

CHURCH TODAY

9:30am: Mark

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Bible Readings:

Ps 80:1-7, 17-19

Isa 7:10-16

Rom 1:1-7

Matt 1:18-25

(Godly Play) is on today for children in K-Yr 3)

(Godly Science) is on today for kids from Years 4-9).

5pm Jesus Talk

NEXT WEEK

9:30am: Mark

Christmas Day

Bible Readings:

Ps 97

Isa 62:6-12

Tit 3:3-7

Luke 2:1-20

(No Godly Play or Godly Science) during the School Holidays).

No Jesus Talk – in recess until 29 Jan

The Prayer 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.**

SUNDAY MEETINGS

Every Sunday

9:30am – each week

Prayer Praise Proclamation and Holy Communion

5pm Jesus Talk

"the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy" (Rev 19:10) Jesus Talk seeks to be a "prophetic hub" where Christ- concentrated expressions of prayer, praise, and proclamation, can take place in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Contact

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Sermons – Audio & Video

www.stmarksbassendean.church/blog

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbassendean>

St Marks Bassendean YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkz-PyfZ7TSSOOVSH7OUegQ>

Church Council

Minister:

Mark Grobicki

Church Wardens

Shirley Landon

Roger Wright

Councillors

Alan Hunt

Mary Lindsey

Jennifer Murray

Judyth Smythe

Marilyn Wright

Bank Account

Changes to BSB for payment to Bank Account

We encourage people to use direct deposit or direct debit (direct debit forms available at the back of the church)

Anglican Community Fund

BSB: 706 001 **A/c No:** 300070717

Name: Anglican Parish of Bassendean.

Please identify payment, i.e., offering.

No need to use your name if you prefer not to.

More info from Jenny

Welcome to

ST MARK'S BASSENDEAN

Discovering and demonstrating Jesus' love in Bassendean and beyond.

18 December 2022

Immanuel, God with Us

I wonder what you might be worrying about at the moment? Whether there are things, even if you seldom admit it to others, you fear? And in the midst of those, do you ever wonder, is God really with me, or with us? Is God really willing and able to save?

If you know those fears, those are the exact kinds of questions which the people of Judah were wondering when Isaiah addressed his words to them in Isaiah 7. They were facing a fearful crisis: two other nations had teamed up and were seeking to destroy them. And Isaiah confronts the King, Ahaz, with a choice. To follow his own plans. Or to trust God to save. Sadly, Ahaz chose not to trust God. And disaster ensued for Ahaz and the nation. But God wanted to show that he could be trusted to save. He gave a famous promise:

"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14).

Immanuel means 'God With Us'. And this child was to be a sign that God was with his people, and He could and should be trusted to save.

Then in the birth of Jesus, we read that this promise was most fully and finally fulfilled (Matthew 1:20-23). Jesus, 'conceived of the Holy Spirit', truly is *God* with us. And as the angel tells Joseph, he came to save – not merely from worldly powers, but the very power of sin and death itself. This has many wonderful implications for us and our lives. But the key one from Isaiah, is to know that we do have good reason to keep trusting God.

Even the so-called 'festive season' cannot mask the fact that we do not live in a Disney fairy tale. When faced with the very real fears in life, how will we respond? Will we turn to our own devices? Or will we look back to that baby born in a manger, to see there a sign that we can keep trusting God to bring about his promises to save his people?

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem / unto your own and rescue them! / From depths of hell your people save / and give them victory o'er the grave. / Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

In Christ, our God with us,
Mark

WELCOME

Welcome to St Mark's. We are an active Anglican church of all ages and walks of life, seeking to grow in the likeness of Christ and welcome new members and visitors.

Covid19: Hand sanitizer is available at the door. If you are unwell, please stay at home.

Please relax and enjoy the worship and fellowship. Are you **new to this church?** Please make yourself known to one of the ministers or service leaders. You may also like to complete and return the **Welcome Form**.

The **Order of Service** may be followed on the screen.

The **Holy Communion** is open to all believers. Visitors are welcome to receive Communion if they normally take it in their own church. Gluten free bread is available. Please ask the minister when you come to communion.

Praying Together This Week: Help to live & share the gospel & for people to come to Christ; Those who are unwell; Christians being persecuted; Myanmar; Afghanistan; Ukraine; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Mark & Kate Grobicki & a suitable, local house for their family, our Youth Group, our Children's Ministries.

Celebrate Christmas at St Mark's - Christmas Services for this year:

Christmas Eve Children's Nativity – **Sat 24 Dec at 5pm** at the Church
(children are welcome to be part of the Nativity Play – costumes will be provided)

Christmas Day Service – **Sun 25 Dec at 9:30am** at the Church

Advent Service Rehearsal after church today - Sunday 18 Dec - Assistance is required for the Nativity Service on Christmas Eve – specifically with organizing and preparing the service in advance and on the day, plus providing supper afterwards. There are also flyers available to hand out to friends and family. – Please see Julie Cecchele or Barbara Mallett

Bible Study Groups – All groups are in recess for the holidays.

Women's Bible Study Mondays 7-7:30pm catch up, 7:30-9pm Prayer & Study in Bassendean – Contact Donna – 0401 615 819 – On a Break over Dec/ Jan
Men's Bible Studies

Tuesdays 6:30pm at 31 Morgan Rd Redcliffe – Contact John – 0405 640 740
Also **Tuesdays** 6:30pm - location varies between Swan View and Bassendean
Contact Roger – 0408 096 022

Wednesdays 5-6pm in the church – Contact John – 0405 640 740

Men's & Women's Bible Study – Wednesdays 9-10am led by John.

Bible Study – Men and Women welcome – Wednesdays 7:30pm in Caversham at Charles and Charmaine's place. Contact Charmaine – 0421 868 321

MISSION PROJECT UPDATE Information for your Prayers

Missionary Support here at St Marks

Did you know that our congregation here at St Marks, supports different missionary organisations through our giving and in prayer? We donate 10% of our offerings received each quarter to these missions listed here: (our church representative is also listed here)

Bush Church Aid (BCA) – Murray Smallman

Church Missionary Society (CMS) – Barbara Mallett

Scripture Union (SU) – Rosalind Appleby

St Barnabas Fund – John Yates

Tear Fund – Barbara Mallett

Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) at ECU – Steve Nurse

Jesus Ministries in Myanmar – John Yates

We also make an annual donation to ABM (Anglican Board of Mission).

Each week in this newsletter we have some information about each of these missions, contributed by our church representatives.

Please continue to pray for these missions and support them, and speak to the representative for any further information.

Letterbox Flyer Drop – Alan has worked on a flyer to be handed out to the community talking about Christmas and including our Christmas services. If you can assist by delivering to letterboxes in your street or streets surrounding the church, please see Alan.

Regular Parish Prayer Meeting.

When: Every second Saturday 11am-12pm – **Starting again in 2023** **Where:** in the church

Why: that the Lord might pour on us his Spirit in power so that we become a true missional (apostolic) congregation. **More Info:** please talk to Shirley or Mary.

Coffee & Chat is now in recess for the Summer.

Youth Group is now in recess for the Summer

Contact Andrew Appleby if you are interested in helping in any way next year.

Financial Information for November 2022:

Total income: \$13,713.65 made up as follows:

Envelopes - \$1,906.00

Direct Giving - \$5,595.00

Open Plate - \$686.00

Other - \$5,526.65

Total Expenses: \$15,361.12

Please note changes to BSB for payments to the church bank account on the back page.