

Fourth Edition, 2023 | Vol. III No.37

The Franciscan

Anglican Parish of St Francis Parkview

A SEASON OF *Christmas*



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RECTORS REFLECTIONS: CHRISTMAS 2023

"IT IS CHRISTMAS IN THE HEART THAT PUTS CHRISTMAS IN THE AIR." W T ELLIS

When we look for the Christmas spirit outside of ourselves we set ourselves up for disappointment. The Christmas feeling, that inner joy which is a spring welling up from the miraculous knowing of Christ's presence in our midst, THAT is what carries us into an abiding sense of wonder.

Recently a parishioner commented that they've never needed Christmas so much as they do this year. When they said these words it was such an awakening for me because this is what I was feeling without being

able to name it. With so much of the world in the agonising throes of terrifying trauma, agony and war, my need for the Christian Christmas story and its meaning has intensified as never before.

In Times Square in New York, there is presently the most beautiful, 100's of lights visual depiction of aspects of The Nativity. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has offered this as a gift to everyone and is part of their "Light of the World" campaign. There is a Youtube video of this called "A Silent Night Surprise" which is a shimmering feast of beauty and so uplifting to watch. At the end

of the video appear the words of Jesus "I am the Light of the World" (John 8: 12), followed by "This Christmas, share His light by letting your light shine". We may feel that we do not know how to let our light shine in which case may I invite us to take to heart Max Lucado's words:

"CHRISTMAS IS BEST PONDERED. NOT WITH LOGIC. BUT WITH IMAGINATION."

May the radiance of the Christ-child's presence illuminate our lives with goodness and hope. Blessed, Peace-filled, Glorious Christmas to you and all of your loved ones.

MICHELLE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, 24 December 2023:	Advent 4: Eucharist	8.30am
	Christmas Eve: Family Service	5.00pm
	"Midnight" Mass	11.00pm
Monday, 25 December 2023:	Christmas Day, Eucharist	8.30am
Tuesday, 31 December 2023:	Eucharist	8.30am
No service on 01 January 2023.		
Sunday, 07 January 2024:	Eucharist, EPIPHANY	8.30am
Sunday, 14 January 2024:	Eucharist, THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST.	8.30am

NO Wednesday Eucharists on 27 Dec 2023 & 03 Jan 2024. Will resume on 10 Jan 2024.

NO Friday Eucharist on 29 Dec 2023. Resume on 05 Jan 2024.



BEGIN AGAIN...

AN ADVENT REFLECTION

BY DIANA LAWRENSEN

In Advent we are reminded of the coming of God's Kingdom...ready and waiting for us to embrace and live afresh. May the longing we have for greater faith, more hope, deep love, ready joy and lasting peace fill our thoughts and prayers. Receive this Celtic blessing for this sacred time. From <https://godspacelight.com/2018/11/20/a-blessing-for-celtic-advent/>

A BLESSING FOR ADVENT

May the blessing of Light be on you
 Light without and light within,
 May the blessed sunlight shine on you
 And warm your heart till it glows like
 A great peat fire, so that the stranger
 May come and warm himself at it,
 And also a friend.
 And may the light shine out of the two eyes of
 you,
 Like a candle set in two windows of a house,
 Bidding the wanderer to come in out of the
 storm.



And may the blessing of the Earth be on you
 The great round earth; may you ever have
 A kindly greeting for them you pass
 As you're going along the roads.
 May the earth be soft under you when you rest upon it,
 Tired at the end of the day,
 And may it rest easy over you when,
 At the last, you lay out under it;
 May it rest so lightly over you,
 That your soul may be out from under it quickly,
 And up, and off, and on its way to God.

Farewell: Celebrating the Journey We Shared

It is with a mix of emotions that I write this farewell message. After six incredibly rewarding years, my journey has taken another path. As I bid farewell to my role as Parish Administrator, I want to express my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you. Your kindness, dedication, and unwavering faith has made this journey unforgettable. Working and serving in this congregation has been an honor.

Being a part of this wonderful community has been a true blessing. The support, warmth, and shared commitment to our common purpose have made every day a joy. I have cherished the moments of collaboration, the challenges that led to growth, and the celebrations that strengthened our bonds.

One of the most treasured aspects of my time here has been the friendships formed. The camaraderie shared has been a source of strength, joy, and inspiration. From the casual conversations in the office to the shared laughter during events, each interaction has contributed to a tapestry of beautiful memories.

To my dear friends and colleagues, I want to express my deepest gratitude. Your friendship has been a guiding light. I will carry with me the love shared within these walls and the connections run too deep to be broken by distance. Our shared experiences, both professional and personal, have added a special richness to my time as Parish Administrator.

As this chapter in my life closes, I take comfort in knowing that the bonds we've formed will endure. While the daily interactions may change, the friendships remain etched in my heart. I look forward to staying connected and nurturing these valuable relationships, even as I embark on this

new journey.

I want to thank the Clergy, the Church wardens, Church council and all my colleagues for their guidance and support. Your commitment to our mission has inspired me every day.

Though I may not be in the same role, my spirit will always be connected to this church community. I look forward to witnessing the spirit of St Francis changing how we live and our relationships with others.

Wishing the parish of St Francis Parkview, its leadership, and each member abundant blessings, growth, and prosperity. May the path ahead be filled with grace and purpose.

"GOODBYES ARE NOT FOREVER, ARE NOT THE END. IT SIMPLY MEANS I'LL MISS YOU UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN." - UNKNOWN

With heartfelt gratitude and best wishes,
Laurel Wozhele-Muparadzi



REMEMBERING ALAN CARLILE

28 JANUARY 1948 – 15 NOVEMBER 2023

Alan was a much loved and active member of St Francis for many years. He and Kim both served as parish ministers and their love and contribution to the parish was felt long after their move to Lone Hill. They started the meditation group at St Francis one Lent and it has continued ever since. Alan led this with quiet integrity, insight and inspiration. An engineer by profession, Alan's interests were diverse and his talents many from tech know how, to running (he ran 2 Comrades), to exploring new ideas and seeing life with a wry sense of humour and ready hope. His faith was one which knew the love of God and God's presence each and everyday manifest in nature, those he



loved, sunrises and sunsets and the daily walks he took with Kim and their dogs, Rocco and Lady. Alan and Kim's marriage was a 38 year love affair which inspired those around them. Kim, you are in our hearts and prayers as are your daughters Michelle and Tammy and their families. As we continue with our Advent meditations this

year, here is the link to one of Alan's favourite versions of O Come, O Come, Emanuel... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01BcaggibDw>. It has never been more relevant or moving.

Alan, rest in peace whole and well again knowing your love, light, courage and inspiration remain.

CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT

On Sunday, December 3rd, our church held its annual Carols service, marking the beginning of the festive season for many and symbolizing the commencement of celebratory services as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child at Christmas.



FOR THE YOUTH

SOMETHING FUN TO REMIND YOU OF THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE? THERE ARE 6

FIND AND DRAW A LINE THROUGH THE WORDS



BELOW

Mary Joseph Jesus
 dream angel baby

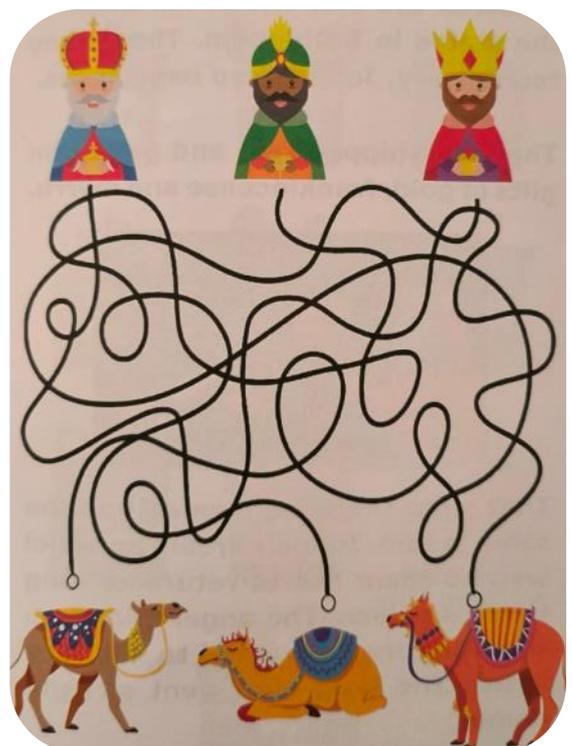
d	j	o	s	e	p	h
r	a	m	a	r	y	c
e	n	j	e	s	u	s
a	g	b	b	a	b	y
m	e	e	m	p	a	c
o	l	d	a	h	n	b

AFTER FILLING IN THE MISSING LETTERS, FIND AND DRAW A LINE THROUGH THE WORDS THAT APPEAR BELOW

CAN YOU LEAD EACH WISEMAN TO HIS CAMEL?

Ma_y Jose_h Jesu_ d_eam
 an_el wif_ bl_ssed marr_ed
 _onder ba_y a_raid ne_s

a	e	j	o	n	t	f	b	o	m
b	d	e	b	a	f	r	a	i	d
d	k	d	r	e	a	m	e	l	b
j	o	s	e	p	h	a	a	k	a
h	a	w	a	i	h	r	g	r	b
u	n	o	j	u	b	r	i	j	y
n	g	n	p	c	n	i	h	e	b
e	e	d	w	i	f	e	i	s	a
b	l	e	s	s	e	d	w	u	s
s	t	r	d	o	u	j	c	s	m



SEEN *and* HEARD



Merry Christmas to all our beautiful Franciscans, from the Youth of St. Francis

CONFIRMATION OF Branna

Branna Moore pictured to the right on her confirmation with Bishop Steve and her parents. Branna was confirmed on the 21st of October at St. Peter's Preparatory School. Congratulations Branna, may you continue to grow in your journey of faith.

WELCOME Kai MILLER

A heartfelt congratulations on the arrival of Baby Kai Wesley Miller, the third addition to the Miller family, born on November 20, 2023. May the Millers be filled with immense joy and happiness as they welcome their precious new bundle of joy.



SEEN *and* HEARD

MATT AND AMY TIE THE KNOT



Congratulations to the newlyweds, Mathew and Amy Lawrenson, who tied the knot on December 9th at St Francis. Mat and Amy are actively involved in various ministries within the Church, with Mat frequently working behind the camera to ensure our services are streamed on YouTube. Amy serves by assisting with Childrens Church as one of the teachers.



NEW NATIVITY SET

This set was bought for the parish and honours the charism of our gift of inclusivity. You'll notice that there are no distinct features & that the physiological colour is neutral. God is a God of all and this invites us to behold the Nativity as a story for all life and for blessing and hope of everyone.

