

- 9th December**
 7.00 pm House Group
 Teesdale
- 10th December**
 11.00 am Christmas Communion
 Estia Health Bannockburn
- 13th December**
 6.00 pm Inverleigh Community Carols
 St Paul's Anglican Church Inverleigh
- 15th December**
 9.30 am Meredith Primary School
 Cinema Day
 Epiphany Meredith
- 17th December**
 9.30 am ff Fire Safety Quarterly Audit
 Meredith, Bannockburn, Inverleigh
- 18th December**
 Last day of trading
 Bannockburn Op Shop
- 24th December Christmas Eve**
 7.00 pm Christmas Eve Vigil
 Eucharist St Paul's Inverleigh
- 25th December Christmas Day**
 9.00 am All-Age Communion
 St John's Bannockburn
- 30th December**
 6.00 pm Youth and Family
 Community Cinema Meredith
- 12th January**
 12 Noon Inverleigh and Bannockburn
 Op Shop Volunteers Thank You BBQ

Parish Roster for December 14

Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Luanne Thornton
 Bannockburn: Wendy Wood
 Ivan Marsetti

Banno Reading: Lynette Oates

Communion Assistant:

Inverleigh: Geoff Morgan
 Bannockburn: Carol Newlands

Parish Directory

Parish Office 5281 2553
Vicar
 Revd Timothy Smith
 0412 673 152
 revdrtim@hotmail.com

Wardens
 Darrell Blackman 0457 338 678
 Carol Newlands 0409 654 527
 David Bannister 0477 564 268

Parish Council Secretary
 Carol Newlands 0409 654 527

Parish Treasurer
 David Osborne 0419 398 455

Assistant Treasurer
 Luanne Thornton 0437 667 011

St John's Op Shop
 Naomi Peel 0418 346 484

Surprise Op Shop
 Luanne Thornton 0437 667 011

Pastoral Care
 Alison King
 pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com

I found \$20 laying in the
 parking lot and thought,
 "What would Jesus do?"

So, I turned it into wine.



MU DIGNITY BAGS

27 "Share the Dignity Bags" were delivered to Bunnings on Sunday 16th November. Thank you to all who made donations to this Mothers' Union project. Lynette Oates President Corio/Norlane Mothers' Union branch.

Golden Plains Anglican News

Living the Gospel in Our Community

Inverleigh†Bannockburn†Meredith
 7th December 2025—SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Christmas
 Bowl

THE CHRISTMAS BOWL
 IN JORDAN



In Jordan, Hassan (Name changed for safety reasons) was unsure of his future and without opportunity. Through the Christmas Bowl, he joined the Forsa for Youth Project (Forsa means 'opportunity' in Arabic) and trained in hotel management, giving him skills, confidence, and employment.

The Forsa for Youth Project, run by Act for Peace's local partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), empowers Syrian and Palestinian refugees living in Jordan to rebuild their lives through vocational training, business development, and financial literacy.

At the start of the program, Hassan struggled to identify his passion and career path. With the guidance of the project's dedicated mentors and the involvement of his family Hassan began exploring different career options that matched both his personal interests and local job opportunities.

It was through this process that Hassan discovered something that truly inspired him: a love for hotel management. He realised that this field could open doors to a stable and meaningful future.

The Forsa team arranged for Hassan to complete intensive

(Continued on page 4)

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Worship Today: THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Sentence: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe the good news. *Mark 1:15*

Collect: God of all peoples, whose servant John came baptising and calling for repentance: help us to hear his voice of judgement, that we may also rejoice in his word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Readings: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7,18-21; Romans 15:4-13;
Matthew 3:1-12

Hymns:

Inverleigh: 284 – O bless the God of Israel; 270 – On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry; 264 – Hark! a herald voice is calling; 473 – Community of Christ

Bannockburn: *Waiting here for you;* Days of Elijah; I give you my heart; On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry; Lord of the church; *Lord you have my heart;* Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided; *You shall go out with joy*

Meredith: Nine Lessons and Carols service booklet

Intercessions: Come, Jesus, come to us.

World: peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, India & Pakistan, Thailand & Cambodia, Sudan, and all places in conflict, war, or threat of war; for South Sudan and all developing nations; where there is injustice, loss of freedom, racism, misogyny and death, where there is need for education, health services, employment, food; for all national leaders to bring about justice and grace in an ever changing and uncertain world, giving hope and peace.

Church: to share the good news of God's kingdom in an uncertain world; Bp Sarah to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury, Bp Mark Short as our National Primate, Abp Ric Thorpe as he settles into his role as Archbishop of Melbourne, Bp Brad and the Oodthenong Episcopal Area; for parish organisational and administrative unity and establishing financial viability; that we may be able to fulfil our kingdom mission bring hope and peace.

Community: the Wadawarrung and all our first nations peoples, their elders; the continuing work of reconciliation through treaty; all who come into our communities of any race, creed, colour, faith, or no faith that will be expressed in peace; all who are facing Christmas alone and without peace and hope.

Those in need: Matt Bellchambers, Shirley Musgrove, Melinda Gregory, Karen Schulze, Jenny Bannister, Margaret McLaren, Sarah Rees, Jayden Rees, Fay McFarlane, Jesse Osborne, Phil Dickson, Paul Duke, Josie Andrews, Naomi Peel, Alison King, Josie Harvey, Steve and Stacey Copland, and healing hope.



In the monastic tradition of St. Benedict, the idea that each day, each hour, each moment, the opportunity to "begin again" through the grace and presence of Jesus is central. It is a way of being in the world that allows one to always be learning, growing, and changing. It allows safety for apologies and forgiveness without shame. It allows for fresh starts fuelled by belovedness. In this way, as we start Advent again, we are also experiencing a taste of Christ's coming again.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

The Thursday Friendship Lunch is an opportunity for newcomers and the lonely to connect. The end of year Christmas lunch is **18th December, 12 noon**, Parish Ministry Centre. Invite those you know who need friendship.

*Friendship Lunch will resume
8th January 2026.*

BANNOCKBURN FOOD RELIEF

The second meeting of this project is
9th of December at 3pm – 4pm

to discuss the most popular model from the first meeting and brainstorming potential sites.

Leigh Room, Bannockburn Cultural Centre – 27 High St, Bannockburn

RSVP: toliver@hesse.vic.gov.au

YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMUNITY CINEMA



Inverleigh Community Carols

13th December

6.00 pm

Music provided by Geelong Concert Band

Hosted by St Paul's
Inverleigh

(Continued from page 1)

vocational training through the Vocational Training Corporation, where he learned about hotel operations, room service, and catering. The experience was life-changing. It gave him new confidence, improved his mental well-being, and equipped him with the practical skills needed to enter the workforce.

After successfully completing his training, Hassan was connected to a job at a local restaurant. Today, he works in catering and customer service; proud of how far he has come.

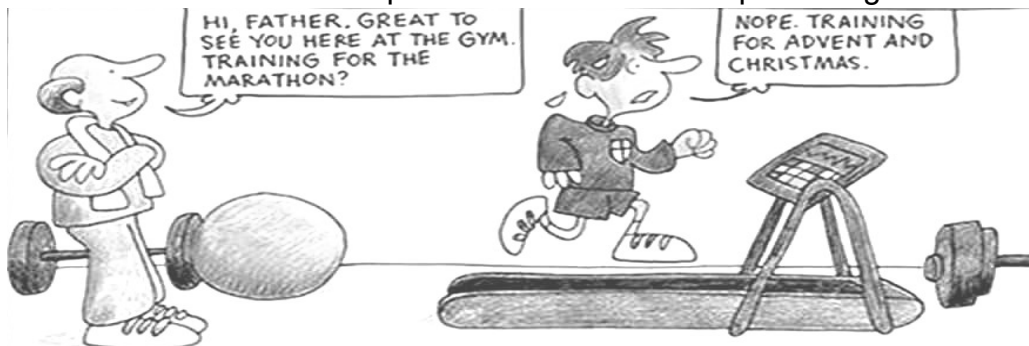
"The Forsa for Youth Project has helped me achieve everything I have today," Hassan says. "I can truly say that I'm happy now."

Through the support of the Christmas Bowl, the Forsa for Youth Project is helping young people like Hassan find direction, purpose, and hope. By providing training, mentoring, and business support, the project empowers Syrian and Palestinian refugees to rebuild their lives and contribute to their communities.

Your gift to the Christmas Bowl helps young people like Hassan build skills, find work, and look to the future with hope.

Peace is more than the absence of conflict - it is the presence of safety, stability, and a sense of belonging. As we reflect this Advent, may we become instruments of God's peace, extending care and hope to those who need it most.

<https://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au/donate>



Bible Readings

Prayer for the week:

O Lord Jesus Christ, who at your first coming sent your messenger to prepare your way before you: grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise so prepare and make ready your way by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Monday

Richard Baxter (d.1691) Spiritual Writer *Pastor*

Morning: Ps 89:1-18

Isaiah 43:14-44:5

1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Evening: Ps 89:19-38

Isaiah 7:1-17

Mark 6:30-56

Tuesday

Morning: Ps 89:39-53

Isaiah 44:6-23

2 Thessalonians 1

Evening: Ps 91

Isaiah 7:18-8:4

Mark 7:1-23

Wednesday

Morning: Pss 92 & 93

Isaiah 44:24-45:8

2 Thessalonians 2

Evening: Ps 94

Isaiah 8:5-9:1

Mark 7:24-37

Thursday

Morning: Pss 95 & 96

Isaiah 45:9-25

2 Thessalonians 3

Evening: Pss 97 & 98

Isaiah 9:2-17

Mark 8:1-13

Friday

Morning: Pss 99 & 100

Isaiah 46:1-47:4

Revelation 14:1-12

Evening: Ps 103

Isaiah 9:18-10:11

Mark 8:14-26

Saturday

Lucy Virgin (d.304) *Martyr*

Morning: Pss 101 & 102:1-11

Isaiah 48:1-13

Revelation 14:13-20

Evening: Ps 102:12-28

Isaiah 10:12-32

Mark 8:27-9:1



**Next Sunday 14th December
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8.00 am Holy Communion**

Inverleigh

10.00 am All-Age Communion

Bannockburn

5.00 pm Holy Communion

Meredith

Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10

Song of Mary (APBA p.9)

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11