ADVENT 1

St Paul's Ashgrove, 29 November 2026

HYMNS: TiS 276; TiS 688; SPBH 16; TiS 547

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY *Mark 13.31*
Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.

READINGS	THIS WEEK *Advent 1*	NEXT WEEK *Advent 2*
FIRST READING	Isaiah 64.1-9	Isaiah 40.1-11
PSALM	Ps 80.1-7, 17-19	Ps 851-2,8-13
SECOND READING	1 Corinthians 1.1-9	2 Peter 3.8-15a
GOSPEL	Mark 13.24-37	Mark1.1-8

We acknowledge the custodians of the land where we gather today - the Jagera and Turrbal people.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH *64.1-9*
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— 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! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 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. 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. 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. 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. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 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 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock:
you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine out in glory;
2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh:
stir up your power, and come to save us.
3 *Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:*
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts:
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears:
and given them tears to drink in good measure.
6 You have made us the victim of our neighbours:
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

[7] *Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:*
***show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved*.**
[17] Let your power rest on the man at your right hand:
on that son of man whom you made so strong for yourself.
[18] And so we shall not turn back from you**:**
give us life, and we will call upon your name.
[19] *Restore us again, O Lord of hosts:*
show us the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PAUL TO THE CORINTHIANS *1.1-9*
Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 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: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. For the word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

COMMUNION Please come forward to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available (please ask). *For the safety of all in the community we ask you to:*

- *NOT intinct (dip the bread in the wine)*
- *Take wine only if you are free from symptoms and free of anxiety about drinking from the common cup.*

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR ADVENT 1

P: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins, whose mercy endures forever.
The Lord be with you. **And also with you**.

Lighting of the First Advent Candle—The Candle of Hope

The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In commemoration of that coming, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. It is significant that the church has always used that language—the *coming* of Christ—because it speaks to a deep truth. Christ *is* coming. Christ is always coming, always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

First candle is lit, symbol is hung on the tree

Loving God, as we enter this Advent season,
We open all the dark places in our lives and memories
to the healing light of Christ.

Show us the creative power of hope.
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ.

The ministers move to their places as the following hymn verse is sung.

Light one candle for HOPE,
One bright candle for HOPE!,
He brings HOPE to every heart, He comes, He comes!

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

God for whom we wait,
we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life
and the cup of salvation.
As we joyfully await your Son,
keep us ever watchful that we may be ready to stand before him
on the day of his coming.

Most loving God,
you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.

Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection —
For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.
We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder,
And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.

The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming. Christ is always coming.
We will welcome Christ into our hearts.
We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry.
We will go forth from this place in hope.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PRIEST

Rev'd Richard Butler will be commissioned as Priest in Charge today, 29 November 2026, at 3:00pm. His first service will be at St Paul's at 8:30am on 6 December 2026. Our thanks go to Sarah, David, and Gill for their careful and prayerful recruitment efforts on our behalf.

Prayer for Rev'd Richard

God our Shepherd,
We thank you for calling Richard to serve in this Parish as Priest-in-Charge.
Uphold Richard and John as they prepare to relocate,
and prepare us to receive and welcome them.
Equip and strengthen Richard for his ministry and leadership in the years ahead,
that together we can build a flourishing, faithful community,
and bring forth the fruit of your Spirit in all we do.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Please remember to wear your name tags. We have several new faces who would love some help remembering names. If you need a name tag, please leave a message in the "Notices" box or tell a "Welcomer".

PAUL'S NOTICEBOARD

✨ ✨ GOODNA PANTRY MONTH ✨ ✨

Please leave donations (non-perishable) with Natalie in the parish office
Wednesdays & Fridays 9.30 to 1.30pm. Thank you!

📣 **2027 Lectionaries have arrived**! For those who usually purchase a copy, please see Natalie in the parish office. $16.50 each

TODAY	**COMMISSIONING SERVICE** of Rev'd Richard Butler – Sunday, 3:00pm at St Paul's. Please bring a plate for afternoon tea
30 Nov	**BOOKCLUB** meets again! The final meeting for 2026 will take place in a restaurant. More details soon. November's novel *is Mrs Harris Goes to Paris* by Paul Gallico.
05 Dec	**THE WESTSIDE ORCHESTRA** – Saturday, 5:00pm. Celebration! Tickets available via Humanitix. Please see the posters for the QR code.
06 Dec	**SUNDAY SERVICE** – Sunday, 8:30am. Rev'd Richard Butler's first service at St Paul's. All welcome!
12 Dec	**ADVENT BOOK SALE** – Sunday, after morning service.
19 Dec	**ADVENT BOOK SALE** – Sunday, after morning service.

JUBILEE TERRACE PLAYGROUP – Weekly on a Friday from 9:30-11:30am during school terms. $4 per week to cover cost. Registered Playgroup with Play Matters.

BIBLE STUDY AND MORNING PRAYER – Prayer at 9:30am and Bible Study at 10:00am during school terms. Currently reading Hebrews. Everyone welcome!

THRIFT SHOP – Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 9:00am-1:00pm. New volunteers are always welcome. Donations of clothing and kitchenware (no electrical goods, furniture baby carriers or knives, please) are gratefully received.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the people in Iran, and all in the Middle East, for those in Nepal and Tibet, and those in Australia concerned for their family and friends living there. Thank you for the life of Lorraine, and pray for her family. We give our thanks for the life of Marilyn, and pray for Fiona and family. Please pray for Jack and Kathy, Tony P, Vanessa, Macey, Bill; Matthew (and mother, Sue), Rob and Andrea, Georgia, Sue J, and Maureen. Please pray for our friends at LAMB and surrounds, and for the country of Bangladesh.

St Paul's bank details are:-
Name: Ithaca-Ashgrove Anglican Parish | **BSB:** 704 901 | **Acct No:** 0000 4420
Parish Office: parish.office@stpaulsashgrove.org.au (07) 3366 2320 (office attended Wed and Fri 9:30 – 1:30pm)
St Paul's website: stpaulsashgrove.org.au

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