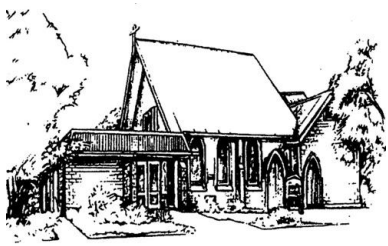
St Agnes Anglican Church,
35 Arkaringa Crescent
Black Rock 3193



Vicar: The Rev'd Dr David Powys (half-time - Thurs, Fri, Sun)
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St Agnes Black Rock reaching out to God and our community!

We acknowledge that the parish of St Agnes Anglican Church Black Rock resides on the land of the Bunurong people of the Kulin nation, traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

29th November,
Advent Sunday 2026
10am, Holy Communion

Hymns & Songs

96 Sing praise to the Lord
141 Praise to the holiest
273 Lo! He comes with clouds descending
265 O come, O come, Emmanuel

Sentence of the Day:

'Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.' Mark 13:31

Prayer of the Day:

Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths: renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love; to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

Today's Bible Readings

Today we start 'Year B' in the three year lectionary (list of readings), the main feature of which is that the Gospel readings are from Mark's Gospel.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;

we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *(see screen or Prayer Book)*

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

"But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

For the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Thanksgiving and Intercessions: The World: Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore; **The Anglican Communion:** Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui; **Australia:** Mission Agencies: Anglican Board of Mission; The Bush Church Aid Society; Church Missionary Society; Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge Australia; **The Diocese of Melbourne:** Mission, church planting and renewal; Parish Partnerships; and those supporting churches and ministries to discern and take their next faithful step; **Anglican Schools and Agencies:** Benetas.

Next Sunday's Readings (Advent 2) meaning Year B commences): Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-13;2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.

Next Sunday's Hymns and Songs, *10am Prayer, Fraise and Reflection*: 121 God himself is present; 158 God has spoken by his prophets; 272 Come, though Long-expected Jesus; 274 The

people that in darkness; 273 Lo! He comes with clouds descending; 279 The King of glory comes.

Message from Vicar:

Dear friends,

Advent is here … again. How many Advents have you experienced?

Of course, Christmas has 'flowed back over' Advent in the thinking of most Australians. There are many factors in this. Schools finish in early or mid December, and those that celebrate Christmas need to do so before the end of term. Retailers are keen to maximise sales between the 'Black Friday' and 'Boxing Day' sales. Those going away to make the most of the public holidays favour having wider family celebrations before Christmas has technically started! In Australia, *waiting for Christmas to celebrate Christmas runs the risk of missing out on Christmas altogether*, because Christmas does not seem to have twelve days any longer. Christmas has largely dislodged Advent.

There is not a lot of point my complaining about this. Things have changed! My grandmother, who insisted that Christmas decorations not go up until Christmas Eve, died 55 years ago!

My hope, however, is that Advent will not become sidelined, at least not for people who long for more than history has thus far delivered.

Advent, each year, reminds us that things will change, because in Jesus God has promised to change things, for ever, for the better. The future will not be just endless repitition of the past (New Year, Summer, Autumn, new war, Winter, market crash, Christmas, New Year, Summer etc). God will change things for ever at a point in the future, as God did in the past at the point in history when God the Son became incarnate.

We humans favour the familiar, the predictable, the routine. It makes us feel safe and secure. This means, for instance, that at St Agnes' we naturally tend to assume that the future will be, and should be, as it was in the past ("As it was in the beginning, is now and ever ….").

As St Agnes' comes to another Advent let us remember that ultimately the future will be different from the past, and be willing to embrace change. Even if the Lord does not return in 2027, St Agnes' will need to change if we are to continue our relevance into 2027 and

beyond. Let's agree to be 'alive to the new', rather than just expecting to repeat what we have done before.

David, 0411 688234, dpowys@live.com

NOTICES

Events this Week:

Today, 11.30am: Statutory Annual Meeting
Mon, 5-5.30pm: Prayer Gathering
Thurs, 10am: Men's Coffee, Deniz Feneri's (5 Bluff Rd Black Rock)
Thurs, 4.30pm: Christmas Choir rehearsal
Next Sun, 8.30am, Holy Communion Service
Next Sun, 10am: Prayer, Praise and Reflection 'God's coming'

St Agnes' Christmas Fete

Thanks to all who worked so hard preparing for, and then assisting at, yesterday's fete. Special thanks go to the stall and activity leaders and to our fete-coordinator extraordinaire, Jean Oliver. Preliminary financial results will probably be available today, but the final results take some weeks to emerge.

Statutory Annual Meeting (SAM)

Our **SAM** is today, at 11.30am. We'll finish the service by 11.10am to allow time for a cuppa before the meeting commences at 11.30am back in the nave.

Nomination forms received by the deadline last week were for

2 churchwardens
Lesley Chisholm
Helen Wilson

6 ordinary parish council members
Suzanne Cochran-Blanchard
Peter Budd
Peter Fraser
Jennifer Haworth
Diana Matthews

Jean Oliver
Christine Viscogliosi (Foxwell)

2 parish nominators
Colin Foxwell
Jean Oliver

The vicar last week announced two of his appointments. Peter Fraser will be the warden appointed by the vicar, and Karin Berryman has agreed to be one of the ordinary members appointed by the vicar. There will be no need for any elections at the SAM.

Copies of the reports remain available today – if you are one of the twenty or so who took copies last week, please remember to bring your copy to the meeting

January Activity Mornings for 7-12yos

Last year we ran a series of three January activity mornings for Primary School aged children. These were well received. We plan to do the same thing this January, from 10am to noon on Thursdays 7, 14 and 21 Jan. The first will be *make your own board* game, the second *create a pop-up choir,* and the third *plant a mini garden*. Helpers will be needed for each – people who have a working with children card and have completed Safe Ministry training. Please see David if interested.

Christmas Choir

Our **choir for Christmas** will have three more rehearsals on Thursdays from 4.30-5.30pm continuing this week (ie on 3, 10 and 17 Dec). It will participate in Carol Services at All Souls' Sandringham at 7pm on Sun 13 Dec, and at 5pm here at St Agnes, and hopefully also sing at the 9.30pm Christmas Eve service here. New members will be most welcome. We will sing in two parts, but you don't need to be able to sing parts to join in!

***Alpha* at St Agnes**

Parish Council, in adopting the *Mission Action Plan* for 2027, has encouraged the idea of St Agnes' hosting an *Alpha* course running for about 10 weeks and starting in the second week of April. Please

start to think about whom you might encourage to participate. People do not need to commit to the 10 weeks, all that is asked is that they come to the first session. Experience is that most people want to continue once they've been to the first session. *Alpha* is for enquirers rather than churchgoers, but some assistance will be needed from St Agnes' people in terms of catering and one or two table leaders.

Short Notices

The proposed gathering at the Cathedral this afternoon, to hear **Archbishop Ric** speak of the Vision for the Diocese, has been postponed.

Our **website is at stagnesblackrock.org.au**. On the website you can read the most recent pewsheet.

Cadence Choir, which rehearses at St Agnes' on Thursday evenings, will have a concert here, at 5pm on Sunday 6th December. All welcome.

Next Sunday at 10am, while we gather at St Agnes', **Karin Berryman** will be received into communicant membership of the Anglican Church of Australia by Bishop Ben Wong at St Michael's Beaumaris, sponsored by Jenny Perkins.

The previous afternoon David & Penny will sing with the **Glen Eira City Choir** at their *Make we Merry* Christmas Concert at 2.30pm at St Andrew's Brighton (228 New St Brighton). There is poster on the noticeboard and David has ticket information.

The financial report for the month of October indicated that in that month **fundraising** from *Saturday Recycle* was $682 and from *Merry Melodies* $932.

David plans to take most of February as **annual leave**. The Rev'd Ron Peterson, who says he has been to St Agnes' as a locum in times past, will conduct the services over that month. Hopefully we will have a Made to Sing service on Sat 13 Feb. Whether we have an 8.30am service on 7 Feb will depend on attendances at the 8.30am services next Sunday and on 3 Jan.