

Parish Life



St Mary's
ANGLICAN CHURCH
MORWELL

Rector's Reflection

Advent Hope

These four weeks before Christmas provide us with a time to get some perspective on what God is doing in our world and indeed on Christmas itself. The commercial message is that Advent is all about preparing for Christmas celebrations; buying presents and food for the big day, sending our Christmas messages, decorating our homes. It's all very busy as we fit in end of year including end of school year celebrations.

But the Biblical message of Advent is to be prepared- to watch and wait for the many ways Jesus comes to us. This can be in the everyday when if we are alert, we recognise God's provision, comfort and hope that comes to us in so many different ways. I love how we can participate in God's blessing by noticing others' needs and responding generously. This can be acts of kindness, donations to charities here and abroad or words of hope and God's love. By doing these things we participate in Jesus' mission of bringing in the Kingdom of God. Of course, there's also the Second Coming when Jesus will return to bring the Kingdom to its completion and the reign of justice will be established in its fullness.

There's a focus on justice in Advent. God wants us to bring life and light to the dark places of this world. This can be by standing with those to whom justice has been denied, it can also be by contacting politicians and others with power to effect change. It can be in those daily choices we make to seek the common good and to do our small part in God's plan for each person to enjoy life. May we have courage to speak out our experience of God's love in our lives and invite someone along to a Christmas service!

May the Christ of Christmas fill your hearts with every blessing

Love and prayers, Sue

The Anglican Parish of Morwell

St Mary's, 2-6 Latrobe Road
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Rector: Revd Sue Jacka, 0409 757 170
suejacka@outlook.com

Associate Priest: Revd Kathy Dalton

Retired Clergy: Revds. Clem Watts, and Russell Jones

Rector's warden: Sandra Wagner
0402 351 612

Fossick and Find: 74 George St Morwell,
Mon- Fri 10am-3pm (03) 4120 0840

Christmas services

Community Carols at St Mary's

Sunday 14th December 7pm with the Morwell Citizens band. Cr Steph Morgan will lead the singing. Supper afterwards- contributions welcome 😊.

Bring a few friends to this uplifting event.

Christmas Eve

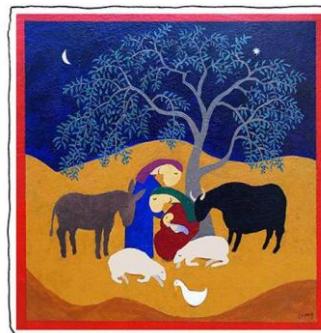
6pm Carols and Nativity

9pm Candle lit Communion

Christmas Day

9am Holy Communion

Note: There will not be a midweek Communion service on 31st December



"You have heard that it was said 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your father in heaven."

Leung

Mission of the Month:



WHAT YOU
BRING MATTERS

Each year as Christmas approaches, I'm reminded of the extraordinary story that began in 1949—the very first Christmas Bowl. A small group of Australian Christians chose to share what they had with families suffering after the war. Their gifts weren't large, but they mattered. They became the beginning of a 76-year legacy of compassion.

Since then, generation after generation has added their gift to the Bowl. Ordinary people, giving what they can, have helped bring food, shelter, safety and hope to families facing conflict and disaster around the world.

Stories from Christmas Bowl partners today in places like Gaza, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia demonstrate how the legacy continues. The needs are real, but so is the hope that grows when people choose to care.

One successful program is Tesfa, which means *hope* in Amharic. Through training, mentoring and practical support, families who once felt alone are now building new futures with dignity and confidence.

This kind of transformation doesn't happen all at once. It happens because year after year, people like you choose to give, to pray and to believe that hope is stronger than hardship.

All service offerings from all our Christmas services support the work of Christmas Bowl and you can give extra using the parish bank details online **BSB083785 Account 515946890** with reference **Christmas Bowl**.

New babes in the wider parish family



Ben and Amber welcomed Rory James Stacey into the world on 2/12/2025 a grandson for Rob and Sue. And Sandra Wagner has another great-grandchild- young Macey who was a very good weight! Congratulations to these happy families.



This year's Christmas window at Fossick and Find is spectacular! Great work Bronnie, Trish and Lilia. The photo leaves a bit to be desired, but pop in and have a look if you can!

While shepherds watched
their phones by night
All seated at the bar,
An angel texted
them to say
Look up and
See the star!



Hush Quiet Day: Step Out In Faith

Thursday 11th December 2025.

Advent is a time of spiritual refreshment, renewal and preparation.

The intention of this *Hush Quiet Day* is to 'Step Out In Faith' and reflect/experience. It is an opportunity for those who seek Silence in which to journey in a refreshed spiritual direction:

- Knowing God
- Hearing God
- Trusting God
- Taking a leap
- Landing safely by the Grace of God.

For more information:
Call: (03) 5156 6580
Email: info@theabbey.org.au
Website: www.theabbey.org.au



Facilitator: Gradwell Fredricks

Gradwell hails from South Africa and is the current incumbent of Traralgon Anglican Parish. He practices contemplative spirituality and loves the writings of Eddy Askew, Henri Nouwen, Joyce Rupp, Richard Rohr and Eastern Spiritual writers

A New Archbishop.



Archbishop Ric Thorpe became Victoria's 14th leader on Advent Sunday, succeeding Philip Freier who retired in February after 18 years of service.

Elected as archbishop in May, Archbishop Thorpe is regarded as one of the Anglican Church's leading figures in church planting and revitalisation. He is committed to being the witness to the resurrection. "I will proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, as long as God gives me breath," Archbishop Thorpe said in his homily.

The first English archbishop to be installed since Frank Woods, Archbishop Thorpe summarised the priorities for the diocese: prayer, mission, church planting, developing leaders, and schools. The installation service began with the ancient tradition of Archbishop-elect hammering at the Great Doors of St Paul's Cathedral, before he was greeted on behalf of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people by Wiradjuri man the Venerable Uncle Glenn Loughrey.

Fossick and Find Christmas Dinner

On Thursday December 4th Fossick and Find hosted a dinner at the Morwell Bowling Club in recognition of the work of the many volunteers who have made this year a very successful one again. Most of the volunteers were able to join in the celebrations. Revd Sue praised the volunteers for their hard work and positive interactions within the team and with the wider community. She recognised that some shoppers can be very testing and was grateful for the kind ways volunteers have managed this. Special thanks was given to the two day managers Sandra Wagner who leads the Monday and Tuesday teams and Bronnie McKenzie who leads the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday teams. We have arranged meetings with both Anglicare and Community Housing as these two agencies use the vouchers by which we allow needy people to receive free goods to help them through difficult times. Some people had been abusing this. We have also installed CCTV cameras- thank you Alan Middleton. The windows always look amazing with regular changes of display and the shop floor is constantly being refreshed with new arrangements of stock, making it look very attractive visually. The landlord finally repaired the roof which means there are no longer leaks! Revd Sue also thanked the Committee which oversees the workings of the shop and looks into management issues. Thank you team for a wonderful year!

