

www.holycrossmelville.org

NEWSLETTER

December 2014 & January 2015



Mosaic, ca. 565. Basilica of
Sant'Apollinare Nuovo, Ravenna, Italy

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

(Matthew 2: 1 - 12)

Church Wardens



Jill Bowman: m: 0400 519 943



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At November's Jumble Sale



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Welcome To 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 on the first Sunday of the month at 9:00 am 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.

**ANGLICAN CHURCH
of the HOLY CROSS
56 McLean Street, Melville
Western Australia 6156
t: 08 9330 1550
w: www.holycrossmelville.org**

Mainly Music

Mainly music is a place to meet friends, make new friends, share time with children, sing, dance, laugh, cry, welcome new babies, watch them grow, say goodbye to the little ones going off to school, have a cuppa and a homemade morning tea.

Come on, join us. A great time we can guarantee - we know you will love it!

Thanks to everyone in the team who helps bring it all together, without the team Mainly Music could not happen.

Mainly Music's last day for 2014 will be Wed 17th December and we will be commencing for 2015 on Wed 4th February.

Kids Plus

Kids plus is an energetic program involving craft, music and games run by friendly, enthusiastic volunteers. It provides a great place for children to enhance their learning and social skills.

The last session for 2014 Thu 11th December and will be commencing for 2015 on Thu 5th February.

Jumble Sales



The last Jumble Sale for the year was held on Saturday 8th November. A steady stream of people passed through the Church Hall from 8:30 am till 11:00 am and purchased over \$600 worth of clothing, books, brik a brak, plants and of course enjoyed coffe, tea and scones.

It's a lot of work putting on a Jumble, so to all of those who gave of their time and assisted, a big thank you.

In Loving Memory

Janet Prince

Florence Leslie

David Joachim



Order of St Luke Healing Ministries

The Perth Melville Chapter of the Order of St Luke will be holding a Healing Service on Thursday 4th December at 7:30 pm in the Anglican Church of the Holy Cross, 56 McLean Street, Melville. Topic for the evening, Carols by Candlelight. All are welcome.

For further information call:
0438 935 164

Confirmation



Jacqueline's confirmation at St Georges Cathedral on the 23rd November.

A wonderful occasion, congratulations JJ"



St Bart's: Christmas Hamper Appeal

It's that time of year again when we are called upon to give to those experiencing social & financial hardship by contributing to the St Bart's Christmas Hamper appeal, which aims to provide food and gifts to more than 500 St Bart's clients.

The list below outlines items that St Bart's is looking for:

- Non-perishable food (not expired) & essential items not requiring refrigeration.
- Christmas cake, Christmas pudding/long life custard (individual serves appreciated).
- Packets of Christmas shortbread or other sweet biscuits e.g. Tim Tams/savoury biscuits/snacks/confectionery/dried fruit/nuts.
- Small jars of Vegemite/peanut butter/jams/package cheese.
- Tinned ham and tinned tuna (pull top or self opening cans).
- Cereals e.g. small box of Weetbix or individual boxed portion sizes welcome.
- Tea (25 to 50 pkt)/Coffee (50 g jar ideal)/sugar (small tub)/long life

milk/Fruit juices/soft drink
(Individual serves appreciated).

- Pasta packet and jar of pasta sauce, Instant noodles.
- Tinned baked beans or spaghetti, tinned peaches/fruit salad (pull top or self opening cans).
- Canned (pull top or self opening cans) or packet individual long-life meals.
- Toiletries: Shampoo /conditioner (2 in 1 ideal!) /toothbrush /toothpaste /soap /body wash /deodorant /disposable razors.

Gifts for men and women are also appreciated but please DO NOT WRAP GIFTS!

Please bring the hampers in grocery bags (reusable shopping bags if used will be placed into client hampers) and goods will then be transferred into a St Barts Hamper Bag. Thank you in advance for your generosity

If you decide to make a complete hamper/s please email Mitch coordinator.volunteers@stbarts.org.au with how many you wish to provide.

Alternatively you can choose to donate money to go towards purchasing a hamper or goods from the list above.

Hampers can be delivered to 78 Brown Street (the old St Bart's site), Mon – Friday between 9:30am – 4pm from 24 Nov – 19 Dec. (The delivery entry point will be sign posted!)

To deliver outside this time please contact reception on 9323 5100.

St Bart's: Support For Older Women At Risk Of Homelessness



Western Australia's first transitional accommodation for older women experiencing or at serious risk of homelessness opened on 11 November when St Bartholomew's House officially launched its new Kensington Street facility in East Perth.

Stage 1 of the St Bart's Brown Street project, Kensington Street will provide 36 newly refurbished rooms in close proximity to vital support services and facilities for vulnerable, and often extremely isolated, members of our community.

St Bart's chief executive officer, John Berger said women over 55 have become the fastest growing demographic of homeless people in Western Australia and until now there has not been an accommodation facility to cater for this group.

"This project helps us meet the needs of a changing demographic of homeless people who may be currently struggling to access support," Mr Berger said.

"As the cost of living continues to rise and the employment market continues to tighten, we are experiencing

increased demand for our services so this accommodation is extremely significant for St Bart's."

The layout of Kensington Street has been designed to foster a sense of community with a pavilion, barbecue space for group activities and large, shared kitchens.

Mr Berger credited the major sponsors of Kensington Street, Hawaiian, Lotterywest and the Department of Housing for assisting St Bart's to raise the \$1.3 million required to turn the project into a reality.

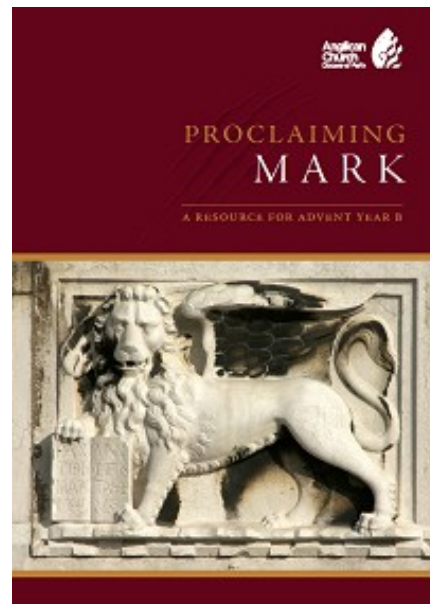
"Homelessness is a serious issue in our community and we wanted to make a real difference by supporting a project that assists those in need," Mr Gibbs said.

"Hopefully through the refurbishment of Kensington Street we will make these women's lives more comfortable."

The second stage of the \$15 million St Bart's Brown Street project will see the construction of over 70 new studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments with disability access for disadvantaged couples and elderly Western Australians who are at serious risk of or are already experiencing homelessness.

St Bart's is still raising funds to enable the construction of the new apartments in Stage 2 to begin. To make a donation, visit www.stbarts.org.au/donate.

Advent: with Mark?



Advent is a mysterious season with which to commence the Church's 'New Year'.

It is both a looking forward to the time when Jesus will come again, and a re-living of the way in which the people of God anticipated the coming of the Messiah, more than two thousand years ago.

Proclaiming Mark is a Year B Advent resource that consists of ten bible studies — five of which pick up the themes of Advent; and five which have been chosen to highlight the unique way in which Mark tells the story of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The four Sundays of Advent each have a traditional sub-theme.

In **Advent I**, we listen to Jesus speak about the end when he will come again. Like some of the best theology, the Church year starts by considering the 'end' of all things. We do our theology 'backwards' from the assurance of how things will be at the end.

In **Advent II** we look back into the ancient past—to the anticipation of the coming of the messiah by the Prophets of the Old Testament.

In **Advent III** our attention is focussed to a greater degree—like a ‘close-up’, as we zoom in upon the proclamation of John the Baptist for the people to make preparation for the coming of the king. John is the last of the prophets in a long line who anticipate the coming of the messiah.

In **Advent IV**, the drama builds as we focus even more closely upon the annunciation (announcement) of the imminent birth of Christ. Therefore, in Advent IV, we often read either the Annunciation to Joseph (from Matthew 1:18-25) or the Annunciation to Mary (Luke 1:39-45).

Proclaiming Mark is a Year B Advent resource that has been produced by nine priests and a deacon of the Anglican Diocese of Perth. It consists of ten bible studies — five of which pick up the themes of Advent; and five which have been chosen to highlight the unique way in which Mark tells the story of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The resource is available as a free download from:-

www.perth.anglican.org/mark

or as a professionally printed hardcopy which is available from Wollaston Theological College for \$20 a copy (or \$15/copy for orders of 10 or more copies). Please contact Victoria McDowell on (08) 9286 0271 or wecadmin@perth.anglican.org

Winter Threatens Iraqi Christians

As winter approaches, hundreds of thousands of displaced Iraqi Christians in Iraqi Kurdistan are living in fear of a silent killer: the freezing winter cold.

At present, hundreds of thousands of Christians are living in public parks, unfinished buildings and makeshift shelters, or under bridges and overpasses. Here they are exposed to the elements and will soon be in grave danger when temperatures plummet to freezing winter lows.

Many of those who fled from Mosul this summer were stripped of all their possessions at checkpoints set up by extremist IS rebels. Others fled with only the clothes they had on their backs when IS militants overran their Christian towns and villages overnight in August. Their sandals and light summer clothes, often the only outfits they now own, are sorely inadequate.

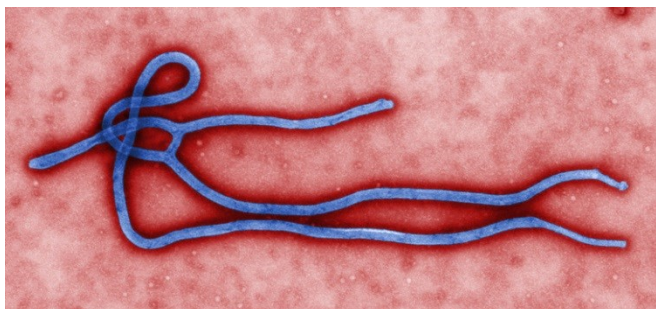
"How will we survive when it begins to rain and freeze?" asks one refugee, Leeza Guerges. Leeza and her family were displaced from a Christian town near the northern city of Mosul when ISIS took the city. They now live inside an unfinished mall — basically a construction site-turned-displacement camp in Erbil — with about 150 other families. "We don't have money," she said, "and no water or heater." Her family have only two blankets for ten people, and no money for winter clothes.

Hunger Undermining Ebola Measures

The risk of hunger and malnutrition within Ebola-hit communities in West Africa is threatening to undermine the effectiveness of quarantine measures and, with it, the wider Ebola response, warns Christian Aid.

As the rate of infection continues to rise, Christian Aid is calling on the international community to address the problem of food insecurity for over a million people in quarantine in Sierra Leone. As Christian Aid explains: "If you are a parent with hungry children, then you have no choice but to think about your day-to-day survival, and in order to survive, families in Sierra Leone are having to break quarantine in order to earn money and buy food.

"Governments and aid agencies must recognise that quarantine will only be effective if those who are isolated are guaranteed a sufficient and constant supply of nutritious food and clean water." The World Food Programme has begun providing emergency food assistance to over a million people across Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.



Methodists Fight Ebola and offer this prayer

The current outbreak in West Africa is the worst Ebola outbreak since the virus was discovered in 1976. The Methodist Church in Sierra Leone (MCSL) has been at the forefront of the fight against Ebola. To date, the Methodist Church in Britain has sent two grants totalling £22,500 to Sierra Leone to aid with the epidemic.

The Ebola virus was also the focus of a prayer now offered by the Methodist Church. It is for use for anyone who is praying for people affected by the virus.

O Lord, God of our salvation, we have cried out day and night before you.

Let our prayers come before you; incline your ear to our cry.

For our souls are full of troubles and our lives draw near to the grave.

We are counted with those who go down to the pit; like people with no strength,

Give ear, O Lord, to our prayers and attend to the voice of our supplications.

In the day of trouble we will call upon you, for you will answer us.

Preserve our lives, for you are our God; save your servants who trust in you!

Be merciful to us, O Lord, for you are good

and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon you.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Responding To Ebola

All We Can, the relief arm of the Methodist Church, has stepped up its response to the escalating Ebola crisis in West Africa. It has made an emergency grant of £10,000 and opened an humanitarian appeal fund for donations to support the relief effort in Sierra Leone and Liberia and help prevent the spread of the virus. Angela Mugore, Director of International Programmes and Partnerships commented: "Our emergency partner organisations are working hard in extremely challenging conditions to reduce infection rates, establish quarantine zones, and provide humanitarian assistance to affected communities."



The Courage & Witness Of Meriam Ibrahim



One of the best 'good news' Christian stories of this year has got to be the courage that Meriam Ibrahim showed when arrested in Sudan for allegedly renouncing Islam, for her resilience against death threats in prison, and for her ultimate release and move to the United States.

In an interview with Fox News in the USA, after she was freed, Meriam said that she had never once considered abandoning her faith to save her life. She explained that her faith in God had been her "only weapon" in the on-going confrontations between her and various imams and Muslim scholars. She went on: "I was given three days (to renounce my faith). I faced a tremendous amount of pressure. The situation was difficult, but I was sure that God would stand by my side. It's my right to follow the religion of my choice. I would like to help the people in Sudan, in Africa, especially women and children, to promote freedom of religion," she said. "If you don't have faith, you're not alive."

How Many Badvent Calendars Do You See?



With millions Advent calendars expected to be sold this season, readers of the webzine www.shipoffools.com have been invited to vote for the one furthest from the original Christmas story.

From Barbie to Ann Summers, Star Wars to Heavy Metal, there are eight to choose from – none of which tells the Bethlehem story. To see the contenders for worst Advent calendar, please go to: www.shipoffools.com/features/2014/badvent_vote.html

“The historical fusion of a midwinter festival and the incarnation, to create Christmas, was always going to throw up conflicting messages,” said Ship of Fools' editor Simon Jenkins. “However, a recent spate of bizarre calendars has meant many have lost the original meaning of Advent and prompted us to find the least inspiring on the market.”

Among the entrants are, says Ship of Fools:

- EMP Heavy Metal: Sitting with a crushed skull beneath his foot, Santa

offers the devil's horns hand sign. Time to be bad for badness sake.

- Star Wars: 'Darth Vader' Santa invites you to join him on the dark side but it has nothing to do with the colour of the chocolate. Plenty of people asked Jesus 'Who's your daddy?' but, as far as tradition has it, Darth Vader wasn't one of them.
- Barbie: With a different fashion accessory behind every window – necklaces, bangles, earrings, purses and clutches – Jesus must now wish he'd been born a girl.
- Ciate Mini Manor 24-piece Nail Polish Collection: To think, Mary could have whiled away the hours on the back of that donkey, glamming up a bit for Bethlehem.
- Ann Summers: Trust dear Ms Summers to imagine Christmas without clothes.



The Great War & The Consequence Was . . .

The guns fell silent on November 11th 1918, but the consequences of that appalling conflict have rumbled and echoed on through the history of Europe ever since. The problems seem to have stemmed from the 'peace process' itself. After the Armistice, there were months of negotiations culminating in the Treaty of Versailles, which was finally signed on the 29th of June 1919.

The conditions of the Treaty, largely dictated by the victorious Allies of course, were intended to ensure that Germany would be in no position in the foreseeable future to embark on military aggression. Kaiser Wilhelm was to go into exile. The German army was to be limited to 100,000 men, with no artillery, tanks or aircraft and her navy reduced to only eight sea-going ships - with no submarines. The Rhineland would be occupied by the Allies for fifteen years and Alsace-Lorraine was returned to France.

Other parts of Germany were ceded to Poland and all the overseas territories were shared between the Allies. Probably worst of all were the swinging financial reparations which Germany had to pay for the damage she had inflicted on Belgium, France and elsewhere. Effectively, the German economy was left in ruins.

Very soon, this led to the collapse of the Deutschmark. Hyperinflation followed in the early years of the nineteen-twenties. By 1923 a loaf of

bread cost two billion marks! The week's pay devalued overnight and families were literally starving. Not surprisingly there was public disorder and strikes, and America - the only major economy to survive the war unscathed - felt bound to come to her rescue, pumping money into the German economy.

The Wall Street Crash of 1929 put an end to that, paving the way for an unscrupulous and ambitious politician called Adolf Hitler to offer an authoritarian way out - National Socialism, as he called it. Singling out the German Jews as 'the problem' - he'd learnt that tactic 20 years earlier in his native Austria - the hideous era of the Hitler Youth, the Nuremberg Rallies, Kristallnacht and Belsen began. Hitler built the autobahns and made the trains run on time, but he also prepared a whole nation for war and did his best to eliminate the Jewish people altogether.

And the consequence was? Well, take your choice, but the Second World War is the most obvious, and the mass emigration of Jews to their old homeland was another. There was, perhaps, a better consequence, too. At the end of World War II Churchill demanded 'Unconditional Surrender' by the Axis powers, but he also counselled 'magnanimity in victory'. The lesson of 1919 had been learnt. Germany and Japan were defeated, but not humiliated, and the world now is a rather safer place . . . as a consequence.

The Boxing Day Tsunami Ten Years On

Ten years ago a huge undersea earthquake near Sumatra generated a devastating tsunami that swamped coastal areas in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Africa. The Boxing Day Tsunami was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history and, with the earthquake, killed more than 230,000 people in 14 countries.

In many places the waves reached more than a mile inland. Nearly all victims were taken completely by surprise.

Tsunami detection is not easy because while a tsunami is in deep water it has little height, and a network of sensors is required.

Anthropologists feared the aboriginal population of the Andaman Islands could have been wiped out. But oral traditions developed from previous earthquakes led them to flee to high ground when the earth started shaking.



Breaking Free From Addiction Confronting the Shame



He appeared to be a hard man; he sat in a defiant posture during a group session with the Chaplain. But on hearing a retelling of Jesus's parable, The Prodigal Son, he dropped his head and with moist eyes said softly, 'I'm sitting here with my feet pig shit'. He had identified himself with the wayward young man who had squandered his life and his inheritance and felt he was in that pig sty. He too had 'come to himself' and felt the shame of his own guilt, though he spoke not another word.

Recovery from addiction begins with detox. But this leaves a person vulnerable because their head is clearing and their emotions are being released. They must confront reality, which they have avoided for so long but cannot duck any longer. They feel remorse for all that has been lost that can never be recovered. They grieve for the harm they have done, to themselves as well as to others, especially those they love and who love

them. All this mixed with bitterness over hurts others have done to them, perhaps taking them back to their childhood. Now, in recovery, they are amazed that loved ones they have ill-used are still there for them, even if they are still holding their breath. The question often arises, is this what love is? Is love a willingness to go on forgiving the guilty one even when they don't deserve it? It is humbling to realise that the love you receive is unconditional. Echoes perhaps of the waiting Father in Jesus's parable.

Forgiving themselves is hardest of all. Many think to forgive themselves would be unthinkable. They feel imprisoned by their shame; they know being sorry is not enough. So how could they let themselves off the hook when they deserve to suffer for what they have done? But forgiving love goes beyond justice; it redeems the guilty one. So forgiving themselves would mean, rather, accepting responsibility for the past, making amends where they can, and freeing themselves to turn their life around.

In the often forgotten language of the Bible, forgiveness is within the reach of those who repent – who have a change of heart and act upon it. The Lost Son comes home. And the Waiting Father rejoices, 'Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found'.

Help Getting Friends & Family To Church This Christmas

A Season of Invitation



Would you like to invite some of your family, friends or neighbours to come to church with you over Christmas? Now there is a website that can help you. The phenomenal success of the Back to Church Sunday campaign has led to the creation of an on-going campaign called Season of Invitation. It aims to help Christians to become more confident to invite people to church. Go to: www.seasonofinvitation.co.uk for a card that you can use to invite people to church over Christmas.

"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

Matthew 9: 37-38 (NIV)



"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the vergers nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."

St. James The Least Of All

On why Carol Services are so dangerous

My dear Nephew Darren

So: you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as “the Curate who offended Mrs Smith.”

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four year period, all four voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings, then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the church council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship and so self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place. The variations on “Here endeth”, “This is the Word of the Lord”, and “Thanks be to God”, are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last year's Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Service Times

Wed 3 December

09:00 am Prayers

Sun 7 December

09:00 am Service
Isaiah 40:1-11,
2Peter 3:8-15a,
Mark 1:1-8

Wed 10 December

09:30 am Prayers

Sun 14 December

09:00 am Service
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11,
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24,
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Wed 17 December

09:30 am Prayers

Sun 21 December

9:00 am Service
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16,
Romans 16:25-27,
Luke 1:26-38

Wed 24 December (Christmas Eve)

06:00 pm Family Service

Thu 25 December (Christmas Day)

09:00 am Service
Isaiah 52:7-10,
Hebrews 1:4,
John 1:1-14

Sun 28 December

09:00 am Service
Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Galatians 4:4-7
Luke 2:15-21

Service Times

Sun 4 January

09:00 am Service
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Sun 11 January

09:00 am Service
Genesis 1:1-15,
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Sun 18 January

09:00 am Service
1 Samuel 3:1-10,
Revelations 5;1-10
John 1:43-51

Sun 25 January (Conversion of Paul)

09:00 am Service
Jeremiah 1:4-10,
Acts 9:1-22
Matthew 19:27-30

Sun 1 February (Candlemass)

09:00 am Service
Malachi 3:1-5,
Hebrews 2:14-18
Luke 2:22-40

Wed 4 February

09:30 am Prayers