

Bishop's Prayer & Praise

Dear Friends,

Last week the Diocesan Council met for the final time for 2016. This is a great bunch of servant hearted people striving to give oversight to the Diocesan life. I give thanks to God for them, and the work that they do. On Saturday Helen and I hosted the Bishop's Christmas Party for ministry leaders at our home. Over 120 people gathered for a very happy afternoon in the garden. So encouraging to see heaps of children and young families in our ministry team, mixing so well with the older hands! I spent the rest of last week immersed in preparing talks on Ezra and Nehemiah for my summer bible teaching conferences. I'd love to see you at CMS SummerView January 12-15 in Port Sorell.

Join me in giving thanks to God for:

- Our Diocesan Council and the work they do overseeing the Diocese.
- Lay and Ordained ministry leaders in the Diocese – for their love and godly example.
- The Advent Season of preparation for our Lord's coming among us.

Please pray for:

- The Decisions of DC to have good effects on promoting confident disciple-making in the Diocese.
- Our ministry leaders to grow in grace and effectiveness. For their encouragement and rest in the new year.
- CMS SummerView – that many people would come, and be encouraged in their walk with God.
- Thousands of Tasmanians to hear the good news of Jesus over this Christmas, and that many will come to our churches as a result.

Warm Advent wishes,

Richard

The Right Revd Dr Richard Condie - Bishop of Tasmania

Truth & Joys of Retirement

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster now.

You know that tingly little feeling you get when you like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

Old age is coming at a really bad time. When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.

The biggest lie I tell myself is... "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have grey hair; I have "wisdom highlights." I'm just very wise.

Teach your daughter how to shoot, because a restraining order is just a piece of paper.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Of course I talk to myself; sometimes I need expert advice.

Thoughts for Christmas

Christmas is in my heart twelve months a year and thanks to credit cards, it's on my Visa card statement twelve months a year also.

A pastor asked his Bible class, "Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem?"
A student replied, "Because his mother was there."



18th
December

News for the Pews

RIVERLINKS ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Growing a community of faith
committed to Christ and making him known**

Information & Church family news
for the congregations of
St David's & St Oswald's

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Fire of Advent - *Edward Hays, A Pilgrim's Almanac*
Advent, like its cousin Lent, is a season for prayer and reformation of our hearts.

...Fire is a fitting sign to help us celebrate Advent. If Christ is to come more fully into our lives this Christmas, if God is to become really incarnate for us, then fire will have to be present in our prayer. Our worship and devotion will have to stoke the kind of fire in our souls that can truly change our hearts. Ours is a great responsibility not to waste this Advent time.



RIVERLINKS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Praise for:

- ✠ The wonderful attendance at last week's carol service. For Lindy, the Riverside Primary School Choir, James & the Christmas message, for all making it a memorable occasion. Also thanks and praise for those contributing food and time for the feast that followed the service
- ✠ Completion of the door at St Oswald's
- ✠ Leaders in our church and home groups, they do a marvelous job
- ✠ The season of Advent and the coming of our Lord into the world

Pray for:

- ✠ Christmas peace and goodwill throughout the world
- ✠ Families as they gather together to celebrate Christmas. Pray for harmony & love and the real message of Christmas to be embraced
- ✠ Those who are alone at this time of year
- ✠ The people of Syria, and Aleppo especially, that the cease fire would hold and help would get through to the people in desperate need
- ✠ Safe travel for all those on the roads over the Christmas break
- ✠ The various agencies & groups providing help to those in need
- ✠ Josh & the team putting on the carols in Trevallyn Reserve on Christmas eve
- ✠ Brett would recover completely from his recent stroke

✠ ***Continue to pray for:***

- ✠ Pray daily for those with ongoing needs
 - ✠ Margot ✠ Robin ✠ Rona ✠ Bill & Bev
 - ✠ Dick & Jo ✠ Joan Wilkins ✠ Betty ✠ Alison
 - ✠ Roger & Julianne ✠ Connie ✠ Marie
 - ✠ Ian, Helen & Sarah ✠ Trish, Louise & Issy
 - ✠ Tim & Emma, Sophie & Jake ✠ Bill & Robert

What's going on?

Traditional Carols - Sunday 18th December
7pm at St Mary Magdalene's George Town

Usual Unusual Christmas service - Tuesday
20th December 7pm at Hillwood Hall

Carols in Trevallyn Reserve - Saturday 24th
December (Christmas Eve), 7:30pm

Launceston City Community Christmas -
Sunday 25th December, 11am to 2pm at the
Albert Hall. Delicious buffet meals, children's
activities & more. For bookings, to support by
volunteering, or to make a donation
www.launcestoncommunitychristmas.com.au or
call 6335 3000

SEE IN THE NEW YEAR WITH FLARES AND FRIENDS

Once again we are holding a New Years dinner at St Oswald's hall to see in the new year, at least until the 9 pm fireworks. The date and time of course is 31st December to sit down for a meal at 6.30. Come later and you will miss the main.

The idea is for all to bring a main or sweet, enjoy one another's company and view the early fireworks..

Any suggestions for entertainment? Do we need any?

ADVANCE NOTICES FOR 2017

Harvest Festival - Sunday 5th February, 10am
at St David's

Annual Diocesan SCC Training Day -
Saturday 11th February in Launceston

Launceston Easter Community Festival - 14th
to 16th April, multiple programmes in various
locations around the city

Services for the coming weeks:

Today

10:00 am Holy Communion at St David's
10:30 am Worship @ St O's

Wednesday 21st December

10:00 am Healing Service & Holy Communion
at St Oswald's

Saturday 24th December

7:30 pm Carols in Trevallyn Reserve

Sunday 25th December

9:00 am Holy Communion at St David's

Home Groups

All Home Groups now in recess until February

Little Things Mean A Lot

The smallest crust may save a human life
The smallest act may lead to human strife
The smallest touch may cause the body pain
The smallest spark may fire a field of grain
The smallest deed may tell the truly brave
The smallest skill may serve a life to save
The smallest drop the thirsty may relieve
The slightest shock may make a heart to
grieve

Nought is so small that is may not contain
The rose of pleasure or the thorn of pain