



NEWS & NOTES

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER 2023 - CHRISTMAS 1

Celebrating Christmastide

A few thoughts for reflection on our Tradition

The Twelve Days of Christmas begin with Christmas Day. The following day Christians celebrate St. Stephen's Day, or the Feast of Saint Stephen. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, is recognized for his generosity towards the poor. "Through Stephen's example "we can learn to speak boldly for our faith, and know that our lives here on earth cannot compare with the joys we'll experience in heaven." Before Stephen was stoned to death, Luke wrote, "*But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God'*" ([Acts 7:55-56](#)).

The Christmas carol, "[Good King Wenceslas](#)," is adapted from a poem commemorating the holiday of St. Stephen. The apostle John (St. John the Evangelist) is celebrated on December 27th, and on the 28th the children lost in the massacre under King Herod are remembered. It is called the [Feast of the Holy Innocents](#). Christmastide concludes with the celebration of the Epiphany. The Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the three kings that followed the Christmas star to visit Jesus after His birth on earth. Though the manger scene traditionally includes the Magi, historically they are thought to have arrived many days after Jesus' birth.

There are other holidays celebrated during, though not associated with, Christmastide. New Years Eve and New Years Day are celebrated in most countries around the world on December 31st and January 1st.

OUR CHURCH LIFE



A warm welcome to visitors worshipping with us today. We invite you to join us in the Hall after the service for Morning Tea and a time of fellowship.

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS 1
 9:30 Family Service
 Rev Brian Carey

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY
BAPTISM OF JESUS
 9:30 Communion Service
 Rev Reuben Edmonds

* Isaiah 61:10-62:3 P.724
 Psalm 148 P.627
 * Galatians 4:4-7 P.236
 * Luke 2:22-40 P.76
 * Included in today's service

Genesis 1:1-5 P.4
 Psalm 29 P.552
 Acts 19:1-7 P.173
 Mark 1:4-11 P.45

HYMNS SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

TiS 310	Brightest and Best of the start of the Morning
TiS 288	Not the Powerful, nor the Privileged
TiS 324	Lord Bid Your Servant go in Peace
TiS 305	Let Earth and Heaven combine

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

SUNDAY 7 JANUARY

	SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER	SUNDAY 7 JANUARY
WELCOMER		
DOOR STEWARD	Beth McKechnie	
ELDER	Lee-Anne Bennet	Lee-Anne Burnett
BIBLE READER	Lee-Anne Burnett	Helen Bloomfield
FLOWERS		
MORNING TEA	Mavis & Glenn Coughlan	Beth McKechnie
MUSIC	Anne van Drunen Joseph Lunardi	James Millar Joseph Lunardi
MULTIMEDIA	Deborah Marshall	James Millar
MEDIA CLICKER		Els Mengler

OUR CHURCH LIFE

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Boxing Day, celebrated the day after Christmas commemorates the day alms were distributed to the poor. It also has roots of traditionally being the day when servants of the household received Christmas gifts.

Christmastide offers us an opportunity to refocus, reset, and continue on in praise of Christ's birth on earth and the chain of events—anticipated and prophesied for hundreds of years and many generations—which were set in motion.

It's a time for us to dig into Scripture and really seek to see the many layers of the Christmas story, told from beginning to end in the Bible. Christmas is the story of Christ. He is Emmanuel, God with us. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is the Word, who was with God in the beginning. He is Light, Living Water, and Saviour Messiah. During the Twelve Days of Christmas, let's desire to know Him more, and love those around us better. He is a Savior for all, and His greatest command was to love God, and one another.

Adapted from a range of sources by Brian Carey

Prayers

This week we pray for NorthWay (Beldon-Iluka and Carramar) and Trinity North Uniting Churches Juniper

Our local prayers will be for Finance and Infrastructure Group

Sunday Services at All Saints are Live Streamed

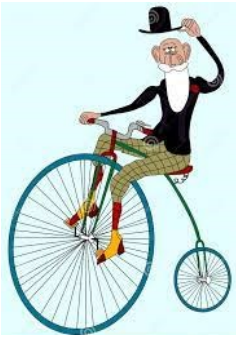
and may be viewed via YouTube at
9:30am each Sunday.

If you attend our services and would prefer not to be filmed, please avoid the front four rows of pews. Thank you

*To contact Rev Reuben Edmonds,
the Minister of All Saints Floreat
Uniting Church, please email:
minister@allsaintsfloreat.com.au
or telephone: 0404 935 167*

Counting and Coffee Anyone?

The **Creative Living Centre** is looking for ten people to each sit in a chair beside the road for two hours on the morning of Tuesday 5th March 2024. The weather is expected to be balmy and you are welcome to take your own thermos of coffee.



Whilst sitting drinking your coffee you would be expected to look out for cyclists and keep a tally of any you see. Doesn't sound too onerous does it? If you take up the challenge, we will be able to raise \$700 for the work of the Black Pearl Network.

If you can help, please contact Lee-Anne on 0414 153 323.

Keeping in Touch



Margaret Kirkness was delighted to receive her Christmas gift bag. She had been a member of the Ladies Fellowship Group at All Saints Floreat since 1953 and faithful church member before moving to Regis Nedlands.

Margaret loves to have visitors and always greets you with a smile.



**SUPPORT UNITING AID! BRING YOUR
WEET-BIX & ROLLED OATS
TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY**