



Anglican Church of Australia

Diocese of Gippsland

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

Parish of Wonthaggi & Inverloch

***St. George's,
McBride Ave., Wonthaggi***

***The Church of the Ascension
4-6 The Crescent, Inverloch***

Bunurong Country

ABN: 18 842 576 826



First Sunday of Advent– 30th November

Holy Communion



Wow, it's Advent 1, the first Sunday of Preparation readying ourselves for the return of Christ and of celebrating Christmas.

Just as the Israelites prepared for the coming Messiah at the first Christmas, so do we prepare for His return and the first Christmas of celebrating with Christ Jesus in our eternal homes.

The Israelites waited with 'Hope', we also wait with 'Hope'.

Why shouldn't we, after all we know there are better things to come, especially the other side of this life, for those who know Jesus?

So, **be ready**, because we don't know when Jesus will return, just as the Jew didn't know when the Messiah would arrive.

The signs are there and His arrival is imminent, but we don't exactly know when.

Rev. Graeme

Sentence

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. Isaiah 2.3a

Collect

Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hope Collect:

God of Hope, you call on us to be your witnesses in this uncertain world; by your Spirit awaken in us a true vision of your kingdom, a greater certainty of our salvation, and a deeper dedication to your service; that through our words and actions the same Spirit may bring many who are lost to be found, and for them to celebrate the hope that we can only have in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2.1-5

¹ This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ² in the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war any more. ⁵ Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Psalm 122

¹ I was glad when they said to me:
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

² **And now our feet are standing:
within your gates, O Jerusalem;**

³ Jerusalem which is built as a city:
where the pilgrims gather in unity.

⁴ **There the tribes go up, the tribes of
the Lord: as he commanded Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

⁵ There are set thrones of judgement:
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
may those who love you prosper.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls:
and prosperity in your palaces.

⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord
our God: I will seek for your good.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and
companions: I will pray that peace be
with you.**

New Testament Reading:

Romans 13.9-14

⁹ The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not covet,' and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law. ¹¹ And do this, understanding the present time: the hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

*This is the word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.*

Gospel

Matthew 24.36-44

³⁶ 'But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; ³⁹ and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. ⁴² 'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

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

CRAFT GROUP



The lady's craft Group is now in recess until 2.00 pm, Wednesday the **25th of February, 2026** at St George's, Wonthaggi. **All Welcome!**

Come along and work on your crafts and have a chat.

BIBLE DISCOVERY GROUPS



Davies' Thursday, 1:30pm at St George's Hall. Contact *John Davies* for more details.

Price's Group: Tuesday, 4:00pm at Jill & Alan Price's, Inverloch.

Tonya's Group: Speak to Rev Susan on 0427 099 391 for information on time and venue.

Graeme's Group: *New group Tuesdays, 7pm at St George's.*

Interested in being part of a Bible Study Group?

Then let Graeme, Susan or Leah in the office know.

Inverloch & Wonthaggi Church Working Bees

Church of the Ascension – 10-12 am, Monday Dec 1st

St George's – 10-12 am, Saturday Dec 6th



If you would like to help give the church a freshening up and enjoy morning tea together this would be most welcome.

Please speak with Ray & Liz for more details at Inverloch.

Please speak with Leah for more details at St George's.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS



This year the I.C.C. was unable to find someone to coordinate Christmas Hampers, therefore we will be handing out limited hampers in conjunction with Food Relief and with the support of the I.C.C. member churches.

Therefore we are seeking financial support buy the required Christmas items. We're doing it this way to ensure simplicity & equality.

Any financial support towards buying supplies for the hampers is greatly appreciated.

CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT!

13TH DEC' – INVERLOCH

14TH DEC' - WONTHAGGI

Yes, it is that time of year again.



Volunteers required to help CANVAS FOR SPONSORSHIP and for the events in Wonthaggi & Inverloch. This includes operating the Fairy Floss machine, Popcorn Machines & crowd control.

Able to help, then contact Rev. Graeme.

Pray for youth ministry

leaders...

- ✚ To lead with integrity and grace
- ✚ Who are at studying at bible college to grow in faith and love
- ✚ Who are in difficult contexts to preserve with faith
- ✚ Who are tired and burnt out to be restored
- ✚ Who work part-time to manage time and energy wisely
- Pray for churches without youth ministry leaders to serve young people faithfully
- Pray for more full-time, long-term ministry leaders to share Jesus with young people.



PARISH AGM TODAY PRIOR TO A SHARED LUNCH!

**Memorial Service for Lia Pavic – Wednesday 3rd of Dec',
2:00pm, at St George's, Wonthaggi.**

ON THIS DAY: 4th St. John Lateran Council Ended



Five church councils have been held in the basilica known as St. John Lateran in Rome. The most significant of these was called by Pope Innocent III.

Innocent announced the council two and a half years in advance (on April 19, 1213). Its purpose was "to eradicate vices and to plant virtues, to correct faults and to reform morals, to remove heresies and to strengthen faith, to settle discords and to establish peace, to get rid of oppression and to foster liberty, to induce princes and Christian people to come to the aid and succour of the holy Land..." He invited suggestions for the council's agenda.

Because they had so much advance notice, representatives from all over the civilized world had time to make their way to Rome. Innocent greeted seventy-one patriarchs and metropolitans when the council convened. These included the patriarchs of Constantinople and Jerusalem. In addition to those high ranking churchmen, there were four hundred bishops and hundreds of other religious leaders. Kings and patriarchs who could not come sent envoys.

Even before the sessions opened, Innocent had prepared seventy-one articles he wanted approved. All seventy-one were adopted by the time the council ended **on this day, November 30, 1215**. Some were of great importance.

For example, the council adopted transubstantiation as church doctrine-- the view that the body and blood of Christ are truly contained in the sacrament, the bread and wine having been changed by God's power into Christ's body and blood. The council declared that nobody could make this happen except a priest who had been properly ordained through the apostles or their successors "according to the church's keys."

The council declared war on heretics, saying to kill heretics was to gain forgiveness of sins. This provision led to terrible outbreaks of violence against people who disagreed on no fundamental doctrine of the Apostle's creed, but only with Roman interpretations--or the Roman hierarchy.

Although invited, much of the Greek Church refused to attend. Had they been in St. John Lateran, they would have resented the ranking the pope gave the patriarchs--with Rome at the top.

Many measures to reform the church, its clergy and its taxes were introduced. Tithes should be paid before taxes, said the council. Councils should be held yearly in each province to ensure reform was taking place. Each cathedral

church was told to provide a school for the poor. Every Catholic must confess his or her sins to a priest at least once a year.

In one of the council's most deplorable moves, Jews and Moslems were instructed to wear clothing that would distinguish them from their Christian neighbours. Jews were forbidden to hold public office and were put on notice that any Jew who loaned money for excessive interest could be disciplined. Jews who converted to Christianity were not allowed to keep Jewish religious rites. The council also set a date for another crusade, but Innocent died before it could begin.

Dan Graves

www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1201-1500/4th-st-john-lateran-council

A PRAYER FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

Almighty and Everlasting God: thank you for your everlasting love toward us; we thank you for the present cease fire in Gaza and ask that it will continue. We lift up those in the Holy Land who are victims of the current conflict, and ask that you might empower your Church to bring healing to the wounded, relief to the suffering, and comfort to those who mourn; please bring an end to terrorism, and that all will be led to work for justice and lasting peace in the land where your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, first came to bring hope and abundant life to all people; these things we ask in his Holy Name. **Amen.**



Next Men's Breakfast

Saturday the 6th December 8am at St George's
Please let Graeme know if you're coming or
register online at

<https://www.basscoastanglican.org.au/event-details/mens-breakfast-2025-12-06-08-00>

Or use the QR Code.



Intercessory Prayers:

Please pray with us for:

Our Bishop: Richard Treloar & Leanne

Our Rector: Graeme & Susan

Parish of Yarram: Vacant

Clergy Widows/Widowers living within the Diocese

Special Focus

Schools in our communities

All trade training centres

Tertiary Education Centres

Gippsland TAFE and Federation University

Our Link Missionaries – BCA, Topher & Chica Hallyburton – ‘Alice Springs’
CMS, Lauren Raiter – ‘Spain’

Please comfort and heal all those suffering in Spirit, Soul or Body.

Please give people the courage to face their illness head on and to be assured of their salvation in Jesus Christ.

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

Paula, Chris Peters, James, Murray, Doug, Ron & Pam Lawson, Jeffer & family, Simone, Mark, Cecily, Murray & Vickie, Robin, Tania, Russell, Elijah, Rodney W, Luke M, Terry, Micah, John G, Phil, Elizabeth H, Jenny Rivers, Marnie Fletcher, Matt Fletcher, Valerie & Graeme Reid, Susan F, Florence H, Pauline, Jenny, Peter & Elizabeth M, Jill, Robert, Dianne B, Dianne, Alison, Ian & Wendy, Julie Hartnett, Brett, Kym, Stephen, Brad, Leah, & Hazel.

We give thanks for the faithful departed. We thank you Lord for the life of Sandra Dietrich, Lia Pavic, and all those who have gone before us. Please comfort all families & friends who are grieving at this time the loss of loved ones, especially the families of Sandra Dietrich & Lia Pavic



Sunday the 14th of December.
2pm at the Wonthaggi 'Goods Shed',
If anyone is interested in coming along and
singing Christmas Carols please see
Merridee.

INFORMATION

Readings Sun 7th Dec	Isaiah 11.1-10	Psalm 72.1-7, 18-21
Advent 2	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12
Tuesday 2nd Dec	10:00 am – Ascension – H.C. – Rev. Graeme 11:30 am – Prayer group – Inverloch	
Wednesday 3rd Dec	10:00 am – St George's - H.C. – Rev. John 2:00 pm – St George's – Lia Pavic Memorial Service.	
Thursday 4th Dec	10:30 am – Staff Meeting, St George's	
Friday 5th Dec	Young Mum's, Inverloch. – Rev. Susan	

Rosters: December 7th - Second Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion

<u>Activity</u>	<u>St George's</u>	<u>Church of the Ascension</u>
Bible Reader	Jude Mortimer	Mal Fletcher
Sides Person	Ellen	Ray Smith
Prayers	Robert Mesley	Marcia Smith
Service Leader	Rev John	Liz Watkins
Eucharistic Assist	Robert/Susan	Liz/Susan
Musician	Jan Kershaw	Ian/Elise
Children's Ministry		Rev Susan

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES



Christmas Eve!

9.00 pm 24 December, the Church of the Ascension, Inverloch

Christmas Day!

8.00 am 25 December, the Church of the Ascension, Inverloch

10.00 am 25 December, St George's, Wonthaggi.



Healing Service

Next Wednesday, 3rd of Dec', 6pm at St George's

Ministry Team

Bishop: Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Treloar, Sale 5144 2044

Rector: Rev. Capt. Graeme Liersch 0417 513 390 (*Monday-Day Off*)

graemel@basscoastanglican.org.au

Youth & Young Families

Minister: Rev. Susan Liersch 0427 099 391 susanl@basscoastanglican.org.au

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Leah Mesley

Parish Council +

Retired Clergy: Rev's John Davies 5672 4710, Liam Matthews 0411 339 344,
& Rev. Canon Amy Turner 0412 727 711

Rector's Warden: Alan Price 0407 343 876

People's Wardens: Robert Mesley 0416 246 349

Liz Watkins 0404 379 005 Ray Smith 0419 315 198

Parish Treasurer: Geoff Boer

Parish Office Worker: Leah Mesley 0407 337 236 (2 mornings/week–Wed & Thurs)

Parish Postal Address: PO Box 201, Wonthaggi 3995. Phone: 5672 4590

Welfare Support: Rev. Graeme

Food Rescue: Ron Osborne

Prayer requests for prayer chain: Jill Price 0409 745 554

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 set up this means to support the Parish!



<https://www.cms.org.au/event/summer-under-the-son-2026/>



The season of Hope25 is officially over however, both our Diocesan and Parish facilitation teams have decided to carry on facilitating the essence of Hope25.

To this end, our parish team has changed its name to Good News Facilitators, GNF for short.

We're looking for some men who have a passion for seeing the good news of Jesus reach the community, to join the team.

If that is you, please talk with Rev. Susan.

From the Linton's, our Former Link Missionaries with SIM (Serving In Mission)

Dear friends at Wonthaggi and Inverloch Anglican Parish,



Thank you for your interest and involvement in the work in Niger. We have been encouraged by your support of our family and your partnership in the gospel. We've been in Niger in West Africa since 2019, serving at Galmi Hospital. This is a Christian mission hospital that is run by SIM. Andy was working in maternity and we got involved in various ways with life and ministry in the village. It was a stressful and sometimes exhausting few years - traumatic work at the hospital, living through a military takeover of the government, dealing with increasing

security issues and challenges with transport around the country.

We thank God for his faithfulness and protection of our family over this time. We've felt God's leading to be back in Australia now for the foreseeable future. Andy will start some remote health locum work and together we will continue to have a part-time role with SIM Australia. We'll be living around Gippsland - still working out the details! Thank you again for your partnership, and we look forward to visiting the church some time in the New Year.

In Christ,

Andy, Cathy, Georgi, Isabel and Violet Linton

FOR YOUR NOTES!