



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GRAFTON

open doors ... open hearts ... open minds ...

Second Sunday of Advent

10 December 2023

Gathering in God's name

Page 119 (Green "A Prayerbook for Australia")

Entrance Hymn

270 TIS On Jordon's bank the Baptist's cry



The Advent Wreath: Second Sunday of Advent

Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive and in some parts of the world it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families or within our own hearts. God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

Advent 2 [26 (A&M 2013)]

**Prophet voices loudly crying,
making pathways clear;
glimpsing glory, self-denying,
calling all to hear.**

**Through their message – challenged, shaken –
hearts awaken: God is near!**

The candles are lit.

Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Sentence

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.

Luke 3.4; Isaiah 40.5a

Invitation to Confession

The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

Silence may be kept

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

The Collect of the day

Merciful God,
you sent your messengers the prophets
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to
heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 40.1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!'

And I said, 'What shall I cry?'

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalms 85.1-2, 8-13

**1 O Lord, you were gracious to your land:
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

**2 You forgave the iniquity of your people:
and covered all their sin.**

**8 I will hear what the Lord God will speak:
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful ones, whose hearts are turned to him.**

**9 Truly his salvation is near to those that fear him:
and his glory shall dwell in our land.**

- 10 Mercy and truth are met together:
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;**
- 11 Truth shall flourish out of the earth:
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
- 12 The Lord will also give us all that is good:
and our land shall yield its plenty.**
- 13 For righteousness shall go before him:
and tread the path before his feet.**

Second Reading

2 Peter 3.8-15a

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him,

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Mark 1.1-8

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Mark
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Offertory Hymn 533 TIS I come with joy to meet my Lord

The Great Thanksgiving Thanksgiving 1 on page 128, preface 147

The Lord's Prayer Page 141

Communion Anthem *Panis Angelicus* — Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704)

Post Communion & Blessing Page 148

Mission Hymn 272 TIS *come, thou long-expected Jesus*

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The Bethlehem Prequel – An Advent Reflection



The House of Bread – Ruth 2.1-23

Ruth is a story of profound honour and love. Where last week we saw the love of Ruth for her mother-in-law, here we see love being expressed in the actions of Boaz. In a world in which people can pursue profit at all costs, the Old Testament law intentionally placed limits, including a law that the edge of the harvest field

was to be left for the poor, the widow, and the foreigner to glean.

Boaz greets his workers, 'the Lord be with you'. Soon we discover that Boaz's expression is not merely a greeting but a posture towards life. If we were to look for a case study of genuine personal and workplace integrity, we would do well to observe Boaz. He demonstrates genuine ethical behavior when he discovers Ruth gleaning in the fields.

Firstly, he calls Ruth, 'my daughter.' This is significant for Ruth is a vulnerable young woman and a foreigner. The mistreatment of vulnerable women is one of the deep tragedies of human life. Boaz speaks to Ruth with honour and respect, without a trace of racial or sexual discrimination. Furthermore, he is savvy to the ways of the world, and takes active initiative, setting a culture of respect in the workplace.

Boaz does not fulfill the law by doing the minimum duty; he goes beyond, inviting Ruth to drink from the water jars the men have filled. Ruth asks why Boaz has acted so kindly. He tells her that he has heard her personal story of devotion to Naomi and says, 'May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.' In his kindness towards Ruth, he becomes a participant in God's refuge.

In the coming of Jesus at Christmas, God is bringing us refuge. When Jesus greets us, he not only recognises the presence of God, he is God's presence! He, too, addresses many vulnerable women as daughters. He, too, goes beyond what is required in the law, giving himself for us, even unto death. Just as Boaz was a 'guardian-redeemer' who embraced his responsibility to care for his relatives in poverty, at Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the saviour and redeemer of the world!

Response: When have you felt the shelter and hope of God in difficult times? Today, millions of displaced people are seeking refuge among the world's nations. How can you practice the refuge of God, under whose wings people can find compassion and kindness?

Heavenly Father, as we celebrate the coming of our savior and redeemer, we pray that we would extend care to those who are poor and vulnerable, and in doing so, participate in your purpose of providing wings of refuge. Amen

From Anglican Overseas Aid, books at entrance to Cathedral.

Message from The Dean

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

On this second Sunday in Advent we light two candles as we pray for hope and peace in our lives and in our world. Our bulletin shares an Advent reflection each week prepared by the Anglican Board of Mission with Anglicans in Development. You might also like to download the daily devotional for Advent here:

<https://www.abmission.org/resources/songs-from-a-strange-land/>

80th Anniversary of the Boy Scout (Cubs) Disaster on the Clarence River - 11 December 1943

The coming days will see a number of events to mark the 80th anniversary of this terrible disaster on the Clarence River when thirteen children lost their lives when their boat was swamped by waves on their return from a picnic day on Susan Island. While this took place a long time ago, there still remains many in our community who were impacted deeply by this terrible disaster. We will be offering prayers in our Sunday morning service in remembrance of this tragedy. The following events will also be taking place:

- Luncheon gathering in remembrance on Sunday 10th December at the Grafton District Services Club (<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/80th-scouts-commemoration-luncheon-tickets-707664793447?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>)
- Monday 11th December Prayers at the Cemeteries: 8.30am at Grafton led by Rev Adrian Van Ash; 9.30am at South Grafton led by Dean Naomi and Rev Aaron Coates
- Memorial service on Monday at Memorial Park at 4.15pm.

Christmas Services

Please put in your diary our special services over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will be blessed to have Bishop Murray with us for all our Christmas services. Please note that young people and children who might like to participate in the Christmas Eve service are invited to a rehearsal on the previous Tuesday afternoon.

Taize Meditation

Taize is the name of a small town in regional France where a religious community grew after the second world war with the purpose of ecumenical prayer for peace. In the week leading up to Christmas we will offer prayers in the Taize tradition which involves repeated sung simple phrases. May this bring you peace amidst the busyness.

Anglicare Christmas Community Event: Thursday 21 December 10am-12pm

We are very excited to partner with Anglicare in hosting a family friendly Christmas event on Thursday, 21st December, from 10 am to 12 pm. This gathering promises a festive atmosphere with a sausage sizzle, face painting, kids' craft, activities, and even a visit from Santa Claus. **We invite you to contribute baked items for a bakesale stand** (please label ingredients).

Podcasts

Recent episodes of our diocesan podcast features Rev Sister Linda Mary and Rev Brenda Yager. Listen here: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/197736>

Thankyou

Many volunteers from the parish supported our recent Diocesan service and lunch. The generosity in time and energy was beautiful, and there is much gratitude for all this work that supported our Cathedral's hospitality.

I will have a special announcement on Sunday morning about our ministry team growing. Join us in the Cathedral or online this Sunday to find out more.

May our journey through Advent bring us all joy and peace. Dean Naomi

BOY SCOUT (CUBS) DISASTER ON CLARENCE RIVER, NSW AUSTRALIA – 11 DECEMBER 1943

On 11 December 2023 in the Northern Rivers City of Grafton on the banks of the Clarence River a memorial service will be held. There have been many minor commemorations and a major one on the 50th Anniversary on the date. On this occasion it is the 80th and there are only two known survivors and a small number of impacted immediate family members left. Scouts Australia (Grafton), Clarence Valley Council and the Clarence River Historical Society have come together to provide a timely commemoration for such a tragic event that resonates through the community still today.

About the Tragedy

On the 11 December 1943 shortly after 5pm thirty-one (31) children set out from a large island (Susan Island) in the middle of the "Great River" as the Clarence River in the far North Coast of New South Wales was known. They were headed for the riverbank on the north side of the river near the main street of the wartime city of Grafton, a distance of some 300 metres. Twenty-eight of the boys were aged between eight and ten years old, they had left their homes in Grafton and South Grafton not much more than five hours previously.

The day had commenced as one of great promise and the children were eagerly pressing their mothers (many of the fathers were absent at war) to pack their bags with lunches and perhaps a jumper or spare clothes, they also had a glass drink bottle filled with cordial and water. Several parents had had second thoughts about the "adventure". They felt uneasy about the planned activities involving the river, some were assured by their children that everything would be ok, whilst other parents put their foot down and against the tears and pleading forbid their sons to participate.

The weather for the final journey back to the shore had become threatening and the wind had picked up. On the journey to the island two trips had been made but now on this occasion one had commenced. Quickly what little freeboard the borrowed punt had, was overrun by the waves that were present in mid journey, the island having inhibited the winds effect on the surface of the water up to that point.

Frantic bailing and two older boys climbing out of the boat increased the anxiety of those children remaining in the overcrowded boat and soon the water came rushing in and swamping the boat. Some boys had their shoes on, whilst others were barefoot, most

carried their backpacks and their now empty drink bottles. Even a good swimmer would be tested under these conditions, these boys, many of whom were non-swimmers did not stand a chance and soon many of the children went below the surface.

The commotion was however noticed by several canoeists and men on the north side riverbank. The local Bowling Club being located in the park near where the boys were headed to was attended with games being held. Many men quickly dropped whatever they were holding and ran to the riverbank. Soon several boats arrived on scene and a recovery operation was undertaken.

The recovery operation continued until after 10 pm, by which time those recovered following assistance given by two doctors at the river side, were transported to the local hospital. In the end thirteen children had lost their lives and the remaining eighteen were saved and most were able to go home over the next few days. Condolences arrived from across Australia and parts of the world. It was described as one of the worst disasters to occur in the Scouts worldwide.

That such a thing could happen spurred the local population and with the involvement of the local councils, a meeting was arranged to establish a fund for the construction of a proper pool. At the time there were several river baths, but these were somewhat temporary given the propensity of the river to regularly flood.

Money soon came to the fund from all quarters and other money generating ideas were touted for what was a very costly exercise, and it must be said in wartime conditions and the hardships that brings. The Mayor of Grafton City Council decided, it is believed, to write to General Douglas MacArthur who at this time was in charge of all the Pacific Theatre operations of World War Two.

Something must have touched General MacArthur's heart, perhaps that his son was of similar age (8 – 10), as he quickly acted to assist the cities of Grafton and South Grafton. He sent Lieutenant Richard (Dick) Ryan to supervise the holding of a rodeo both here and in Brisbane, Queensland. Both events were extremely well attended and of the many participants (obviously in the US Military) several were United States Champions. General MacArthur also sent Colonel A. Diller of his staff to be his official guest at the rodeos.

The City of Grafton Council renamed the park in which the soon to be Olympic Memorial Pool was to be erected, General Douglas MacArthur Park. The actions of General MacArthur, his staff and the American rodeo participants is still held in very high regard in Grafton and South Grafton. The impact on the children of these cities (amalgamated in 1957) over the years since the pool opened was profound and decisive. Many former pupils of the local schools remember their swimming lessons that resulted in enhancement of their lives particularly when swimming is a national pastime to most Australians.

The 11th of December 2023 will be a difficult day for Grafton and South Grafton residents but a timely commemoration of those lost, those who survived and the police, ambulance, doctors, council staff, military members, hospital staff and members of the public who were not recognised for the many acts of bravery that took place on that fateful day.

Cathedral Parish Directory www.graftoncathedral.org.au		
Dean	The Very Reverend Naomi Cooke dean@graftoncathedral.org.au	0404 137 149
Canon Pastor	The Revd Canon Camellia Flanagan priest@graftoncathedral.org.au	0417 928 914
Deacon	The Reverend Grant Sparks deacon@graftoncathedral.org.au	0418 995 535
Director of Music	Mr Robert Eather music@graftoncathedral.org.au	0458 093 292
Parish Office	Ms Linda Butler parishoffice@graftoncathedral.org.au	02 6642 2844
Cathedral Bookshop	bookshop@graftoncathedral.org.au	02 6642 3958
Cathedral OpShop	Ms Linda Butler	02 6642 2844
Cathedral Prayer		
Living and eternal Christ bless the ministry of this Cathedral as a place of pilgrimage, prayer and discovery. May our doors always be open to pilgrims, may our hearts always be open to one another, and may our minds always be open to new truth. Draw us deeply into the mystery of your life, your death and your resurrection, now and always. Amen.		
Prayers for those in need		
Joy Baldwin Sue Cotter Gail Gilmore Allen Madden Margaret Kay	Ruth Kingsley John McAnally Elaine Stephenson Roy Ford	Kay Metcalfe Mervyn Kingsley Aneta Jones Grace Clague
Remembering those who have died		
Year's Mind: Evelyn Gane, Ron McKnight, Mary Hope McFarlane & Bruce Leonard		

Around the Parish this Week	
Today	Second Sunday of Advent 9.00am – Cathedral Live & Online: www.graftoncathedral.org.au
Birthdays this week	Happy birthday to: Joy Baldwin, Pat Harper, Peter Kelsall, Dawn Goodwin, Sheryl Rogan & Kath Lentfer Happy Wedding Anniversary to: Roger & Jane Millard
Weekdays	Morning Prayer 8.30am Wed, Thurs & Fri at the Cathedral & via Zoom Evening Prayer 5.15 Wed, Thurs & Fri Zoom only Simply use the link on the Cathedral web page CALENDAR to access via Zoom Cathedral Office 9.00am–5.00pm(9-3 Fri) Cathedral Bookshop 9.30am–3.30pm(Tues-Fri) Cathedral OpShop 10.00am–4.00pm (Mon – Fri) 9.00-12.00 (Sat) Wednesday Worship at 10.00 am Please ensure that we have your email address and mobile number so we can reach out to you with information, news and pastoral support. If you need pastoral care or other support, please call either Dean Naomi, Canon Camellia or Deacon Grant.
Next Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent 9.00am – Cathedral Live & Online: www.graftoncathedral.org.au
Christmas & New Year Closing Times	Parish Office – Midday Friday 22 Dec – 9.00am Monday 15 Jan OpShop – 4.00pm Thursday 21 Dec – 10.00am Monday 15 Jan Bookshop – 3.30pm Friday 22 Dec – 9.30am Tuesday 23 Jan



Christ Church Cathedral Grafton

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

LESSONS & CAROLS

Sun 17 Dec 6pm
Nine Lessons & Carols
with the Cathedral Choir

NATIVITY PLAY REHEARSAL

Tues 19 Dec 4pm
Rehearsal for Children & Teenagers who
would like to act, read, sing or dance in the
Christmas Eve Service. All welcome. No need
to RSVP - just turn up

TAIZE MEDITATION

Tues 19 Dec 8.30am
Christmas Week Stillness Taize
Meditation

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS FAIR

Thurs 21 Dec 10am
Anglicare Community Event
sausage sizzle, facepainting, kids craft, games
& Santa visit

CHRISTMAS EVE

9am Sunday Eucharist
5pm Children's Christmas Service
11pm Christmas Eve Midnight Service
with Bishop Murray
& Cathedral choir

CHRISTMAS DAY

9am Christmas
Morning Eucharist with
Bishop Murray



O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant