

From Bishop Richard Condie

Dear Friends,

Last week, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse presented its final report. I am very thankful to God for the way the Report exposed the depths of sexual abuse in the country, gave the survivors a chance to tell their stories and provided helpful recommendations so that this never happens again. It is going to take some time till we work through all the recommendations and how they affect the Diocese of Tasmania. Join me in giving thanks to God for it, praying for the recommendations to be implemented and for the survivors to find healing and wholeness.

Please pray also for our churches this Christmas week, as they present the gospel in many different contexts. Pray for good attendances at Christmas services across the state.

Join me in giving thanks for:

The Royal Commission and its recommendations. Many institutions already responding to be safe places for children.

The opportunities we have this week to tell people about Jesus who came to be one of us.

Please pray:

That our nation will heal from the scourge of child sexual abuse.

For survivors to find healing and wholeness.

That many will be drawn to Jesus this Christmas.

Richard

Just For Laughs

A little boy returned from Sunday school with a new perspective on the Christmas story. He had learned all about the Wise Men from the East who brought gifts to the Baby Jesus. He was so excited he could hardly wait to tell his parents.

As soon as he arrived home, he immediately began, "I learned all about the very first Christmas in Sunday school today! There wasn't a Santa Claus way back then, so these three guys on camels had to deliver all the toys! And Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer with his nose so bright wasn't there yet either, so they had to have a big spotlight in the sky to find their way around!"

'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, AND ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE, NOT A CREATURE WAS STRIRING, NOT EVEN A ...



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

RIVERLINKS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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

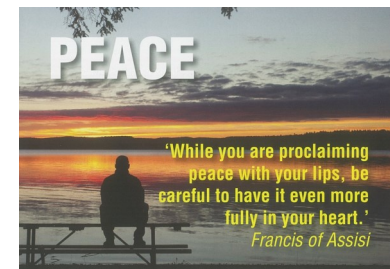
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JESUS CHRIST
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO US ALL
W E B B A C H K I S T I W A S T O N E Y E T

What is Peace?

This week we can reflect on the fact that the baby Jesus who is soon to be born in a stable is called 'the Prince of Peace' by the prophet Isaiah, and as an adult, he chooses to respond to violence with love.

The ancient Israelites saw peace as something that encompassed the whole of life. They called it shalom. It wasn't just about the absence of conflict, but it was also about an inner contentment linked to joy. It is the sense that everything is okay despite what we may see around us.

Shalom.



RIVERLINKS ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Praise for:

- ✠ The birth of Jesus Christ
- ✠ Freedom to worship & celebrate the birth of our Lord together with friends & family, and the abundant blessings we receive here in our beautiful home state
- ✠ Cooperation of Launceston charities as they put on the Community Christmas lunch. Praise for all assisting those less fortunate
- ✠ All our dedicated helpers, ministers, LMST, Parish Council, our Administrator, and all who assist behind the scenes

Pray for:

- ✠ Connie, Jo & Jan as they heal and regain full mobility
- ✠ Jenny as she recovers from having several skin cancers removed
- ✠ Ian Wills waiting for an operation. Pray that he has it done soon
- ✠ Grant Suttar who has been laid off. Pray for new employment in the coming year
- ✠ Christmas can be a lonely or sad time for many people. Pray for the community meals being held across the state, expressing love in the name of Jesus
- ✠ Christmas Eve & Christmas Day services across our state as the gospel is proclaimed
- ✠ ACT camps around the state this Summer, for the youth attending and for the leaders of this important ministry, especially for James who is responsible for coordination. Pray for safety, for great experiences & for a meaningful encounters with God

Continue to pray daily for:

- ✠ ✠Margot ✠Robin ✠Rona ✠Bill & Bev ✠Dick, Jo & Stephen ✠Betty ✠Alison ✠Emily ✠Roger & Julianne ✠June ✠Laurice ✠Marie ✠Ian, Helen & Sarah ✠Bill, Jan & Rob ✠Louise, Issy, Josh & Sarah; Martin; Tamara Lauren & Trish ✠Tim, Emma, Sophie & Jake ✠Paul & Jenn Cavanough

What's going on?

Launceston City Community Christmas - Monday 25th December, 11am to 2pm at the Albert Hall. Register to attend at www.launcestoncommunitychristmas.com.au or phone 6326 5551

New Years Eve Fellowship & Fireworks - 6pm for a 6:30pm start on Sunday 31st December at St Oswald's Trevallyn. Bring a main or dessert to share a meal and fellowship together and then watch the Launceston fireworks display at 9:30pm

CMS SummerView - 11th to 14th January 2018, at Camp Banksia, Port Sorell. Book online at www.cms.org.au/tas/summerview

Faith & The Arts Summer School - 7th to 14th January at Poatina Village. For full details & bookings visit www.poatinaarts.org.au

Australia Day Fun Day - Friday 26th January 2018, 11am to 2pm in Lions Park, Trevallyn. Volunteers needed, so if you can help please contact Trevallyn Life Church office 63272943

Safe Church Communities Training Day - Saturday 10th February 2018 at Launceston Christian School. Is your SCC accreditation due to be renewed this year? To register email scc@anglicantas.org.au or phone 6220 2012 before Friday 2nd February

A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other.



Services for the coming week:

Today

9:00 pm Christmas Worship at St Oswald's

Monday 25th December

9:00 am Holy Communion at St David's

Sunday 31st December

10:00 am Praise & Worship at St David's

Wednesday 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th January

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

12:00 pm Prayer Gathering at St Oswald's

Sunday 7th January

10:00 am Holy Communion at St David's

Sunday 14th January

10:00 am Praise & Worship at St David's

Sunday 21st & 28th January

10:00 am Holy Communion at St David's

*** No Healing service on 27th December & no aged care services held during January ***

Home Groups

All now in recess until February 2018



Joan Cocker - 31st December

Grant Suttar - 31st December