



7 DECEMBER 2025



2nd Sunday in Advent

Welcome to worship this morning,
we hope you enjoy being with us.

Lectionary Readings

This week 7 December, 2025

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Next week 14 December, 2025

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Diary dates

Wednesday 17th December:

Hands and Feet Christmas morning
tea for all our wonderful clients.
More details to follow.

Thursday 18th December: Blue
Christmas Service 7pm in the
chapel. A quiet reflective service for
anyone who has experienced loss.

Thursday 25th December: 9am as
usual. A morning of worship, fun
and celebration.

Op Shop Sale

Despite an eventful start to the
week, the Op Shop Half-price sale is
now on and will run until Tuesday 22
December, so why not drop in and
grab a bargain for Christmas.
We're at 37 Dell St Woodpark, open
9.30-3.30 Mon-Fri and 9-12 on Sat.

Christmas is Coming!

Next Sunday will be the last day to
bring in your donation of Christmas
treats, such as chocolates, short-
breads, puddings etc. for our Hands
& Feet clients.





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Introducing the Christmas Bowl Appeal 2025.

Greystanes UC has a long tradition of supporting the Christmas Bowl Appeal. Each week during Advent the Grapevine will include a reflection on how your gifts of compassion bring about the work of the gospel. This week the reflection focuses on the Christmas Bowls origin.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION By the Rev (Deacon) Sandy Boyce Executive Officer of the Victorian Council of Churches

Reflecting on history (of the Christmas bowl), I am reminded of two sayings: Kierkegaard's "Life can only be understood backward; but it must be lived looking forward" and the Māori wisdom of "walking backwards into the future with our eyes on the past." Both remind us that the past is not gone— it shapes how we live today and how we step into the future. This is important when the present feels overwhelming. We see fragmentation and intersecting crises: the climate emergency, wars and displacement, widening inequality, the normalisation of violence, and the degradation of the environment. The suffering of the vulnerable can too easily fade into background noise.

So, we step back in time... to one man and his family around a Christmas table. Rev. Frank Byatt, grateful for food, family, security and safety, also knew that, in many parts of the world, these everyday blessings were torn away by war and disaster. In the aftermath of World War II, millions were displaced and refugees faced starvation. Frank placed an empty bowl on his table as a "Bowl of Remembrance" and invited his congregation to make a generous gift to share their good fortune with hungry and vulnerable people overseas. From that simple, prayerful act came the first formal Christmas Bowl appeal in 1949. There is history in that bowl. Over decades, it has become an enduring ecumenical tradition, raising significant funds for humanitarian aid, transforming lives, and reminding us that generosity can ripple through generations. Frank Byatt's vision should not be consigned to history. His example shows how one person's faithful imagination can mobilise others, and how momentum grows when we act together.

We do well to also remember the prophets—Jeremiah, Isaiah, Micah, Amos—who cried out for justice. Isaiah spoke with piercing clarity: "If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness" (Isaiah 58). True worship is not empty ritual. To love God is to love our neighbour. To honour God is to act with compassion. Jesus revealed to us the heart of God, who delights when the hungry are fed, the naked clothed, the thirsty given drink, and the weary given hope.

The Christmas Bowl invites us to step into this living history. As we look back with gratitude, we also look forward with hope, trusting that our gifts today will help shape a more compassionate future for generations to come.