

# Bribie Beacon

Sunday 6 December 2020

St Peter's Anglican Church  
Banya Street Bribie Island

Anglican  
Church  
St Peter's Bribie Island

## PARISH NOTICES

**Online Sunday Worship** - A new online service is available each Sunday via [Vimeo](#), [FaceBook](#) or our [Webpage](#).

**Empty Christmas Tree** - Today is the last Sunday for giving gifts for the Empty Christmas Tree. The final day we can accept gifts is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. These can be brought to the church office between 9.00am and 12.00pm. Anglicare for Children & Families Caboolture are very grateful for our ongoing generosity.

**Celebration of Memories** - This service will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm in St. Peter's followed by afternoon tea in Coinda. For COVID safe purposes, please contact Lorice if you wish to attend. Please do not bring any food for afternoon tea. Phone 5497 6212 or email - [loricekeith@bigpond.com](mailto:loricekeith@bigpond.com).

**Volunteers for Christmas Services** - There is a list with Lynn Macbeth for those who would like to assist with the Services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day - Reader, Liturgical Assistant and Audio Visual Operator. No assistants are required for the 5.00pm Christmas Eve Service.

**Nine Lessons & Carols** - Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm. If you would like to be a reader, please put your name on the list held by Lynn Macbeth. Could we please only have one reader per family.

**BMF** - The contributions to Bush Ministry Fund to date are \$893.55 which is \$600 less than previous years. If you would like to assist in giving, a donation in an envelope marked BMF placed in the collection box, would be greatly appreciated.

## WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday - 7.30am & 9.30am

Wednesday - 10am

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

### PARISH PRIEST / RECTOR

Rev Steven Schwarzrock

3408 3191

[rector@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:rector@stpetersbribie.org.au)

### CHURCHWARDENS

Kay Benson 3408 1058

Margaret Peterson 5497 6978

Greg Rollason 3408 1998

### COVID WARDEN

Lynn Macbeth 5497 5268

### PARISH OFFICE (*Wed 9am to 12pm*)

3408 3191

[office@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:office@stpetersbribie.org.au)

### WEBSITE

[www.stpetersbribie.org.au](http://www.stpetersbribie.org.au)

### ONLINE GIVING BY CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD

[https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?  
BillerCode=1730050](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1730050)

### ONLINE GIVING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT

Ac Name - Bribie Island Parish

BSB - 704-901

Account Number - 00000040

### POSTAL ADDRESS

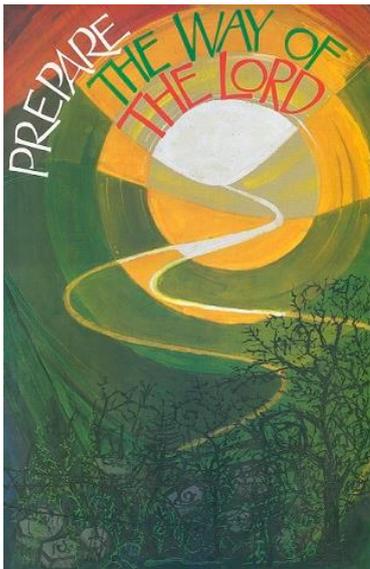
PO Box 1087 Bongaree 4507

# SUNDAY 6 DECEMBER - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings - Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

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*)

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.



## QUESTIONS FOR SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

- 1. Does Isaiah's vision of the "peaceable kingdom" apply to nations today? If so, how? If not, why? (Isaiah 11:6-7)*
- 2. The prophet says, "The earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD." What does this say about God's plan for salvation? (Isaiah 11:10)*
- 3. Why did John the Baptist preach such stern warnings? Do they apply to us today? Why or why not? (Matthew 3:7-12)*

## PRAYER POINTS

**Those in Need** - Vicki Pickering, Barbara Earner, Beverley Fegan-Grimmer, Kaye Bush, Phillipa Booth, Jenny Sullivan, Aileen & Ralph Johnson, Valerie Bowser, Elizabeth Kubler, Robert Van Buerle, Krista-Liisa Pulkkinen.

*To add someone to the prayer list please email [office@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:office@stpetersbribie.org.au)*

**Birthdays this week** - Barry Loose (7 December), Ron MacKenzie-Mowle (12 December)

**Special Celebrations** - Congratulations to Rev'd Barry and Janice Shield as they celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 12 December.



## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

John the Baptist is best known as the forerunner of Jesus, the one who calls on people to prepare the way of the Lord's coming. The next two consecutive Sundays the Gospel readings are devoted to the ministry of John the Baptist, presenting back-to-back parallel texts from the Gospels of Mark and John. The text for Advent 2 introduces us not only to the figure of John the Baptist but also to the Gospel of Mark, from which a majority of Gospel texts will be selected in the coming year. The first verse is probably intended as the title of the book. At this point in history, no one had ever written "a Gospel" before. Mark probably thought he was writing a biography, but when he chose to call his work "the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ" he gave a name to a new genre of literature. The book differs from biographies of other heroic individuals in that it does not simply claim to recount the inspiring tale of a noble man. Mark wants to tell us about the beginning of a new era, a time and place in which God has entered human history in an unprecedented way. It is "the gospel era": the kingdom of God has dawned. Mark wants us to know that God is ready and willing to rule our lives; he wants us to believe this and to act accordingly (Mark 1:14-15). This book (with which we shall spend so much time over the next year) is going to tell us how this gospel era began: it all started with Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who announced the dawn of God's rule and sealed the reality of that reign by establishing a covenant through his own blood (14:24). But first — a preface. Yes, it begins with Jesus, but before Jesus there was John, and before John, there was Isaiah. In Mark's Gospel, John the Baptist is basically an Old Testament figure. His clothing is based on descriptions of Elijah in 2 Kings 1:8; in some sense, Mark believes that John is Elijah, who has returned just as Malachi said he would (Mark 9:9-13; cf. Malachi 4:5-6). But the most important scripture for understanding John is Isaiah 40:1-11, which serves as the first lesson for today. The passage announces God's intention to visit God's people. God gives directions for the way to be prepared. By who? By the people God wants to visit? No, by God's own servants. God does not say, "Tell the people to get ready and when they have done so, I will come to them." God says, "Prepare the way! I am coming to my people (whether they are ready or not)." Indeed the voice of God in the Isaiah text has the character of a wounded lover. God is desperate: "I will come to my people, and nothing will keep me from them. Mountains will be torn down, valleys will be filled in, rough places made smooth — whatever it takes!" So, Mark's Gospel announces that this plan is, once again, about to be fulfilled. John the Baptist is one of God's agents preparing the way for the Lord to come. He offers a baptism of repentance as a means of "getting ready." That baptism occurs in the Jordan River, famous in the Old Testament as the boundary marker for what came to be called "the Promised Land." In the exodus story, God's people wandered in the wilderness for forty years until at last they reached the Jordan River. When they entered these waters, they knew their wandering was over and that God's promises were about to be fulfilled. So the basic Advent theme sounded throughout this text is that the time of promise is drawing to a close and the time of fulfillment is drawing near. For Isaiah, the probable context was the end of exile for Israelites in Babylon. For John the Baptist, of course, it was the coming of Israel's long-awaited Messiah. The announcement is gracious, with only the dimmest echo of warning. Neither Isaiah, nor John, nor Mark intended to say, "God will come to those who are ready; those who are not, will be left out." The accent is simply on God's imminent, certain advent, though such an

announcement obviously calls for response. God is coming to us! This is fantastic news! So, what can we do to get ready? Confess your sins, John suggests. Get baptized. Repent. Later, Jesus will add, “and believe in the good news!” (Mark 1:15). God will come and fulfill all of God’s promises whether or not we do any of these things — but knowing God is on the way, why wouldn’t we want to do them?



**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Christmas Eve**  
**5pm, 7pm & 11pm**

**Christmas Day**  
**7.30am & 9.30am**

St Peter's Anglican Church Bribie Island  
Cnr Banya and Foster Streets, Bongaree

## **ATTENDING WORSHIP AT ST PETER'S IN PERSON**

**Safety Plan** - St Peter's is required to adhere to the Industry Plan for Places of Worship. For more information on this please speak to Lynn Macbeth (COVID Warden) or a Churchwarden.

**All Welcome** - There is no need to preregister for attendance at services, all are welcome, except those who if you are unwell, been in contact with a known active case of COVID-19 or been in a declared hotspot in the past 14 days. Current maximum capacity for St Peter's is 108.

**Physical Distancing** - People should practice physical distancing at a minimum of 1.5 metres at all times. No physical greetings or exchanges such as handshakes or hugs. Sit separately (unless from same household) and per approved seating plan.

**Hygiene** - Hands should be cleaned with hand sanitiser upon entering church, before receiving communion or after contact with any surfaces. People who feel unwell or have cold or flu like symptoms should not attend.

**Record of Attendance** - A record of each attendee's name, address and phone number will be kept by the Rector as per government requirements.

**Cleaning** - The church will be cleaned in line with Safe Work Australia standards.