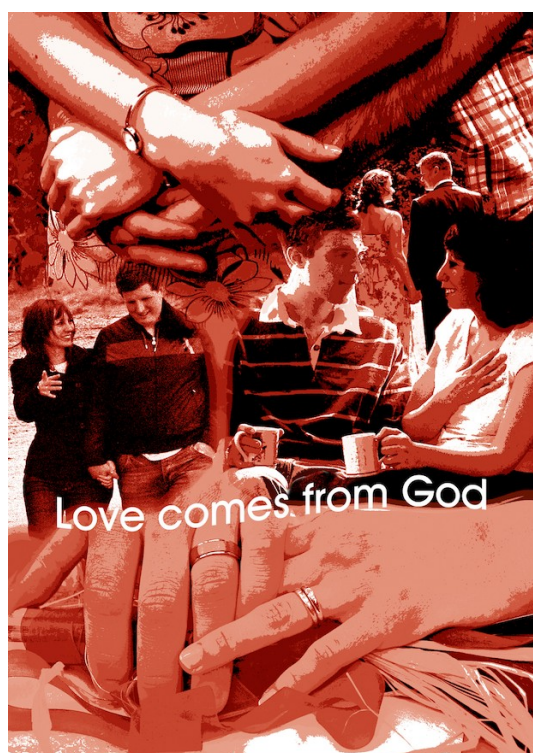




# NEWSLETTER

## February 2013



### Are You New To This Church?

Please make yourself known to the Rector or the Warden.

Please do join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat after the service.

**Wedding, Baptism & Funeral enquiries**  
Please contact the Rector.



#### Rector

Revd Debbie May: 0417 178 688

Church Office: 08 9330 1550



#### Church Warden

Mrs Jill Bowman:

08 9330 9594

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## Welcome To November In Holy Cross

We would love to welcome you to Holy Cross Church. We hope that you find the worship uplifting and that your relationship with Jesus Christ is enriched through it.

Sunday Club is held during school term at all of our Sunday morning services at 9:00am service and crèche facilities are available at the rear of the church. A change table is in the disabled toilet. Nursing mothers can use the front meeting room, access through the hall (door has sign on it).

For those hard of hearing an AUDIO LOOP operates throughout the church area. Please use your "T" setting to make use of this.

Gluten free wafers are available. If you require these please speak to the service leader.

We invite you to stay for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat in the hall after the service.



For all your Pre-paid and Funeral Enquiries  
please contact Simon Hughes on 93306344  
or visit our Funeral Home at  
103 Norma Rd Myaree.  
Proudly Sponsoring the Holy Cross Newsletter

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## Newsletter Contributions

Would you be willing to contribute something for the next Church Magazine?

A memory of Holy Cross in years gone by, a thought to share, a short verse or prayer? Maybe you know of a birthday, wedding anniversary or special occasion coming up next month, if so tell us about it.

Thanks to Greta for the contribution of a few humorous anecdotes to include in future editions of the newsletter.

All contributions please to Debbie.  
revd.debbie@gmail.com

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles for the newsletter is the 20th day of each month. Deadline for announcements in Church Services is 4:00pm Thursday.

Please notify the church office by phone or email. Notices will be placed / given subject to space allocation and the church vision and mission.



Even off duty, the Treasurer's favourite trick was balancing money.

At Holy Cross each week there is a collection of food for the needy which is distributed through Anglicare. If you would like to make an offering towards this worthwhile cause, please place your donation in the basket by the church entrance door. The basket will then be brought up during the offertory.



## Prayer Requests

The **Prayer Request Book** can be found on the altar at the rear of the church. If you know of anyone who would like us to pray for them or if you have any particular worries that you would like us to pray for, please feel free to write a prayer request in the new blue prayer book that can be found in the church. These requests will be gathered and used during our daily Morning Prayer times and I would encourage our intercessors on Sunday mornings to use where appropriate during the intercessions. Any requests may also be sent to Revd. Debbie May at revd.debbie@gmail.com or by phone 0417 178 688.

Revd Debbie May

## Wardens Wish List

Area	Task	Status
Windows	Hall louvers cleaned, repaired and closed. Church windows, outside surfaces cleaned.	
East Facing Exterior Hall Wall	Removal of black marks on the wall	
Gardening	Lawns mowed Gardens weeded	✓

If you know of any jobs that need attention, let Jill know so that she can add it to the list.

## Love Is All You Need

Sending a message of love, unannounced, is a good principle for living – even if you don't happen to have a sweetheart. Simple acts of anonymous kindness, or kindness given in an understated way, can have a profound effect upon another person. Jesus approved of anonymous good works: *'When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing'* (Mt 6:3). The needy are not just the materially poor, but everyone who is in need of something, perhaps some kindness that only you can give them at that moment in time.

So this Valentine's Day, don't worry if you haven't got a current sweetheart of your own to love. Show your love, through an act of unannounced kindness, to someone else. Think of your neighbours, your friends, your church.... who would benefit from some simple compassion and support this month?

## The Presentation of Christ In the Temple / Candlemas

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2 February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.



## Ash Wednesday

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin. (See Genesis 18:27; 2 Samuel 13:19; Job 2:8, 30:19; Isaiah 58:5; Jeremiah 6:26; Jonah 3:6)

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for today goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us.

The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12 – 18, Matthew 6: 1-6, 16 – 21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, *"as having nothing and yet possessing everything."* (2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10)

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: *"Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..."* (Genesis 3:19)

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

### The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God,  
You hate nothing that you have made  
And forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
That we, worthily lamenting our sins  
And acknowledging our wretchedness,  
May receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
Perfect remission and forgiveness;  
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
Who is alive and reigns with you,  
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and for ever.

## Ash Wednesday:

### A time to admit you are sorry

Have you done something which haunts you? Which makes you feel restless and defensive, every time you think of it? Why not deal with it this month, and put it behind you? Whatever your mistake has been, consider what the Bible has to say to you:

*'I have not come to call the virtuous but sinners to repentance'* (said Jesus). (Luke 5.32)

*'Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.'* (Isaiah 55.7)

*'Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.'* (Joel 2:12-13)

God is inviting you to come to him this Ash Wednesday. What a wonderful offer! Make the most of it, and remember how the prodigal son was welcomed back by his compassionate father.

As the season of Lent approaches, with its time of prayer and spiritual self-examination and stock-taking of ourselves before God, Prebendary Richard Bewes considers the way of the cross – and what that means for us.

### Lent – the way of the Cross

(Luke 4: 1-13)



No one is immune! An old fable relates how the Devil was once crossing the Libyan Desert, and came across some trainee devils who were tempting a holy hermit. They had tried him with the lusts of the flesh, but to no avail. They attempted to put doubts into his mind; they told him that all his discipline was a waste of time. But all was useless – the holy man stayed holy!

The Devil then stepped forward. “Your methods are so crude,” he laughed – “so ham-fisted. Permit me!” Going up to the hermit, he said, “Heard the good news? Your brother has just been made bishop of Alexandria!” It was only then that the face of the holy man began to twist and contort with jealousy and hurt pride.

Evil knows plenty of ways in which to attack a person’s character. In Luke’s account of the temptations of Jesus out in the wilderness, the Devil had recourse to a number of ploys:

‘Satisfy your appetite’s desires and turn that stone into bread!....No? Then take a look at the great kingdoms of this world.

Empires, armies and navies, banks and businesses - all yours, for just one little bow to me.... No? Come then to the pinnacle of Jerusalem's temple. You could do a power miracle as you throw yourself off the top and let the angels catch you. People will be thrilled – it'll be a sure way to gain all the converts you want!

But Jesus is adamant. 'Jerusalem? I'll get to Jerusalem sure enough one day. But Satan, I didn't come to join you in a partnership. I came to beat you. And it will be by way of a journey to Jerusalem's Cross that I shall build my kingdom.'

Christian – learn from the Lord! Even the novice believer has power – in the words of the old Prayer Book – to beat down Satan under our feet.

If we have problems, it is not in any lack of power, but rather in our low level of motivation - when we do not wish to win! It is through prayer, the Scriptures, Christian fellowship, worship and the Lord's Supper that we can gain such a vision of Christ our Leader, that the motivation is raised – to the winning level!

It is no sin to be tempted. There is a way back if we fall. Learn the lesson for the next time!

## Dates For Your Diary



### Wed 06 February

10:30am mainly music

### Fri 08 February

02:00pm Jumble Sale - setup

### Sat 09 February

09:00am Jumble Sale

### Wed 13 February

10:30am mainly music

### Tue 19 February

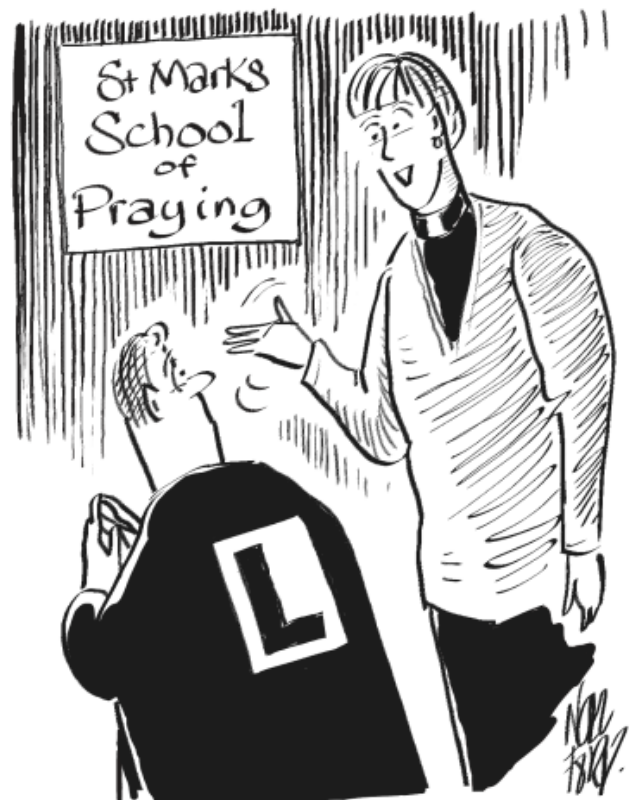
07:00pm Church Council

### Wed 20 February

10:30am mainly music

### Wed 27 February

10:30am mainly music



"...and keep in mind that 'No' is still an answer."

## **St. James The Least Of All**

### ***On why rural church-goers like to freeze in church***

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Winter certainly exposes the difference between those of you who live in cities and us rural folk. While you bask in your centrally heated flat, with every modern convenience that could be imagined and complain about the half an inch of slush that makes your life so inconvenient, we country folk wear overcoats in our houses, open all doors and windows to let the heat in and battle through snow drifts, measured in feet, to get the morning paper.

Colonel Wainwright has acquired a new toy: a snow blower, of sufficient power that I believe it could clear the Antarctic. He kindly volunteered to clear the paths around the church. Working outwards from the church door, the path to the church soon became snow free. Unfortunately, he only realised when his job was complete that the blown snow then formed a ten foot drift under the lych gate. We now have to climb over the churchyard wall and negotiate buried gravestones before we can reach his pristine paths.

Miss Margison, ever helpful in the worst sense of the word, decided to unfreeze the pipes in the church hall. A blow torch was not the ideal solution, although the resulting burst did make some rather attractive ice sculptures round the kitchen equipment. The village badminton team that uses the hall has now temporarily changed sport to ice hockey.

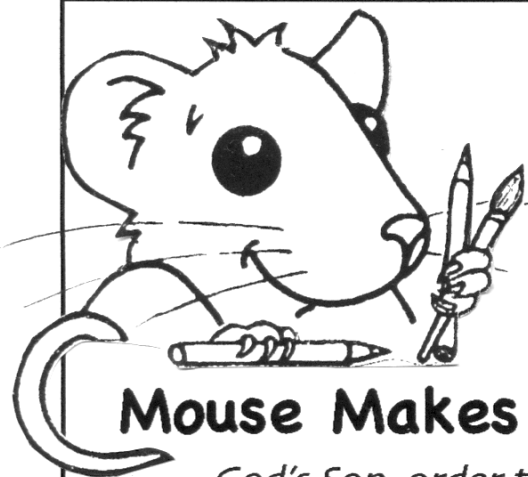
Inevitably, congregations have soared. There is nothing like adversity for making people want to prove they have the moral fibre to overcome it. Much satisfaction seems to be obtained on discovering who has not dared venture out, which is taken as judgement on their strength of character. The Prentices upstaged most people by arriving on a sleigh. Mr Prentice was warmly wrapped in a travelling rug, while his wife pulled it. As her husband explained, he couldn't possibly let the pony work in such conditions.

What I momentarily thought was applause during my sermon was merely people keeping their hands warm and the hymns were drowned out by the stamping of feet. Our organist complained that the cold made his fingers so numb that he couldn't play properly – although I didn't notice that things were much different from normal.

No, my dear nephew, you continue to fret about your church heating dropping to temperate from tropical and a few flakes of wet snow obliging you to close your car park for health and safety reasons. We shall continue to triumph heroically over adversity and return home after Mattins, knowing we have proved our Christian commitment in being utterly uncomfortable.

Your loving uncle, Eustace





## Mouse Makes

God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, **"Human beings cannot live on bread alone."**

Then the Devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give you all this power and all this wealth, it has been handed over to me and I can give it to anyone I choose. All this then will be yours if you worship me." Jesus answered,

**"The scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.'**

Then the Devil took Jesus to the Temple and said to him, "If you are God's Son, throw yourself down from here. For the scripture says, 'They will hold you up with their hands so that not even your feet will be hurt on the stones.'"

But Jesus answered, "The scripture says, **'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'**

READ  
Luke 4: 1-13

## THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After he was baptised Jesus returned full of the Holy Spirit and was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by the Devil for forty days. In all that time he ate nothing, so that he was hungry when it was over.

The Devil said to Jesus, "If you are

THE DEVIL SAID:  
*"If you are God's Son, order this stone to turn into bread."*

JESUS REPLIED:  
**"Human beings cannot live on bread alone."**

read Deuteronomy 8:3



WE LEARN:  
**Read the Bible  
Learn God's word.**

THE DEVIL SAID:  
*"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me"*

JESUS REPLIED:  
**"Worship the Lord your God and serve only him"**

read Deuteronomy 6:13

**1**

WE LEARN:  
**Put God first  
Worship only Him**

THE DEVIL SAID:  
*"If you are God's Son, throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take good care of you"*

JESUS REPLIED:  
**"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."**

read Deuteronomy 6:16



WE LEARN:  
**God cares, trust Him  
do not test Him.**



Cut out the three cards  
and during Lent learn  
the bible verses

Holy Cross Rosters from Sunday 10 February to Sunday 10 March 2013									
Date	Media	Collect & Count Offetory	Reading	Prayers	Comm-union	Tea	Altar	Flowers	Sunday Club
Sun 10 Feb	Peter	Pat & Betty S.G.	Betty S.G.	Jill	Sherri	Mike	Hazel	Heather	Emma
Sun 17 Feb	Mike	Mel & Norm	David	Ken	Adele	Hazel	Hazel	Sheri	Jill
Sun 24 Feb	Wayne	Pat & Betty S.G.	Annette	Beryl	Betty	Joy & Frank	Hazel	Adele	Emma
Sun 03 Mar	Wayne	Peter & David	Tanya	Betty	Adele	Annette & Betty R	Sheri	Lent	Jill
Sun 10 Mar	Peter	Mel & Norm	Norma	Beryl	Jill	Norma & Pat	Sheri	Lent	Emma
<b>Note</b> If you are unable to fulfil your roster duty on your rostered day, please try to find someone to swap with. If you cannot find anyone, please ring Debbie									

# Time to be a little less frenetic!



Let's try being a little bit less frenetic as we come into Lent. Martha was one of those people who welcomed Jesus into her house and her life but got so caught up with restless busyness that she couldn't hear what he was trying to say to her. Her sister Mary was different. She stopped. She sat at Jesus' feet. She listened and took in what he was saying. So despite all those things that need doing, let's make time to welcome Jesus into every area of our lives and go his way.

Read more in Luke 10:38-42



## Service Times & Readings

### Sun 3 February (White)

09:00am Communion

Malachi 3:1-5,  
Hebrews 2:14-18,  
Luke 2:22-40

### Wed 6 February

9:30am Communion with short  
Reflection & Discussion

### Sun 10 February (Green)

09:00am Communion with  
Sunday Club for Children.

Exodus 34:29-35,  
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2,  
Luke 9:28-36

### Ash Wednesday(Purple)

9:30am Communion with short  
Reflection & Discussion

07:00pm Communion with  
Imposition of Ashes for  
the start of LENT.

Isaiah 58:1-12,  
2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10,  
John 8:1-11

## Service Times & Readings

### Sun 17 February (Purple)

09:00am Communion with  
Sunday Club for Children

Deuteronomy 26:1-11,  
Romans 10:8b-13,  
Luke 4:1-13

### Wed 20 February

9:30am Communion with short  
Reflection & Discussion

### Sun 24 February (Purple)

09:00am Communion with  
Sunday Club for Children.

Genesis 15:1-13,  
Philippians 3:17-4:1,  
Luke 13:31-35

### Wed 27 February

9:30am Communion with short  
Reflection & Discussion

### Sun 3 Mar (Purple)

09:00am Communion with  
Sunday Club for Children.

Isaiah 55:1-9,  
1 Corinthians 10:1-13,  
Luke 13:1-9

## In Loving Memory

John Smith-Gander

Florence Leslie

Les Atkinson

