

# Midnight Mass of Christmas 25 December 2023

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**Acknowledgement of Country.** As a community, we recognise that the church is built and our worship is offered on the traditional lands of the Kaurna people, and close to Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square), which is still an important meeting place for the Kaurna people today. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land; our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing; and our hope that we may walk together in harmony, in the spirit of Reconciliation.

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When the bell rings, all stand and sing the hymn

## Processional Hymn

ADESTE FIDELES

Let us proceed in peace.

✠ In the name of Christ. Amen.



O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him  
Born the King of Angels:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

## Prayers at the Advent Wreath

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

Do not be afraid – we have news of joy to share with everyone!

**Glory to God in the Highest! Peace to God's people on earth!**

The grace of God has appeared,  
**Bringing salvation for all!**

We come to celebrate the God of Peace and Salvation.

We come to celebrate new birth.

We come to be part of a community of joy and thanksgiving.

**We come, O Christ, we come!**

The Christ Candle is lit, and the Priest says:

Anew we have told the ancient tale,  
as we now receive the light of the world.

This final light is for our own rebirth.

This is the candle for Christ, born once again among us.

**Let us honour the Light!**

- 2    **God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:**
- 3    **See how the Shepherds  
Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither  
Bend our joyful footsteps:**
- 4    **Lo! star-led chieftains,  
Magi, Christ adoring,  
Offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child  
Bring our heart's oblations:**
- 5    **Child, for us sinners  
Poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love thee,  
Loving us so dearly?**

### **Blessing of the Crib**

Let us pray.

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. Lord, ✠ bless this crib, and bless all who look upon it; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to the one who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

The crib is censed, then the hymn concludes.

- 6    **Sing, choirs of Angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God  
In the Highest:**
- 7    **Yea, Lord, we greet thee  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing:**

*Adeste fideles (13th cent.)  
trans. Frederick Oakeley 1802–80*

## Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, for our Saviour has been born in the world.  
Today true peace has come down to us from heaven.

## Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The grace and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*The Priest may briefly introduce the Mass of the day.*

## Penitential Act

*The choir sings*

*Missa O magnum Mysterium (Victoria)*

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

*The priest, deacon, or another minister says*

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon the world with healing for all.

*Silence*

Let us bring our weaknesses and infirmities to the Lord,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

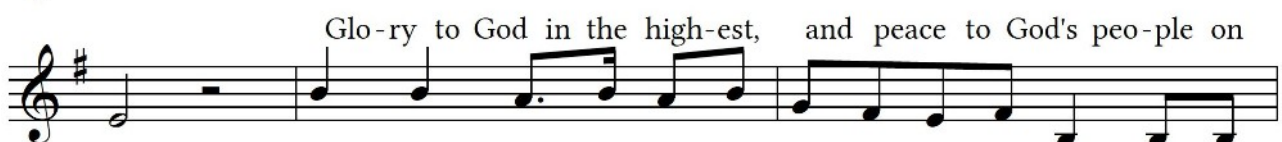
*All say*

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The priest says:*

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness  
to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon ✠ you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Hymn of Praise



earth. Lord God, heav'n - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are

seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer. For

you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone

are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## Collect

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9.2-7

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, an heir given to us; upon whose shoulders rests authority; and who is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace; whose authority shall grow continually.

And there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and over David's kingdom, which will be established and upheld with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 96**

**Chant: After Charles Wood 1866-1926**

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song:  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations:  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:  
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Majesty and glory are before him:  
beauty and power are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:  
render to the Lord glory and might.
- 8 Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:  
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- 10 Say among the nations that the Lord is king:  
he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved;  
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:  
let the sea roar, and all that fills it:
- 12 Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:  
then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord;
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:  
he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

**New Testament Reading**

**Titus 2.11-14**

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who was given for us that we might be redeemed from all iniquity and purified, Jesus' own people, who are zealous for good deeds.

For the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Luke 2.10-11**

Alleluia.

I bring you news of great joy:  
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 2.1–20

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

✠ **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

For the Gospel of the Lord,

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

### Profession of Faith

*All stand. On this day, it is customary to kneel at the reference to Christ's birth.*

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation,  
he came down from heaven;  
*was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life for the world to come. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

*The priest may say*

Let us pray for the world and for the church.

*The prayers may conclude*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

All stand to sing the Offertory Hymn, during which a Collection will be received. WINCHESTER OLD



- While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.
- 2 'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind);  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.
- 3 'To you in David's town this day  
Is born of David's line  
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
And this shall be the sign:
- 4 The heavenly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid.'
- 5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:
- 6 'All glory be to God on high,  
And on the earth be peace;  
Good-will henceforth from heaven to men  
Begin and never cease.'

Nahum Tate, 1652-1715

When all is prepared, the priest says,  
Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice  
for the praise and glory of God's name,  
for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.**

### Prayer over the Offerings

Source of light and gladness,  
accept all we offer on this joyful feast.  
May we grow up in the One who unites our lives to yours;  
who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**



## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, God our maker.

Out of nothing, you called all worlds into being,

and still you draw the universe to its fulfilment.

Day and night celebrate your glory

till time shall be no more.

In Christ, your Word became flesh,

and on this night was born of the Virgin Mary.

He emptied himself, taking our human form,

That through his incarnation and passion

we might come to share in his divine nature.

Filled with the Spirit,

who at the first Creation

moved over the face of the waters,

and overshadowed the blessed Virgin at Nazareth,

we await with joy the fulfilment of your new Creation.

As children of your redeeming purpose

who celebrate the birth of your Son,

we offer you our praise,

with angels and archangels

and the whole company of heaven

singing the hymn of your unending glory:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est.



Hear us, most merciful Father,  
and send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon this bread and this wine,  
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,  
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,  
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love  
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body  
to live and work to your praise and glory;  
may we grow together in unity and love  
until at last, in your new creation,  
we enter into our heritage  
in the company of the Virgin Mary,  
the apostles, and prophets,  
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be to you,  
Lord of all ages,  
world without end. **Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

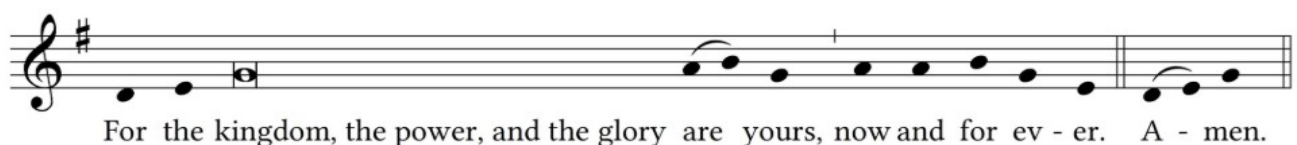
### The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us we are confident to pray:



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come,  
your will be done on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us  
from the time of trial and de - liv - er us from e - vil.

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

## The Breaking of the Bread

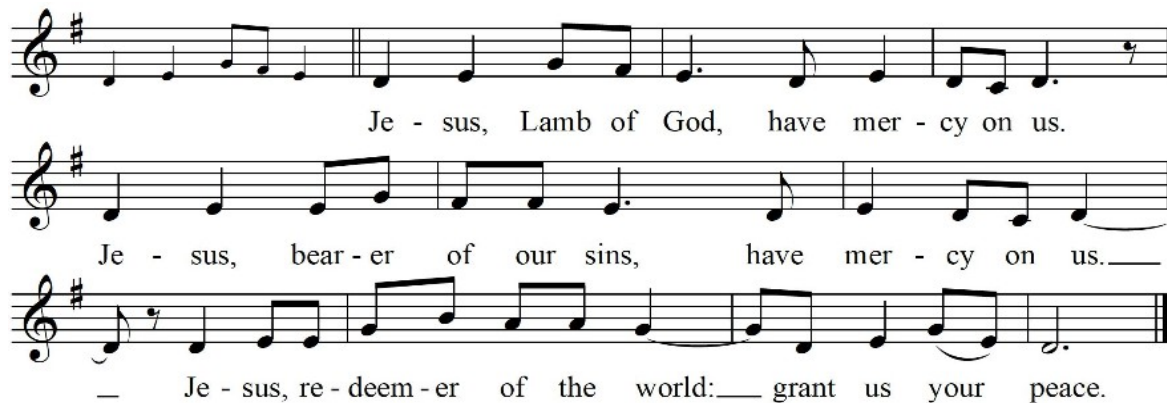
The priest breaks the bread, saying

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,

**for we all share in the one bread.**

While the bread is broken *Agnus Dei* is sung:



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us. —

— Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: — grant us your peace.

## Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God,

behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

All receive Holy Communion, or a blessing, as they prefer. Please approach in single file, returning via the side aisles.

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Those who are not to receive the Blessed Sacrament are invited to unite themselves with Jesus by making a Spiritual Communion.

## Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

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During Communion, the choir sings

## Communion Antiphon

John 1.14

The choir sings

The Word became flesh: and we have seen his glory.

## Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

God of heaven, dwelling among us,

we thank you for feeding us with this holy food.

By your grace keep us ever faithful to your Word made flesh

that as the body of Christ in the world

we may bring your presence to all people.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



- It came upon the midnight clear,  
 That glorious song of old,  
 From angels bending near the earth,  
 To touch their harps of gold;  
 "Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
 From Heaven's all gracious King."  
 The world in solemn stillness lay,  
 To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come  
 With peaceful wings unfurled,  
 And still their heavenly music floats  
 O'er all the weary world;  
 Above its sad and lowly plains,  
 They bend on hovering wing,  
 And ever over its Babel sounds  
 The blessed angels sing.
- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
 The world has suffered long;  
 Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
 Two thousand years of wrong;  
 And man, at war with man, hears not  
 The love-song which they bring;  
 O hush the noise, ye men of strife  
 And hear the angels sing.
- 4 For lo! the days are hastening on,  
 By prophet-bards foretold,  
 When with the ever circling years  
 Comes round the age of gold;  
 When peace shall over all the earth  
 Its ancient splendours fling,  
 And the whole world send back the song  
 Which now the angels sing.

## Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

May the God of infinite goodness,  
who by the incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world  
and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night,  
drive far from you the darkness of vice  
and illumine your hearts with the light of virtue. **Amen.**

And may God, who wills that the great joy  
of his Son's saving Birth  
be announced to shepherds by the Angel,  
fill your minds with the gladness he gives  
and make you heralds of his Gospel. **Amen.**

And may God, who by the Incarnation  
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,  
fill you with the gift of his peace and favour  
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven. **Amen.**

And the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

*The priest, deacon or another minister says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The priest and ministers depart.*

## CHRISTMAS BOWL APPEAL 2023



### Sharing God's love

Meh Reh fled Myanmar more than 29 years ago. Living in a refugee camp on the Thai-Burma border ever since, he hopes that one day it will be safe for he and his family to return home. Your gifts through the Christmas Bowl can help Act for Peace's local partners, like The Border Consortium on the Thai-Burma border, provide practical care so refugees and people who have been displaced can live in safety and dignity and know that they are loved and not forgotten. **Please give today.**

**CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](https://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

### CHRISTMAS DAY

People of Luke's world listening to the Christmas story would know that it wasn't really celebrating a baby; it was celebrating who that baby became and is. Stories of great heroes often began with accounts of their wondrous birth coloured to evoke their later achievements. People of Luke's day would also have sensed that the story was subversive, especially if they were familiar with Rome's propaganda. For it hailed the Emperor as Son of God and made much of the Empire's achievements in enabling travel safe by eliminating bandits on land and pirates at sea. It had brought "peace on earth" and declared itself "good news" for all. Instead, Luke gives a very different version of good news. A baby, about to be just a statistic in a census, and put in an animals' feeder box, is Son of God. And angels declare to simple shepherds a new kind of "good news", touting the child as the one to bring "peace on earth". Luke was expanding upon what was already subversive and absurd, namely, that a man cursed, hanging on an execution cross, was truly the Son of God, wildly absurd! And Jews, steeped in ancient stories which gave the hope that one day a shepherd king like David might arise to crush Rome would also sense a challenge. Luke invites us to celebrate who Jesus is, bearer of God's Light for the world, shining love and hope to homeless people forced to camp far from home, like the huge number now in camps along the Thai-Burma border. Our challenge is to make that light visible by our giving.

### HOW TO MAKE YOUR GIFT

**Envelopes** for giving by cash or cheque are available at the back of the church. If you wish to claim a tax deduction for this donation, please complete the relevant portions of the envelope.

You can also **give electronically** via <https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/donate> At the bottom of the page, please start typing "St Mary Magdalene" in the "Or donate through your church" box then select "Adelaide St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Parish". You will then be taken to pages where you can enter the amount of your donation and your details for your tax deductible receipt.

#### Or donate through your church

Search for your church here to have your donation add to the total from everyone else in your church.

  
**Bardon St Mary Magdalene Catholic Parish** \$0  
**Adelaide St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Parish** \$0

### SERVICE TIMES THIS WEEK

**Monday** 10 am Procession and Solemn Mass  
**Thursday** 12 noon Angelus; 12.10 pm Mass (traditional rite)  
**Sunday** 10 am Sung Mass with children's ministry and choir

From Christmas to the end of January, Mass is offered at St Peter's Cathedral on Wednesday and Friday at 7.30 am, and on Wednesday at 10 am.

Inquiries about Baptisms and Weddings to Fr Steven Ogden.

Confessions or confidential personal time with a priest are always available on request.

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### **Regular Giving and Donations**

Financial support for our mission and ministry through electronic funds transfer (EFT) is an efficient way of making regular contributions to your congregation. Regular giving helps us plan for the future and ensures you continue offering support when you can't make it to Church.

Our Details: Bank: Anglican Funds SA  
BSB 705-077 • account no 00000052 • Reference: Your name (Regular Giving)

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### **The Magdalene Centre**

82 Gilbert Street, Adelaide Tel (08) 8305 9389

Non-perishable food for those in need can be left in the baskets at the back of the church or delivered to the Magdalene Centre from 12 noon to 3 pm, Monday to Friday.

Donations of cash are welcome via <https://anglicaresa.com.au/cause/magdalene-centre/>.

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### **The Collective of St Mary Magdalene (Mary Mags Dinner)**

Pray for all those who receive the Collective's weekly support, and who are seeking meals and companionship at other times during the week.

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### **Directory**

Parish Priest: The Revd Dr Steven Ogden

*Fr Steven's appointment is part-time. His days on duty are Tuesday to Thursday and Sunday.*

Office Email: StMMAdeelaide.Parish@outlook.com • Web: stmarymagdalenes.weebly.com •  
Blog: stmarymagdalenesadelaide.org • Facebook: St Mary Magdalene's Anglican Church

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### **Next Sunday, 31 December, at 10 am - The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Readings: Isaiah 61.10 - 62.3 • Psalm 148 • Galatians 4.4-7 • Luke 2.22-40

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### **For Your Prayers**

Pray for responsible leadership among the nations; pray for an end to violence and oppression; pray for peace and justice, especially for refugees, asylum seekers, and those seeking places of safety and security.

Pray for all those who are troubled in body, mind or spirit, especially Paull, Sim, Jasmin, John Edwards (priest), Peter Garland (priest), John Parkes (bishop), Stephan Clark (priest), Nance, Neil, Elaine, Hugh and Bart O'Donovan (priest).

Pray for those who have died: those who have worked and worshipped in this place before us; those who have died recently, especially Neil Smith, and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. † *Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*