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*Working with St John's Bulimba*

*Two Parishes – One Mission*

## **Community Information**

**Web Page Edition**

**28 November 2010**

### **Advent Sunday**

*(Beginning of a new worship year)*

**"Let us then throw off the works of darkness  
and put on the armour of light."**

### **Welcome**

Today, Advent Sunday, we begin a new liturgical (worshipping) year. Advent is the season of preparing for our Christmas celebrations – but it is also more than that because Advent has its own theme and purpose. This theme is clearly stated in the readings. Isaiah declares that the coming of the Lord will be as judge and that those who await his coming must live according to his ways and in his light. As we gather today we are reminded of these things in the Lord's Prayer when we pray, 'your kingdom come'.

### **Today: Bible Study at 11am.**

Today we begin with a new way in dealing bible study in the parish. This comes in response to several parishioners have asked for them.

Fr Martyn will give a talk today and discuss how we can develop them and what the areas of interest are.

### **Chaplaincy at the Camp Hill Primary School**

We all enjoyed the visit of Chris Allen at our *Back to Church Sunday* service. Unfortunately, Chris is on the move to a school at Manly and a new chaplain will be appointed. Being a chaplain in any school is not an easy task but it is probably more difficult in the state system as not everyone will welcome or support you. Our prayers for Chris.

### **Teaching & Comments by Father Martyn**

#### **The Meaning of the Word "Advent"**

"Advent" is a Latin word that can be translated as "coming" or "presence" but we get a better understanding when we know how the word was actually used. So, in the ancient world, it was a technical term, referring to the arrival of the king or emperor – or their delegates, a *legatus*. It could also indicate a religious festival. It was the custom in many temples for an image of the god to be kept hidden in a sort of house within the temple precincts. So each year there would be an advent for that god whom would emerge from concealment and making its presence known in solemnly celebrated festival.

Well, Christians took over this word in order to express their particular relationship with our Lord; Jesus Christ our king and our God. They saw in his coming to birth at Nazareth an image of a king who has entered his own province, the earth, and enables us to celebrate his visit – which is what we celebrate at Christmas.

So what Christians mean when they use this word is that is He is here – he has not withdrawn from the world, he has not withdrawn from the world. He has not left us alone – the visitation is permanent.

It is true that we cannot see him or touch him as we can the things that surround us but he is still here and, what is more, he comes to us in many different ways. We certainly, as Anglicans, understand that the Eucharist is the principle means we come into contact with him. That is why we refer to the Eucharistic presence of Jesus at our gathering on Sunday. This Eucharistic life spills over into our personal worship and study of the Scriptures and our faith and is active in our care for others. We celebrate and believe in Christ our God who wants to enter my life, who personally turns towards me and invites me to live with him forever.

So Advent is a season of hope, promise and fulfillment. It reminds us that we do not have an annual celebration the coming of Christ at Bethlehem – a sort of historical commemoration. Advent reminds us of the Christ who was, and is, and is to come – the beginning and the end and who is an abiding presence in our daily life and journey.

***Come to us O Lord, and bring us peace. We will rejoice in your presence and serve you with all our heart***

## Christmas Choir

As usual, we will form a special choir to sing at the Carols Service on 18 December. This choir helps enormously to bolster the singing in the service by adding harmony parts and descants as well as presenting some special Christmas works chosen just for this service.

If you would like to be part of this choir, please see Val after today's service. If you play an instrument and could help out in that way, Val would also love to hear from you.

**Choir rehearsals:** 6.30 to 7.30 pm on Thursdays (25 Nov to 16 Dec inclusive) at the Camp Hill Church.

### Readings for Next Week, 5 December Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 1:1-10, Psalm 72, Romans 15:4-9, Matthew 3:1-12

## Parish Council for 2011

On 14 November an election was declared for the new parish Council: the results so far are: **Alistair Read** (People's Warden), **Robyn Casey**, **Viv Cowie**, **Heath Bradshaw**, **Judith Singleton** and **Ann Perkins**.

Fr Martyn has the right to appoint 3 members to Parish Council, and has made the first appointment with **Wayne Elliott** as Rector's Warden. There will be further appointments made. The Church Wardens have agreed to invite **Allan Thomson** to become the Parish Treasurer for 2011, and that will hopefully be ratified at the next Parish Council meeting.

Fr Martyn has also delegated his right to chair the Parish Council and **Alistair Read** has agreed to take Fr Martyn's invitation to take on that responsibility.

## First Meeting of the new Parish Council

**7.30pm Tuesday 7 December** at the home of Bernie & Robyn Casey, 628 D'Arcy Road, Carina

**Almighty God,**

**as your kingdom dawns,**

**turn us from the darkness of sin to the  
light of holiness,**

**that we may be ready to meet you**

**in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Celebrating Christmas 2010

### SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER CHILDREN'S SERVICE

4.00pm 'The Story of Christmas'

*Help your children to know  
the true joy and meaning of Christmas*

4.30pm Barbecue **followed by**

**6.00pm Christmas Carols Service**

### CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm Family PowerPoint Mass, Camp Hill

8.30pm Traditional Christmas Night Mass

### CHRISTMAS DAY

8.00am Christmas Family Mass, Camp Hill

### SUNDAY 26 DECEMBER AND SUNDAY 2 JANUARY

8am Said Mass with Sermon



Eastern Hills Anglicans

[www.easternhillsanglicans.com.au](http://www.easternhillsanglicans.com.au)

Regular Sunday Services

8am Family Service

*Easy to follow PowerPoint Service with Crèche & Sunday School*

9.30am Sung Eucharist

**Contact Details:** rector@easternhillsanglicans.com.au (07) 3398-5944, 0418 177 785

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**Wardens:** Alistair Read 3899 0967 [afread99@yahoo.com.au](mailto:afread99@yahoo.com.au),  
Wayne Elliott 0412 996 434 e-mail [wayne@adefcs.com.au](mailto:wayne@adefcs.com.au)

**Treasurer:** Allan Thomson: (07) 3399 6492. e-mail: [aalthomson@optusnet.com.au](mailto:aalthomson@optusnet.com.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Robyn Casey 3395-1757 e-mail [b\\_r\\_casey@powerup.com.au](mailto:b_r_casey@powerup.com.au)

**Events & Promotions:** Janelle Read: 3899 0967, e-mail [janellelead@yahoo.com.au](mailto:janellelead@yahoo.com.au)  
Wayne Elliott: *as above*, Robyn Casey, *as above*

**Safe Ministry Committee:** Robyn Casey, Wayne & Robyn Elliott (*see above*)  
& Viv Cowie 3395-0087, e-mail [viv.cowie@bigpond.com](mailto:viv.cowie@bigpond.com) with Fr Martyn.

**Hall Bookings** Go to our web page [www.easternhillsanglicans.com.au](http://www.easternhillsanglicans.com.au)  
check the *Hall Bookings Calendar for availability and then*  
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