



Anglican Parish of Bass-Phillip Island  
St Augustine's, San Remo St Paul's, Bass  
St Philip's, Cowes  
[www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org](http://www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org)  
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ADVENT FOUR  
18<sup>th</sup> December 2022  
Choose Hope, Love, Justice

MON 19<sup>th</sup> Rev'd Jo's Day Off  
10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
TUES 20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Carols By the Bay, Cowes Foreshore, Fireworks at 9.30pm  
WED 21<sup>st</sup> 10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
THURS 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.00am – Holy Communion, St Philip's, Cowes  
FRI 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open  
SAT 24<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open

#### Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve

5.00pm Family Service Parish Hall  
5.00pm Family Service St Augustine's  
7.30pm Carols & Holy Communion St Paul's  
11.30pm Midnight Mass St Philip's

#### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion St Augustine's  
10.00am Holy Communion St Philip's

Our video service will be taking a break for a couple of weeks.

#### **Bookings are no longer required**

#### **CURRENT COVID-19 Information:**

Please use the hand sanitiser provided  
We respect your decision to wear a mask indoors.  
If you are unwell please look after yourself at home.  
Please be assured that our facilities are thoroughly cleaned weekly.



We meet for worship on the lands of the Bunurong people; Gunaikurnai people; Woi-Wurrung people; the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, and pay we respects to their Elders past and present and emerging.

#### **This week's roster 18<sup>th</sup> December Advent Four**

**St Philip's 9am** – Welcomer: A. Prideaux; Reader: S. Goodluck; Intercessions: R. Gijssbers; Vestry: H. Millward; PowerPoint: J. Millward; Music: K. Kent; Morning tea: J. Bell  
**St Augustine's** – Leader: A. Garrett; Input: R. Prideaux; Children: D. Garrett

**St Paul's** – Reader: Ro.Hayhurst; Prayers: Rh. Hayhurst; Chalice: B. Maghanoy

**St Philip's 4pm** - Welcomer: A. Prideaux; Readers: Various; PowerPoint: J. Millward; Music: G. Gijbers

– Please contact Wendy Gladman regarding St Philip's roster [gladmanwendy@gmail.com](mailto:gladmanwendy@gmail.com)

**This week's readings** – Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

### **ROSTER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE and CHRISTMAS DAY**

**St Philip's 24 December 5pm** – Welcomer:...; Reader: Various; Intercessions: Rev. Jo; PowerPoint: F. Zulian; Music: Band

**St Paul's 24 December 7.30pm** – Reader: L. Ridge; Prayers: S. Ridge; Chalice: A. Gloria

**St Philip's 24 December 11.30pm** - Welcomer: F. Leighton; Reader: J. Stephenson; Intercessions: E. Krutop-Norfolk; Vestry: L. Heflingers; PowerPoint: F. Zulian; Music: K. White

**St Philip's 25 December 10am** - Welcomer: J. Owens; Reader: R. Gijbers; Intercessions: Rev. Jo; Vestry:...; PowerPoint: J. White; Music: G. Gijbers

SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN Glenys has subscribed to a weekly children's activity sheet. The activities follow the lectionary. If you have grandchildren coming to a service or know of children attending she would be happy to forward this on to you so you can print out as needed. You can email her on [glenys.stacs@gmail.com](mailto:glenys.stacs@gmail.com)

### **The Sentence of the Day**

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

Matthew 1:23

### **The Collect of the Day**

Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Isaiah 7:10-16**

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

[Silence]

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:

**You that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;**

Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:

**Stir up your power, and come to save us.**

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

**Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts:

**How long will you be angry at your people's prayer?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears:

**And given them tears to drink in good measure.**

You have made us the victim of our neighbours:

**And our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

**Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:

**On that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.**

And so we shall not turn back from you:

**Give us life, and we will call upon your name.**

Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:

**Show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

*(Response)*

*Glory to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:*

***As in the beginning so now, and forever. Amen***

### **Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[Silence]

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew, chapter 1 beginning at verse 18;*

***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

[Silence]

For the Gospel of the Lord

### **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

#### **ADVENT FOUR: Joseph as a model of faithfulness**

Last week, Advent Three we rejoiced with Mary as she received the news that she would be the mother of Jesus. Today we turn to Joseph who with Mary and Jesus completes the Holy Family.

In December 2020 Pope Francis declared 2021 The Year of St Joseph. Against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, Pope Francis says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of "ordinary" people who in their quiet way exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence, who nonetheless played an incomparable role in the history of salvation.

Pope Francis describes Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

We almost overlook Joseph and yet there he stands beside Mary as her husband. Joseph who is of the line of David gives Jesus his royal lineage. If we peep back into the opening 16 verses of Matthew we find the Genealogy of Jesus from father Abraham right down to ... Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Messiah. (Matthew 1:16)

Pope Francis describes Joseph's fatherhood of Jesus as "the earthly shadow of the heavenly Father."

"Fathers are not born, but made," says Pope Francis. "A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking up the responsibility to care for that child."

Joseph did not think of himself, but focused instead on the lives of Mary and Jesus."

Joseph made a decision to take Mary as his wife. A decision, enabled by the visit of an angel in his dreams. Our Advent journey includes the visit of angels to Mary and to Joseph. God's messenger helps Joseph to see that what is happening to Mary and to him is not a simply a human problem. This is God breaking into human history to be with us. Here is the fulfilment of prophecy – as we read in Isaiah chapter 7

Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14) and again we here this in verse 23 of Matthew. Joseph is to be responsible for Mary, to take her as his wife and to raise not just a child but Emmanuel – God with us.

Joseph is to name the child Jesus which means something like God Saves.

When we use the names Jesus Christ what we are saying is God saves by the coming of the anointed one. And it is Joseph who gives Jesus his name. (It is customary in Jewish families for the father to name the child.) Joseph names Jesus' purpose and mission.

Maybe it doesn't seem very extraordinary in these days of ultrasounds to know the gender of your child before birth. Our own grandson was named before he was even born. But for Mary and Joseph to be told by an angel that there would be a male child and what the name of that child was to be that is exceptional.

Joseph might have been a father in the shadows but there is a lot to learn about life as a father and a husband from Joseph. Joseph is a man of deep spiritual insight. He doesn't dismiss the angel as nonsense. Upon waking he did as the angel told him. Joseph is such a strong presence for Mary and Jesus as they travel to Bethlehem, as they flee from Herod's soldiers and as they bring up Jesus as a good Jewish child.

What we get from Joseph's encounter with the angel is a fuller understanding of Jesus' purpose. Jesus will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21) Jesus comes to free the world from sin. How that plays out is the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ but for now we are let in on the secret that Jesus is no ordinary child but is the Son of God; that Jesus is the one who saves God's people.

In today's readings we hear the name Emmanuel mentioned by the prophet Isaiah and in the gospel of Matthew. This is a very special and rarely used name for the one who is longed for. Emmanuel is a Hebrew word that literally means – God is with us. Matthew presents Jesus as Emmanuel the one through whom God dwells with God's people. What Matthew does here is to bring into sharper focus both the desire of God to be with us and God's willingness to come down from heaven in order to experience all that human involves.

Jesus was born into a human family so that he might live a human life. Jesus - fully human and fully divine, lived our human life and as such a human father was both necessary and important. Joseph was the man selected by God to support, protect and love Jesus and his mother Mary.

A child being born to a virgin is a miracle *like* the miracles of the past in which children were born to women who were infertile or past the age of childbearing. The miracle of the virgin birth is *like this* but it is also so much more. God does this most wonderful thing because Jesus is like no other child before or since. Jesus is holy. Jesus is GOD WITH US.

Joseph is the patron saint of fathers, of families and especially of carpenters. It is in Matthew that we discover Joseph, a man of faith ready to listen and respond to the angels. Joseph struggled with the miracle of Jesus' conception in much the same way as we might.

Joseph, a Godly man, chooses to take these struggles to God.

We too are confronted by many things that confuse and challenge us. As people of faith, we can and we do take these things to God.

It is often in the silence of prayer that answers are found/ heard. For Joseph answers came in his dreams. The Lord sent an angel to guide Joseph and to allay his fears.

Now, we may not be visited by angels but we certainly can receive clear messages from God about what is true. We can experience healing, peace, comfort and guidance as we pray. We can also expect to be shaken up by God. If we have the courage to ask God those deep questions, the ones we are frightened to ask ourselves, we can expect God to respond.

Joseph is an example to us of a parent who relied on God in all aspects of his life including the tough decisions of his new family.

As we seek to be people of faith let us, like Joseph be reminded to take our struggles and worries to God in prayer, to relying on him for guidance and for support in all aspects of our life.

#### A prayer for St Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

#### **Let us pray for the world and for the church:**

God, our heavenly Father, we offer our prayers for a world in need of a saviour. As we wait in hope filled expectation for the coming of Jesus, we pray that now will be the time for peace. That with the coming of the prince of peace nations will give up war and that the poor will be afforded justice. We pray that all refugees would find a welcome and a home; that those who are hungry would be given a feast; and those who are cold be given warmth and shelter. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, our heavenly Father, we offer our prayers for the church universal as we wait for the celebration of Christmas, that you would unite all faiths in prayer and joyful celebration. We pray for all church leaders and for those lay leaders who offer their talents and their energies to lift up the name of Jesus at this time. Bless us all with your peace, your joy and your saving power.

We seek your blessing upon our plans for Christmas, especially those services that engage people of faith, of little faith and no faith. May our offerings give glory to you and be an open door for those who seek you this Christmastide.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, our heavenly Father, we offer our prayers for the sick and all who are feeling the weight of this season. We continue to offer prayers for those struggling in the wake of recent flooding, may help come to them and bring hope for a brighter tomorrow. We pray too for families, especially where families are separated, broken or experiencing tension. Heal all broken hearts, bind up our wounds and bring us a sense of your abiding love. Bless all fathers and those who offer the love and caring support of a father.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, our heavenly Father, we offer our prayers for those who are experiencing sadness because of the passing of a loved one. This time of year, can be especially painful when we remember those, we have shared our lives with. So, we remember them now in this time of prayer; we whisper their name into your ear praying rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them. **Amen.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray:

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
For ever and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer



### **Suggested Hymns:**

There's a Light Upon the Mountain (TIS 276)  
Advent Candles <https://youtu.be/p0cZG6dvWIY>  
Lord Jesus Christ (TIS 526)  
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (302)  
Rock of my Salvation  
Christmas is coming

### **Christmas Bowl**

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love <https://youtu.be/QhexJ0uyhIo>

### **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

Loving God, we thank you for hearing our prayers, feeding us with your word, and encouraging us in our meeting together. Take us and use us to love and serve you all people, in the power of your Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **A blessing is offered.**

May the God of peace equip you with everything good for doing his will, working in you what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### Offertory

Thank you for your weekly offering it is much needed. During this COVID-19 period and post COVID-19 your offering can be made by either:

- Placing in the offering bowl at any church service. Use plain envelope if preferred
- Please make cheques payable to Anglican Parish Bass-Phillip Island
- Regular or one-off contributions can be made by internet banking to the Parish bank account, using Pay ID 0407410011 (or BSB & Acct No. below)
- Visit any Bendigo Bank branch and deposit cash or cheque to Anglican Parish Bass/Phillip Island BSB: 633 000 / Account Number: 169 629 797. Please put on deposit slip: "Offertory" or "Donation" indicating your usual congregation
- If in Cowes, drop your offering in the donation box at St Philip's, Cowes (located outside the front door of the Church)



**ST PHILIP'S – We recommend parking in the church grounds.** Parking in Thompson Avenue is restricted to 1 hour only. 2 hours for those with a Disabled Parking Permit

**PARISH HOME GROUPS** All our Home Groups are in recess until February. You are free to contact our leaders for information about starting dates for 2023  
Emmaus Room – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 1.00pm Leader: Richard and Ann Prideaux  
Palm Lakes Group – Friday 10.00am Contact Helen Millward.  
San Remo Group –Wednesday 2.00pm in the Mary Talbot Room Leader: John Dawson new study for 2023: Friendship – Growing Side by Side  
Bass Home Group –Thursday 2.30pm Leader: Sandy & Les Ridge

Helpful websites

Parish website [www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org](http://www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org)

Dioceses of Gippsland website [www.gippsanglican.org.au](http://www.gippsanglican.org.au)

Facebook [www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes](http://www.facebook.com/stphilipscowes)

DAILY BREAD – this publication will be made available to parishioners \$13 for a three-month subscription. Ann Prideaux is coordinating this resource to aid in the study of scripture with reverence and rigour.



**Mary Talbot Room** can you help? We need more cooks and more volunteers for this important ministry of friendship and finance.

MTR

**CHAT 'N' CHEW** is a shared ministry of the Combined Churches of Phillip Island. Would you like to help? Would you like to join the committee and represent the Anglican Church in this important ministry to lonely and vulnerable people in our community? Training is available. Speak to Rev'd Jo or Richard Prideaux.



**Learn a new skill** - We are training new vestry helpers and Eucharistic assistants. Speak to Rev'd Jo if you would like to help.

**Can you help?** Volunteers needed on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month to assist with serving Devonshire Teas and at the Sausage Sizzle.

**Journey to Bethlehem - you are invited to be involved!**

We have 6 installations highlighting key parts of the Christmas story. This invites onlookers to reflect on the Journey to Bethlehem with the aim of teaching the key elements of the Christmas story.

There are some costs involved for materials, signage etc. We have already received some donations; if members of the Parish would like to make a contribution, please place in a marked envelope in the offertory, hand to the treasurer or make an EFT with the reference 'Journey'.



Please pray for:  
Sue Chambers, Mike Heflingers, Len Chatfield, Rev'd Gerald Wall, Terry Duffield, Jenny and John Dawson  
If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please tell Rev'd Jo



St Philip's

**THE FLOWER FUND NEEDS FEEDING**

Box for donations is located in porch on Sundays

**Join us for Christmas across the Parish**

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 4.00pm

Nine Lessons and Carols St Philip's

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December

5.00pm Family Service Parish Hall

5.00pm Family Service St Augustine's

7.30pm Carols & Holy Communion St Paul's

11.30pm Midnight Mass St Philip's



Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December

8.00am Holy Communion St Augustine's

10.00am Holy Communion St Philip's

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December

Feast of Stephen



You can help Refugees by putting items in the basket at St Philip's. Most needed items include: honey, tuna in oil, tinned tomatoes, tinned veggies, tinned legumes, sweet & savoury biscuits, black tea bags, dishwashing liquid, shampoo & conditioner, soap bars.