



**Advent 2021**

Recently I read this simple but profound message:

**JESUS – THE TEACHER**

HE never taught a lesson in a classroom... He had no tools to work with, no blackboards, maps or charts... He used no subject outlines, kept no records, gave no grades, and His only text was ancient and well-worn... His students were the poor, the lame, the deaf, the blind, the outcast – and His method was the same with all who came to hear and learn... he opened eyes with faith... He opened ears with simple truth... and opened hearts with love, a love born of forgiveness... A gentle man, a humble man, He asked and won no honours, no gold awards of tribute to His expertise or wisdom... And yet this quiet teacher from the hills of Galilee has fed the needs, fulfilled the hopes, and changed the lives of many millions... For what He taught brought heaven to earth and God's heart to Humankind.

Advent season invites us to prepare and welcome Jesus in to our hearts. We must go in to a deeper understanding of God's love. Be like Jesus. If we are able to be like Him we need to love other people. Put love into action. We can see this in the entire life of Jesus. We need to take this in to our hearts and minds so that we can experience God in our lives and share what we have experienced to the people around us.

May The Lord our God direct our hearts in to His love and His Son Jesus.

*Fr. Thomas Karamakuzhiyil*



Margaret Shoemith, President Eileen Smith and Patricia Mold from the Strathalbyn Mothers' Union at Anglican Church of Strathalbyn preparing for White Ribbon Day. Photo: Tara Nash

# Making a Difference

The photograph of Margaret, Eileen and Patricia appeared on the front page of The Southern Argus on Thursday 18th November and showed them attaching white ribbons to the front fence of Christ Church.

This was a reminder from the Mothers' Union of the importance of the message of White Ribbon Day which this year was held on Thursday 25th November.

White Ribbon Day is observed around the world in November each year and tens of thousands of people stand up, speak up, and say no to violence against women.

It's more important than ever to listen to the message of White Ribbon Day since there has been a significant increase in violence, harassment, and abuse towards women during the COVID-19 pandemic and in communities experiencing war and natural disasters.

We are urgently called on to work together to prevent violence and make sure communities and homes are made safe for everyone. On White Ribbon Day and during the sixteen days to UN Human Rights Day in December we were asked to come together, and say 'no' to violence against women.

# Thank You Fr Daniel



**Fr Daniel & Jasamine Irvine**

As Fr Daniel Irvine's time as Assistant Priest in this Parish comes to an end we look back with gratitude at the way he has shared in our worship and our learning over the past four years. He has challenged us in many different ways to look again at our lives as God's people in these difficult times.

Our thoughts and prayers go with him and his wife, Jasamine as they look forward in hope to a blessed and fulfilling New Year.



# SICC Christmas Events

“Christmas Where the Angus Flows” with its associated parade has been cancelled, due to Covid-19, for the second year in a row. Instead the SICC is organising several other events.

**Christmas Story Lights Trail**, with a free hamper draw for listing the displays at each church and submitting the answers to the Christian Bookshop. The details of this competition will be in a booklet that will be distributed around the town (3,000 in total). It will also tell the Christmas story (including the truth behind Santa), list church service times, and provide a selection of carols.

There will be **Carollers** wandering around town on selected evenings.

The Main event will be “**Strath Celebrates Christmas**” at the Showground on **Friday 10th December, between 5 and 8 pm**. This is a free event, but is ticketed because of Covid-19. Tickets are available online and are limited to 1,000, so be quick.

In an effort to remove the commercialisation from Christmas, apart from food and drink there will be no stalls selling anything. It is to be based on displays and activities arranged by a number of local organizations. Activities include:

## Inside

Model Train, Art work activity, Games, Floral art group, Children’s activities, Quiet place, Videos...

## Outside

Catering vans, Face painting, Games, Painting, Crafts, Donuts, Music, BBQ.

The Strathalbyn Inter-Church Council (SICC) is a group formed of lay people representing the Christian churches in Strathalbyn and nearby towns. We endeavour to provide a combined Christian presence in the community through joint community projects.

*Mark Webb*

# 42nd Anglican Province Welcomed

In September the four dioceses in the former Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique were welcomed as the newest Province in the Anglican Communion.

It is the third Lusophone (Portuguese Speaking) Church in the Anglican Communion. The others are in Portugal and Brazil.

The first Anglican diocese in Lusophone Africa, Lebombo, was established in 1893 in Mozambique. Anglican missionary work in Angola began in the 1920s but it wasn’t until 2003 that a missionary diocese was established as part of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.

The church in Mozambique and Angola has grown rapidly in recent years. To the four founding dioceses of the new Province – Lebombo, Niassa, Nampula and Angola-Good Shepherd – are three new dioceses in Mozambique and one in Angola. Both countries will also have two new missionary dioceses.

Bishop Carlos Matsinhe of Lebombo said: “When I look back right to the beginning of the entry of Anglicanism in Mozambique and Angola, I thank God that the seeds that were planted have grown, are flourishing, and bearing fruits.”



Celebrating Christmas



## Sun 19 December - Advent 4

8.15 am Holy Communion,  
St Mary’s Milang

10.00 am Holy Communion,  
Christ Church Strathalbyn  
6.00 pm Readings & Carols,  
Christ Church Strathalbyn

## Wednesday 22 December

9.30 am Holy Communion,  
Christ Church Strathalbyn

## Fri 24 Dec - Christmas Eve

4.30 pm Crib Service,  
Christ Church Strathalbyn  
7.30 pm Holy Communion,  
St George’s Meadows  
7.30 pm Holy Communion,  
St Mary’s Milang

## Sat 25 Dec - Christmas Day

9.30 am Holy Communion,  
Christ Church, Strathalbyn

## Sun 26 Dec - Christmas 1

10.00 am Holy Communion,  
Christ Church, Strathalbyn

# The Anglican Parish of Strathalbyn

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