



Uniting Church in Australia
SEACLIFF WEEKLY NEWS
Sunday 3 December 2023
ADVENT 1

The Apostle Paul to the Church in Corinth:

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God for you because of the grace of God that was given to you in Christ Jesus. For you were made rich with an abundance of spiritual gifts in every way in him, in all your speech and in every kind of knowledge – just as the testimony about Christ has been confirmed among you – so that you do not lack any spiritual gift as you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into fellowship with his son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The NET Bible.

The church in Corinth was notoriously dysfunctional, yet Paul writes, almost at the start, “I always thank my God for you ...”!! Think who the people are for whom, perhaps despite appearances, you might nevertheless join with Paul in saying, “I always thank my God for you ...”.

This Week
Advent Reflection – Tuesday 10.30 and
Thursday 2pm
Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 6pm

What's News

First Sunday of Advent



Photo: U. Agency of Mercy, Iraq

Hope for families forced to flee

Jehan*, a brave mother of five, made the courageous decision to escape on foot to Pakistan with her family when Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in 2021. Your gifts through the Christmas Bowl can help Act for Peace coordinate rapid emergency responses with local partners, like Church World Services Asia, so that they can immediately act, giving families like Jehan's safety in exile – and hope for the future – when they need it most. **Please give today.**

*Name changed for safety reasons



Christmas Bowl

CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

ADVENT REFLECTION

Each Advent we, at Seacliff, have offered a three-week reflection exploring the events we have celebrated many times, Advent, and Christmas. In the invariable busyness of the season, we can perhaps feel a bit disconnected from the story of Jesus' birth and its meaning for us in the 21st Century.

Sessions will be held on Tuesday 5/12 and 12/12 at 10:30am and Thursday 7/12 and 14/12 at 2:00pm.

If you are intending to come, could you please indicate from today on a 'sign up' sheet your intention. This is simply so I know how many copies of the reflection materials I need to run off.

CHRISTMAS SHARING

One of the features of Christmas is that of sharing a good meal, a feast if you like, with those who are close to us. We know however, this is not something all can share in. Especially in these times when the cost of living is high, many people will have to cut back or even go without.

Today you are invited to bring a gift of food that can be forwarded to Brighton Community Care for distribution to people in need. Your gift will help someone enjoy a happier Christmas.

Gary

Stage Curtains

Our new stage curtains have now been installed and are looking very smart. The old curtains now need a new home with someone who can perhaps repurpose them into something useful, such as robes for the 'Wise Men'. If you would like to take some or all the material, please contact Annette Craven 043866410.

Cogs n Coffee

A special ride and coffee last Wed. as we helped Howard celebrate a very special birthday ending in 0.

The country side was very fresh after all the rain.

For next weeks ride meet at Wattle Reserve at 8.30.

Brian

Lions Club Christmas Cakes and Puddings- On Sale Now!

The City of Marion Lions Club has asked the Church to act as an agent for the sale of their famous cakes and puddings. Church members will receive a \$1 discount on each cake and pudding and an additional \$2 will be donated to the church to go towards a community project. The 1.5kg cakes cost \$19, 1kg cakes and puddings are \$15. Mini cakes are \$2 each (minimum of 5). Order forms available from Alan Botting (0418849101) or Rosemary Thomson. Orders close on **Sunday 19 November**. Payment can be made to Alan by direct deposit who will transfer the funds to the Lions Club and then a payment will be made to the church.

Alan Botting



Notes from the Treasurer

'**Act For Peace**' is an organisation, run by the National Council of Churches, which conducts a number of Appeals including:

· the **Christmas Bowl Appeal** for which special envelopes are now available. If you want to donate using your credit card, EFT or writing a cheque please send it directly with them. If you would prefer to use **cash**, please use the special envelope provided and Offering Bowl to do so on Christmas Day or otherwise and I will collate and forward the money to them at the end of the year, so can we make Sunday December 31st the last day for your donations please?

· the **GAZA Refugee Appeal** continues and we have already received several hundred dollars via labelled envelopes in the Offering Bowl.

During this week, being the 'end of the month', I have forwarded **\$388.20** which members of our congregation have so far donated to this Appeal (i.e. via labelled envelopes in the Offering Bowl) and I will continue to do so on your behalf until further notice.

David

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Worship Leader for Today: Rev. Gary Stuckey
Lectionary for Today, 3rd December: **Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1st Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37**
Reminder for Stewards: 10th December:
Colin Theakstone, Richard Lane

Welcome to our Church.

Things you need to know, especially if you are a visitor.
Fire exits are marked. Please take note. In the case of an emergency evacuation please gather on the Western Lawns under the Pine Tree. **St John First Aid Kit** - on top of the pigeon holes up from the ramp. **Toilets** are available through the door front right of the Worship Area or out through the turn around point on the ramp. **Morning tea** is held after the service – we hope you will join with us. According to our **Covid plan**, please note the seating arrangements within the building for your safety.

Items for the Newsletter

Please email items to newsletter@seacliffuc.org.au by 5pm on Wednesdays. If you do not have access to email, please phone the church office and it will be forwarded for you.

Our Minister is Rev. Gary Stuckey.

Contact :

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Church Office Information

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