

**Parish Day Out at Beach** hosted by Hodgson Family:  
 · From 10am, Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024  
 · 75 Marine Drive, Safety Beach

**Working Bee** 9am-12noon, Sat 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024

**Lent Activities** Easter falls early this year and so Lent begins early also. Here are some activities to look forward to:

- Ash Wednesday - 7am, prayer service: 'Imposition of Ash'
- Lent Bible Study - 7pm, every Thursday: 15 Feb to 21 Mar  
 'Remembering the Poor' a study series prepared by Anglican Overseas Aid

**Resources for ministry**

Giving can be made directly to our Bendigo Bank Warrandyte account  
 BSB: 633-000 Acct Number: 140334277.

**Church Contact Details**

Rev'd. Mark Hanson (Vicar) 0430 141 006  
 ph (general admin): 0491 185 983  
 email: [ststephenswarrandyte@gmail.com](mailto:ststephenswarrandyte@gmail.com)  
 website: [www.ststephenswarrandyte.org.au](http://www.ststephenswarrandyte.org.au)



*A welcoming Christ-centred community  
 seeking and working together  
 through the power of the Holy Spirit  
 to worship God, share His good news  
 and grow as disciples of Jesus*

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Jesus is Worthy - Hallelu Yah - Praise the Lord!**

Sundays immediately after Christmas commemorate the visit to the Holy Family by the Wise Men from the East, and the Naming of Jesus.

In ancient times, often a child was not named for a few days after its birth as a precaution in a time of high infant mortality, as if it would be better to immediately put out of mind the unfortunate death of an infant by releasing them from memory without a name or identity.

That strikes me that is a very masculine approach to tragedy. Though teeming masses of humanity have come and gone, God remembers. Describing of God's intimate care for his chosen people in feminine terms, the prophet Isaiah assured us of God's vital interest in us:

Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.'  
 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne?  
 Though she may forget, I will not forget you! *(Isaiah 49:14-15)*

We learn from the Gospel stories that the Holy Family, having been delivered of the baby in Bethlehem very close to Jerusalem, took the opportunity to go up to The Temple to reestablish Mary's ritual purity under the Law of Moses (see Lev 12). It's noteworthy that the Holy Family were not able to afford the required sacrifice of a lamb but had to resort to the lesser rite of two doves. The poverty and vulnerability of Jesus' birth circumstance makes me wonder at the risks God was willing to take in order to see through His plan of salvation.

**1** If a child is in **immediate danger** at any point **CALL 000**

**2** All suspicions or reports of child abuse must be reported to:

<p>Police</p> <p>Child Protection</p> <p>Kooyoora Professional Standards</p>	<p><b>What is Child Abuse?</b></p> <p>Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to:</p> <p><b>Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.</b></p>	<p><b>Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18?</b></p> <p>Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.</p>	<p><b>What sorts of things must be reported?</b></p> <p>All child safety concerns must be reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure of past and present abuse and harm</li> <li>• Allegations, suspicions or observations</li> <li>• Breaches of the Code of Conduct</li> </ul>
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**CONTACT NUMBERS:** POLICE 000 CHILD PROTECTION SEE BELOW KOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246

### **Isaiah 61:10-62:**

I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.  
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness;  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the soil makes the young plant come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise  
spring up before all nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
her salvation like a blazing torch.

The nations will see your vindication, and all kings your glory;  
you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will bestow.  
You will be a crown of splendour in the Lord's hand,  
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

### **Galatians 4:4-7**

When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.' So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

### **Luke 2:22-40**

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took the child Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord' *Ex 13:3*), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: 'a pair of doves or two young pigeons'. *Lev 12:8*

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

'Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
now dismiss your servant in peace.  
For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

The child's father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.