



<b>24th December Christmas Eve</b>
7.00 pm Christmas Eve Vigil Eucharist St Paul's Inverleigh
<b>25th December Christmas Day</b>
9.00 am All-Age Communion St John's Bannockburn
<b>30th December</b>
6.00 pm Youth and Family Community Cinema Meredith
<b>6th January</b>
6.00 pm Youth and Family Community Cinema Meredith
7.00 pm House Group
Teesdale
<b>7th January</b>
11.00 am Communion Estia Health Bannockburn
<b>8th January</b>
4.00 pm Baptism Interview
<b>12th January</b>
12 Noon Inverleigh and Bannockburn Op Shop Volunteers Thank You BBQ Parish Ministry Centre Bannockburn
<b>13th January</b>
<i>Bannockburn Op Shop Trading resumes</i>
6.00 pm Youth and Family Community Cinema Meredith
<b>20th January</b>
6.00 pm Youth and Family Community Cinema Meredith

### Parish Roster for December 28

#### Church Cleaning:

Inverleigh: Liz McDonald  
Bannockburn: Paul & Freda  
Duke

#### Banno Reading:

Carol Newlands  
Inverleigh: Geoff Morgan  
Bannockburn: Lynette Oates

Parish Directory	
<b>Parish Office</b>	5281 2553
<b>Vicar</b>	
Revd Timothy Smith	0412 673 152 <a href="mailto:revdrtim@hotmail.com">revdrtim@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Wardens</b>	
Darrell Blackman	0457 338 678
Carol Newlands	0409 654 527
David Bannister	0477 564 268
<b>Parish Council Secretary</b>	
Carol Newlands	0409 654 527
<b>Parish Treasurer</b>	
David Osborne	0419 398 455
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	
Luanne Thornton	0437 667 011
<b>St John's Op Shop</b>	
Naomi Peel	0418 346 484
<b>Surprise Op Shop</b>	
Luanne Thornton	0437 667 011
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	
Alison King	<a href="mailto:pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com">pastoralcare.gpas@gmail.com</a>



# Golden Plains Anglican News

*Living the Gospel in Our Community*

Inverleigh+Bannockburn+Meredith  
21st December 2025—FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Parish Ministry Centre: 11 Byron Street, BANNOCKBURN VIC, 3331

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## Worship Today: THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Sentence:** A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us. *Matthew 1:23*

**Collect:** Gracious God, you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour: so fill us with your grace, that with her we may rejoice in your salvation, and in all things embrace your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Readings:** *Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25*

### Hymns:

**Inverleigh:** 268 – Joy to the world; 328 – Joseph your love of life; 123 – Be still my soul; 216 – Rejoice the Lord is king

**Bannockburn:** *Waiting here for you; Joy to the world; Great is the Lord; Joseph your love of life; Rejoice!; Father I place into your hands; Give me oil in my lamp; As the deer*

**Meredith:** *Waiting here for you; Joy to the world; As the deer; Joseph your love of life; Give me oil in my lamp; Father I place into your hands*

**Intercessions:** Come, Jesus, come, and in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**World:** peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, India & Pakistan, Thailand & Cambodia, Sudan, and all places in conflict, war, or threat of war; South Sudan and all developing nations; for Tasmania, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and all nations experiencing natural disaster; 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 a changing climate and an uncertain world, giving hope, peace, love, and joy.

**Church:** to share the good news of God's kingdom in an uncertain world; Bp Sarah to be installed as Archbishop of Canterbury, Abp Ric Thorpe as he settles into his role as Archbishop of Melbourne, Bp Brad as he prepares for the Diocese of Adelaide, raising up bishops for those who are retiring; parish organisational and administrative unity and financial viability; for volunteers for our Op Shops; preparing patiently for the kingdom mission we are called to.

**Community:** the Wadawarrung and all our first nations peoples, their elders; the continuing and treaty; all who come into our communities of any race, creed, colour, faith, or no faith that will be welcome and safe; for our Jewish brothers and sisters to have peace, hope and love; all alone at Christmas.

**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, Josie Harvey, Steve and Stacee Copland, Timothy and Weng Deng.

# AdventWord

## UNQUENCHABLE

Miriam McKenney writes, When we hear the word unquenchable, we might think of our thirst or our desire for something. We don't often think of the context of this word from our holy scripture, where John the Baptist tells people about the chaff that Jesus will sweep into the unquenchable fire, versus the wheat that God will store in the granary. As we wait for the infant Jesus to be born, it's good to remember that Jesus is God the son and has all of the power of the Trinity. We believe in, and follow, a powerful God and we should keep the alternative to heaven in mind.

...but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire. *Matthew 3:12*



### OP SHOP VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU BBQ

Without all our Op Shop volunteers, in both Inverleigh and Bannockburn, the Parish would not be able to continue. The Parish would like to say THANK YOU and invite you to a BBQ:

Monday 12th January 2026  
12.00 noon until you leave  
Parish Ministry Centre  
11 Byron Street BANNOCKBURN

Parish members are also invited and please bring a salad or dessert to share.

# YOUTH AND FAMILY COMMUNITY CINEMA

December 30



January 6



January 13



January 20



(Continued from page 5)

*"I enjoy studying at school, and I have many friends there," she says. "Our teacher is female, and I really like her. English is my favourite subject."*

For Anaya, education is more than a personal dream, it's a way to serve others and inspire change.

*"I want to become a doctor, serve my parents, and help people," she says.*

Thanks to the Christmas Bowl, Anaya is not just learning, she's leading. And through her example, a new generation of girls in Umerkot is discovering that with faith, courage, and opportunity, change truly is possible.

*"When my daughter began attending school, other girls started their education too," says her mother, Sunia (name changed for safety reasons).*

As we reflect on the theme of love, may we remember that every gift, every act of kindness, every prayer for peace, is part of that greater story - the love that began in Bethlehem and continues through us today.



**THERE'S HISTORY IN THIS BOWL. WHAT YOU BRING MATTERS.**

This Christmas, add your gift to the Bowl. Continue the legacy. Act for peace.

Call us: 1800 025 101 or visit: [christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](http://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)

## Bible Readings

### Prayer for the week:

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly expectation of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Monday

**Morning:** Ps 118:1-18  
Isaiah 24:21-25:9  
Revelation 21:-25:9

**Evening:** Pss 118:19-29 & 120  
Isaiah 52:1012  
Mark 12:41-13:13

### Tuesday

**Morning:** Pss 124, 125 & 126  
Isaiah 26:1-19  
Revelation 22:6-13

**Evening:** Ps 127, 128, 129  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Mark 13:14-37

### Wednesday Christmas Eve

**Morning:** Pss 130, 31 & 133  
Isaiah 27:2-13  
Galatians 3:23-4:7

*At Evening Prayer Birth of our Lord*

**Evening:** Ps 85  
Isaiah 33:17-22  
Revelation 22:14-21

### Thursday Christmas Day

**Morning:** Ps 132:10-18  
Micah 4:1-8  
1 John 4:7-21

**Evening:** Ps 138  
Micah 5:2-5a  
Matthew 1:18-2:6

### Friday

**Morning:** Pss 137:1-6(7-9) & 138  
Isaiah 60:1-11  
Titus 1  
**Evening:** Ps 139  
Isaiah 28:1-13  
Acts 6:1-7, 7:1-59

### Saturday

**Morning:** Ps 140  
Isaiah 60:12-22  
Titus 2

**Evening:** Pss 141 & 142  
Isaiah 28:14-29  
John 1:1-18



### Next Sunday 28th December

#### CHRISTMAS 1

8.00 am Holy Communion  
Inverleigh

10.00 am All-Age Communion

Bannockburn

5.00 pm Holy Communion  
Meredith

#### Readings

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-18

## NEW ARCHBISHOP FOR ADELAIDE

The Right Reverend Bradly Billings was elected 6 December to succeed the Most Reverend Geoffrey Smith, who retired as archbishop on 1 November, to be the 11th Archbishop of the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide and Metropolitan of South Australia. As Archbishop he will oversee 71 worship centres across 56 parishes in Adelaide, and will have responsibilities to the dioceses of Willochra and The Murray.

Bishop Billings said he firmly believed the Christian faith continued to be good news for all people, and making the gospel known was the shared task of all believers. "The hope we have in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ gives me confidence and faith for the future, despite the many challenges we face as Anglicans and as disciples of Christ," he said. His first priority would be listening to members of the diocese as they discerned together what future God was calling them into. "I see myself as a partner in ministry with those with whom I live, work, and share my vocation," he said.

Bishop Billings has served as an assistant bishop in Melbourne since 2016. His qualifications include a doctorate in theology and a Master of Law in Canon Law.

Before his consecration as bishop, he served as Archdeacon of Stonnington and Glen Eira, vicar of parishes in Toorak and Gisborne, and curate in Frankston. He also served as director of theological education for the Diocese of Melbourne.

Bishop Billings said he would miss being the bishop for the Oodthenong area and the people he had worked with over two and a half years. He said he was proud of authorising four multicultural congregations and appointments where new leaders had flourished and brought significant change and growth to their congregations.

Bishop Billings was sitting next to Karen his wife when he received the phone call informing him of his election. He said they both felt overwhelmed by the weight of responsibility but also experienced a profound sense of peace. Bishop Billings and Karen have lived in Melbourne their entire lives and have been in ministry in the Melbourne diocese throughout their lay and ordained ministry. They have five adult children and three grandchildren. Their Hungarian Vizsla, Ruby, will relocate to Adelaide with them.

Diocesan administrator Bishop Sophie Relf-Christopher said she had been keenly aware of the Holy Spirit's guidance at every stage of the nomination and election process.

Bishop Brad will be installed as Archbishop 7 March 2026.



Aliza Khan/Act for Peace



## THE CHRISTMAS BOWL IN PAKISTAN

In the dry, drought-affected district of Umerkot, in southern Pakistan, life has long been a struggle, especially for girls. Many families have been forced to move in search of water and work, and most children have missed out on school altogether.

With livelihoods disrupted by drought, education often takes a back seat to survival - yet it is education that offers families a pathway to greater stability and hope for the future. Recognising this, our local partner Community World Service Asia (CWSA) is helping communities rebuild not just their livelihoods, but their futures, through access to education.

*"Due to the lack of a school, I used to think that maybe I would never be able to study," says ten-year-old Anaya. "And when I saw other girls going to school, I would think to myself, 'I wish I could also study and go to school like these girls.'" (name changed for safety reasons)*

Through the Christmas Bowl, and our local partner CWSA, that dream is becoming a reality for Anaya and many other girls in her community.

CWSA runs awareness campaigns that help parents understand the importance of education for all children, not just boys. These efforts are shifting mindsets and opening doors that were once firmly closed.

*"Before the CWSA program, parents focused more on boys' education, while girls were kept away from education. However, after the mobilisation efforts, both boys and girls have been given equal opportunities to a large extent."*

Anaya's joy in learning is unmistakable.

*(Continued on page 6)*