

Greenock Lutheran Parish Bulletin

St. Peter's Greenock (GR)

St. Michael's Gnadenfrei, Marananga (M)

Nain Lutheran Church (N)

*There is no
greater
privilege than
to be a subject
of the King of
kings.*

Sunday 8th January 2023

The Epiphany of our Lord

Theme for worship at Gnadenfrei and Nain:

'Jesus is Revealed as King and God's Light For All Nations!'

Web: www.greenockparish.org Parish Email: greenock.sa@lca.org.au

Parish Chairman & Nain Chairman: Geoff Saegenschmitter 0409 177 657

St Michael's Gnadenfrei Chairman: Ian Jones 0407 601 719

St Peter's Greenock Chairman: Mark Kalleske 0417 858 211

Bulletin info to Nola or to Parish Email by **Wednesday by 5pm.**

Welcome... We pray that you are blessed through the hearing of God's Word and His assurance of sins forgiven. May your lives respond in praise and thanksgiving.

Thank you Pastor Ken Pfitzner for leading the services at Gnadenfrei Marananga and Nain; and to Lay Readers Rosalie Olafsen and Peter Rawlings leading the service at St Peter's Greenock.

The Festival of The Epiphany of our Lord, on **6th January**, commemorates the visit of the men from the East to worship the Christ-Child, and celebrates the revealing ("manifestation" or "showing forth") of Jesus as the Saviour for all people, both Jews and non-Jews.

The Baptism of our Lord, on **8th January**, is the theme for worship at St Peter's, with the focus on the meaning of Jesus' Baptism for him and for us and the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYERS We pray that people of all nations come to faith in Christ

Eternal God, you led the wise men by the shining of a star to adore your Son. Guide the nations by his light, so that the whole world sees your glory. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Offering Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for shining on us with the brightness of your presence. Lead us always to worship Christ our king, and to reflect your light to others by lives of loving service. Amen

PARISH PRAYERS – THIS WEEK ...

Pastor Ken & Joan Pfitzner Pastor Eugene, Nikki, Kaden, Piper & Beau Minge
Rosalie Olafsen and Peter Rawlings (LRs-Greenock);

Craig & Heather Waechter, Harrison, Brianna & Jenson (M); Wendy Cooper, Edward & Kimberley (GR);
Graeme & Trish Seymon (N)

Those who are experiencing health challenges, seeking strength and peace.

PSALM 29 being used at St Peter's re: 'Baptism of our Lord'

PSALM 72: 1-7, 10-14

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

In his days may righteousness flourish

and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

The western kings of Tarshish and other distant lands will bring him tribute.

The eastern kings of Sheba and Seba will bring him gifts.

All kings will bow before him, and all nations will serve him.

He will rescue the poor when they cry to him;

he will help the oppressed, who have no one to defend them.

He feels pity for the weak and the needy,

and he will rescue them.

He will redeem them from oppression and violence,

for their lives are precious to him.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forevermore. Amen.

At Gnadenfrei and Nain: Epiphany of Our Lord - Year A (White) Psalm 72: 1-7, 10-14

Isaiah 60: 1-6 The nations will be attracted to the light of God's glory

Ephesians 3: 1-12 God reveals the mystery of his age-long purpose in Christ

Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12 Gentile wise men (Gentiles) come to worship Christ as king

Marananga & Nain Sermon: Isaiah 60:1-6 'A Glorious Light shines for all people!'

At St Peter's: Jesus' Baptism - (White) Psalm 29

Isaiah 42: 1-9 The Lord's servant is a light to the nations

Acts 10:34-43 Peter's sermon - Jesus being anointed with the Spirit and power

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17 The baptism of Jesus

NOTES ON THE READINGS for the Epiphany of our Lord...

ISAIAH 60:1-6: This part of the book of Isaiah talks repeatedly about the return of God's people to Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon. This particular prophecy reaches out far further, however. It predicts a world-wide flow of converts into the church. The peoples are in the darkness of sin. Those who come into God's presence in the new order will reflect God's brightness in their lives. The closer one draws near to Christ, the more his light shines through one's life. Gold and frankincense remind the Christian of the wise men of Matthew chapter 2. They were fore-runners of the later migration of nations into God's kingdom through Christ.

EPHESIANS 3.1-12: Prophecies such as in the previous reading pointed to all nations receiving God's grace. Paul here shows how God has brought this secret purpose into visible reality by taking the gospel to non-Jews. Paul's special apostleship was for this very purpose. He gladly suffered Roman imprisonment because this served God's design from the beginning, namely that the Gentiles should have equal blessings in the kingdom without having to become Jews.

MATTHEWS 2:1-12: Here the infant Jesus is recognised by the famous of the world. Wise men, versed in the law, religion and astrology of the East, made the long journey to Jerusalem. Perhaps they knew prophecies through the heritage of Daniel from his days in Babylon. Led on by the star, they offered their worship upon finding the infant 'King'. They were not put off by the let-down of their reception at Jerusalem, nor by the humble circumstances of the parents at Bethlehem. They offered gifts that were lavishly fit for a king.

NOTES ON THE READINGS for the Baptism of our Lord...

ISAIAH 42:1-9: This is the first of four 'servant songs' which appear as prophecies in the book of Isaiah. These words were addressed initially to God's people in exile to serve as encouragement and possibly also as inspiration for leadership to be copied among the people of God. However, they did not find comprehensive fulfilment until the coming of Christ. He is the servant in whose life and work can be recognised with such combined prophetic and kingly traits. He established a new covenant, brought 'justice' (ie the will of God) into a world-wide mission, received the indwelling Spirit of God without measure, and exercised power through miracles of healing. We certainly see his epiphany, or manifestation, through this prophecy.

ACTS 10:34-43: This is the first sermon preached to non-Jews, Gentiles in the home of the Roman centurion Cornelius. The account is no doubt a brief digest of Peter's address. It is a full summary of the apostle's message and covers the Lord's ministry to people from the time of Jesus' baptism through to the Day of Judgment. Note that the importance of the resurrection and its witness by those chosen is based on the bodily proofs given the apostles. While Jesus is unequivocally ordained as final judge, yet his essential teaching is centred on forgiveness. The radical application Peter makes to the impartiality of God reaching out and including Gentiles in this universal salvation fits perfectly with the theme of Epiphany.

MATTHEW 3:13-17: In this description, the voice of God the Father attested Jesus' sonship as the second Israel, the nation of Israel being God's son in the Old Testament. As Israel 'went up' from Egypt, passing through the waters of the Red Sea, so Jesus went up from the waters of Baptism to carry out his messianic work as the Son of God. The voice of the Father commissioned him in words taken from Isaiah 42:1 (first reading) and Psalm 2:7, which was currently and commonly understood to refer to the coming Messiah. The descent of the Spirit empowered Jesus for his mission. We see God acting in the accomplishment of his plans as Father, Son and Holy Spirit to fulfil all righteousness for us and to grant us a place in carrying it out in his name.

Sunday 15th January 2023 Epiphany 2 (White) Psalm 40: 1-11

Nain 9.00am HC with Pastor Brian Schwarz

Gnadenfrei Marananga 9.00am LR

Greenock 10.30am HC with Pastor Brian Schwarz

1st Reading: Isaiah 49: 1-7 God's servant a light to the nations

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9 Grace and peace from God in Christ

The Holy Gospel: John 1: 29-42 Jesus the Lamb of God

ROSTER for St Peter's Greenock: Sunday 15th January

Flowers – Chris Mibus **Cleaning** – Karen Materne & Rose Smith **Readings** – Lyn Schmidt

Welcoming / Attendance – Lyn Schmidt & Mark Kernich **Kids' Chat** – Ali Barkley

PowerPoint – Kylie Rosenzweig **Sound** – John Barkley **H/Communion** – Trevor Waldhuter

Music – Heather Obst & Group **Stewards** – Mark & Noelene Kalleske

TAKE NOTE

- **Pastor Minge & Family** - Pastor Eugene, his wife Nikki and children Kaden, Piper and Beau arrived in the Barossa from Victoria on Friday 30th December 2022 and are staying with Nikki's parents in Tanunda until they can move into the Greenock Manse. As their furniture arrived on Friday 6th January 2023, they are hoping to move into the Manse over this weekend. Pastor is on Leave until his installation. They may worship in our congregations in coming weeks, and if they do come, please make them very welcome.

Geoff Saegenschnitter, Parish Chairperson.

- **Installation Service** of Pastor Eugene Minge, 2:00pm, **Sunday 5th February**, at St Peter's Lutheran Church, Greenock. Bishop David Altus and Zone Pastor, Adrian Kitson are officiating. All are invited to attend, to warmly welcome our new Pastor and his family into our Greenock Parish.

A shared afternoon tea will follow in the adjoining church hall, so stay tuned for more information. NOTE: There will be no morning services in the Parish on this day.

- **St Peter's Devotional Resources** – Do you like to do a daily devotion? A reminder that there are some excellent devotional resources in the Church 'Link to Life' Library, which are available for anyone to borrow and use throughout the year. May you be blessed through your quiet time with God.
- **Movie Sunday 8th January** 7pm, Holy Trinity Church Hall Nuriootpa for the movie "Play the Flute". Brandon Cobb is a new Youth Director who takes over a youth group that's filled with spiritual apathy. As he tries to motivate his students to get serious about their relationship with the Lord, he finds himself in an uphill battle. Although discouraged by their indifference, Brandon sticks to his calling of boldly sharing the truth of God's Word. What happens next is something Brandon and his students will never forget. The movie starts about 7 pm and is still just \$5. Looking forward to seeing you there!
- **Parish Prayer Group** In recess **during January**.
- **If your weekly bulletin** is missing from your email inbox, check your email 'Junk box'.
- **Holy Communion at home**: If you, or you know someone, who requires Pastoral visits with Holy Communion, please let one of your congregation Pastoral Assistants know so that this can be arranged.