

Parish Press

Sunday December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Sentence

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.' Isaiah 35.3–4

Prayer of the Day

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love
on our journey to meet the One who is coming:
strengthen our weak hands,
make firm our feeble knees,
and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom,
so that our hearts may rejoice
as we behold the majesty of our God.

We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 35.1-10	Page (OT) 513
Song of Mary	APBA p.31
James 5.7-10	Page 181
Matthew 11.2-11	Page 8

Today's services are

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Sung Holy Communion Service followed by morning tea

7pm Service of Lessons and Carols with light refreshments

"Thank God for his gift that words can't describe!"

2 Corinthians 9:15

- A Christian Presence in Our Community since 1886 -

Mark's Reflection

Today, the third Sunday in Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, invites us to rejoice. The word “Gaudete” means “Rejoice”, and today’s Gospel gives us one of Scripture’s most profound songs of joy — Mary’s Magnificat.

When Mary learns that she will bear the Christ, her first response is praise: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.”

Mary rejoices not because life has become easy — far from it — but because she has recognised the faithfulness of God. Her song celebrates a God who lifts up the lowly, fills the hungry with good things, and remembers his promises. It is a song of hope that turns the world upside down.

In the middle of Advent’s waiting, Mary’s words remind us that God is already at work — bringing justice, mercy, and peace to those who long for it. Her joy is not naïve; it is the deep, courageous joy that grows from trust in God’s purposes, even when the future is uncertain.

As we light the rose candle of joy today, we echo Mary’s song. We, too, are called to magnify the Lord — to make God’s love visible in our lives and our world. Advent joy is not only something we feel; it’s something we live.

Let us pray this week
Almighty God,
you looked with favour on your servant Mary
and filled her with joy in your salvation.
Fill our hearts with the same joy,
that we may magnify your name
and bear witness to your love made flesh in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

God Bless

Mark

Christmas Services 2025 - A Celebration of Hope

Service of Lessons and Carols - light refreshments to follow

- 7pm Sunday December 14

Christmas Eve

- 5.30pm Family Christmas Service. "The Nativity" with Carols

Midnight Mass with Carols

- 11.30pm (Carol singing from 11pm)

Christmas Day

- 9.30am Christmas Communion and Carols

Helpers Needed!

We would greatly appreciate if you could bring a plate of Christmas food to add to the supper after the Service of Lessons and Carols. We always receive comments about the lovely supper!

CHURCH FLOWERS.

As Christmas approaches, the flower team is asking for donations to cover the increasing costs of fresh flowers for our special services in 2026 and to update our silk flower resources. Please place your donations in an envelope with Church Flowers on the front and give it to me or Maureen Ireland. With thanks Sally James.

Parish Prayer List

Helen Burston, Stephen Binns, William Stewart (Stu) Parry, Robyn Foscett, Thelma Fiddymont, Rachel Hayman, Bruce Knox, Helen Morris, John and Sally James, Edith Jenkins, Sue Hand, Ann Constable, Gwen Jackson, Verna Hubert, Hayden Daley, Joy Hayman, Mark, Paul Carver.

We remember

We give you thanks for your servants in every age. Grant that we, with all your saints, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of your kingdom. Marjorie Soderstrom, Eva Rees, Constance Dossetor, Geoffrey Simondson, Daisy May Dickason.

This Week at Holy Trinity

Tuesday

9.30-12.30pm Office Hours

Wednesday

10am Thanksgiving and
Healing Service followed by
morning tea

Thursday

10am Prayer Service
9.30-12.30pm Office Hours
7.30-9.30pm Choir Practice

Sunday

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Holy
Communion Service followed
by morning tea

Readings this week

Monday	Matthew 21.23-27
Tuesday	Matthew 21.28-32
Wednesday	Matthew 1.1-17
Thursday	Matthew 1.18-24
Friday	Luke 1.5-25
Saturday	Luke 1.26-38

Sunday

Isaiah 7.10-16
Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19
Romans 1.1-7
Matthew 1.18-25

Direct Giving to Holy Trinity

To give directly to the Parish, via
the Anglican Development Fund,

BSB: 703-122.

Acct No: 0500 4680.

Holy Trinity Surrey Hills.

Scan to access our website
holytrinity.sh



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