

Welcome to

ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL

Diocese of Melbourne - Anglican Church of Australia
Parish Church of the City since 1846



'Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness', Caravaggio (1605)

GAUDETE SUNDAY

13TH DECEMBER 2020

Eternal God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of your Son: grant us wisdom to see your purpose and openness to hear your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power and glory to establish his rule of peace and justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen*

VICAR'S MUSINGS

Today is *Gaudete Sunday*, so-called from the opening of the traditional Latin Introit for the third Sunday of Advent: *Gaudete in Domino semper* “rejoice in the Lord always” from St Paul’s letter to the Philippians 4:4. It is a day to rejoice, but also to remember that we are still in the penitential season of Advent. As we worship this day, it is a foretaste of the great Feast of the Nativity that will soon be upon us. After much of the year in lock-down, there is so much to rejoice about today. Last Sunday our Premier announced even further easing of restrictions, and I would like to share a significant portion of the Archbishop’s newsletter this week, which has huge implications for our worship as we approach Christmas.

Archbishop’s Newsletter

Indoor and outdoor church services now have no limits to attendance other than the density quotient for the area of the space. Provided there are complete electronic attendance records, the density quotient is one person for every 2sqm. If no electronic attendance record is being kept, the density quotient is 4sqm ... Electronic record-keeping includes an electronic booking system (for example Trybooking) or the use of a QR code ... Where a person attending does not have access to electronic booking or recording attendance, someone must enter the first name and phone number electronically as soon as practicable after the event. This requirement applies for all church groups, activities and meetings ... The requirement to be seated 1.5m apart no longer applies, but we ought to be as distanced as possible. People of the same household can sit closer together. We urge as much ventilation as possible in church spaces. Masks are no longer mandatory for indoor worship, though we encourage their use for congregational singing ... We recommend [choirs] and cantors still keep a significant distance from the congregation. Holy Communion continues to be bread only ... The same standards of hygiene and sanitiser apply. We suggest using masks to distribute communion. Collections and offerings can be taken but anyone who has touched cash in the process should sanitise hands afterwards, and especially before receiving communion. We discourage hugging, kissing or shaking hands when greeting people. There is no longer an official limit of time between services, but please leave sufficient time to clean high touch surfaces and ensure no overlap of people indoors. Refreshments before or after services or as part of other activities are allowed. There must be no buffet or self-service of food or drink, no sharing of utensils, and all dishes must be thoroughly washed.

What Does this Mean for St Peter's?

Please note the following, as the Archbishop's guidelines apply to St Peter's:

- I have measured our church building carefully, and our density quotient allows for up to 110 people in the pews, and a total congregation (including choir, servers, children's church, overflow etc) of up to 174 people.
- We are now allowed to have refreshments after church, and so will recommence these today. The main body of the Hall has a density quotient of a maximum of 99 people. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, however, there will be no refreshments.
- Booking ahead of all Sunday and Christmas services is strongly encouraged; see the list of TryBooking urls for each service below. You can still book, however, through the Parish Office (phone or e-mail) if you prefer. Limited walk-in bookings can be made on the day, using our QR Code, or leaving your (or your guest's) first name and phone number with the sides-people.
- Masks are now optional, but we strongly encourage you to still bring your mask to church, and especially wear it for congregational singing (which is now allowed once again ... softly).
- The new 2sqm spatial distancing essentially means keeping an elbow's distance from others.
- There will be an Offertory collection once again, in the usual place, rather than a retiring collection.
- Please continue to sanitise your hands as you enter or leave church.
- Communion will continue in one kind only.
- If you are feeling sick, especially with COVID-19 type symptoms, you must not come to church, and get tested immediately.

On-line Booking for all Advent and Christmas Services

Now that we finally have some certainty around restrictions for the remainder of Advent and Christmas, I list all the upcoming St Peter's Sunday and Nativity services below, with TryBooking links, so you can book-a-pew for as many services as you like. Please note, that for the time being, as we rebuild our congregation following the lock-downs, there will be only one Sunday Mass at the new time of 10.30am, with Children's Church. In the New Year, after the January holidays, we will start to reintroduce other Sunday service times:

- Advent 3 – Sunday 13th December, 10.30am
<https://www.trybooking.com/BNFTA>
- Advent 4 - Sunday 20th December, 10.30am
<https://www.trybooking.com/BNFTB>
- Christmas Eve Children's Mass - Thursday 24th December, 6pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BNOOF>
- Midnight Mass - Thursday 24th December, 11pm (carols) 11.30pm Mass
<https://www.trybooking.com/BNOOL>
- Christmas Day High Mass – Friday 25th December, 10am
<https://www.trybooking.com/BNOOM>
- Holy Family – Sunday 27th December, 10.30am
<https://www.trybooking.com/BNOOR>
- Nine Lessons and Carols – Sunday 27th December, 7pm
<https://www.trybooking.com/BNOOU>

The weekday Mass will continue Monday to Friday, usually at 7.15am, but at the later time of 9am between Christmas and New Year's Day, and on other Public Holidays. The Wednesday Mass is at 1.15pm each week, including on Wednesday 23rd December. There is no need to book for any of these services, please feel free to just turn up :).

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 61.1-2a, 10-11

The servant of the Lord said: “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.”

Magnificat: Luke 1.47-48, 49-50, 53-54



My soul magnifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed. R.
For the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation. R.
The Lord has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy. R.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24

My brothers and sisters, rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel: John 1.6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Normally I would be asking for donations at Sunday services. Times have changed! If you wish to donate funds, you can put them in an envelope marked 'Christmas Flowers' and place the envelope in the collection plate as you exit church at the end of the 10.30am mass. Alternatively, you can deposit funds in the Parish Account:

BSB: 703-122 Account Name: SPEH Account number: 05005124

Please put 'Christmas Flowers' as the reference.

*Helen Drummond,
Flowers*

PRAYERS

FOR THE SICK:

Margaret Bishop, Guia Legarda, Babu Mathew, Alice McCraith, Judy McCraith, Lyn Nicholas, Liz Prideaux, John Small, John Stewart BISHOP, Paul Wheelton, George, Charles, Jan, and Victoria

AS WELL AS:

Jenny Allen, Chris Bennie, Michael Boyle PRIEST, Tania Burdick, Joe Butscher PRIEST, John Crocker, Cheryl Duff, Gail Edwards, Siew-Hung, Grace James, Lynn James, Gwen Joyce, Bronwyn Large, Margaret Lea, William Lees, Margaret Lugg, Sr Lyn CHN, Joyce Newton, Tim Peake, Judith Ryles, Pat Slump, Margaret Sutherland, Evelina Thornton, Joan Waldren-Small, Barbara Ure-Smith

FOR THE RECENTLY DEPARTED: Jack Mulready, Brian Thomas Rankin

FOR THOSE WHOSE YEAR'S MIND FALLS THIS WEEK:

Sun	13	Maurice Cratchley, Beatrice Lindsay, Ina Edith Norton, Maxwell Thomas Austin Umphelby
Mon	14	Hubert Hayward, Clementina Hughes, Clara McAdam
Tue	15	Philip Thomas Byard Clayton PRIEST, Margaret Jephcott, Sarah Michal Elizabeth Robson
Wed	16	Marjorie Fischer, Madge Muddell
Thu	17	Mary Clappison, Florence Elsworth, Patrick Hannaford, Henry Daryll Robins
Fri	18	Frederick Waldegrave Head BISHOP, Maurice Jones PRIEST Nicholas Bernhard Major, Mavis Yewers
Sat	19	Peter Robert Marks-Chapman, Jeanne Lawler Marsden, Charles Schwieger PRIEST, Joseph Henry Thorne

THE DAILY OFFICE AT HOME

In these days of pandemic we are not currently able to gather in worship community as we used to. Many parishioners, however, are finding it a comfort to worship and pray at home. It is a long-held tradition for Christians, Lay and Ordained, to pray the Daily Office. All you need is a Bible and A Prayer Book. If you only have one or neither of these at home, call Carol in the Bookroom, or online at :

<http://www.bookroom.stpeters.org.au/>

MORNING PRAYER

EVENING PRAYER

John of the Cross, mystic and teacher (d. 1591)

Monday	Pss 108 & 109.20-30 Isaiah 10.33-11.9 Mark 9.2-3.2	Ps 44 Isaiah 11.10 - 12.6 Revelation 15
Tuesday	Pss 76 & 82 Isaiah 13.1-13 Mark 9.33-50	Ps 74 Isaiah 13.14-14.2 Revelation 16
Wednesday	Pss 28 & 62 Isaiah 14.3-23 Mark 10.1-16	Ps 94 Isaiah 14.24-32 Revelation 17
Thursday	Ps 106.1-24 Isaiah 17.1-11 Mark 10.46-11.11	Ps 40 Isaiah 54 Revelation 19.1-10
Friday	Ps 144 Isaiah 17.12-18.7 Mark 11.12-26	Ps 107.23-43 Isaiah 55 Revelation 19.11-21
Saturday	Pss 110 & 111 Isaiah 19.1-15 Mark 11-27-12.12	Ps 80 Isaiah 56 Revelation 20.1-10

ST PETER'S CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SOIREE

Each year the St Peter's Eastern Hill Charitable Foundation hosts a dinner at the Melbourne Club. Unfortunately this year, due to the pandemic, this had to be canceled. In it's place the Trustees planned a small thank-you soiree as soon as the restrictions were eased. Sadly the numbers permitted at the event were limited, so we could not invite everyone. Next year we trust that the Annual Dinner will be reestablished, so everyone can come! Below are some photographs of this year's little gathering.





ADVENT GROUP AT ST PETER'S

In the Bleak Midwinter: Advent and Christmas with Christina Rossetti, Ed by Rachel Mann. (\$34.95)

Carol O'Connor, our Bookroom manager, is offering an Advent Group based on this book by Rachel Mann on Zoom. The Group meets Tuesdays during Advent at 7:30pm.

Rossetti's rich and wondrous faith provides an inspiring seasonal companion particularly for this 2020 Advent period during a world pandemic. How can we celebrate the joy of Christmas this year?

These 50 choice poems, one for each day of the Advent and Christmas season, are there, as Church of England priest and poet Rachel Mann says, for anyone who wants to 'peel back the pages of a book and think: How can I encounter God during this season.'

'Come. Look. See. Taste these poems and be prepared to be surprised. Rossetti wants us to go through her words and encounter God, the very centre of our being, our reality and life's core.'

Please email the Bookroom bookroom@stpeters.org.au or phone Carol directly (mob: 0400 334 882) if you would like to be part of this group. We are currently holding some copies of the book, but extra copies will take a week to 10 days to come in.





SUPPORT OUR CHRISTMAS APPEAL

We've been helping the homeless every day for the last 28 years, but 2020 has been a very challenging year – each week, we've had four times the usual number of people come to us for help. And many of them are different people to those we usually see.

The pandemic has left many young people and international students destitute in our city. The jobs have dried up, they are not eligible for government assistance and they've been going hungry.

Fortunately, thanks to your support and the work of our wonderful staff and volunteers in the Social Enterprise, we've been able to work with State Parliament House to distribute cooked meals as well as staples like milk and bread, providing an important lifeline to these needy young people and others in similar need..

We're now launching our Christmas appeal to help get everyone through summer.

If you're in a position to help with a donation, please give. In addition to continuing our program providing breakfast and packaged meals, we want to provide a Christmas package to those we support. Something to help restore a sense of dignity and bring some joy to those doing it tough.



- **FEEDING OVER 450 PEOPLE A WEEK**
- **50,000 MEALS DISTRIBUTED SINCE MARCH**
- **PEOPLE WHO HAVE NEVER BEFORE NEEDED HELP**



ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL
Melbourne-Charitable Foundation

www.spehcf.com.au/donations

Or call us on 9662 2391.
Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.
Thank you.



90 years of working towards an Australia free of poverty

Tuesday 8th December 2020, marked 90 years since Fr Gerard Kennedy Tucker, Guy Coleman Cox and Michael Clarke founded what is now the Brotherhood of St. Laurence (BSL). For 90 years, BSL's mission has been to create lasting change for a compassionate and just society where everyone can thrive and be free of poverty and disadvantage.

Thank you for being a part of this movement, both collectively and individually. Your involvement helps us build a better Australia and fulfil our mission of an Australia free of poverty.

We invite you to learn more about our rich history and our vision for the future, as well as read inspirational stories of progress from our wonderful community through the following on-line video: <https://bit.ly/2Lcvap5>

Whether it takes the next ten years or a further 90 years to realise our vision, one thing is certain, the Brotherhood of St. Laurence will proudly continue to be a strong voice for people experiencing disadvantage. *Because we believe no one should live in poverty.*

Thank you for your compassion and kindness to others through your support of BSL and all of those we work with. We wish you and your parishioners many blessings for Christmas and the New Year.



**MEALS
PROGRAM
BY STUDENTS
FOR STUDENTS**

**9.30AM-11AM
MON-FRI**

*Heaven
at
The Hill*

ST PETER'S BOOKROOM & CHURCH SUPPLIES

Lots of beautiful Christmas cards, gifts, Advent reading and books for Christmas. Visit us online or in store during the week.

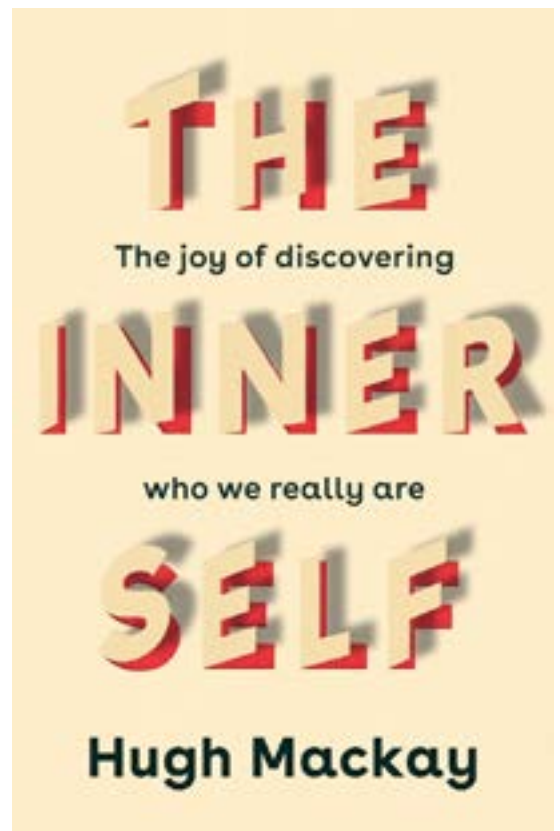
RECOMMENDED NEW RELEASE!

The Inner Self: The joy of discovering who we really are by Hugh Mackay

Powerfully written and drawing on a lifetime of research, this book is a work of extraordinary insight by one of Australia's most respected psychologists. The Inner Self is a book about the ways we hide from the truth about ourselves and the psychological freedom we enjoy when we finally face that most searching question of all: 'Who am I, really?'

Mackay argues that love is our highest ideal, the richest source of life's meaning and purpose, and the key to our emotional security, personal serenity and confidence.

Yet he exposes the great paradox of human nature, that while love brings out our best, we don't always want our best brought forward. \$34.95



15 Gisborne St Melbourne 3002
Situated in the Parish Hall building on the street side, facing St Patrick's Cathedral
P: (03) 9663 7487 E: bookroom@stpeters.org.au
www.bookroom.stpeters.org.au

PARISH DIRECTORY

St. Peter's Eastern Hill, 15 Gisborne Street, Melbourne, VIC 3002
Secure Mail: St Peter's Eastern Hill, PO BOX 18108, Collins Street East, VIC 8003
[03] 9662 2391 Web: www.stpeters.org.au
E-mail: sphoffice@stpeters.org.au or vicarswarden@stpeters.org.au
Office Hours. 9.30am – 2.00pm Monday-Thursday

Sunday Services

10.30 am Parish Mass - online and in person (limited due to the pandemic restrictions)
YouTube: www.youtube.com/StPetersEasternHill
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpeterseasternhill/

Weekday Services

Mon – Fri: Mass at 7.15am (9am on Public Holidays)
Feast Day High Mass, as advertised: 6.15pm
Also online only, due to the pandemic restrictions
YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/StPetersEasternHill
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpeterseasternhill/

Clergy and Lay Ministers

Vicar:	Fr Hugh Kempster	0488 960 022
ASLM:	Alae Taule'alo	0409 802 892
Clergy:	Fr Greg Davies	0417 992 976
	Fr Philip Gill	0480 101 711
	Fr Ken Letts	03 9662 2391
	Fr David Peake	0412 299 839
	Fr Roger Prowd	0417 323 112
Klingner Scholars:	Eugene Chin	03 9662 2391
	Xeverie Swee	03 9662 2391

Other Parish Ministries and Programs

Bookroom:	Carol O'Connor	03 9663 7487
Cell of O.L.O.W:	Eleanor Newton	03 9662 2391
Charitable Foundation:	Krystyna Campbell-Pretty	03 9662 2391
Children:	Katherine Barnett	03 9387 4089
COVID Safe & Child Safety Officer:	Rachel Ellyard	0419 335 793
Churchwardens:	Stephen Duckett (Vicar)	0447 837 741
	Rachel Ellyard (People)	0419 335 793
	Daniel Ferguson (People)	03 9662 2391-
Director of Music:	Andrew Raiskums	0439 556 627
Flowers:	Helen Drummond	0419 897 973
Guild of St Benedict	Daniel Ferguson	0419 572 033
Head Server:	Anthony Schepis	0400 578 952
Music Administrator:	Sue Wuttke	0422 866 286
Organist:	Rhys Arvidson	0405 277 853
Parish Administrator:	Konstantine Soteriou	03 9662 2391
Pastoral Care:	Di Clark	0407 354 987
Prayer Link	Fr Roger Prowd	0417 323 112
RMIT Chaplaincy:	Alae Taule'alo	0409 802 892
Sacristan	Eugene Chin	03 9662 2391

Parish Council Membership:

Helen Drummond
Stephen Duckett (Chair)
Rachel Ellyard
Daniel Ferguson
Peter Griffin (Treasurer)
Stuart Hibberd
Fr Hugh Kempster (President)
Daniel Mitterdorfer (Secretary)
Terry Porter
William Southey
Peter Wild
Sue Wuttke

*We are an inclusive
and welcoming Church,
built on the lands of the
Wurundjeri people.
We are committed to
social justice, equality and
diversity. Our mission
is: "Catholic Evangelism:
Growing in God's love".*