



# Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple 2nd February 2025

## The Acting Vicar's Final Epistle

My final epistle is adapted from a reflection by the Episcopal Church in the USA.

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple is celebrated today. The characters in Luke's account are brought together in an event that moves them to a new place. Joseph and Mary are doing merely what is required of them, the ritual presentation of their first-born male child, Jesus, to God, and the sacrifice that accompanies it.

But old Simeon is guided to a meeting with them and, taking Jesus in his arms, is moved to say ...my eyes have seen your salvation (Luke 22:30). So now we know what salvation looks like. It takes on the face and body of a human being — Jesus.

Mary and Joseph were probably puzzled by these remarks from old Simeon, but not entirely surprised. After all, angels and others had been saying things like this to them even before Jesus was born. For them it was one more prophecy to ponder.



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For us it is affirmation, the culmination that Jesus is our salvation. God has come among us in human form to live as we live, experience life with us in all its wonder and sorrow, and lead us to a new appreciation of what it means to be truly human. What it means is becoming more and more of a challenge. Does being human mean we have to go to war to settle our differences? Does it mean we cannot solve our problems, only make more of them? Does it mean that fear, hunger, injustice, and cruelty are products of our humanity, regardless of what we do? Being truly human seems to connect with the message in the lesson from Hebrews that talks about the gift of God among us, the very gift that frees us from the power of evil, the power that brings us to war and injustice. When we say “yes” to Jesus we are saying “no” to these things that enslave us. Then we have to start living like it.

Living like it means several things: First it means a refusal; living as though Jesus is the redemption of our humanity means being ready to say “no” to the things our world tells us we have to put up with; it means refusing to put up with the things that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God; and it means beginning to hold our leaders accountable for decisions that lead to others’ harm. Our affirmation of Jesus also demands our best efforts. Each of us is given life for a reason outside of ourselves. Like Jesus, our life is to be offered for others in service. Each of us has an opportunity in this worship service to re-offer our lives to God. Each of us has the task of discerning what God asks us to do with that





up to us and says, “Here is what I see for you.” Some of the voices we hear are not God’s, but many are. The discernment to know the difference is given us in our Baptism.

Today is my last day with you as Locum. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed and supported me during nearly 12 months. Please extend the same hospitality and welcome to Fr. Aaron and his family as they come among you.

Blessings for the days ahead

Fr. Ray





## Dates for Your Calendars

February 4, 7pm: Fr Aaron's Induction

February 9, after the 10am service: Dawn's Farewell

February 9: Evensong Service for the Archbishop.  
Details to come.

## Scam Alert

We have been advised that several scam emails, purporting to be from clergy, have been received in recent weeks by congregations across the Diocese. Some recipients have been asked to donate Apple / iTunes Gift Cards. Please be vigilant, do not act on any such emails and block the sender immediately.

More information about protecting against, and reporting, scam emails is available at the Australian Government's website <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/>





## The flowers in the church today

are given by Gillian Forwood in memory of her sister, Nancy Cormack.

## Farewell to Fr Ray Cleary

On Sunday February 2 we say farewell to Fr Ray Cleary with a special morning tea in the Rutherford Room after the 10am service. Please join us then.

## St John's Asylum & Refugee Support Group

The group will be meeting on Monday Feb 10th at 2.30pm in the Dempster Room in the parish office. The main discussion will be to plan the group's activities for the coming year. All are welcome. For more information please call Karen on 9830 5026.





2 February, 2024

## Invitation to the Commissioning of the 17th Vicar of St John's Camberwell



The wardens warmly invite you to the commissioning of Revd Dr Aaron Ghiloni as the 17th Vicar of St John's Camberwell.

The commissioning will be conducted by the Rt Revd Genieve Blackwell, Bishop of the Marmingatha Episcopate, on Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 7pm. The service will be followed by refreshments.

We would be grateful if you could RSVP to [office@stjohnscamberwell](mailto:office@stjohnscamberwell) by 28 January 2025.





## An announcement on Dawn Sullivan's retirement

As many of you will be aware, our long-standing Parish Administrator Dawn Sullivan will be retired last month. On 9 February we will have the opportunity to say farewell to Dawn when she joins us at our morning tea after the 10am service, to thank her for all she has done for us and to wish her well for the future.

We have envelopes available at the back of the church if you would like to make a cash donation to Dawn's farewell gift. Please place the envelope in the collection plate at the 10am service or give it to one of the wardens or treasurer (Hans Ferdinands, Fiona Hudgson or Janice Wong). If you would like to make a donation by EFT, please text Fiona Hudgson on 0417 066 478 and she will provide the bank account details.

Thanks to all who have already donated—your generosity is appreciated—and in anticipation of further donations.





## Bishop Keith Rayner

The funeral for Bishop Keith Rayner will be livestreamed on the website of In Memorium Productions, and can be accessed via this (please right-click) [link](#).

You may also enter either of these addresses into your browser:

<https://streaming.naoca.com.au/e/04095865-b3af-4093-afbe-29d177b2b2c6>

Or,

<https://tinyurl.com/bdepre8b>

The service will be held at 10am on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> February from St Peter's Cathedral Adelaide







## Reserve Rd Closure and Burke Rd Parking

We have received a notice from Boroondara Council regarding the closure of Reserve Road to traffic near to Camberwell Rd and at the Burke Rd end for the commencement of the new school year. This means that parking will no longer be available in Reserve Rd.

Changes to parking on Camberwell Rd and Burke Rd are also being implemented. On Sundays, the changes involve removing the fees from the 2 hour zone on the east side of Burke Road between St. John's Anglican Church and Reserve Road. Between Reserve Road and Inglesby Road, the all day ticket parking on the east side of Burke Road beside Our Lady of Victories Church will be converted to 3 hour parking. The fees that apply for this parking will also be removed. An additional 4 spaces (3x3 hour and 1x10 minute space) will be introduced on the same side where the former tram stop used to be located.



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These changes are already being implemented and the roadside parking ticket machines are not operating. However, the alterations to signage are not yet complete and parishioners are encouraged to check the rules as they apply when they park in these bays over the next two or three weeks.

For further information visit:

<https://www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/your-council/projects-and-major-works/roads-and-transport-infrastructure-improvements/temporary-closure-reserve-road-camberwell>

or

<https://tinyurl.com/n6bt8swj>

## Access to St John's Services via Vimeo and YouTube

I am pleased to advise that we are back up on YouTube for the Sunday services at 10am and 6pm following a number of technical difficulties.

Please click on the address below for access:

<https://vimeo.com/stjohnscamberwell>

You can also click on the link provided in the email circulated each Friday.





## Timetable

|                               |          |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| Tuesdays                      | 12 noon  | Eucharist in the Chapel    |
| 1st Wednesday<br>of the month | 6.30 pm  | Iona Eucharist             |
| Sundays                       | 8:00 am  | Eucharist                  |
|                               | 10:00 am | Choral Eucharist           |
|                               | 6:00 pm  | Choral Evensong (excepting |

## Saint John's Donations



Our worship and outreach are sustained by the generosity of our friends and supporters. We give in thanksgiving for all that we have received and are deeply thankful for the generosity of those who make our work possible. We couldn't do it without you!

## Choral Scholars Appeal

By donating to the Choral Scholars program, you will help continue the wonderful musical tradition at St. John's. By maintaining weekly services of choral and classical masterpieces we keep a rich aspect of Anglican tradition and English cultural heritage alive. Please give generously.





2 February, 2024

# St John's Anglican Parish

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