

Welcome to
ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL

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



“Nativity” illumination from *Bedford Hours* (c. 1410-30)

Children’s Mass with Nativity Play
and the Arrival of St Nicholas

Thursday 24th December 2020

6:00pm

WELCOME TO ST PETER'S

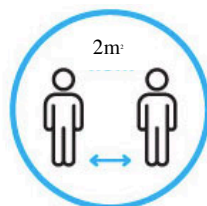
COVID-19 restrictions have eased, but clearly the virus has not yet been eradicated, and we must still remain vigilant. If you are not feeling confident about returning to worship, then please remain at home and join us online: FaceBook (www.facebook.com/stpeterseasternhill) or YouTube (www.youtube.com/c/StPetersEasternHill).

Please read carefully and observe all the requisite COVID-Safe guidelines below. If you have any questions, the sidesperson will be able to help you:

- our density quotient at St Peter's 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.
- If you have booked a pew, the sidespeople will tick off your name on arrival.
- If you have not booked, that's fine, you can scan the QR Code on your smart phone, or just give your first name and phone number to the sidespeople.
- **Masks are now optional in church. It is obligatory, however, to wear a mask for congregational singing if you wish to join in.**
- The new 2sqm spatial distancing essentially means keeping an elbow's distance from others at all times (other than partners and immediate family members, of course).
- Please continue to sanitise your hands as you enter or leave church.
- Communion will continue in one kind only, with no common cup for the time being.
- **If you are feeling unwell, especially with COVID-19-type symptoms, you must not be at church; please go home and get tested immediately.**
- Do not to shake hands, hug, or kiss others beyond your immediate family.
- All service booklets are single-use only, so please take yours home.

Please note: we have a busy program of worship and social service at St Peter's Eastern Hill, seven days a week, but the church and hall are cleaned and sanitised daily, under WorkSafe pandemic guidelines, so you can be assured of the cleanliness of our buildings and furnishings.

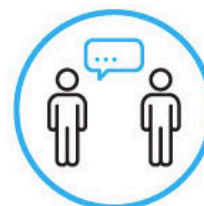
We have a COVID-Safe Plan and are committed to keeping you safe



Physical Distancing



Sanitising and washing hands



Please be kind and care for one another in these stressful times of change



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Prelude: J. Clokey (1890-1960) Meditation on an Old Carol.

Mass setting: S. Donovan (1980-) Mosman Service.

*Please stand for the opening carol. Congregational responses are in **bold**, and + indicates where in the liturgy you may like to join with others in making a sign of the cross on yourself.*

- 1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**
- 2. He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**
- 3. And through all his wondrous childhood,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.**
- 4. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

NEH 34

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), 1848

Music: Henry John Gauntlett, (1805-1876)

Remain standing. The celebrant says the invocation and then greets the congregation.

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given. Isaiah 9:2,6

We come by the grace of the one God,
Creator of beauty, lover of justice.

Blessed be God for ever.

We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
One with us in sorrow and in joy.

Blessed be God for ever.

We are one in the Spirit who fills the Church,
Breath of life, making all things new.

Blessed be God for ever.

Come and worship the holy and glorious Trinity,
as we pray together:

**God of the feast,
Your Wisdom calls us,
Your Word teaches us
And you feed us with your life.
Give us grace to welcome one another
As you have welcomed us in Christ Jesus,
In whose name we pray. Amen.**

Please sit or kneel for the confession and absolution. The Kyries are omitted.

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts.

Silence is kept

Let us turn to the light and confess our sins to God who knows us through and through.

**Holy God,
we have disobeyed your commandments,
we have resisted your call,
we have failed to live by your generous love.
We are sorry for all our sins,
and ask you to forgive us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The celebrant offers the absolution:

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon + you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand for the Gloria.

(8) *f*
4
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on

(8) *mf*
earth. Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - migh-ty God and Fa-ther, we

(8)
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

(8) *f*
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

(8) *mp*
Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

(8) *mf* *mp*
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have

(8) *mf*
mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the

p *f*

(8) Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and

(8) peace to God's peo-ple on earth. For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One,

(8) you a - lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the Most High

(8) Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God___ the

(8) *f* Fa - ther. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on

(8) *ff* *rit.* earth. A - - - men.

The celebrant prays the Collect of the day:

Let us pray, in the peace of this Christmas celebration, that our joy in the birth of Christ will last forever.

Silence is kept.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7 *read by Arthur Thomas.*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shone. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the gospel carol.

**1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my bedside till morning is nigh.**

**3. Be near me, Lord Jesus: I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

NEH 22

Words: Anonymous, Philadelphia 1883

Music: W. J. Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

Nativity Play & Proclamation of the Gospel – St Peter's Children's Church

Children's Talk & Homily – Fr Hugh Kempster

Please stand as we say together the affirmation of faith:

**We believe in one God,
who made and loves all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was born, lived, died and rose again,
and is coming to call all to account.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who calls, equips and sends out God's people,
and brings all things to their true end.**

This is our faith, the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,
+ Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The intercessions are led by Anne Scott-Pendlebury. Please be seated or kneel for prayer.
Let us pray for church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

After each petition:

God of love, in your mercy; hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Let us pray together:

**Lord of the universe,
through your true Child
born of a young woman
you came to share our humanity.**

**Renew us by your holy coming
and make us children of love
that we may embody your Word
and be agents of mercy and peace. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

All stand for the greeting of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of peace. Please remain standing for the offertory carol during which a collection will be taken for the work of the church.

**1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

**2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created. *Refrain***

**3. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain***

**4. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain***

**5. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest; *Refrain***

NEH 30

Words: Latin 18th century; trans. F. Oakeley (1802-80) and others.
Music: probably J. F. Wade (1711-86); descant D. Willcocks (b. 1919)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing. The celebrant says:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All glory and honour, be yours now and always, mighty Creator, everliving God. We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us. In your Word made flesh you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and
 might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
 san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Please kneel.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood. On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me' + After supper, he took the cup, and again giving thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me' +

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris'n. Christ will come a-gain.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. ✠ Renew us by your Holy Spirit unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:



Bless - ing and hon - our and glo - ry and pow'r are



yours for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD & COMMUNION

The celebrant says:

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ;

We who are many are one body in Christ.

For we all share in the one bread.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on
 us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on
 us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world,
 grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Invitation to Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Please come forward to the communion rail if you wish to share in the Blessed Sacrament or to receive a blessing if you are not yet a communicant member of a Christian church.

Music during communion is performed by the Children's Church music group, and conducted by Katherine Barnett.

After communion there is a short silence; the celebrant then prays the post-Communion prayer:

God of heaven, dwelling among us,
 we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.
 By your grace keep us ever faithful
 to your Word made flesh, that as his body in the world
 we may bring your presence to all people.

Send us, we pray, in the strength of this meal,
to tell the Good News to neighbours and strangers
with creative words and compassionate service,
walking the way of Christ.

All stand for the post-communion carol.

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

NEH 35

Words: G. B. Timms (1910-97)

based on J. Mohr (1792-1848)

Music: F. Gruber (1787-1863)

Please be seated after the hymn, for the Arrival of St Nicholas and the giving of gifts.

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

All stand for the final blessing. The celebrant says:

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; and the blessing of God the + Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Please remain standing for the final carol.

**1. Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

**2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

**3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.**

NEH 26

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and others
Music: F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)

Postlude: J. S. Bach (1685-1750) Prelude in C (BWV 547)

Mass Times

Next week the St Peter's weekday Masses will be held at **9.00am** each day. From Thursday 2nd January the usual weekday Mass time of 7.15am will resume.

Our regular Sunday Mass time during the summer is **10.30am** with Children's Church – do join us.

Sunday 27th December Holy Family

Morning Mass: 10.30am

In the evening, do join us for the St Peter's Carol Service:

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
7.00pm

Children's Church & Baptism

Each Sunday there is a Children's Church ministry during the 10.30am Mass at St Peter's. You are very welcome to join us.

There are also regular Baptism services. If your child is not yet Baptised (or Christened) and you would like to explore this possibility with the Vicar, please call 0488 960 022 or email: vicar@stpeters.org.au to arrange a time to meet.



ST PETER'S EASTERN HILL

Anglican Parish Church of the City since 1847

15 Gisborne Street Melbourne Victoria 3002 Australia

Phone: 039662 2391

Email: sphoffice@stpeters.org.au