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Weekly Bulletin **14 December, Third 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.

14th December, Advent 3: Isaiah 35: 1-10; Song of Mary; James 5: 7-10; Matthew 11: 2-11

21st December, Advent 4: Isaiah 7: 10-16; Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; Romans 1: 1-7; Matthew 1: 18-25

Sentence: Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.' **Isaiah 35:3-4**

Prayer of the Day:

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may **rejoice** as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**



Song of Mary APBA p 9

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND YOUR PRAYERS

Advent 3, 14th 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
Monday 15th	7.00 pm	Advent Bible Study at the Rectory, 3 Spoonbill St, Inala
Tuesday 16th Dec	8.00 am	Morning Prayer
	9.00 am	Careforce
Wednesday 17th	9.00 am	Eucharist at St Hugh's with morning tea and Advent Chat
Advent 4, 21st Dec	8.30 am	Eucharist at St Hughs followed by morning tea
	10.30am	Eucharist at Forest Grove Auditorium.
Christmas Eve	5.30 pm	Carols at St Hugh's with drinks and nibbles
	6.30 pm	Christmas Eve Eucharist at St Hugh's
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Christmas Day Eucharist at St Hugh's
	9.00 am	Christmas Day Eucharist at Forest Grove Auditorium



NOTICES

****ITEMS needed for CAREFORCE: CHRISTMAS GOODIES and all washing products/detergents. 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. Please note: first meeting for 2026 will be 7th February in the Parish hall. Contact Iris 0418 407 626 or parish office 3372 1216 for more information.**

***A.M.S. (Anglican Men's Society) meet on the 3rd 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 2nd 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.**



****All welcome to St David's Anglican Parish Carols Service commencing 6:30pm on Sunday 14th December. Address: 69 Chelmer St E, Chelmer. All monies to go toward Careforce.**

****Please support our Christmas Raffle. Tickets are \$2.00/each or 3 for \$5.00 and are available at back of churches. Prize valued at \$500.00. All proceeds going toward our much-needed parish upgrades. Drawn on Sunday 21st December****

****The Sabees still have one brand new (unopened) Kogan 15"6 Atlas E900 Laptop for sale @ \$319.00. Anyone interested please contact Jack Sabee on 07 3372 2807 or 0447 561 943**

+ Contact Viv 0401884505 for our Prayer Chain Ministry. +

Reflection for Third Sunday of Advent

As prophesied by both Isaiah (Isaiah 40:3-5) and Malachi (Mal 3:1; 4:5), when it came to preparing for the advent of the Messiah, the Parousia, and the imperative to repent and change from old ways, John the Baptizer was never one to pull any spiritual punches. Just as he vociferously challenged the corrupt behaviours of those in leadership who should have known better. No surprise therefore that he eventually ends up incarcerated. Alone, bewildered, and probably a tad concerned that things weren't looking particularly favourable. Little wonder he had a few lingering questions too. Most pressingly concerning whether Jesus actually was the Messiah after all. Remembering that John was still operating from the perspective of the Old Testament prophets. Such as Isaiah and Malachi.

Like most of his contemporaries John was expecting a Messiah, who apart from healing and redeeming, perhaps more importantly encompassed restoring national pride and reeking vengeance through military conquest. Understandable given the oppressively malignant regimes of Israel's past religious and political elite, many of whom had much to gain from accommodating their foreign occupiers. Which by the time of John meant the Romans. And others like the Sadducees who were in their pockets. For the Jew, there was no appreciation of the Cross event or that the Messiah would suffer. Just as there was no appreciation that the Messiah would actually conquer the entire world, Jew and Gentile alike, through the eternal power of love and sacrifice, rather than through the worldly power of might and retribution. And whilst John may have received some answers, it's most likely he died without ever being aware of the full reality of God's purposes. Perhaps even with a fearful (or racing) heart.

Like those to whom Isaiah was encouraging, as they no doubt were hoping and waiting patiently for release and justice. The reading from James also refers to patience. Patient suffering at the hands of the rich and exploitive, to whom he is also encouraging to do the right thing. Especially amongst and by their own. As with love and peace, patience is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. So too is joy.

Joy is also the third virtue we celebrate during Advent. If we consider the protagonists from all three readings, we can understand just how difficult it would have been to be, let alone remain joyful. John in prison awaiting the unknown, the poor and oppressed Israelites still suffering under corrupt leadership, and wealthy Christians mistreating lesser Christians. All afflicted. And yet all encouraged to hang in there. Patiently. Even if things got worse. And which is why through times of adversity, we once again have in a Saviour the Advent assurance of the promise that the day will indeed come, when everything will be restored. Where justice and righteousness and equality will be fully manifest. And where we will be all truly free to live in fearless harmony as one with God and each other. And why we have that reality available to us, living in us, in the here and now, the hope, peace, and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jonathan Brook – Priest in Charge.

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