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## Weekly Bulletin 7<sup>th</sup> December, Second Sunday of Advent

*Thank you to Hon. Milton Dick, Federal MP, for generously printing our Bulletin.*

We acknowledge and respect the Jagera people, traditional custodians of the land where our Parish resides.

7<sup>th</sup> December, Advent 2: Isaiah 11: 1-10; Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-21; Romans 15: 4-13; Matthew 3: 1-12

14<sup>th</sup> November, Advent 3: Isaiah 35: 1-10; Song of Mary; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11

**Sentence:** The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news. **Mark 1:15**

### Prayer of the Day:

God of all peoples, whose servant John came Baptising and calling for repentance: help us to hear his voice of judgement, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

*Psalm 72: 1-7,18-21 APBA p 294*



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND YOUR PRAYERS

Advent 2, 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	8.30 am	Eucharist at St Hughs followed by morning tea
	10.30am	Eucharist at Forest Grove Auditorium.
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm	Advent Bible Study at the Rectory, 3 Spoonbill St, Inala
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	9.00 am	Careforce
	3.00 pm	Service at Opal Oxley Grove Aged Care
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 am	Eucharist at St Hugh's with morning tea and Advent Chat
Advent 3, 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	8.30 am	Healing Eucharist at St Hughs followed by morning tea
	10.30am	Healing Eucharist at Forest Grove Auditorium.
	3.00 pm	Monthly Prayer Meeting in Multipurpose Room, Forest Grove

### NOTICES

**\*\*ITEMS needed for CAREFORCE: CHRISTMAS GOODIES and all washing products/detergents.**  
A huge thank you to both parish centres for your continued prayers and support\*\*

**\*\*Women's Fellowship Group** meeting 1st Saturday of the month 10am in the hall. All women are welcome. Contact Iris 0418 407 626 or office 3372 1216 for more information.

**\*A.M.S. (Anglican Men's Society)** meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 6.30 pm. All men are welcome. Contact Fr Lindsay, Geoff, Steve, David or Rev Jon for more information.

**\*\*Monthly Prayer Meeting** is held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 3pm in the Multi-Purpose Room of Aveo. All welcome to come and pray for the church, community, and the world.

**\*\*At Sunday School we nurture faith through liturgy, ritual, imagination, and encourage Christian growth through worshipping, learning, and serving together. Please contact the office for more information – 3372 1216.**



**\*\* Please note that as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, we are called to more concertedly join in prayer for those suffering from this crippling affliction. Commencing on 23<sup>rd</sup> November for 16 days. A copy with further details can be located at the back of each church and will be emailed to those already on our mailing list. Thank you \*\***



**+ Contact Viv 0401884505 for our Prayer Chain Ministry. +**

### **Reflection for Second Sunday of Advent**

Peace is the second of Christ-like virtues we are to more intentionally contemplate and reflect within the season of Advent. Many might associate this peace with being free from wars, conflicts, or everyday difficulties or trials. Or that which comes with the assurance of worldly security and stability. There is of course also that transitory inner stress-free peace that we often find ourselves longing, especially after a hard day at the office, or when the kids are on holidays. And then there is that paradoxically different kind of peace which we can experience and acquire when having to endure times of difficulty, hardships, and various trials. When once again traversing those wilderness times. Where no matter the chaos going on around us, we are filled with a spiritual security, an assurance, the hope that in the end, God is with us and will not abandon us. With the added bonus of more powerfully growing us into Christlikeness. Through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

When we consider that Advent centres on preparing for our Lord's return, the Parousia, and the pre-empting end times, or Apocalypse, this type of peace is validly desirable. Knowing that we are forgiven, made righteous with God. Empowered to then endure the end times of trial if required. That's if we believe in a future eventuality of an Apocalypse, given so much of the world seems to always be under some form of tyranny, upheaval, or devastation. That said, the peace of Christ serves to bring us back into righteous relationship with God too. And from which all forms of genuine peace ultimately derive. As opposed to the temporary superficial worldly peace to which we can only ever momentarily escape via any form of illusion or distraction. And which as we can all attest, never really lasts. Rather than one resulting from right relationship with God. This again is the peace that Christ gives, (and) not as the world gives (John 14:27). As within the allegorical text from Isaiah 11:1-10.

Alluding to a probable end time future where leonine savagery and scorpion tyranny would be no more, Isaiah takes a breather from condemning the failures of Israel's elect, and to whom his imagery could arguably infer, and turns his hand to encouraging those afflicted by such failures. Failure to repent. Failure to instil justice, righteousness, and equality. For the poor, the meek, and the children. And those, like Isaiah, who had sought to at least try and live by God's expectations. Being just, and righteous, and open to sharing. And which also entails recognizing that being less than perfect, we often can't do properly anyway. At least not without God's help. And admitting we need God's help. This is true humility. And imperative to true repentance. As is confessing our failures and seeking God's forgiveness as we genuinely seek to turn from our old ways. Whilst more intentionally seeking God's.

Repentance was just as imperative to the Israelites and Jews, as it is for Christians. It is a necessary part of restoration back into righteous relationship with God. As John the Baptist was at pains to encourage his Jewish audiences and crowds back in the day when he was called to prepare God's people for the advent of their Messiah. The coming of the Kingdom of God, the shoot or branch from Jesse's stump into the world. To date, the first truly and only genuine Parousia. And through whom all who believe in, would be baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire. The fire of enlightenment and purification (John 16:13). And the breath of life and power (Ezekiel 37:5; 2 Timothy 1:7). And through whose power, as Paul says, we can as both Gentile and Jew, enter into the peace of God, with the certain hope, that we have eternity in Christ. Whether in the here and now. At the end times. Or at the Advent of our Lord.

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**Jonathan Brook – Priest in Charge.**

**Please contact the office for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, and other pastoral matters.**