

Victor Harbor Anglican

Gaudete Sunday **The Third Sunday in The Season of Advent** **Sunday, December 16th 2018**

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. -
Saint Paul's First Letter to the Church in Philippi*

Welcome to Church This Morning!

We are so glad you have joined us for worship this morning. If you are visiting today, an especially warm welcome to you. We pray that your time in Victor Harbor is a joyful one. If you need assistance please speak to one of our welcomers. You are invited to join us in the Hall for morning tea following our service!

Today's Readings

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Benedictus

Philippians 4.4-7

Luke 3.7-18

The Collect for Today

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

From the Deacon's Desk

Gaudete brothers and sisters and welcome to our worship as we gather on this Third Sunday in the Season of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday, Gaudete means rejoice! "Shout for joy, daughter of Sion" says Zephaniah. "Draw water joyfully from the font of salvation," says Isaiah. "Rejoice in the Lord always," says Saint Paul. "Do penance for the judge is coming," says John the Baptist.

John the Baptist is often thought of as a stern, grim figure. But what is that stark, strident saint of the desert doing here, in the midst of the season of Advent? His stern call to repentance does not seem to fit. Believe it or not, John the Baptist is the patron saint of spiritual joy. After all, he leapt for joy in his mother's womb at the presence of Jesus and Mary! He rejoices to hear the bridegrooms voice. Crowds were coming to hear John from all over Israel before anyone even heard a peep out of the carpenter from Nazareth. In fact, John even baptised his cousin Jesus, launching the Lord's public ministry, heralding the demise of John's career. The Baptist was joyful because he was humble. In fact, he shows us the true nature of this virtue. Humility is not beating up on yourself, denying that you have any gifts, talents, or importance. John knew he had an important role which he played aggressively, with authority and confidence. The humble man does not sheepishly look down on himself. Actually, he does not look at himself at all. He looks away from himself to the Lord.

Most human beings, at some point, battle a nagging sense of inadequacy. Pride is sin's approach to dealing with this. Proud people are preoccupied with self, seeing all others as competitors. The proud have to perpetually exalt themselves over others in hope that this will provide a sense of worth and inner peace. Of course, it doesn't. History has proven that point time and time again. The pagan Greek storytellers knew that hubris or pride was the root of tragedy. Pride always comes before the fall, as it did in the Garden of Eden.

Humility brings freedom from this frantic bondage. Trying at every turn to affirm, exalt, and protect oneself, we all know, can be exhausting! Receiving our dignity and self-worth as a gift from God relieves us from this stressful burden. Freed from the blinding compulsion to dominate, we can recognise the presence of God and feel a sense of satisfaction when others recognize that God is God and honor him as such. We can even be free to recognise godliness in someone else and rejoice when others notice and honour this person.

Gaudete, gaudete, Christus est natus ex Maria virgine, gaudete, the words of a hymn from the fifteenth or sixteen century says "Rejoice, Rejoice, Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, Rejoice!" May we humble ourselves as God humbled himself and rejoice in the Lord in this season of preparation. God bless, Deacon Jesse x

Bishop John	08 8532 2270	Jill (Warden)	0416 064 123
Father Bruce	0427 080 681	Gillian (Warden)	0418 558 767
Deacon Jesse	0413 261 377	Madeleine (Secretary)	0419 526 182
Office	08 8552 1076	Richard (Councillor)	0456 594 070

Diary Dates

Monday 17th

10 am: Happy Stitchers
Christmas Breakup

Tuesday 18th

9 am: Cards & Cuppa

Wednesday 19th

10 am: Chapel with
Morning Tea

Thursday 20th

2 pm: Chapel at Kirribilli

Friday 21st

3.30 pm: Choir Practice
6 pm: Christmas
Festival Supper

*If there are changes to the
Diary Dates or Prayer requests
please contact*

*Liz: 08 8552 6456 or
lizormsby@outlook.com*

Notices

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL SUPPER-THE HALL ON BURKE ST.

Join us for the Christmas Festival Supper on
**Friday, December 21st, Commencing in the
Church at 6pm.**

Food and Entertainment provided. Hymns and
Carols for the Season! Bring along friends and a
pack of savoury nibbles to support the Christmas
Lunch to be held on Christmas Day.

Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve—Midnight Mass 11 pm.

**Christmas Day—The Feast of the Nativity of Our
Lord Jesus Christ, 9 am.**

The Lord's Prayer: During the Seasons of Advent
through to the end of Epiphanytide we will trial the
use of the Traditional Lord's Prayer in our worship.

Rosters: It's that time again, please let Gillian or the
Office know of any dates you are not available for
the months January-March to enable rosters to be
drawn up for the next quarter. Thank you.

Join us next Sunday

The Season of Advent

Micah 5.1-4

Psalms 80.8-19

Hebrews 10.5-10

Luke 1.39-45

Your Gift for the Work of the Church

NAB Account Name:

Saint Augustine's Anglican Church, Victor Harbor

BSB: 085 938

Account Number: 51 917 3362

Thank you to those who give so generously!

Heavenly Father, we bring our prayers before you...

We pray for your one, holy, catholic and apostolic church spread throughout the world, this Diocese of The Murray, the Bishop's Election Committee and especially for: Our shepherd, Bishop John Ford and his wife Bridget; and we pray for ministry to the elderly-for all those receiving Holy Communion at home or in hospital.

We pray for our great nation of Australia, the Commonwealth in which we share, and for:

North-West Australia-Bishop Gary Nelson.

We pray for our Church Family, and in particular for: Betsy Schild, Rosalie Sharpe, Jan Sheehan and Mary Shierlaw. We also pray that our church will grow and for more younger people and families.

We pray, too, with our brothers and sisters in Residential Care: Peggy Laube, Joyce Haythorpe, Pauline Norton, Ross Reid, and Ted & Hannah Cutten.

And ask for the Healing Hand of Christ upon: Deidre McFaul; Michelle Milnes; Don Snow; Bev & Alan Thompson; Will, Chris & John Rye; Kirsty; Maxine & family; Michelle; Father Peter; Laurie; Marie; Laura and Val; Andrew; Iris and Jim; Jill M., Di & Jeremy Johnson, Margaret Newell, Don Would and Neville Gibson.

All these, and the secret prayers of our heart, we bring before you through the power of the Spirit, in Jesus' most precious name. Amen.

The Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA): Loving God, we pray for the Anglican Provinces in Africa that they may rejoice and give thanks for the gifts you bestow on them. May you be with them in the midst of their joys and sorrows. Amen
Anglican Board of Mission

Tasmania Regional Office: During this advent season, we praise God for a refreshing approach to the Christmas story and pray that it will be an encouragement to those attending services, particularly visitors. *Bush Church Aid Society.*

Japan: We pray that Christian students in Japanese universities will be courageous in sharing their Christian faith with their friends. *Church Missionary Society*

The Service Personnel Anglican Help Society (SPAHS) : We pray for the ministry of St. George's Holiday House in Coolangatta, the committee, staff and guests; for wisdom in the use of their resources. *Defence Anglicans*

We remember with love, and pray for the repose of the souls of.....

Alfred Iredale December 19th 2006

Geoffrey Michael Hall December 21st 2004