



Anglican Church of Australia

Diocese of Gippsland

(Committed in Christ, Connecting in Service & Creative in Spirit.)



Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch

St. George's, The Church of the Ascension
McBride Ave., Wonthaggi 4-6 The Crescent, Inverloch
Bunurong Country
ABN: 18 842 576 826

12th December – Advent 3

Joy!



Over Advent we've moved through the Sundays of Hope and Peace.
Today is the Advent Sunday of Joy.

The recording of John's ministry on the banks of the Jordan give us a great insight into the expectation of the Jews of the imminent arrival of the Messiah. They sought, no doubt with great joy, to know whether John was that Messiah.

But, he wasn't!

We too, should look forward with great joy for the return of Christ, our Messiah. It will be a joyous time when He arrives, for those who believe. But, for those who do not know Him and those who reject Him, it will be a time of terror.

Today we look at Author John Bunyan's view of this imminent encounter of those who believe and those who don't.

Rev. Graeme

Sentence:

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love. *Zephaniah 3.16–17*

Prayer of the Day:

Almighty God,
you sent your Son into a world
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff
and evil clings even to what is good:
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for him
whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near,
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading:

Zephaniah 3.14-20

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, ‘Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.’ ¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.’ ¹⁸ ‘I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. ¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honour in every land where they have suffered shame. ²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honour and praise among all the peoples of earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,’ says the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

A Song of Isaiah

'Behold, God is my salvation:
I will trust and will not be afraid;
'For the Lord God is my strength and
my song:
and has become my salvation.'
With joy you will draw water:
from the wells of salvation.
On that day you will say:
**'Give thanks to the Lord, call upon
his name;**

'Make known his deeds among the
nations:
proclaim that his name is exalted.
'Sing God's praises, who has
triumphed gloriously:
let this be known in all the world.
'Shout and sing for joy, you that
dwell in Zion:
**for great in your midst is the Holy
One of Israel**

New Testament Reading

Philippians 4.4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Luke 3.7-18

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptised by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father." For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The axe has been laid to the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.' ¹⁰ 'What should we do then?' the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, 'Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.' ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptised. 'Teacher,' they asked, 'what should we do?' ¹³ 'Don't collect any more than you are required to,' he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, 'And what should we do?' He replied, 'Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.' ¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their

hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah.¹⁶ John answered them all, ‘I baptise you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them.

For the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Carols by Candle Light:
Tonight at Wonthaggi at the Sports Oval
commencing from 6pm onward.



On This Day: Deposing Autocratic Patriarch Nikon



Jesus Christ came in meekness and humility, renouncing the emblems of power and status. He did not impose his ways on anyone or force a form of worship. When his disciples jockeyed for position, he urged them to serve one another. His followers through the ages did not always grasp the implication of this teaching or follow it.

A case in point occurred in the events which led a council to depose Nikon, Patriarch of Moscow, on this day, **December 12, 1667**. Greek and Russian prelates joined in making the decision, which Tsar Alexis Romanov demanded. The Tsar was easily able to attain his objective because the high-handed Nikon was most unpopular.

Mistakes and mistranslations had crept into the Russian liturgy. For instance, the Russians signed **the cross** with two fingers, rather than three as the Greeks did. Nikon insisted on reform. But many Christians who grew up with the traditional Russian forms protested the change back to Greek forms. If the Greeks were so correct, why had God placed most of Orthodoxy under Turkish rule? Nikon responded in autocratic fashion and, with full state cooperation, attempted to crush anyone who refused to accept his new service book.

It is not clear why Alexis stepped in; probably he did so because Nikon tried to shake off state control of the church. Under pressure from the Tsar, Nikon resigned, but was reluctant to relinquish his power. The Tsar wanted to replace him, but, to avoid charges that there were two patriarchs, requested that Nikon be formally deposed.

The synod agreed. Anger, hurt feelings, and retaliation were apparent in its decision: "Whereas we have now learned that Nikon lived tyrannically, and not meekly as befits a prelate, and that he was given to iniquity, rapacity, and tyranny, we debar him, in accordance with the divine and sacred canons of the evangelizing apostles and of the ecumenical and local Orthodox councils, from every sacerdotal function, so that henceforth he shall have no power to perform any episcopal act ... and we decree with the entire local church council that henceforth he be known as a common monk called Nikon, and not as patriarch of Moscow."

Though he was banished to a monastery on the White Sea, Nikon's reforms were kept. After fourteen years of imprisonment (which was sometimes very harsh) Nikon was invited back to Moscow by a new Tsar, but he died along the way. He was buried with full honors.

Dan Graves

Christmas Welfare Hampers!

*Thank you everyone for contributing to the Welfare Hampers.
Hampers will be distributed this week through the Salvation Army.*

Christmas Service Times:

Christmas Eve: 9pm at the Church of the Ascension, Inverloch

Christmas Day: 8am at the Church of the Ascension Inverloch.

10am at St George's, Wonthaggi

1st Sunday After Christmas – Boxing Day – Morning Prayer,

10am at St George's, Wonthaggi,

Up coming Events for your Diary

NCLS (National Christian Life Survey) – Under way online and by hard copy.

Forms are available on your seat.

SUFM Mission Inverloch 28th Dec – 5th Jan.

Belgrave Heights Convention – Available online. – See pg12 for details

CMS Summer under The Son (SUTS) 2022 – See pg 11 for details.

Inter Church Council 2022 Calenders

Featuring the amazing scenery found here in the Bass Coast region are now available

These calendars will make an awesome Christmas gift at just **\$15.00 ea.**

There are still a few available from the Op Shop and our Churches.

*Funds raised go towards paying for the Spiritual Care Coordinator's salary
at the Bass Coast Hospital.*

Intercessory Prayers:

Please pray with us for:

Diocese:

The Bishop: Bishop Richard & Leanne

Our Rector: Graeme & Susan

Locum Tenens – Trafalgar: Anne Perryman & Lance (until Christmas)

Locum Tenens – Cathedral (Dec' 21 – Mar' 22): Liam Matthews & Madeleine

Please give our Locums wisdom as the lead the parishes of Trafalgar & Sale through this transitional period and please keep them safe in their travelling.

Parish of Lakes Entrance and Metung

Phil Muston, Cathrine

Phyllis Andy – Aboriginal Ministry

Missions SPARKLit

Special Focus

The Provincial Council of Victoria – Diocesan Representatives:

Bishop

Archdeacon Graham Knott

The Hon Robert Fordham

The Chancellor - Mr R M (Roger) Blythman RFD

Our First Nations peoples

Please comfort and heal all those suffering in Spirit, Soul or body, especially those affected by the COVID 19 virus.

Please bring healing and strength to those we have been asked to pray for:

Amy Davis, Chris Peters, James, Murray, Doug, Ron Lawson, Jefter, Beth & family, Simone, Mark, Marie Wilson, Cecily, Robin, Barb Bickley, Trish, Ross Smith, Tania, Wayne, Russell, Hayley, Barbara Manns, Mary Anderson, Meredith, Richard B, Mary B, Lee, Paul Butterfield, Mercy, Dr Paul, Matt F, Alasdair, Bev, Stuart, Vladimir, Kirstie, Erika, Rita, Elijah, Rodney Webster, Christina L. & Robert M.

We give thanks for the faithful departed: Ellen Atherton.

Please comfort their families in their distress at the loss of loved ones.

INFORMATION

Tues 14 th Dec	10am Inverloch –Holy Communion – Rev. Graeme 11:30am Wonthaggi– Prayer Meeting – Rev. Susan
Wed 15 th Dec	10am Wonthaggi - Holy Communion - Rev. John
Readings 19 th Dec Advent 4.	O.T. Micah 5.2-5a Song of Mary N.T. Hebrews 10.5-10 Gospel: Luke 1.39-45

Rosters 19th December 2021, Advent 4 – Holy Communion

<u>Activity</u>	<u>St George's</u>	<u>Church of the Ascension</u>
Bible Reader	June Hall	Pam Lawson
Sides Person	John Davies	Ted/Ray
Prayers	David Beischer	Liz Watkins
Service Leader	?	Liz Watkins
H.C. Assistant	Jenny Rivers	Liz Watkins
Musician	Tonya Hackett	Ian McBurnie/Elise Watkins
Children's Min'	Susan Liersch	Susan Liersch

If you are unable to fulfil your roster position would you please organise for someone else to take your place.

Notices:

Bible Discovery Groups: (Check with group leaders for details)

Beischer's - *In Recess until late Jan' 2022*

Davies' - Thursdays 1:30pm - St George's Hall

Liersch's - Tuesday 7pm - The Rectory.

Boer's - 0431440073 - Contact Geoff or Jennifer for details

Alycia/Tonya - Phone 048100068 - Phone Alycia or Tonya for details.



Ministry Staff

Bishop: Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Treloar, Sale 51442044

Rector: Rev. Capt. Graeme Liersch 0417513390 (*Monday-Day Off*)
graemel@basscoastanglican.org.au

Ministry Team:

Youth & Young Families Minister: Rev. Susan Liersch 0427099391

Parish Council +

Retired Clergy:

Rev's Anne Perryman 0438345349 (Locum - Trafalgar), John Davies 5672 4710,
Greg Jones 0402437329, Liam Matthews 0411339344 (Locum - Sale),
Amy Turner 0412727711

Lay Reader: Sue Lester 0418529662

Rector's Wardens: Alan Price 5674 5554, Ray Smith 56741373

People's Wardens: David Beischer 0408629494, Lance Perryman 0408748019
Liz Watkins 0404379005, Wendy McBurnie 0407574484

Parish Office: PO Box 201, Wonthaggi 3995 (03) 5672 4590

Parish Op Shop: 114 Cashin St, Inverloch 0438 248 397

Prayer requests for prayer chain: Jenny Rivers 0417287355

Parish E-mail: admin@basscoastanglican.org.au

Parish Website: <http://www.basscoastanglican.org.au>

Direct Debit: Would you please, if you haven't already, consider giving to the ministry through setting up a direct debit from your account. Thank you!

Our Bank Details: Anglican Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch

BSB: 083-975 **Acc No:** 51 612 6552

Thank you to all who have already setup this means to support the Parish!

A Weekly Prayer Group.

This week – 11:30 am at St George's, Wonthaggi

The group alternates between Wonthaggi & Inverloch each week.

Please ring Rev. Susan on 0427099391 for more details.

COVID RULES FOR THIS WEEK Re: Ministry

New Regulations have Commenced

1. Church Worship

- a. Allowed with a limit of 50 plus those conducting the service.
All are welcome.
- b. Funerals are limited to 50 people (Unspecified).
- c. Weddings are limited to 50 people (Unspecified).

2. Bible Discovery Groups: *There is no limit on how many can meet in homes, (Unspecified Vaccination). Contact your leader for details.*

3. Private gatherings in homes: Are permitted unconditionally!

4. Op-Shop – Open only to the vaccinated.

All Op Shop Volunteers: are now required to provide proof of double vaccination to the manager (Ray Smith).

(This is a State Government requirement that the Diocese & Parish are required to comply with).

5. Church Workers: are now required to provide proof of double vaccination to work in the parish, this includes Food Rescue personnel.

(This is a State Government requirement that the Diocese & Parish are required to comply with).

ROAD WORKS!

Road works on Baillieu street continue through to December with closures occurring throughout this time. Please be observant and where necessary use alternate routes to access the church.

Children's Church and Community

Christmas Celebration

Church of the Ascension – Inverloch
7th, 16th, 21st Dec': 3.45pm – 5pm

If you are able to help and are safe ministry accredited, please let Wendy McBurnie (0407574484) or Rev. Susan (0427099391) know.

SUMMER UNDER THE SON (SUTS)

January 13th - 15th (Thursday-Saturday)



Guest Speakers:

Derek Brotherson - Principal Sydney Missionary & Bible College (SMBC)

Peter Rodgers - International Director CMS Australia

Wendy Quay - Vocational Discipleship Specialist, Pacific Region, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship

Tickets

TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Standard (Full Conf)	A standard whole event ticket. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea are provided as part of your registration.

Early Bird Price / Limited Tickets

Or Daily @ \$90 each day includes morning/afternoon tea but NOT lunch - there are many shops nearby - This is a Covid Vaccination Event for those attending in Person.

In person - the Boer house at Chirnside Park is available for that period - sleeps 10 (6 beds) - but you need to book quickly - 0477287104

Alternatively SUTS will be available On line - at St George's, Wonthaggi for unspecified Vaccination participants. (Bookings essential - Max 50 people).

More data at <https://www.cms.org.au/vic/suts22/>

Or <https://www.summerundertheson.org/>



**Belgrave
Heights
Convention**

SUMMER CONVENTION

THU 30 DEC 2021 – MON 3 JAN 2022

Foundations

LOVE	SERVICE	SACRIFICE	SALVATION
PEACE	ACCEPTANCE	SANCTIFICATION	SURRENDER
WELCOMING	THE CALL	SPRIT	RESPONSIBILITY

KOORONG
www.koorong.com



www.bhc.org.au



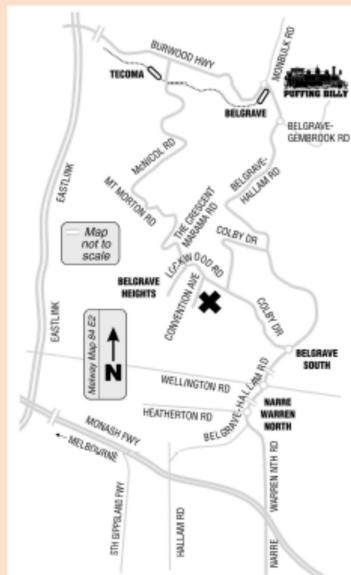
Join us for inspirational teaching and fellowship with Christians of all ages

The Convention Centre is located on the top of Belgrave Heights, only 45 km east of Melbourne, in a beautiful setting of gum trees, bush and ornamental shrubs and has an area of more than 8 hectares.

We regret that due to current State Government requirements, only fully vaccinated* people can attend on-site.

* Fully vaccinated – 2 doses, exempt, children under 12 years and 2 months.

DAY VISITORS
WELCOME!
Preregistration
recommended
www.bhc.org.au



**Belgrave
Heights
Convention**

3 Convention Ave
Belgrave Heights
Ph (03) 9752 6855
Email office@bhc.org.au
Convention Chairman:
Richard Coombs
Chief Executive Officer:
Geoff Gawler

www.bhc.org.au

SPECIAL OFFER
Camping is FREE if you
have never stayed at a
Summer Convention


KOORONG
www.koorong.com

For Your Notes!