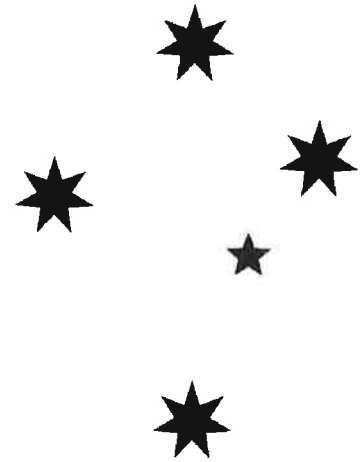


From the Liturgy Office....

CELEBRATING ADVENT IN AUSTRALIA.....



Over the years, Australians have celebrated Advent using symbols we have inherited from Europe and other countries in the northern hemisphere. However, in Australia, many of these Advent symbols, such as the Advent Wreath, whose evergreen leaves and candles represent a symbol of life and light for a people who were experiencing long, dark nights and a frozen winter, just doesn't apply.

Therefore, this year our parish will be celebrating the season of Advent in a uniquely Australian way using the constellation of the Southern Cross as our focus.

Visible in our night sky throughout the year from almost anywhere in Australia, and present on our national flag, the Southern Cross is a unique symbol for the southern-hemisphere.

Consisting of four bright stars (and one small star) so situated that they depict the extremities of a Latin cross. The group's distinctive shape is easily located in the southern sky because of its brightness and close proximity to each other. The star's brightness therefore, symbolises light without using candles.

The stars of the Southern Cross are believed to be between 10 and 20 million years old and for thousands of years were an object of reverence in the Near East.

Even today, the Southern Cross is used as a pointer of direction suggesting that it could symbolise Christ, who is both the light and the way.

Therefore, as we commence our journey through the season of Advent, I invite you to join in living under the banner of the Southern Cross and ultimately Christ's Cross so that we may hear God's call to "wake up" and "be ready" for Christ's coming among us in glory and judgement.

A template of the Southern Cross can be found overleaf which is to be used in conjunction with the Advent Evening Prayer Sheets attached.

Once you have set up a prayer space in your home, place 5 tealight candles on the template to form the shape of the Southern Cross. Then, light a candle each week as you recite the evening prayer. A prayer for the lighting of the Christ Candle for Christmas Day will be provided later.

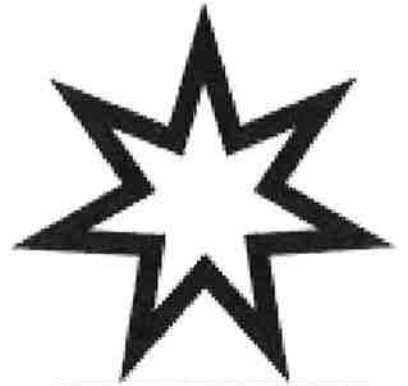
May God bless you and your family during this season of waiting.

God bless and kin regards,
Rita Cordina
Music and liturgy Coordinator

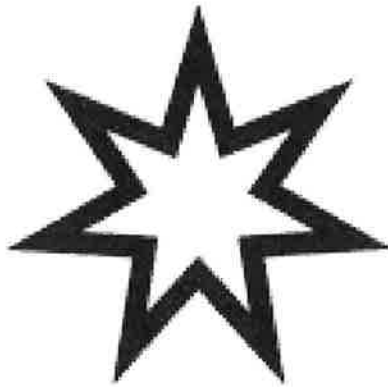
Southern Cross Template: Place 5 tealights on each of the stars. Each week, as you prepare to pray the Advent Evening Prayer, light one candle until Christmas.



Advent Candle
Week 1



Advent Candle
Week 4



Advent Candle
Week 2



Christmas Day
Christ Candle



Advent Candle
Week 3

Advent Evening Prayer for Families Week 1

Before your family meal:

1. Prepare a prayer space. (*You may wish to use the five star template to position your candles in the form of the Southern Cross.*)
2. Decide who will be the leader.
3. Follow the steps below.
4. Enjoy your meal.

1. Light the first Candle of the Southern Cross.

2. Make the sign of the cross.

3. GREETING:

Leader: Light and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

4. PSALM 24:

Leader: To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

All: To you O Lord, I lift my soul.

Person 1: Lord, make me know your ways. Lord teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my Saviour.

Person 2: The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

Person 3: His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant.

5. SCRIPTURE

From Luke's Gospel

Stay awake, praying at all times strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.

The Word of the Lord.

6. MAGNIFICAT

Leader: Holy the name of God, from one generation to the next.

All: Holy the name of God, from one generation to the next.

Leader: I acclaim the greatness of the Lord, I delight in God my Saviour, who regarded my humble state. Truly from this day on all ages will call be blest. For God, wonderful in power, has used that strength for me. Holy the name of the Lord whose mercy embraces the faithful, one generation to the next. The Lord fills the starving and lets the rich go hungry. God rescues lowly Israel, recalling the promise of mercy, the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham's heirs for ever.

7. PRAYERS

What would you like to pray for and thank God for at the end of the day?

8. THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father...

9. BLESSING

Leader: May God keep us.

All: Amen

Leader: May God's face shine on us.

All: Amen.

Leader: May God bless us and grant us peace.

All: Amen.

Advent Evening Prayer for Families Week 2

Before your family meal:

1. Prepare a prayer space. *(You may wish to use the five star template to position your candles in the form of the Southern Cross.)*
2. Decide who will be the leader.
3. Follow the steps below.
4. Enjoy your meal.

1. Light the second Candle of the Southern Cross.

2. Make the sign of the cross.

3. GREETING:

Leader: Light and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

4. . PSALM 125:

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us;

All: we are filled with joy.

Person 1: When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there was songs.

Person 2: The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Person 3: Deliver us, O Lord, from our bandage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

Person 4: They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

5. SCRIPTURE

From Luke's Gospel

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
Make his paths straight.
The Word of the Lord.

6. MAGNIFICAT

Leader: Holy the name of God, from one generation to the next.

All: Holy the name of God, from one generation to the next.

Leader: I acclaim the greatness of the Lord, I delight in God my Saviour, who regarded my humble state. Truly from this day on all ages will call be blest.

For God, wonderful in power, has used that strength for me. Holy the name of the Lord whose mercy embraces the faithful, one generation to the next. The Lord fills the starving and lets the rich go hungry. God rescues lowly Israel, recalling the promise of mercy, the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham's heirs for ever.

7. PRAYERS

What would you like to pray for and thank God for at the end of the day?

8. THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father...

9. BLESSING

Leader: May God keep us.

All: Amen

Leader: May God's face shine on us.

All: Amen.

Leader: May God bless us and grant us peace.

All: Amen.

Advent Evening Prayer for Families Week 3

Before your family meal:

1. Prepare a prayer space. (*You may wish to use the five star template to position your candles in the form of the Southern Cross.*)
2. Decide who will be the leader.
3. Follow the steps below.
4. Enjoy your meal.

1. Light the third Candle of the Southern Cross.

2. Make the sign of the cross.

3. GREETING:

Leader: Light and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

4. PSALM 24:

Leader: Cry out with joy and gladness;

All: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

Person 1: Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Person 2: Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the people! Declare the greatness of his name.

Person 3: Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, Make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

5. SCRIPTURE

From Luke's Gospel

"I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

The Word of the Lord.

6. MAGNIFICAT

Leader: Holy the name of God, from one generation to the next.

All: Holy the name of God, from one generation to the next.

Leader: I acclaim the greatness of the Lord, I delight in God my Saviour, who regarded my humble state. Truly from this day on all ages will call be blest.

For God, wonderful in power, has used that strength for me. Holy the name of the Lord whose mercy embraces the faithful, one generation to the next. The Lord fills the starving and lets the rich go hungry. God rescues lowly Israel, recalling the promise of mercy, the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham's heirs for ever.

7. PRAYERS

What would you like to pray for and thank God for at the end of the day?

8. THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father...

9. BLESSING

Leader: May God keep us.

All: Amen

Leader: May God's face shine on us.

All: Amen.

Leader: May God bless us and grant us peace.

All: Amen.

Advent Evening Prayer for Families Week 4

Before your family meal:

1. Prepare a prayer space. (*You may wish to use the five star template to position your candles in the form of the Southern Cross.*)
2. Decide who will be the leader.
3. Follow the steps below.
4. Enjoy your meal.

1. Light the fourth Candle of the Southern Cross.

2. Make the sign of the cross.

3. GREETING:

Leader: Light and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

4. PSALM 79:

Leader: Lord, make us turn to you,

All: let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Person 1: O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

Person 2: God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

Person 3: May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call your name.

5. SCRIPTURE

From Luke's Gospel

Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's

greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. The Word of the Lord.

6. MAGNIFICAT

Leader: Holy the name of God, from one generation to the next.

All: Holy the name of God, from one generation to the next.

Leader: I acclaim the greatness of the Lord, I delight in God my Saviour, who regarded my humble state. Truly from this day on all ages will call be blest.

For God, wonderful in power, has used that strength for me. Holy the name of the Lord whose mercy embraces the faithful, one generation to the next. The Lord fills the starving and lets the rich go hungry. God rescues lowly Israel, recalling the promise of mercy, the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham's heirs for ever.

7. PRAYERS

What would you like to pray for and thank God for at the end of the day?

8. THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father...

9. BLESSING

Leader: May God keep us.

All: Amen

Leader: May God's face shine on us.

All: Amen.

Leader: May God bless us and grant us peace.

All: Amen.