

Mainstream



Church Office:
Cnr Deakin Ave.
& Tenth St.
Box 2797
MILDURA
3502
Ph. 5023 1201

Minister:
Andrew Tonkin

14th December, 2014

The Christmas story seems to focus mainly on two people, the baby Jesus (obviously) and the virgin Mary. But Joseph, who is also a significant part of the Christmas story seems to often be pushed to the background. Some Bible commentators call Joseph the 'forgotten man' of the greatest story ever told. But to take a closer look at Joseph reveals to us some very special principals that we would all do well to emulate in our service and devotion to our Lord.

To fulfill His plan, God needed a sturdy, stable and dependable man who would be sensitive to the voice of God.

God needed a man who would stand by his betrothed whose pregnancy would cause her to be the object of harsh ridicule and judgment.

God needed a man with the strength to lead the tiring expedition to Bethlehem and to the stable where Mary gave birth to the Messiah.

God needed a man of compassion, tenderness and love, who would be a godly husband to Mary and an earthly father to Jesus.

God needed a man who would give Jesus his first lessons in the law of God and train him in the ways of the Scriptures.

God also needed a man of great humility when it became evident that Jesus' first allegiance must be to his Heavenly Father. And Joseph was that man who silently and humbly took a step back and let God step forward.

(David Jeremiah – Why the Nativity?)

Can you imagine the difference it would make in our community if we had more fathers like Joseph? Can you imagine the difference it would make in our Church if we had more fathers like Joseph? He was a man of faith, dependability and humility who served as a model to not only the child Jesus, but to all who call Jesus Lord and friend.

ANDREW

**JOY
TO THE
WORLD**

Welcome to church today. If you are a visitor we offer you a special welcome. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee in the hall following the morning service.

Today, Sunday 14th December

<u>10.00 am</u>	Andrew Tonkin
	Christmas
Worship Leader	Ruth Jackson
Communion Leader	Bruce Eaton
Bible Reading	Matthew 1: 18-21

<u>6.00 pm</u>	Carols by Candlelight Nowingi Place
----------------	--

Next Week, 21st December

<u>10.00 am</u>	Andrew Tonkin
&	Christmas
<u>6.00 pm</u>	



Matthew 1: 18-21

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Loving God - Loving People

GODLY GENEROUS GENERATIONS GRACE GOSPEL




The Dominic Choral
Presents
Messiah
By George F. Handel

Sunday, December 14th
At St Margaret's Anglican Church
3 pm.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST OVERSEAS AID CHRISTMAS OFFERING

At Christmas we invite you to join with more than 400 other churches in the annual Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA) Christmas offering.

This offering is a way Churches of Christ communities across Australia join together and join with God in mission. In response to God's goodness to us, we want to offer some of what we have to others. We want others to know the love that God has shown to us. For people living in poverty, your gifts means lives change for good. The offering enables GMP to fund projects that do not have sufficient specific donations. God has led us together to many communities in need untouched by help from other organisations.

Next Sunday we will include the 2014 Christmas Offering envelopes in your Mainstream and your offering will be received on Christmas Day. We encourage you to give generously to brothers, sisters and neighbours across the world for whom God has challenged us to care.



Family News & Prayer



- * Congratulations to Joshua Waters, who is celebrating his 21st Birthday on Tuesday, 16th December.
- * Congratulations also to Dianne Shields as she celebrates her 70th Birthday on Thursday, 18th December.
- * Be in prayer for Norma Fechner, Marianne Haigh and Gwenyth Curtis in hospital. Pray for healing, strength and good spirits.
- * We have re-commenced the **chapel cleaning roster**, which will not appear on your roster, so please check the back of the Mainstream.
- * Parking in the Staff Parking Bays in the laneway is for the staff only who need an all day parking space. Please leave them free. Andrew does not want to return from lunch to find there is nowhere for him to park.

Glenis and Matthew are looking for volunteers to sell candles at Sunday night's Carols. You will need to bring your own chair and table.

ROSTERS

Carolyn is working on the new rosters for next year. If you will be away during January, February or March could you please list your name on the absence form in the foyer. If you would like to participate on the roster, then please volunteer via the form also. Thank you.

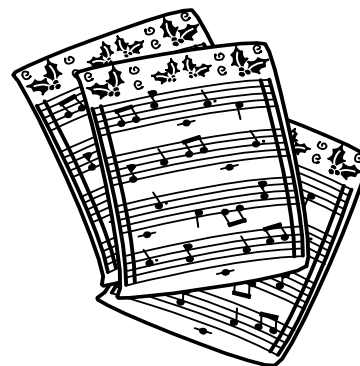
"Apologetics"

Michael Waters is running a small group study on "Apologetics". A second group will be commencing soon on a Wednesday or Thursday. The On Guard books are available today or from the office at \$20 each. If you let Michael know you are interested, he will start up a new group in the new year.

**Grand Opening & Dedication of our New Building
February 21st & 22nd**

Saturday evening - David Ratten & Neale Meredith
Dessert & Coffee Night

Sunday Service & Dedication
Invited Guests, including Simon Risson & Paul Cameron
Catered Lunch
Tickets available in the new year.



**CHRISTMAS
EVE
SERVICE**



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Those who would like to spend Christmas in fellowship with others who may be on their own or away from family, are invited to join us on Christmas Day for lunch at no cost. Please put your names on the sheet in the foyer. All those who would like to help can also put their names down on the sheet.

Donations can be made towards the day, through the office or directly to Natalie Moritz.

Wednesday
**Wednesday
24th December
7.00 pm**

New Ways to Serve

We as members can be of service in our church in so many different ways. Many are talented in leading in our worship services, others in teaching our young people.

With the opening of our new buildings comes a new way for you to serve. The Elders are asking each one of us to consider taking on the cleaning of individual parts of all our buildings. You don't need to be cleaning every room, just one area that you feel able to on a regular basis. You may even be able to have a friend work with you, or take it in turns to see that your allotted area is done.

Can you vacuum, mop, dust, sweep? We ask that you give this your prayerful consideration, and we will be asking you to commit to this important task in the new year.



PRAYER NIGHT

Monday, 22nd December
7.00 - 8.30 pm
With Naomi Thorne

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you ..."
James 4: 8



This Week

Sunday	14th	9.30 am	Prayer
		7.00 pm	Ray on Radio 106.7 FM
Monday	15th	10.15 am	Aged Care Service
		7.30 pm	Peanut Pal Night
Tuesday	16th	12 noon	Admin. Meeting
		5.30 pm	Adv. Club Leaders
Wednesday	17th	6.30 pm	FAFFS



PEANUT PAL Reveal Night

Our Reveal Night is on Monday night,
15th December - 7.30 pm

Bring

- a small plate of supper to share
 - a small gift to the value of \$10 for Christmas for your Pal
 - a gold coin donation towards presents for the Kmart Wishing Tree.
- Looking forward to seeing you on Monday.



Mildura District Chaplaincy CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Nowingi Place
Tonight, Sunday, 14th December

6.00 pm Food and Drink Stalls open
7.30 pm Program commences



NEXT WEEK, 21st December

10.00 am

Worship Leader
Communion Leader
Children's Church
Singers
Band
Projector/Sound
Officer on Duty
Welcome/Reception
Helpers

A. Tonkin
M. Cameron
D. Homfray Prayer W. Whitehead
J. Kelly & A. Beasy
M. Cox, R. Fox, M. Gardner
A. Thorne, B. Kiley, C. Beasy, I. Stewart
J. Cole / B. Moritz
K. Underwood
J. Renfree / D. Hind
N. Cook, C. Meade, P. Duscher, H. Atkins, J. Wiffen,
Volunteer, C. Staley (reader), W. Whitehead
Volunteer
L. Homfray, R. Brown
R. Hawtin / C. Waters
M. Cameron, N. Underwood / R. Jackson, C. Armstrong

6.00 pm

Worship Leader
Singers
Musicians
Projector/Sound
Officer On Duty
Reception
Crèche

A. Tonkin
S. Armstrong
M. Gardner, A. Beasy, A. Thorne
K. Stewart, E. Tonkin, G. Stewart, J. Tonkin
C. Tonkin / B. Moritz
K. Underwood
G. Muller
Volunteer

Two blondes went deep into the forest searching for the perfect Christmas tree. After hours of walking through the snow in the freezing cold, one blonde turned to the other and said, "I've had enough of this. The next decent tree I see, I'm going to chop it down and take it home. I don't care whether it's decorated or not."



"Here's a Christmas request I can't give," Santa said to Mrs Claus.

"Why not? Asked Mrs Claus.

"Here, read this letter."

Dear Santa, Will you please bring me some crocodile shoes for Christmas?
thanks Pete."

"But you have lots of crocodile shoes," said Mrs Claus. "Why can't you give him a pair?"

"Because he didn't tell me what size shoes his crocodile takes."

Beat the Christmas rush - come to church this Sunday.