

Dear people of God,

Season's Greetings!

Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer (which means "the stone of help"), for he said, "Up to this point the LORD has helped us! (1 Samuel 7:12). Indeed, these words by the Prophet Samuel are a testimony to which we bear witness. We are here today because the LORD has done helped us cross over from 2023 to 2024.

In my recent homily I did emphasize the fact that as we bid farewell to 2023, we did so with mixed emotions, as some of us have all good things to say about that year while on the same breath some of us have only painful things to share due to death, illness, broken relationships and economic crunch to mention just a few. Be that as it may, having crossed over to the new year is another opportunity and another chance we have at life again. May we gain strength from the one who called us and died for us, Jesus the Christ to heal from all the pain we experienced in 2023, let go of the anger, regrets and all the feelings that hinder our ability to grow in faith, in relationships as individuals as well as a community of faith. I wish you a new year filled with God's presence and his love for us gathered and the Church scattered.

Allow me to highlight some important dates in the Parish's Diary for this month: Please note that as of Friday, 12th January to the end of the month I will be on annual leave. Services will continue as normal with the absence of the 5:15pm on Sunday until February. Saturday, 3rd February there is Parish Council Planning Day from 10-4pm. Sunday 4th February is our Startup Sunday - PC will communicate full details of how this will transpire once again this year. On Thursday 8th February at 10am we will have our first Pastoral Care meeting; and a bit further on Wednesday 14th February is Ash Wednesday. Based on previous records, there are usually two services offered at 10am and 7pm. Please diarize accordingly for a smooth running of our affairs.

With the Season of Lent starting this early this year, we are going to be working proactively in organizing our material for our Home Groups. It has been a lot of fun being part of these groups during the Season of Advent. I look forward to a fulfilling Lenten journey.

Happy New Year to you all.

Yours humble in Christ's service, Fr Lankiri

NOTICES

The church wardens are delighted to announce that they have appointed Mrs Makay Thaba to be office administrator. She will work with Trish Cowling until the end of the month and continue when Trish retires after many years of faithful service. Please be patient as it will take some time for Makay to learn the routines.

Treasurer Update

The current situation is that we have not been able to recruit a new treasurer for our parish. If you have skills in accounting, bookkeeping or are generally good with figures, could you give this matter your serious prayerful consideration as to whether this is a role of service that you could take on. Please speak to a warden or Fr Lankiri if you can assist. In the meantime, Wayne has been generously acting as treasurer. However, as his term has officially finished, new arrangements need to be made as we head into 2024. In the interim, if you are requiring reimbursement please forward receipts and banking details, as appropriate, to Sue Murrant or Don Patterson. Ideally Sue Murrant in the first instance as she will be processing the receipts for payment through the diocese, in line with current procedures.

After Six Dinners

After Six Dinners will be on the third Thursday of the month for 2024. All are welcome. Come, and enjoy fellowship with other parishioners and friends after your busy day. Dinners commence at 6.30 pm. Dates for the first three months of 2024 are 18th January, 15th February and 21st March. Please let Sue Murrant know if you are coming so we can reserve you a place.

Our Contacts

Vicar	The Reverend Lankiri Thaba (0435 109 914) Email – let.theology@gmail.com
Clergy Team	The Reverends Andrew Constance, John Howells (5244 0649) & Barry Smith (0409 409 473)
Office	Phone 5221 8055 and leave a message Email – enquiries@christchurchgeelong.org Web page: www.christchurchgeelong.com.au
Organist	Mr Winton Barry
Office Admin.	Patricia Cowling

REMINDER—CHRISTMAS SERVICES RECORDINGS

The Carol Service (10th December) and the Christmas Midnight Mass (24th December) were both recorded and are available to listen to (or sing along with!) from the Parish web page – just go to ‘*Watch/listen to a recent service or sermon*’ or ‘*what’s on now*’ and follow the links. Service recordings are usually on the web page soon after each Sunday!!

Phillip Swain

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday, 10th January 2024 Holy Eucharist at 10am

NEXT SUNDAY: 14TH JANUARY 2024

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Services: Holy Eucharist at 8am & 10am only

Readings: 1 Samuel 3:1-10; Psalm 139;
1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Gospel: John 1:43-51

SERVICES DURING JANUARY

Holy Eucharist at 8am & 10am on Sundays
and at 10am on Wednesdays

(Note: No Holy Eucharist at 5.15pm on Sundays
or Meditation sessions on Tuesday evenings.

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the lands on which Christ Church and its building now stand.

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