



ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST MARK'S DROMANA

"LIVING FOR JESUS; LOVING LIKE JESUS; LEADING TO JESUS"

1 DECEMBER 2024

ADVENT SUNDAY

REFLECTION

This week Jeremiah foresees the coming of the Branch of Jesse's line - the family of King David. A righteous Branch who shall execute justice and righteousness in the land, who will save Judah and bring Jerusalem to live in safety. It's easy to see from this passage how the Son of David was thought to be a ruler who would rise up and sit on the actual throne of David in Jerusalem. But Jesus is not that kind of king. We know this now. The beauty of this passage, so full of promise, is that Jesus has not disappointed on the delivery of justice and righteousness. It is not human justice and righteousness (which is flawed, even in its purest form), but the justice and righteousness of God which Jesus brought. At the cross Jesus satisfied the need for the penalty for our sin to be fully paid. It was a substitution of one Man for every human being, a moment of awesome justice offered in absolute righteousness. Now the price once paid will never need to be paid again, and the ability for each of us to be gifted with the righteousness of God is ours. This is often what is not fully understood by the forgiveness of sins the cross brings. It is not that we are made perfect and somehow become righteous because of our efforts, but that despite our own flawed behaviour we are given God's righteousness as if it were our own. It's not a loan, as if when we sin the Lord says 'give me that' and removes it. It is a gift. The choice to give the gift is not ours, but God's choice in love for us. We accept it simply through repentance and faith in Jesus' death and resurrection for us. Jesus' gift of justice and righteousness is the ultimate Christmas gift. This wonderful gift, which we could not have paid the price for ourselves, is the gift that extends the bridge across the gap between our behaviour and God's perfection. It means that the glory, power, holiness, love, joy, peace and life of God can cross that bridge to be ours even in this flawed and difficult world where sin surrounds us and perfection is beyond our humanity. Let's never take for granted either the gift or the Giver. Let's celebrate the hope we have in Jesus, the Righteous Branch, Son of David, and humble servant King.

Janice

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| READINGS FOR TODAY | First Reading: | Jeremiah 33 : 14-16 |
| | Psalm: | 25 : 1-10 |
| | Second Reading: | 1 Thessalonians 3 : 9-13 |
| | Gospel: | Luke 21 : 25-38 |

THIS WEEK : 1 - 7 DECEMBER

- TODAY:** **ADVENT SUNDAY**
Holy Communion, 8.45am
Family Service with Holy Communion, 10.30am
Healing Service, 6.00pm
Advent Carol Service, St John's Sorrento, 6.00pm
- MONDAY:** **Prayer Group**, St Mark's, 9.15am
Contact: Janice
- TUESDAY:** **Zoom Prayer Group**, 1.30pm
Contact: John R (0421 426 156)
Zoom Bible Study Group, 7.00pm
Contact: Graeme (0490 664 843)
- WEDNESDAY:** **Holy Communion**, 10.00am
Bible Study Group, St Mark's, 11.00am
"Women of the Bible"
Contact: Janice
Cuppa, Craft & Chat Group, St Mark's, 12.30pm
Contact: Robyn (0409 425 044)
- THURSDAY:** **Men's Coffee & Chat**, Blackthorn Café, 10.00am
Contact: Steve (0437 984 679) Keith T (0413 319 327)
- FRIDAY:** **JANICE'S DAY OFF**
- SUNDAY:** **Holy Communion**, 8.45am
Family Service, 10.30am

Tuesday Zoom Prayer Group will finish for the year on 17th December.

Wednesday Cuppa, Craft & Chat Group will finish for the year on 11th December and resume on 29th January 2025.

Thursday Men's Coffee & Chat will finish for the year on 12th December.

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Monitored contact points: 0493 280 691
 contact@stmarksdromana.org.au

Pastoral Care Coordinators: Kevin and Anne
 (0438 234 457 Kevin)

Parish Web Address: www.stmarksdromana.org.au

Facebook page: stmarksdromana

For Parishioners Only Janice's contact number: 0401 717 435

Please call Kevin if you need to contact Janice on her day off (Friday)

NOTICES

NARTHEX RENOVATION

Narthex renovation update: We had some technical difficulties with the dishwasher installation which will hopefully be resolved this week. The splashback board is up and the glass order for the splashback and yellow windows is underway. Electrical work is complete, and we are expecting the underbench boiler to be delivered this coming week. Timing for the installation of the wardrobe storage is still being worked out, but will be done asap. Thank you for your patience in working around our workings!

Lectionaries for the next church year have been purchased and are \$15 each. Janice will have them with her on Sunday.

On Tuesday 10th December at 11am we will be holding a **Holding the Light Service** in the front garden. This is a service of remembrance for victims and survivors of family violence. It's very gentle and aims to bring hope into the place of grief. Flyers are available and anyone can attend. Please see Janice for further details.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

As in previous years, we would like to provide hampers for 10 local families this Christmas. There will be a basket in the Narthex for contributions of non-perishable foods which will be wrapped and distributed during the week beginning 9th December. Donations of money for items to be purchased for the hampers can be placed in the offertory bag clearly marked "hampers". Please speak to Carol or Cheryl for more details.

There will be a Christmas Carol Outreach at IGA,
10.00 - 12.00 Saturday 14th December.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday 14th December - 5.30pm Sausage Sizzle
6.00pm Family Christmas service
Tuesday 24th December - 11.00pm Carols
11.30pm Midnight Service
with Bp Paul Barker
Wednesday 25th December - 9.30am Celebration Service
(Services on 24th and 25th December will be Holy Communion)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY HARMONY SINGERS

Saturday 21st December - 2:00pm at The Village Glen, Capel Sound.
\$5 per person. Pay on day. Come & enjoy some lovely Christmas music.

DIARY DATE 2025

Philharmonia Cologne have advised that their concert at St Mark's will be on Wednesday 15th January 2025. Advice on sale of tickets still to come.

Set up an online Direct Debit for your weekly/monthly offering
St Mark's banking details: **633-000 140772872**

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER FOCUS

In our country and the world:

- ❖ For everyone suffering after the horrendous floods in Spain & Portugal.
- ❖ For all women in Afghanistan now banned from hearing each others voices.
- ❖ For all in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine and Myanmar.
- ❖ For those facing homelessness, hardship, anguish and despair amid rising costs.
- ❖ For families affected by violence.
- ❖ For those affected by natural disasters in around the world.
- ❖ For King Charles III, the UK and the Commonwealth.
- ❖ For peace and unity in countries around the World.
- ❖ For aid agencies such as "Save the Children", Oxfam, CARE, UNICEF, World Vision.

In our community:

- ❖ For teachers and students.
- ❖ For doctors, nurses, paramedics, Coast Guard, the CFA & SES.
- ❖ For local community outreach groups such as the Dromana Community House and "Food for All".

In our Diocese and beyond:

- ❖ For Archbishop Geoffrey Smith's ministry as Primate of Australia.
- ❖ For Archbishop Philip Freier's ministry in the Diocese of Melbourne.
- ❖ For the ministry of Bishop Paul Barker in the Jumbunna Region and Archdeacon Rev'd Sam Bleby, in the Frankston Archdeanery.
- ❖ In our Deanery, we pray for the parish of St George's Red Hill and their Acting Vicar.
- ❖ For the work of the Church Missionary Society and Wei-Han the Victorian Director.
- ❖ For Anna Radkovic our CMS Link Missionary in Watamu, Kenya.
- ❖ For Christian churches around the world to be free to worship and be witnesses of the love of God shown through the coming of His Son.

In our Parish:

- ❖ For our leadership and ministry teams.
- ❖ For our Vicar Rev'd Janice O'Gorman.
- ❖ For the finances of our Parish.
- ❖ For our Parish, its people and those we reach out to every week.
- ❖ For the success of the new Family and Children's Ministry.
- ❖ For the Alpha program, the leaders and all who attend.
- ❖ For the 9am at home prayer time for the Parish, Dromana, & Mornington Peninsula.
- ❖ For all members of the newly elected Parish Council.
- ❖ For Hope25. That the Good News of Jesus will be known in the community of Dromana.
- ❖ For Joan R & family, Rhiannon, Richard, Sallie, Rev'd Janice, Pat, Lorna & Peter, Keith S, Harry, Jen, Mike, Chloe, Ted, Monica, Jessica, Audrey, Backy, Fred, Robert, Jan, David, Guy.

Please send items for Pew Sheet to Maggie Dodu by Wednesday:
margaretdodu@me.com