



# News Letter

27th November 2022 No 43



## *The Season of Advent is upon us!*

Advent Season is a very special time of year that sometimes gets lost in the bright lights of the Christmas season it precedes. The first day of Advent is the first day of a new Liturgical (or church) calendar and begins a four week period of preparation in anticipation of the nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today. It is a time for faith communities and families to remember, through prayer, reflections, special music, and good deeds what the true meaning of Jesus' birth is. There are many different traditions associated with the four weeks of Advent. The Advent season invites us to step away from what can be a frenzied time of parties and shopping to consider how we commemorate the birth of Jesus, one of the holiest times in Christian faith. It is also a time to reflect on the triumphant return of Jesus at the second coming.

Advent Season starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and leads up to the Nativity of Christ and the second coming of Christ. That means that Advent lasts for around a month in total. The four Sundays of Advent each have a specific theme or focus. The purpose of each theme is to spend time reflecting on the true meaning of the season - the life of Jesus Christ. To help the observation of these weeks, many churches led their congregation through Advent Readings. This tradition includes the reading of Scriptures that reflect the theme of each week. Whether in a traditional church or at home with your family, these Bible verses are a great way to reflect on the promise of the Messiah both yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

### **First Sunday of Advent Week 1: Hope (or promise) Isaiah 9:2, 6-7:**

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this."

### **Second Sunday of Advent Week 2: Preparation (or waiting or prophecy) Isaiah 40:3-5:**

"A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'"

### **Third Sunday of Advent Week 3: Joy (or peace) Matthew 2:10-11,**

"When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh."

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent Week 4: Love (or adoration) John 3:16-19,**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."



November 6

Treaty!  
Are we getting anywhere?

**TREATY**

How far have we come?

Australia is the only nation within the Commonwealth that has never signed a treaty with First Nations.

A treaty is usually an international agreement, so it has seemed inappropriate. The Hawke Government favoured a Compact to be inserted in the Constitution. Backed off. With First Nations people who is the legal entity to make the treaty with?

John Howard said an individual nation does not make a treaty with itself.

Important consideration - Will a treaty with First Nations people challenge the sovereignty of the Australian State.

For First Nations, sovereignty is a "spiritual notion" not a legal framework. It is about their relationship with the land.

Various states have developed "treaties"-  
in WA the Noongar Settlement, a package of benefits intended to compensate.  
In Queensland Pathway to Treaty 2014.  
South Australia's process has been interrupted by a change of government.

In Victoria the Government has proposed negotiating a treaty through Victorian Treaty Advancement. An Act of 2018 states that Aboriginal Representative Body and the Government will work together to progress the treaty process.

Treaty Authority is yarning across the state, visiting Elders to push for a state-wide treaty. It has taken six years in Victoria to get to this point .

Note - we do not know what the Coalition would do with this process.

The process questions are who will negotiate, who is the legal entity, what will be the framework and the primacy of truth telling?

Margaret Bode

**ulurustatement.org**  
Walk with us. It's time.  
Support a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the constitution.

**The Uluru Statement**  
How far have we come since 2017?

A series of 4 studies on Sundays at 4pm

October 2	What does it actually say? A reflective reading of the statement.
October 16	A Voice enshrined in the Constitution How close have we come?
November 6	Treaty! Are we getting anywhere?
December 4	Truth! Can we lift the veil of denial?

Venue: Oakleigh Uniting Church  
154 Drummond St. Oakleigh VIC

Contact: Robert Johnson 0418 998 561 robertbjohnson@bigpond.com  
John Rickard 0437 958 488 jmrck@bigpond.net.au

Final session - Sunday 4th December 4pm  
Oakleigh Uniting Church  
154 Drummond St Oakleigh  
**"Truth - can we lift the veil of denial"**

VICTORIA CHORALE & ART OF SOUND ORCHESTRA  
**CHRISTMAS Celebration**  
CONDUCTED BY MARIO DOBERNIC

SAINT-SAËNS CHRISTMAS ORATORIO	SOPRANO AMANDA HARGREAVES
HOLST CHRISTMAS DAY	MEZZO SOPRANO SYRAH TORII
JAMES FIVE AUSTRALIAN CAROLS	TENOR BEN GLOVER
FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS	BARITONE BAILEY MONTGOMERIE
JULIAN YU CONCERTO ON CHINESE THEMES (LENTO, VIVACE)	CLARINET ROBERT SCHUBERT

10 DECEMBER 2022, 5PM  
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL  
FLINDERS ST, MELBOURNE  
TICKETS \$35 - \$60

Click [HERE](#) for bookings

It's that time of year again! Time for **Family Life's Community Christmas**

Many vulnerable community members and families are still struggling in a post-pandemic environment.

By supporting our Community Christmas Appeal, and donating toys, food hampers or gift cards, you can help to spread Christmas joy to those who need it most!

We will be collecting food hampers and gifts to deliver to families just in time for Christmas. We'd love your help to make this happen.

**Please drop your donations under the Empty Christmas tree at St Andrew's by next Sunday, 27 November from there they will be delivered to Family Life.**

We will be collecting pantry items, gift cards and toys for local children and families. Please see the flyer attached for donation requirements. **Please DO NOT wrap gifts** as this allows us to allocate gifts appropriately.

It takes community to spread joy this Christmas. We encourage you to give a little and help a lot. Thank you for being part of our community.



**GIVE A LITTLE. HELP A LOT.**



# Community Christmas

Many vulnerable community members and families are still struggling in a post-pandemic environment. Supporting our Community Christmas Appeal, by donating toys, food hampers or gift cards, can help to spread Christmas joy to those who need it most.

Donations will be received up until December 1st, to allow time for delivery before Christmas.

## TOYS & GIFTS

Provide a toy or gift card between \$20 - \$50. Suggestions below:

### Age 0-24 Months

VTech Educational Toy  
Block Pack  
Walker  
Activity Table

### Age 2-4 Years

Cooking Play Set  
Craft/Activity Sets  
Pets Alive  
Duplo

### Age 5-7 Years

Lego  
Crayola/Craft Sets  
Board Games  
Fur Real Pet

### Age 8 Years+

Board Game  
Science / Building Kit  
Sports Equipment  
Remote Control  
Pet / Car

### Kids Gift Card

Multi-Retailer Gift Card from Woolies / Coles / Aldi etc

### Adult Gift Card

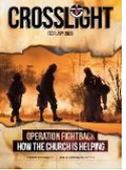
Multi-Retailer Gift Card from Woolies / Coles / Aldi etc

Donations of large gift bags are also appreciated.

(03) 8599 5433  
197 Bluff Road, Sandringham  
[www.familylife.com.au](http://www.familylife.com.au)



Click [HERE](#) or on image for more details



CROSSLIGHT is available on the internet - click on the following link or the CROSSLIGHT image to view online. [www.crosslight.org.au](http://www.crosslight.org.au)

Print copies of CROSSLIGHT are available at the entrance of the Black Rock Uniting Church.

# Prayers of the People



We pray for all in need especially -

The family of Bill Williams  
The family of June Bartholomeusz  
Joyce Carpenter  
Pam Campbell  
Rosemary  
Joyce Curnow  
Virginia (Nan's friend)  
Bronwyn

Stuart as he struggles with addiction  
Jenny and Janine Bartholomeusz  
Betty Kneen  
Gloria, Samson & Family  
Barb Loosemore and brother  
Susan Bartell  
Anita and Kingsley

Rosemary & Bob  
Isobel Churchward  
Gemma and Teresa  
Sybil Bond  
Grace Fairbank  
Rhonda's family

We give thanks for those whose prayers have been answered..

**"Dine Out Group"** Tuesday 29 November, 6.30pm Sazio Restaurant, 41B Bluff Rd, Black Rock. Please confirm numbers by Friday 25 Nov at the latest. 0417 336 727 or [nancieflegg@hotmail.com](mailto:nancieflegg@hotmail.com)



**WEEKLY OFFERINGS:** Thanks to everyone who have continued to make their weekly offering.

**Envelopes:** If you wish your offering to be specifically for Cheltenham, please place it in an envelope marked "Cheltenham" and place it in the offering bowl at church.

**Direct Debit:** Cheltenham / Mentone members note that direct payments can now be made to our new Westpac account at Southland, **BSB number is 033 358, Account Number is 664 881**

Payee "Uniting Church in Australia Cheltenham Mentone Parish Council"

The former Commonwealth Bank - BSB 06 3119, Account Number 1014 1206 - is still active for the time being.

**Cheltenham-Mentone Members:** Please bear in mind that although we are worshipping at Black Rock, the expenses of electricity, water, insurance, maintenance and Minister's stipend are still ongoing at Cheltenham.

### SOCIAL COLLECTION DEPARTMENT:

**BayCISS** - collection of goods by Graeme & Joan Wood has recommenced. Leave goods with them at 66 Bernard St. Cheltenham, or call them on 9555 0462  
**Would those wishing to donate to BayCISS before Christmas please include a few items of Christmas fare, such as shortbread, mince tarts, puddings, cakes, etc.**

**Emerge** - Financial help is the best way to help - Cheques to - GPO Box 420 Melbourne VIC 3001 or donate via the website [www.emergesupport.org.au](http://www.emergesupport.org.au)  
Emerge welcomes vouchers for supermarkets or art materials which children could use at home - materials, pencils, colouring books etc. Margaret Bode is happy to collect items if you leave them at her home, 16 Monaco Street Parkdale. **Donations in an envelope marked EMERGE may be left in the collection plate.**

 **OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL:** 

Click on the YouTube logo to view a selection of **over 50** sermons and service preludes

*Editor's pick - Click on image to view*



## Church on the Internet - Sunday 10am (virtual doors open 9:45 am)



If you don't have Zoom on your computer/laptop/iPad/Smartphone, click on <https://zoom.us/support/download>

Then click on this link below or the "Sunday Church" image to join our Service -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85247373230?pwd=WIM2UHJEemFWS3RScnNqM3puaGdZdz09>

Otherwise open Zoom and enter the following - **Meeting ID: 852 4737 3230 Passcode: 836844**

You can also join us on your phone by dialling **03 7018 2005** and entering the above meeting details.



More from our furry friends ...

