



St Peter's Caversham
www.stpeterscaversham.org.nz

The Pebble

Sunday, December 8, 2024. Second Sunday in Advent



It has been announced that, following the Diocese of Dunedin Electoral College held on November 22-23, the Venerable Dr Anne Van Gend is to be installed as the 11th Bishop of Dunedin.

Collect.

Praise and honour to you living God for John the Baptist,
and for all those voices crying in the wilderness
who prepare the way.
May we listen when a prophet speaks your
word and obey.
Amen.

WELCOME

to all who are sharing in worship with us today and all those who read the Pebble on-line.

The Liturgy for Today.

8.00 am Holy Eucharist (1662)
10.30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist

HYMNS FOR TODAY

12 On Jordan's bank
We sing the 3-part Alleluia at the Gospel
11 O come, O come Emmanuel
5 Hark! A herald voice is calling!
397 Let us with a gladsome mind

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Baruch 5: 1-9](#)

[Psalm 126](#) *Response:* The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

[Philippians 1: 3-6, 8-11](#)

[Luke 3: 1-6](#)

READINGS NEXT WEEK

[Zephaniah 3: 14-18](#)

Response to the Canticle: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

[Philippians 4:4-7](#)

[Luke 3: 10-18](#)

After the Intercessions:

O Lord, hear my prayer, (x2)
When I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, (x2)
Come and listen to me.

Parish News

Healing Ministry During communion at the 10.30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist Fr Kit will be available in the Lady Chapel to pray with you on any issue which is concerning you.

Morning Prayer is said in the Lady Chapel each Wednesday at 9 am.

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated in the Lady Chapel on Thursday at 10 am.

Brass Cleaning, *this Friday* December 13, 1 pm in Parish Lounge.

Christmas at St Peter's.

Sunday December 8.

8 am Holy Communion (1662)

10.30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist

2pm Diocesan Christingle Service

Sunday December 22

8 am Holy Communion (1662)

10.30 am Festival of Lessons and Carols with Communion and Christmas Pot-Luck Lunch

December 24 (Christmas Eve)

7.30 pm Shared Meal in Lounge with St Martha's followed at **9 pm** by Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day

9 am Holy Communion with Carols (1662)

Pray for the Sick and Infirm in the Parish and Beyond

Claire Christie, Paul Hill, Kristian, Faye-Noel Brown and Jill Hodges.

Pray for those whose memorials occur at this time David MacGill, Douglas Earwaker, John Carruthers, William Forrest, Allan Paterson, and John Jerome.

From the Vicar

I have found that waiting for things can cause me to doubt, and the longer something takes to eventuate the more worried and uncertain I become. The last 12 months of waiting and planning has not been smooth, but as we look around wonderful things are happening.

While change is inevitable, it is strange that we don't tend to welcome it. I believe things can stall because the scale of some changes appear so profound. If I had known the things that needed to be done at St Peter's, I certainly would have stayed where I was, but God asked me to come and love the congregation. From the love, enthusiasm and resilience grew.

John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph had no idea what they were in for when they said yes to God. What they did know was God had a plan and that they were going to help in the gift of salvation. A gift that transforms lives, communities and nations.

St Peter's has a history of social transformation and I have no doubt that this will continue. Let us, as people of faith, say yes to God and be used in unexpected ways to build on the kingdom of heaven, here and now.

Parish Directory

Vicar: Reverend Natalie Milliken 455-3961

Priest Assistant: Reverend Joel Stutter 0210 227 2318

Vicar's Warden: Dr Alex Chisholm 022 134 5233

People's Warden: Raylene Ralston 021 0276 1124

Director of Music: David Hoskins 021 208 3922

Symbols of the Advent Wreath

The Circle: God has no beginning and no end. His love is eternal and universal.

Evergreens: Green is the colour of hope. It is a sign of our hope and belief that the Saviour has come for us.

Four Candles: The Chosen People of the Old Testament waited 4000 years for the coming of the Saviour. Our four weeks of Advent represent our preparation and longing for the coming of Jesus.

Three Purple Candles: Purple is the colour that symbolizes sorrow and repentance. It reminds us to return to the love and kindness of our Saviour.

One Rose or Pink Candle: Pink represents Joy. At the third Sunday of Advent we pause in the penance and rejoice in the fact that the celebration of the coming of our Saviour is almost here.

Lighted Candle: Jesus is the Light who guides us. Each Sunday an additional candle is light.



The Word

The Word did not
become a philosophy, a theory,
or a concept to be discussed,
orated or pondered, but
the Word
became a person
to be followed, enjoyed and loved.

Saint Matthew's Abbotsford, Canada

The Meaning of Advent

Advent, a season of four Sundays, opens the church year. The season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The observance of Advent originated in France during the fourth century. The duration of the season varied from four to seven weeks until the Pope in the sixth century set it at four weeks. Every Christian was required to attend church services and fast daily.

The word, Advent, consists of two Latin words: ad-venire, "to come to." Advent's message is that God in Christ is coming. The message of Advent is to "prepare."

How does Advent suggest we prepare?

Repentance – identify what needs to change for a more godly life.

Prayer – pray for Christ to come

Patience – watch and wait, ask and you shall receive.

The Mood of Advent

Colour – The mood of Advent is expressed in the liturgical colours of purple and green. The sacred and the ordinary. Advent, like Lent, is a time for solemn and sober thought about one's sins, leading to repentance. Purple was a traditional colour of a sovereign's robe but also the colour for repentance and sorrow. It depicts a feeling of quiet dignity, royalty and confession. The green denotes a quiet time for watching and waiting, praying for Christ to come again, both personally and universally.

Joy in Hope – Advent emphasizes the anticipation of fulfillment of the coming of Christ. Christians have great expectations of Christ's coming, both personally through the Holy Spirit and universally. As a family looks forward to the return of a loved one or the arrival of a baby, so a Christian looks forward with joy to Christ's coming.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is widely recognised as the symbol of Advent. The wreath is made of a circle of evergreen branches laid flat to symbolize the endless nature of God's love for his people. Four candles stand in the middle which symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

Traditionally, three candles are purple and the fourth, the "Joy" candle is pink. This draws anticipation of the coming of a Messiah that weaves its way, like a golden thread through Old Testament history. The Israelites yearned for a return of God's dynamic presence in their midst.

And so, God revealed to some of the prophets that He would not leave His people without a true Shepherd.

Lighting the Candles

The candles are lit after the first reading.

First Sunday in Advent

Light the first purple candle which is the candle of hope, and in some traditions, prophecy, because it reminds us that God foretold the coming of His Son and it represents the period of waiting.

Second Sunday in Advent

Light the first candle. The second candle is the candle of peace. In some traditions it is called the Bethlehem Candle because it reminds us that even God prepared for the birth of His Son.

Third Sunday in Advent

Light the first two candles. The pink candle is called the candle of Joy and in some traditions the Shepherd's Candle. It reminds us of the poor shepherds who were the first people to see Christ – that we all need a shepherd and that Jesus is our shepherd. God loves all people. Some are rich and famous, but others are poor and often hungry. Each has a special place in the heart of God.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Light the first three candles. The fourth candle is for love. This candle is also called the Angel's Candle. It reminds us that love came into the world when Jesus was born and we should join the angels in rejoicing God's love for us.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

All the candles are lit and the white candle in the centre which is Christ's Candle, to celebrate the birth of our brother and Saviour.