



# **the candle** **st michael & st luke** **anglican church**

**“being right with  
God”**

**CHRISTMAS 2018**

**Welcome!** It is great that you have decided to celebrate the incarnation of our LORD (tonight and tomorrow morning) here. As we worship God together, we pray that God will minister and refresh you through the Word and Sacrament.

If you are a communicant member of another Christian church, you are invited to share in the Holy Communion in the services held at the 11PM Christmas Eve service and, the 10AM Christmas Day service). Please follow the guidance from the sides-person as you come for Holy Communion.

Please use the **CONNECT Card** if you have questions about the Christian faith and/or if you are new here. We will love to hear from you and connect with you. You are most welcome to stay for fellowship (with light refreshments) in the church hall after the worship services. As a special treat, there is fruit cake and port after the 11PM Christmas Eve service. 😊

**TODAY's Bible reading:** Isaiah 9.2-7; Psalm 97; Titus 2.11-14; John 1.1-14

**Sentence:** 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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9.6 NIV)

**PRAYER for the day:** Lord Jesus Christ, your birth at Bethlehem draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth: accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you, our Saviour and our eternal God. Amen

**Over** this past month (Advent), we in this parish considered a number of things we should be doing as we watch and wait for Christmas and more importantly, as we watch and wait for the return of Christ. These are, to overflow with love; pray with joy; not to be anxious; and, believe God's promises. Of course, there is much more that we could do as we wait and watch!!

The people in Biblical times were watching and waiting too for the first coming of the Messiah. They were watching and waiting because of the many prophecies in the Old Testament. Among them were the prophecies of Isaiah, *“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 Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”* (Is. 9.6); and, *“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel”* (Is. 7.14).

Centuries later these prophecies came true when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Before Jesus was born, Mary was personally informed: *“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”* (Lk 1.31-33)

Similarly, Joseph was personally informed: *“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary*



*home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”* (Mt 1.20-21)

For us today and after a year, Christmas Day has arrived once again: an occasion to celebrate and as a reminder to give thanks to God who fulfilled the prophecies made centuries earlier about Jesus. Christmas 2018 is also an occasion to thank God for His continuous and gracious provision since Christmas 2017.

At the same time, Christmas is a reminder for us to watch and wait for the inevitable return of Christ when the fullness of who He is will be revealed for all to see and experience.

Just like the first Christmas was inevitable, the return of Christ is also certain - it's only a matter of time! What are we doing as we watch and wait for Christ's return?

**The Parish Councillors, Wardens and I together with our families, wish you and yours a very blessed, holy & safe Christmas/New Year! Soli Deo Gloria, Santa 😊**

**Please take this CANDLE and pass it to your friends. Thank you!**

## How you can support & participate in our mission!

- **PRAY** and, set aside time to share and use your talents here!
- You can **share your financial treasure**. The easiest & preferred way is by direct transfer via the ADF (at no cost to you or the church) or weekly envelopes.
- Garry or Wardens will provide you with information concerning both systems. All information provided is confidential. *You can also transfer your donations directly to: "St Michael and St Luke Anglican Church: BSB 063249 a/c 10044425"*



### • **Praying for our Diocese the worldwide**

**Anglican Communion:-** Diocese of Bathurst (Bp Ian Palmer, Clergy & People); Diocese of Bendigo (Bp Matt Brain, Clergy & People); Working Group on Aboriginal Matters (NATSIAC); ABM Australia; Parish of St John's, Flinders w. St Marks Balnarring (Jennifer Furphy); Footscray Parish (Chaplain Soma, Gabriel Mayen, Duku Wolikare); episcopal/ pastoral visits: St Peter's Eastern Hill, St Peter's Brighton Beach, Broadmeadows-Dallas Parish; the Archbishop, Bishops, clergy & lay people of Melbourne Diocese in their ministries.

- **Praying for our link missionaries Chris, Grace & Micah Adams:** *"Thank God for your continued support of us through CMS that enables us to continue gospel ministry in TL. Pray that God will continue to work in the hearts and minds of the students encountering God's Word. Pray that Chris may be healed from the infections that has developed on his elbow and chest."*

### • **For the world & the worldwide church**

**[Barnabas Prayer]:** Heavenly Father, as we give thanks for the birth of the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), we pray for the millions of Christians around the world who live under the shadow of disadvantage, discrimination and persecution. We pray that as they celebrate His coming they may experience the peace of God that passes all understanding (Philippians 4:7), and that they may take heart from the knowledge that He has overcome the world (John 16:33). We pray also for God's special comfort for those marking Christmas for the first time after loved ones have been killed. Amen.

- **Pray for our church & community:** Gracious God, we praise and thank you that you remain faithful always. We thank

you and praise your name that we are once again able to meet and celebrate the incarnation of Your Son in peace. We particularly

thank you that we have been called by

You and we belong to You through your Son.

Kindle within us the desire and commitment to seek others who are searching for a sense of true belonging. We pray for all who will be joining us for today services. Prepare us to receive them with your love and generosity as we share and demonstrate the true meaning of Christmas. We pray for many who do not acknowledge the lordship of Christ over their lives. Prepare their hearts through your Spirit that, as they return to church during the Christmas season they will finally acknowledge Christ as their Lord & Saviour. Grant them your peace and grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

- **Faithful God,** we praise You for your gifts of healing, comfort & peace to all known to us including, Alin, Audrey, Barry, Cynthia, Dale, Esther, Grenville, Gladys, Harry, Jean, Jean, John, Mary, Michael, Ned, Noreen, Oscar, Patrick, Seelan, Yacoub, Yvonne, Varuni, Chandrani and all who we remember in our hearts. We pray for those travelling and those seeking suitable employment including Melville. We continue to pray for God's comforting presence and peace on all who mourn and, for many who find Christ time a difficult time. In Jesus' name. Amen



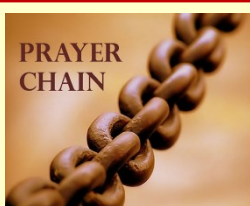
**For URGENT PASTORAL CARE — call Santa**

**PRAYER CHAINS:**

Cynthia [9704 9705];

Brian [9791 4496];

Vaughan & Noelle [9546 0353]



## dates for your calendar!

30 December  
Sunday  
**CHRISTMAS 1**

**10AM Family service with Holy Communion, children's church & Choir practise (after service) "Farewell fellowship gathering for Sakthe Kumar" ALL WELCOME!**

**CELEBRATE the NEW YEAR @ St Michael & St Luke on 1 Jan 2019 (from 11AM) Thanksgiving service followed by shared lunch. ALL WELCOME**

# The Word Became Flesh

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12

Based on John 1:10-18



X V I N U Q Q X D N N U T C X  
 N A M E Q T I A C D F S V Y K  
 B E L I E V E M Z V I Z G H F  
 D B F N E H S Q G R Y W T J U  
 L T R U T H R N H P K O W X T  
 J L W O X B I C T H W R O A M  
 M Q D K G L V E C Q S L R G B  
 Q I O X L I P Z H H M D D E L  
 G G T E B B C T I U D K V L E  
 B O W T Q V U X L I S I W W S  
 F D W F W P Z W D G E Q Y S S  
 R W P Z L S S F R C M R U F I  
 O G R A C E B G E H O S E P N  
 N Y D K P U S R N L E S L C G  
 K N F P V X O H G J G A A E W

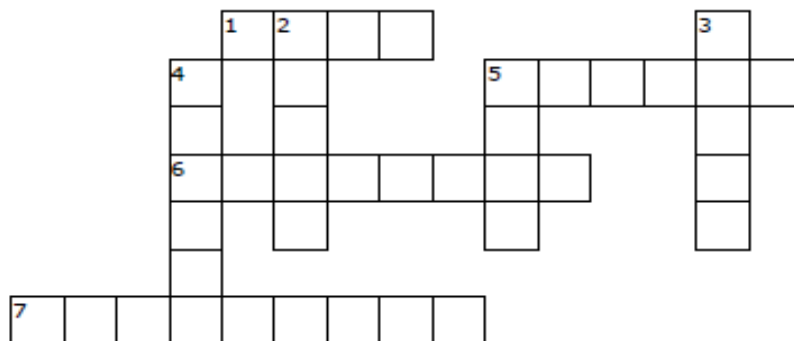
CHILDREN	FLESH	CHRIST	WORLD	TRUTH
BELIEVE	DWELLING	GRACE	GOD	RECEIVE
BLESSING	NAME	WORD	GLORY	JESUS

from: [Sermons4Kids.com](http://Sermons4Kids.com)

## The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



### ACROSS

- An infant or very young child
- The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
- A person who takes care of sheep
- The city where Jesus was born

### DOWN

- Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
- The savior of the world
- The earthly father of Jesus
- The mother of Jesus

If you need a little help, here is a list of the words used in this puzzle.

- JOSEPH
- ANGEL
- BETHLEHEM
- BABY
- MARY
- SHEPHERD
- JESUS
- MANGER



## praying for the mission of Anglican parish of St Michael & St Luke:

Living God, you have called us to be the Body of Christ. As we “**renew, revive, reach out,**” may our parish be a sign of hope in this community. May all we do, and all we are becoming, bring praise to your name and draw others to your love. We ask these things in the name of Jesus, who came to serve and bring us the fullness of life. **Amen**

## who we are!

The Anglican Parish of St Michael & St Luke is a part of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. We encourage one another to **RENEW** our relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, to partner with the LORD to **REVIVE** God’s church and to **REACH OUT** to others as the Holy Spirit reveals.

Our Mission: “**bring the gospel of Christ to the community and the world**”

Our Values: **Scripture, Worship, Prayer, Fellowship & Mission**

## our regular services are:

**8AM Sunday - Holy Communion (traditional)**

**10AM Sunday - Holy Communion & Children’s Church**

**10AM (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday only - unless indicated otherwise) - “What is God doing?” & Children’s Church [ALL WELCOME!]**

### DURING TERM TIME:

✦ **SUNDAY CLUB** (Kindergarten to Year 6) & **YOUTH GROUP** (Year 7 to Year 12) meets during the Sunday 10AM service (except 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday).

✦ **PLAYGROUP** meets every Monday morning (10AM-12Noon).

✦ **CARE GROUPS** meet every week to inspire, support/pray for one another & grow in faith (Wednesday 10AM-12Noon & Thursday from 7:30PM).

**If you wish to participate in any of these activities or have questions, please contact the church office for more details. We will love to hear from you!**

## useful contacts ...

**Ministers: All Parishioners!**

**Vicar:** Revd. Santa Packianathan  
☎ 9792 4925, 9790 6533,  
0438 509 669

✉ stmstlvicar@bigpond.com

[Santa is out of office on Thursday]

**Sacristan:** Brian Bird [9791 4496]

**R U OK Team Coordinator: VACANT-Please call Santa**

**Children’s Ministry:** Anne Oliver [9791 3879]

**Youth Ministry:** Vaughan Smith [9546 0353]

**Play Group: VACANT-Please call Santa**

**Honorary Licensed Lay Ministers:**

Brian Bird, John De Losa, Garry Martin, Theo Rutgers, John Singh.

**Church Wardens:**

Vaughan Smith (**Parish CrimCheck Administrator**) [9546 0353]; Cleoni Loos (**Child Safe Officer**) [9755 7097]; Larry Loos [9795 7371]

**Council Secretary:** Cleoni Loos [9755 7097]

**Treasurer:** Courtney Cook [0409 332 377]

**Stewardship:** Garry Martin [9704 9705]

**Church Office: VACANT-Please call Santa**

**Hall Hire:** Anand Raj [0404 043 536]

**Child Protection: 1300 360 391**  
**Kooyoora Ltd: 1800 135 246**

connect

Name:

Prayer need/request/feedback:

Address:

Telephone No:

Email:

*If you would like prayer for any reason, please come to the front immediately after Communion.*

## how to contact us

1472—1478 Heatherton Road | Dandenong | VIC 3175 | AUSTRALIA  
Church office: + 61 3 9792 4925 Church e-mail: stmmandst@bigpond.com

Website: [www.lumiac.org.au](http://www.lumiac.org.au)

FB Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dandenonganglicans/>

FB Page: <https://www.facebook.com/dandenonganglicans/>



## acknowledgment of traditional owners of the land:

We gather on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri and Boonerwung (or Bunurong) tribes of the Kulin Nation, and we acknowledge them as the Traditional Owners. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.