

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF WARRNAMBOOL

First Service 1847



Celebrating the Love of God for all People



Serving our Community



Christ Church

Corner Kororoit & Henna Streets



CHRISTMAS - 2025



We welcome you to the Anglican Parish of Warrnambool.

We want to be a place of transformation for our community and church where all people can come to experience and know God's love in Christ Jesus.

We are an international community and are delighted that you're here!

We hope that in today's celebration of the Eucharist you will encounter something of God's love for you.



We acknowledge the Peek Whurrong People, of the Maar Nations, the First Nations people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered. We give our respect to the local Elders: past, present & emerging. We extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.



Christmas Greetings

Thank you to everyone who has assisted in the various celebrations throughout Advent and into Christmas. I would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to the preparations for our celebrations: all those who have cleaned, polished, dusted, trimmed candles or arranged flowers. I am grateful for your willingness to care for our beautiful grounds and sacred spaces - Christ Church is a place of welcome, comfort and joy to so many people. A 'thin place' where 'heaven and earth' connect in faith, hope and love.

I would particularly like to thank Val, Stephen, Bruce Edwards, Jeanette Hajncl, Cantori, Deon Cameron, for their willingness to support the musical aspiration of Christ Church during Advent and now Christmas.

I would like to thank everyone who assisted in preparing the Church for our Christmas celebration. The flower are again stunning. So a special thank you to those who supplied the flowers and did the arranging.

I would also like to thank the volunteers in the Parish Office for their willing assistance and helpfulness. I would also like to thank the Canon Robyn, Father Hayden, Father Keith, Reverend Netta and Father Donald for their ministry over Advent, Christmas and into the New Year.

I would also like to note the volunteers who have put in many hours work at Anglicare Warrnambool during November and December. The care, compassion, kindness and intentional listening that the volunteers provide to those who have accessed the Emergency Relief Centre, Drop-in-Centre or the Christmas Shop over the last month is an important ministry. The dedication and commitment you have shown has transformed families and individuals' lives. The generosity of so many, through the 'Empty Christmas Tree' and other donations, enables many people to enjoy Christmas.

May the blessing of Christmas be with you, your family and friends, as you together celebrate the gift and love of God.

Fr Scott

❖

*May the joy of Christmas be with you, your family and friends,
as you celebrate the Nativity of birth of Jesus.*

*May the peace of Christmas be with you, your family and friends,
as you enter a New Year.*

*May the grace of Christmas be with you, your family and friends, as
you journey with God each and every day.*

*May the blessing of Christmas be with you, your family and friends,
as you together celebrate the gift and love of God.*

❖

ON BEHALF OF THE PARISH COUNCIL, WARDENS, CLERGY,

FELICITY, CECILIA, 'OTTO' & MYSELF,

WE WISH YOU A HAPPY & JOYOUS CHRISTMAS.

MAY THE JOY WE CELEBRATE AT THE BIRTH OF JESUS,

SUSTAIN YOU INTO THE NEW YEAR.

MAY GOD WEAVE PEACE & GRACE ABOUT YOU.

MAY GOD ENFOLD YOU WITH LOVE.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU & ALL THOSE YOU LOVE NOW & ALWAYS.

✖

The Candle in the Heart by Peter Millar

We all experience it –

may be for days, for months,

that inner feeling that all is tumbling.

That the precious candle in the heart is not lit:

its glow gone, and the guiding

flame no longer there.

Within us, these defiant siblings –

fear and confusion play havoc with the mind.

Anchorless and scared, are we drifting or drowning

as we witness one global sorrow after another?

Yet from time to time something stirs the heart,

the longing for Light;

to know again that we share a common heart-beat;

to accept that our fears may be shot through with hope;

that this precious planet actually teems

with life, compassion and beauty.

And then in our drifting we see the candle is not out, but lit,

inviting us back to an ever-present Truth;

a Truth that understands drowning and brings the wounded healing.

Stumbling we may be, but our shaky hands reach for that candle

and once more feel its energies of life - as Love fills our soul.

Peter, Edinburgh, December 2021.

NEXT SUNDAY
HOLY FAMILY – JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH



28TH DECEMBER 2025

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Christ Church | 8.00am | Holy Eucharist |
| | 9.30am | Sung Eucharist |
| | 5.00pm | NO SERVICE |

EPIPHANY SUNDAY



4TH JANUARY 2026

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Christ Church | 8.00am | Holy Eucharist |
| | 9.30am | Sung Eucharist |
| | 5.00pm | NO SERVICE |



The Living Hope of Christmas

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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the messiah, the Lord...' Luke 2: 10-11



For Our Prayers

THE CHURCH

Diocese: Bishop Garry: Bishop of Ballarat.

Parish: Anglicare Warrnambool: Staff and volunteers.

Region: Parish of Mortlake: Fr Hayden.

Parish of Colac: Fr Jeremy Morgan, Rev'd Deacon Claire Morgan-Brooker.

Parish of Port Fairy: Rev'd Netta Hill.

Parish of Hamilton: Fr David Oulton.

Parish of the Otways: Locum Ministry – Fr Russell Trickey.

Parish of Glenelg Wannon: Fr Wayne Corker.

Parish of Portland: Rev'd Wendy Morecroft. Deacons Allan, Brian, Judy.

Mission District St Francis: Fr Matthew Jones, Deacon Kaye Hanks.

Link Diocese: Aipo Rongo: Komungwai. **Dogura:** Karando

National: Primate: Archbishop Geoffrey Smith.

International: The Diocese of Kumasi – The Church of the Province of West Africa.

Mission: Ethiopia, Myanmar, ABM, Bush Church Aid Society.

Religious: St Marks Abbey Camperdown – Sr Raphael.

Society of Precious Blood – UK. Community of the Holy Name.

The Society of Saint Francis. St Mary's Abbey - West Malling.

THE WORLD

Australia: Sam Mostyn – Governor General of Australia.

United Nations: Secretary General: António Guterres. Refugee Organisations.

Countries: Libya, Sudan, China, India, Mexico, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Iraq, Iran, Sri Lanka, Syria, Israel, Afghanistan, Palestine, West Papua, Ukraine.

COMMUNITY

Local: City of Warrnambool, Moyne Shire, Francis Foundation, South-West Health Care, Palliative Care Workers, St John of God, M Power, MacKillop Family Services, OzChild, Brophy, Emma House, NDIS recipients & workers, the elderly, students, teachers, chaplains, Service Clubs, emergency services, tourism & hospitality industry.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS

Patricia, Allan, Bruce, Reginald, Michael, Norma, Nadamir, Valentina, Victoria, Judy, Annthea, Tamsin, Brianna, Catherine, Simon, Chris & Lynette, Vicki, Nicole W, Janice & David, David, Elinor, Gwen, Sherril, Gwenda, Valda, Anna & George, Jack, Lyndoch, Mercy Place, Opal Nursing Home, Heatherlie & Christ Church Close, Themar Heights, Opal Gillin Park.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED Bob Jeans, Michael Leunig, John Marsden, Avis Cole.

26th Beatrice Walker 1998.

27th Edna Mewha 2006, Petrina Kiellerup 2011.

30th Thomas Boyle 2014, Dulcie Dawe 2020.

31st Sydney Greening 2000, Barbara Coggins 2001, Ina Gee 2001

Colin Henry 2002, Jean Manifold 2006, Dulcie Bellman 2008, Moira Baulch 2020

1st Mary Hayden 1967, Elizabeth Bond 1999, Terrie Bouwman 2004

Joshua Gardner 2004, Winifred Powney 2005, Paul Jensen 2019.

THIS WEEK

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Thursday | 25th December | <i>Christmas Day</i> |
| 8.00am | Blessing of the Crib and Eucharist | |
| 9.30am | Blessing of the Crib and Eucharist | |
| Friday | 26th December | <i>Stephen, deacon and martyr</i> |
| 5.00pm | NO EUCHARIST | |
| Saturday | 27th December | <i>Holy Innocents</i> |
| 10.00am | NO EUCHARIST | |

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

HOLY FAMILY – 28TH DECEMBER 2025

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Christ Church | 8.00am | Holy Eucharist |
| | 9.30am | Sung Eucharist |

Live streaming on Facebook – Christ Church Warrnambool

Next Week's Theme & Readings

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|------------------------|--|
| Theme: | The Holy Family – Jesus, Mary & Joseph. |
| First Reading | Genesis 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3. |
| Psalm: | Psalm 104. |
| Second Reading: | Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19. |
| Gospel Reading: | Luke 2: 22-40. |

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BANKING DETAILS

Banking details are below if you would like to make a direct deposit as part of your offertory to the Mission & Ministry of Christ Church.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Bank: | Bendigo Bank. |
| Account Name: | The Anglican Parish of Warrnambool |
| BSB #: | 633 000 |
| Account #: | 191644061 |
| Account Name: | Anglicare Warrnambool |
| BSB #: | 633 000 |
| Account #: | 194392858 |

The Bells of Christmas

The Bells of Christmas -
sounding again across the globe
in all of its fragility,
telling their tale, amidst our confusions.

But who now trusts their news
midst war and pestilence?

How do they sound
within these narratives of hate
which pierce so many lives?

How can we speak of peace
beneath the missiles,
or of justice when
millions go hungry?

Where are we
as forests burn and floods destroy
and bird-song ceases?

Yet only in sharing the pain,
can new birth occur,
all of us changed by these flames
and hurt by their heat.

Not distant, but present,
accepting the truth
embedded in these ancient bells,
that we belong together
as bearers of hope.

For the Bells of Christmas,
are transforming Bells of Life and Light
rooted in our world,
in tandem with its tears and search for healing.

Peter Millar Edinburgh, Christmas 2022

The Candle in the Heart by Peter Millar

*We all experience it –
may be for days, for months,
that inner feeling that all is tumbling.
That the precious candle in the heart is not lit:
its glow gone, and the guiding
flame no longer there.*

*Within us, these defiant siblings -
fear and confusion play havoc with the mind.
Anchorless and scared, are we drifting or drowning
as we witness one global sorrow after another?
Yet from time to time something stirs the heart,
the longing for Light;
to know again that we share a common heart-beat;
to accept that our fears may be shot through with hope;
that this precious planet actually teems
with life, compassion and beauty.
And then in our drifting we see the candle is not out, but lit,
inviting us back to an ever-present Truth;
a Truth that understands drowning and brings the wounded healing.
Stumbling we may be, but our shaky hands reach for that candle
and once more feel its energies of life - as Love fills our soul.*

Peter, Edinburgh, December 2021.

A Prayer for the Twenty-First Century

John Marsden

*May the road be free for the journey
May it lead where it promised it would
May the stars that gave ancient bearing
Be seen, still be understood.
May every aircraft fly safely,
May every traveller be found,
May sailors in crossing the ocean
Not hear the cries of the drowned.
May gardens be wild, like jungles,
May nature never be tamed,
May dangers create of us heroes,
May fears always have names.
May the mountains stand to remind us
Of what it means to be young,
May we be outlived by our daughters
May we be outlived by our sons.
May the bombs rust away in the bunkers,
And the doomsday clock not be rewound,
May the solitary scientists working,
Remember the holes in the ground.
May the knife remain in the holder,
May the bullet stay in the gun,
May those who live in the shadows
Be seen by those in the sun.*

