



St Luke's Torquay
Transfiguration Anglesea
St Aidan's Aireys Inlet

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Surfcoast Anglican Parish

17 December 2017

Today's readings: Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5.12-28; John 1.6-8, 19-28

As we go through our new liturgical year, the Gospel focus is on St Mark's account, which is the shortest, and which has no nativity stories. And so our Sunday Gospel readings are often supplemented by passages from St John's account.

And in today's Gospel reading, we have another take on John the Baptist, and on everything that he is not: he is not the light, he is not the Messiah, he is not Elijah, he is not 'the prophet', he is 'not worthy to untie the thong of the sandal' 'of the one who is coming after' him.

John the Evangelist is at pains to present John the Baptist as being NOT the longed-for salvation, because there were small communities still present decades after the death and resurrection of Jesus, who had received their baptism from John, and then continued in that tradition, rather than waiting for the one John was pointing to.

Sometimes we also make the mistake of settling for a lesser message, a more limited Gospel, for only part of the story, rather than engaging with the bigger and more potent story.

St John is at pains in his Gospel account to ensure that we do not get side-tracked by the partial and incomplete, but rather listen to John the Baptist describe himself in the words of Isaiah: 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" '.

May the Advent season be a time of pointing to and preparing for a time celebration, rather than the celebration itself.

Parish Mission (*our purpose*)

Surfcoast Anglican Parish exists to:

- nurture people's relationship with God;
- encourage people by example to live by the teachings of Jesus;
- engage and work with the broader community.

Parish Vision (*our aspiration*)

An enthusiastic and welcoming Church valued for its contribution to the wellbeing of the Surf Coast community; and for providing innovative ways for people from all backgrounds to explore their spirituality.

THIS COMING WEEK

- Mon 18 Dec* Vicar's day off
- Tue 19 Dec* St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 1pm (weekly)
- Wed 20 Dec* St Luke's, Eucharist, 10am (weekly)
- Thu 21 Dec* St Aidan's Group, 10 for 10.30am (fortnightly)
Anglesea Aged Care, Carol service, 10.30am
Elouera, Carol service, 2.15pm
- Fri 22 Dec* St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 4pm (weekly)
Group Meditation, Transfiguration 11am (Fridays weekly)
- Sat 23 Dec* St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 4pm (weekly)
- Sun 24 Dec* 4th Sunday of Advent
St Aidan's - said Morning Prayer, 8am
Transfiguration - said Morning Prayer, 9.15am
St Luke's - 9 Lessons & Carols, 10.30am
- Christmas Eve
St Luke's - Crib service, 6pm
St Aidan's - Eucharist, 8pm
St Luke's - 'Midnight Mass', 11.30pm
- Mon 25 Dec* Christmas Day
Transfiguration - Eucharist, 9am (note earlier time)
St Luke's - Eucharist, 10.30am

Regular Parish Meetings

- Torquay Home Group, 7.30pm (fortnightly) - next: to be decided
- Parish Council, 7pm at St Luke's (mthly, on 4th Tuesdays) - next: 23 Jan
- Coffee & Chat, St Aidan's 10am (mthly, every 1st Fri) - next: 2 Feb
- G-RAP run (to St Andrew's Corio) from St Luke's at 12.45pm (mthly, every 1st Fri) - next: 2 Feb
- St Aidan's Painters, 10am (Tuesdays, weekly) - next: 6 Feb
- Mainly Music, at both St Luke's & Transfiguration 10am (weekly, Tuesdays during term time) - next: 6 Feb
- Parish Lunch, Beach Hotel Jan Juc, noon (mthly, every 1st Tue) - next: 6 Feb
- Maintenance committee, 11am St Luke's (mthly, every 2nd Wed) - next: 7 Feb
- Torquay Craft Group, 1.30pm (2nd & 4th Thursdays) - next: 8 Feb
- Mission Committee, after the St Luke's service (quarterly) - TBC

General Notices

Nine Lessons & Carols - St Paul's Geelong TODAY, 3pm and 7pm.

Blue Christmas - 5pm TODAY at Anglesea Uniting Church. *The seasons of Advent and Christmas are an emotionally charged time. There is a great deal of pressure placed on people not only to spend a lot of money, but also to feel a certain way and experience a particularly joyous mood. All of this is coupled with an emphasis on remembering, togetherness, and family. For those who are hurting - for any number of reasons - the atmosphere of this time of year can amplify feelings of pain, grief, loneliness, or despair. The purpose of this worship service is to provide a setting where people can come together, acknowledge their pain, be reassured that they are not alone in their feelings - and that there is nothing wrong with the feelings they may be having - and to experience the message of God's unconditional love which is at the heart of this season.*

TMA (The Melbourne Anglican) - Dec/Jan issue available to collect. Highlights:

- Anglican leaders respond to same-sex marriage plebiscite result;
- Sexagenarians find new passion for mission, with CMS;
- Ageing offers spiritual, missional opportunities - by Prof Simon Biggs;
- Carol O'Connor reflects on Irish author John O'Donohue: "A spiritual journey should only be a quarter inch long, but many miles deep."

Christmas Bowl - our mission giving for December/January. Please use the envelopes found in the TMA, or your planned giving mission envelopes, and put it into the offertory plate during any service.

Planned giving envelopes - for 2018 are available to collect. There are sets of 52 envelopes for weekly giving, and sets of 12 envelopes for monthly mission giving. Kindly collect and use one or both sets - it helps you with your financing of your church, and it helps with managing the parish's income and cash-flow through the year, especially during winter.

Fete - this is four weeks away (Sat 13 Jan), and it's time to look through home libraries for donations to the book stall - as usual clean good quality books, but NO encyclopedias or magazines as these do not sell at the fete. Donations to be left inside St Luke's hall near the kitchen servery when the Op Shop is open (Tue/Fri/Sat).

Please send any other notices for the fete to the office, for inclusion in the news sheet.

Maintenance notes:

- blinds for the Op Shop awning have been installed;
- the poor water pressure at St Aidan's has been fixed - valves near the hot water cylinder have been replaced;
- split system air-conditioning for St Luke's hall has been installed.

Thanks to all who quietly do little maintenance jobs at our three centres - they are not always noticed, but they are always appreciated.

Op Shop - summer hours: Saturday opening hours are extended to 4pm. The Op Shop will be closed on Tue 26 Dec, Boxing Day.

Theos, Anglesea - will be camping in Transfiguration Wed 27 Dec to Wed 3 Jan. The Torquay team will not be operating this year.

Parish donation to SCRAR - we have been invited to join with Surf Coast Rural Australians for Refugees to materially assist with a refugee family - a single mum with many children. The Parish Council approved a donation of \$1,000.

Spotted recently on FaceBook:

Being an atheist is okay.

Being an atheist and shaming religions and spirituality as silly and not real is not okay.

Being a Christian is okay.

Being homophobic, misogynistic, racist, or an otherwise hateful person in the name of Christianity is not okay.

Being a reindeer is okay.

Bullying and excluding another reindeer because he has a red shiny nose is not okay.



From the comments section, it was amazing to see how many didn't get the joke.

Contact details for the Parish

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*Notices for the pew sheet to the Office by Thursday.
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