



ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST MARK'S DROMANA

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

8 DECEMBER 2024

ADVENT 2

REFLECTION

The Advent readings show how the Lord made sure that his people would know his Messiah when he sent him. The prophets spoke regularly of Messiah, they also spoke of a man who would arise to prepare the way for this Messiah. He would be a voice crying in the wilderness, as Luke quotes from Isaiah 40:3-5, and Malachi sees as the messenger to prepare the way of the Lord before him and declares it, but after his words the world fell silent, and no true prophet arose for nearly 300 years. The word of the Lord had always been given by the prophets to the people and now there was a drought. In the midst of the drought the people began to re-read all that the Lord had said about their times through the prophets that had spoken to them, and they saw that this Messiah was to come to them, that he would be a king in the line of David, and that he would heralded by a messenger who would speak like Elijah did, calling the people to repentance and refining their ways so that they would be ready for Messiah to come. 300 years is a long time, and the more people studied the prophets, the hungrier for God's Messiah they became. When the angel Gabriel announced the birth of John to his father, Zechariah, the drought broke. John the Baptist was born to call Israel to repentance, to refine them with words which were like fire, calling them out on the ways they had strayed from the Lord and offering baptism for their sins. Uncomfortable though it is, this is grace at work. Without the refining words making us look at ourselves so that we can recognise how we have gone wrong, we cannot come to God to ask forgiveness. If we cannot come, we cannot receive God's grace. In the call to repent is the invitation to return to the Lord, and in the forgiveness received is the grace and mercy of God which Jesus the Messiah brought to a hungry, hurting people through his death and resurrection. This grace is ours today and just like John the Baptist we are called to pass it on to the hungry and hurting people of this world today. Why not break someone's drought this Christmas and invite them to church, to Alpha, to dinner, to know Jesus.

Janice

**READINGS
FOR TODAY**

First Reading:
Psalm:
Second Reading:
Gospel:

Malachi 3:1-4
Song of Zechariah
Philippians 1:1-11
Luke 3:1-6

THIS WEEK : 8 - 15 DECEMBER

- TODAY:** Holy Communion, 8.45am
Family Service, 10.30am
- MONDAY:** Prayer Group, St Mark's, 9.15am
Contact: Janice
- TUESDAY:** Holding the Light Service,
St Marks's front garden, 11.00am
Contact: Janice
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
- SATURDAY:** Christmas Carol Outreach at IGA, 10.00am - 12 noon
Sausage Sizzle, St Mark's 5.00pm
Christmas Family Service, 6.00pm
- SUNDAY:** Holy Communion, 8.45am
Family Service, 10.30am

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

Wednesday Morning Bible Study group will finish up for a summer break with morning tea on 18th 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](https://www.facebook.com/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: This week we hope to have the underbench boiler and tap installed, along with the dishwasher issue being fixed. We also hope to have the wardrobe storage installed and the glass in the yellow windows changed. The painting will be underway and the fridge will be in its place.

We are yet to have someone step forward to be our second People's Warden. If you've been considering this, please speak to Janice.

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 a very gentle service and aims to bring hope into the place of grief. Flyers are available and anyone can attend.

We would like to offer a cuppa and biscuit to anyone who wants to talk after the Holding the Light gathering on this Tuesday 10th at 11am. If anyone is free to assist, please speak to Janice.

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

DECEMBER MEN'S EVENT

No Men's Brekkie this month, but all guys are invited to the Sausage Sizzle from 5pm on Saturday 14th December, 2024, just before the St Mark's Christmas Family Service at 6pm.

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 All Saints Rosebud with
- ❖ St Katherine's McCrae and their Vicar, Rev'd Lynda Crossley.
- ❖ 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 Annie, Noel and family, 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