



Anglican Parish of Bass-Phillip Island
St Augustine's, San Remo St Paul's, Bass
St Philip's, Cowes
www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org
Rector – The Rev'd Jo White Mobile - 0490 831 299
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CHRISTMAS
Choose Hope, Love, Justice

MON 26th Rev'd Jo's Day Off
Feast of Stephen
10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open

TUES 27th

WED 28th 10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room open

THURS 29th 10.00am – Holy Communion, St Philip's, Cowes

FRI 30th 10.00am - 1.30pm Mary Talbot Room

SAT 31st New Year's Eve

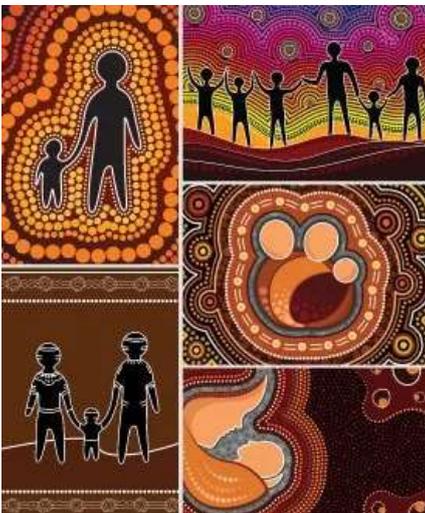
SUN 1st Jan New Year's Day
9.00am Holy Communion St Philip's, Cowes
11.00am Family Service St Augustine's, San Remo
12.30pm Holy Communion St Paul's, Bass

Our video service will be taking a break for a couple of weeks.
There is a wonderful video message for Christmas from Bishop Richard on our website.

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 Christmas Day

St Philip's – Welcomer: J. Owens; Reader: R. Gijbsbers;
Intercessions: Rev. Jo; Vestry:...; PowerPoint: J. White; Music:
G. Gijbsbers
– Please contact Wendy Gladman regarding St Philip's roster
gladmanwendy@gmail.com

Next week's roster New Year's Day

St Philip's – Welcomers: A. Prideaux; Readers: R. Prideaux; Intercession: Rev. Jo; Vestry: L. Heflingers; Power Point: J. Bell; Music: K. White; Morning tea: P. Casey

St Augustine's – Leader: L. Alexander; Input: L. Alexander; Children:...
St Paul's – Reader: E. Humphry; Prayers: Rev. Jo; Chalice: B. Maghanoy

This week's readings:

Midnight Mass - Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 3:4-8a, Luke 2:1-20

Christmas Day - Isaiah 62: 6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-8a; Luke 2:8-20

Next week's readings - Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:15-21

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

The Sentence of the Day

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

The Collect of the Day

All glory to you, gracious God, for the gift of your Son, whom you sent to save us. With the angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story, that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 62:6-12

⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD, take no rest,

⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured;

⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

¹¹ The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.'

¹² They shall be called, 'The Holy People,

The Redeemed of the LORD'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out,

A City Not Forsaken.'

[Silence]

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 97

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:

Let the multitude of islands be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him:

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

Fire goes before him:

And burns up his enemies on every side.

His lightnings light the world:

The earth sees it and quakes.

The mountains melt like wax before his face:

From before the face of the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:

And all peoples have seen his glory.

They are ashamed, all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings:

All gods bow down before him.

Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:

Because of your judgements, O God.

For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:

You are exalted far above all gods.

The Lord loves those that hate evil:

The Lord guards the life of the faithful, and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.

Light dawns for the righteous:

And joy for the true of heart.

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:

And give thanks to his holy name.

(Response)

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

As in the beginning so now, and forever. Amen

Titus 3:4-8a

⁴ But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is sure.

I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

[Silence]

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 2 beginning at verse 8;

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child

wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'
¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'
¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

[Silence]

For the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

CHRISTMAS

Firstly, let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

No doubt like me you have felt the busyness of the lead up to Christmas and now it is time to stop. We stop, not because we are tired or even because now all our preparations are done. We stop because tonight/today is the night/day set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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There is one turn of phrase that ought to be used sparingly and with great care. That phrase is:

'I know how you feel.'

We've all heard it and we've all used it on occasion.

'I know how you feel.'

It's an expression that presumes an awful lot and frankly it can be hard to make it sound sincere.

How on earth can another person really know how we feel?

The answer to this question can only be found in the manger. The only person who can truly and completely know how we feel is our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ.

Jesus is born into a human family.

There they are: the holy family - Mary and Joseph with their new born baby who is theirs to care for but is also God's Son who will care about everyone and everything.

This is as real as it gets; Jesus born just like any other child. Jesus, (the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin)

He is as helpless as any other little baby, dependant of his parents for every human need. Just like any baby Jesus needed to bond with his parents and experience their love. Just like any newborn baby Jesus needed to be wrapped tightly, rocked gently and hear the soothing voice of his mother.

God chose this most human situation so that God, in all his fullness, could say honestly and truly to each one of us;

'I know how you feel.'

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The reason for Christmas; the reason for the season; is not only to celebrate, it is only about the birth of a baby - the reason we celebrate is the incarnation, that is, God becoming fully human so that we can receive God's love in a real and tangible way, through God's Son.

Jesus does not stay a baby. Like any human child he grows up in his family with his brothers and sisters. He learns the ways of the world. In being born as one of us Jesus bestows on us the honour of being his sisters and brothers – one big, universal family with God as our Father. We are the adopted children of God and as such receive all the blessings God has bestowed on the human family.

At the centre of Christmas is love.

I am always a bit wary of using clichés especially when talking about the love of God. Christmas is about love but not only our love for each other, not only our love for God or God's love for us. Christmas is an expression of deep and profound love; of God's gracious gift of divine love. We do not; we cannot do anything to merit God's love for us. In fact, if we dare look closely at how we live there is no way we are ever going to earn God's love.

God chooses to love us and sends Jesus to show us what God's love is really like.

In the great sweep of human experience human love doesn't always satisfy. We can be in love. We can experience heartache when love goes wrong. We can even hurt the ones we love. God's love is stronger than any of these human emotions. What God does for us is love us when we are at our most unlovely.

God forgives us when we muck up.

God comforts us when we are bereft.

Christmas is a celebration of love;

God's love for us.

God who can say to each one of us without reservation;

'I know how you feel.'

As we celebrate the Birth of Christ; let us pray:

Eternal God, the hope of all humankind, you gave us the greatest gift of all in your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Son of God, you came as God's light to shine brightly in the darkness of minds and hearts; bathe our world with your light.

Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, make a way for the good news of your kingdom to reach every home, every heart, everywhere.

Protect and preserve the labourers who courageously declare the glory of your gospel throughout the world. Provide for their every need and be their strength and joy.

Be the comforter, defender and provider of the poor, the helpless, the cold, the hungry, the orphaned, the weary, the oppressed those persecuted for their faith in you, the sick, those who mourn, the aged and the little children.

Reveal yourself to those who do not know your immense love.

Bless those who rejoice at your coming.

Glorious Lord, we join our voices to the heavenly host and saying: **'Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favour rests.'** Amen.

Prayers of the People

God of Jesus, on this Eve of our Lord's Nativity we praise you for the extraordinary depth of your love for us. When all the lights had gone out in the world, when the hopes and dreams of your people had come to nothing, you sent your Son to be the light of the world. In his light despair could hold sway no longer. In his light the poor and the dispossessed found firm grounds for hope. In his light our sins were driven away. In his light that forgotten future of peace with justice became possible again. And so we pray for the church and the world, that all may be bathed in the transfiguring peace of the Christ-child.

God of Emmanuel, Light from Light, **Come set your people free.**

Recalling the joy of the Shepherds, how they went amongst their people praising God for all they had seen and heard, we pray for the church of Jesus Christ: that we may take the heart of Christ to *our* hearts, bearing witness in all that we say and do to the vision of Christ for our world. Lord, in your mercy, grant us courage in these dark and difficult times to choose the way of Jesus. Save us from the constant temptation to do what is easy or expedient, rather than what is right. Give your church the Spirit of Christ that we may cheerfully follow him through trial and cross to resurrection and glory, even unto the banqueting room of heaven.

God of Emmanuel, Light from Light, **Come set your people free.**

Recalling that Christ was born into a world dominated by the power and paranoia of one man, the Emperor of Rome, we pray for the leaders of our world, and especially for the Secretary-General of the United Nations. By your apostles and prophets, teach our political leaders the story of a God who does not cling to power, but gives it away; show them that if they treat their enemies like friends, then their enemies may *become* their friends; teach him the infinite value of giving and sharing.

God of Emmanuel, Light from Light, **Come set your people free.**

Recalling that Christ was born not in a palace, but in a barn, we pray today for all who live in poverty...By the faithfulness of Christian preachers and prophets, tell them the story of Christ's love for all who are poor, marginalised or forgotten. By the action of deacons, and other agents of practical compassion, show them that while others may have forgotten them, *you* have not forgotten them.

God of Emmanuel, Light from Light, **Come set your people free.**

Recalling the message of the Angel, that Christ was born both Lord and Messiah, we pray for our sisters and brothers in messianic faith, the Jews. With them we pray earnestly for the Day of the Lord to arrive, the day when Christ shall come to shake the greedy from their thrones and lift up all who have suffered long in faith, in hope and in charity. In the meantime, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and for the healing of all those who continue to suffer the Shoah, even now, these many years later.

God of Emmanuel, Light from Light, **Come set your people free.**

Finally, Lord, recalling that Christ came amongst us as bone of our bones and flesh of our flesh, we pray for those we know and love who could use a touch from you right now. We pray for all who are sick, whether in body or mind. We pray for all whose spirits have been all but crushed by the oppressive consumerism of this season. We pray for all who have lost their homes in bushfires. Make yourself known to them, Lord. In their darkness, shine the light of your love...

God of Emmanuel, Light from Light, **Come set your people free.**

God Most High,

Your Son Jesus embraced the frailty of our flesh that we may receive power to become your children. He chose to dwell amongst us that we might come to dwell with you at the very beating of your heart. Grant us, this Christmas Eve, lives of thanksgiving that we may evermore praise you for this gift of your Son, and live our lives after his image and likeness; he who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

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:

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us (TIS 526)

Advent Candles <https://youtu.be/p0cZG6dvWIY>

O Come All Ye Faithful (TIS 304)

The First Nowell (TIS 301)

Christmas is coming

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 – 1st and 3rd 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

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year from Reverend Jo and Ken.



Helpful websites

Parish website

www.anglicanparishbassphillipisland.org

Dioceses of Gippsland website

www.gippsanglican.org.au

Facebook 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 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 2nd 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

Saturday 24th 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 25th December

8.00am Holy Communion St Augustine's

10.00am Holy Communion St Philip's

Monday 26th 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.