 28 December.

January 1: Naming & Circumcision
of Christ—Eucharist 12 noon.

Lunch: 12.30pm in Rutherford
Room—bring food to share.

January 3: Eucharist & Curry 6.30pm

SUNDAY LITURGIES at St John's.

- **8am**—Eucharist
- **10am**—Sung Eucharist
- **6pm**—Liturgy of Light

MIDWEEK EUCHARISTS

12 noon on Tuesdays from January 2.

NB There is no Tuesday Eucharist on 26
December (Boxing Day).

MORNING & EVENING PRAYER:

Tuesdays to Fridays –9.30am and 5pm.

KEEP UP TO DATE with the
St John's Camberwell website-
stjohnscamberwell.org.au

LENT AND HOLY WEEK 2018

Ash Wednesday—14 February

Liturgy of Ashes –
11.30am; 8.00pm

Palm Sunday—25 March

EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday—29 March

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

Good Friday—30 March

9.30am Liturgy of the Cross

Easter Day—1 April

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

10am Eucharist

ST JOHN'S PARISH RETREAT

2018 : May 11 to May 13 at Santa
Casa, Queenscliff. Mark the dates in your
diary.

St John's Anglican Church, 552 Burke Road, Camberwell, 3124

Ph.9882 4851 Fax 9882 0086 (Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10am-3pm) Closed in January.

Email: office@stjohnscamberwell.org.au

Website: www.stjohnscamberwell.org.au

Vicar:	Father David Moore	On Leave
Locum Vicar:	Fr Ken Hewlett	9882 4851 (O) 0427 772 003 (M)
	(Sundays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays)	<i>Email: kjhewlett@bigpond.com</i>
Locum Asst. Priest:	The Revd Anne Kennedy	9882 4851 (O)
	(Wednesdays (morning), Fridays)	<i>Email: curate@stdunstans.org.au</i>
Locum Asst. Priest:	The Revd Trevor Smith	9882 4851 (O)
	(Wednesdays (morning), Thursdays)	<i>Email: trevors@connexus.net.au</i>
Hon. Assoc. Priest:	Fr Richard Wilson	9882 4851 (O) 0417 014 595 (M)
	<i>Email: richard@goodbusinessproject.org</i>	
Hon. Assoc. Priest:	The Revd Dr Brian Porter	0407 552 425 (M)
Hon. Assoc. Priest:	The Revd Helen Creed	9882 4851 (O)
Director of Music:	Mr David Byrne	9836 5456
	<i>Email: music.director@stjohnscamberwell.org.au</i>	
Hon. Verger:	Bruce Williams	9882 4851 (O)
Children's Ministry:	<i>Email: office@stjohnscamberwell.org.au</i>	9882 4851 (O)
Parish Administrator:	Mrs Dawn Sullivan	<i>Email: office@stjohnscamberwell.org.au</i>



CONTACT WARTA JEMAAT

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CAMBERWELL

Christmas 2017

Christmas

God chose to show himself to us in a complete human life, telling us that every stage in human existence, from conception to maturity and even death, was in principle capable of telling us something about God. Although what we learn from Jesus Christ and what his life makes possible is unique, that life still means that we look differently at every other life. There is something in us that is capable of communicating what God has to say – the image of God in each of us, which is expressed in its perfection only in Jesus. It follows that there is a reverence which as Christians we ought to show to human beings in every condition, at every stage of existence. The Church's failure as exposed in the recently presented report of the Royal Commission that was established to investigate the physical and sexual abuse of children and young people in institutions in our country requires at least repentance and a renewed commitment for reverence. There is then also the concern we need to have about the welfare of children. As we look around the world, there is plenty to prompt us to far more anger and protest about what happens to children than we often seem ready to feel or express.

Both among our indigenous children and in other countries we see horrendous sights – the burden laid on children in places where HIV and AIDS have wiped out a whole generation, leaving only the old and the young, the fate of children in areas of conflict and the insensitive treatment that is so often given to child refugees and asylum seekers in more prosperous countries.

'Though an infant now we view him, He shall fill his Father's throne' says the Christmas hymn. If it is true that the child of Bethlehem is the same one who will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, how shall we stand before him if we have allowed his image in the children of the world to be abused and defaced? Christmas is a good time to think again about our attitudes to children and about what happens to children in our societies. Christians who recognise the infinite and all-powerful God in the vulnerability of a newborn baby have every reason to ask hard questions about the ways in which children come to be despised, exploited, even feared in our world. We all suspect that in any time of economic crisis, it will be the most vulnerable who are left to carry most of the human cost. The Holy Child of Bethlehem demands of us that we resist this with all our strength, for the sake of the one who, though he was rich, for our sake became poor, became helpless with the helpless so that he might exalt us all through his mercy and abundant grace.

Ken

Dear Friends,

I have received your gifts, the book containing your words of love, and the cheque tangibly expressing that love.

The book is precious indeed, beautiful, warm, and gracious - Judy and I will treasure it. I spent an afternoon and evening holding it and thumbing through its pages, one by one, reading each letter slowly, mouthing your words so I could hear them, *hear you*, once, twice. And then, with deep gratitude, toasted each of you in turn.

I'm humbled by your generosity, and feel so thankful for your care, in spite of the difficulty of the circumstances which we have all experienced this last year.

One of you quoted some verses from the late (great!) Leonard Cohen, from his extraordinary song 'Anthem'. These words minister deeply to me, and I hope they will do likewise for you. They remind me about, and renew my hope in, the Paschal Mystery - that the gift always comes as we least expect:

*Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in*

May we all experience the gift of Light, which is always breaking into our darkness through the cracks. And may you be greatly blessed in your deepening pilgrimage into the mystery and freedom of the Word made Flesh.

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 Children's Service
11.00pm Carols by Candlelight
11.30pm Midnight Mass
followed by bubbles

Christmas Day

10.00am Sung Eucharist

On the table in the narthex:

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.

On the noticeboard and website:

2018 PLANNING UPDATE: The revised Parish Liturgical planner.

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 9819 1093.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR THE CHOIR. 2017 marks the sixth 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.

THERE WILL BE NO MIDDAY TUESDAY EUCHARIST on 26 December (Boxing Day).

ANNUAL LEAVE: Dawn Sullivan will be on annual leave from 1 January to 30 January inclusive.

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 locum vicar or Ross Smith.

THE CHOIR is in recess for January and will resume with choir practice on Thursday 1 February.

St John's 'Parish Covenant' is the basis for all relationships, social interactions, and patterns of behaviour within and concerning the Parish. It is on display in the narthex and available on the parish website. All parishioners are encouraged to sign the Covenant, demonstrating their public commitment to a safe and healthy parish community.

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), also for Anglican Board of Mission.

THE PARISH OFFICE is now closed, re-opening at 10am on **Wednesday 31 January 2018**. During this time clergy are available and the office phone will be monitored.

CONTACT—One edition for the 4 Sundays of January will be available next week. Notices for that must be in the office by 5pm Wednesday 27 December. Regular issues will resume for Sunday 4 February.

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

SUMMER SCHOOL: St George's Malvern's Summer School in theology is on 23, 24 and 25 January. Speakers are Assoc Prof. Andrew Singleton (Deakin University) on the generational decline in Anglicanism, the Dean of Melbourne on Bach and Luther, and Fr John Stewart on the Rule of Benedict. Brochures in the narthex or email office@stgeorgesmalvern.org.

ARCHBISHOP PHILIP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE is now available on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9m-hTRApwA> and some text is on the noticeboard.