



**ANGLICAN PARISH
OF
ST MARK'S DROMANA**

LIVING FOR JESUS;
LOVING LIKE JESUS;
LEADING TO JESUS

READINGS FOR TODAY

1st Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm: 72:1-7, 10-14
2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

4 JANUARY 2026

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

REFLECTION

Happy New Year! Always for me as we begin a new year there is a sense of excitement along with that caution that comes with the recognition that I have no idea what this year will bring. After all, the Lord never promises us that nothing will ever go wrong, but he does promise that when that happens, we will not be alone because he will be right there with us. I often think of the visit of the magi to Mary and Joseph and the child Jesus. How astonishing it would be to have these people turn up at your home from a far away land and then have them worship your child and give him gifts. It's not that Mary and Joseph didn't know who they were raising, but nobody would expect this sort of a visit to their humble family home. The gifts are also mysterious and frightening. Gold makes sense, since Jesus is a king, but frankincense is a very expensive item which is used to make incense in the Temple and myrrh is a perfume used for preparing a body for burial. Weird gifts for a toddler. The frankincense was probably something that made sense since it's for worship, but the myrrh? Luke tells us that when Jesus was brought to the Temple for his presentation, Simeon and Anna, the prophets who had waited for Messiah for decades, each filled in some of the story to come. Mary is said to have kept all their words in her heart, and those words would have flooded back at this moment, I expect. Simeon had held Jesus in his arms and pronounced a blessing over him and said he would be the cause of many to rise and to fall, but he also told Mary that a sword would pierce her own heart too. Myrrh. Mary could not have understood at this time that the sword would be cross shaped, but she would now be looking at the future with a little more trepidation. Yet throughout her life she made choices of faithfulness and trust in God, and after Jesus was raised from death Mary joined the apostles in proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Messiah. Perhaps you feel today that the world is gifting you myrrh. Look up. Our gracious God is with you in the midst of trouble. He who walks with us through the valley of shadow is all the light we need.

Janice

THIS WEEK : 4 - 11 JANUARY

- TODAY:** **Holy Communion, 8.45am**
 Family Holy Communion, 10.30am
 SUFM team McCrae will join us for the 10.30 service

 6pm Fellowship Meal at the home of
 Kevin & Anne Cranwell
 16 Fairway Crescent, McCrae
 BYO meal or something to share
 Contact Kevin 0438 234 457 or Anne 0473 562 968
- MONDAY:** **Prayers for the Parish, St Mark's, 4.00pm**
 Contact: Janice
- WEDNESDAY:** **Holy Communion, 10.00am**
- FRIDAY:** **Janice's Day Off**

 A Thanksgiving Service for the life of Julie van Twest
 will be held at Mt Eliza Anglican Church, 105 Koetong Pde,
 At 2.00pm on Friday 9th January 2026.
 Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the
 service, providing an opportunity to gather and share
 memories of Julie.
 The service will be live-streamed and can be accessed by
 the link
 <https://www.youtube.com/@mountelizaanglicanchurch4409/live>
- SUNDAY:** **Holy Communion, 8.45am**
 Family Service, 10.30am

 6pm Fellowship Meal at the home of
 Keith & Jan Thomas
 56 St Andrews Avenue, Rosebud South
 BYO meal or something to share
 Contact Keith 0413 319 327 or Jan 0413 536 900

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
<u>For Parishioners Only</u>	Janice's contact number: 0401 717 435
Please call Kevin if you need to contact Janice on her day off (Friday)	

NOTICES

We welcome the **SUFM McCrae Team** to our services today. They will join us at the end of the 8.45 service and stay for the 10.30 service.

Please pray for our friends at **SUFM (Scripture Union Family Ministries) McCrae** and their Beach Mission.

OP SHOP SUMMER HOURS

Our Op Shop reopens on Friday 2nd January after a well deserved break for our hardworking volunteers.

Hours throughout summer will be:

9am to 4pm Weds, Thurs, Friday,

9am to 3pm Saturday.

If you would like to join in this wonderful ministry to the Dromana community please speak to Vicki Brown or Jen Watson.

AUSTRALIA DAY FESTIVAL

Australia Day celebration 08.30 to 1.30pm behind Information Centre.

Craft activity only this year.

Helpers needed for setup and dismantle of marquees.

Setup on Sunday afternoon time TBC.

Pack up Monday afternoon 1.45pm

Helpers on the day for our craft activity

Please let Cheryl or Graeme know if you can help.

JANUARY SUNDAY EVENING MEALS

Our fellowship meals are an open invitation to anyone who would like to come and share a relaxed time together during January.

Please arrive by 6pm.

BYO plate, or share meal.

Sign-up sheet in Narthex or RSVP hosts for the night.

All very welcome to come and relax over the meal.

4 January: Anne and Kevin Cranwell

11 January: Jan and Keith Thomas

18 January: Cheryl and Graeme King

25 January: Carol & Steve Parkinson(NB: *please no fish this night due to severe allergy*).

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 the victims and those who are mourning after the Bondi terrorist attack.
- ❖ For Government action to address the out of control protests and crime in Melbourne.
- ❖ For the Government plans to address the rise of antisemitism in Australia.
- ❖ For families suffering as a result of violence and home invasions.
- ❖ For all facing homelessness, hardship, anguish & despair amid rising costs.
- ❖ For all in Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine and Myanmar.
- ❖ For those affected by natural disasters 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 Right Reverend Dr Richard (Ric) Thorpe as Archbishop of Melbourne.
- ❖ For Archbishop Geoffrey Smith's ministry as Primate of Australia.
- ❖ 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 John's Sorrento with St Andrew's Rye and their Vicar, Rev'd Stephen Dent.
- ❖ 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 Parish Council.
- ❖ For Hope25. That the Good News of Jesus will be known in Dromana.
- ❖ For TJ and family, Agnes, Rachel & family, Jan T, Cheryl K, Karen, Mary, Jan K, Steve (not Parkinson) and family, David, Belinda, Joan R, Robyn, Phillip, Nikki, Jason, Rhiannon, Richard, Pat, Lorna & Peter, Keith S, Harry, Jen, Mike, Chloe, Ted, Monica, Jessica, Audrey, Backy, Fred, Robert, David.

Please send items for Pew Sheet to Maggie Dodu by Wednesday:

margaretdodu@me.com