

The Year of the – WORD

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

John 1:3 | NIV

BIBLE CHALLENGE

(Answers will be in next week's leaflet)

1. What son of David got his hair caught in a tree?
2. Who predicted the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem?
3. The wise men found Jesus and His parents in a house, inn or stable?
4. Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus at the gate of what city?
5. In how many languages did Pilate write on the cross, "JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS"?
6. What time of day did David direct his prayer to God?

Previous week's Challenge answers

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Queen Jezebel | (1 Kings 19:1-2) |
| 2. Mary's | (Acts 12:11-12) |
| 3. A sign that read, "JESUS OF NAZARETH,
THE KING OF THE JEWS" | (John 19:19) |
| 4. Heaven | (Isaiah 14:12) |
| 5. Seven | (Genesis 41:30) |
| 6. Jezebel | (1 Kings 21:7-26) |



'I am the light of the world' (John 8:12)

We are a church in Umhlanga that connects people to God,
to others and to the needs of the world.

We're glad you're here.

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24th, 25th & 27th DECEMBER 2020 & 3rd JANUARY 2021 SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE 24th DECEMBER 2020 at 6pm

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah	59: 15b-21	OT	Pg	868
Psalms	19	APB	Pg	625
Philippians	2:5-11	NT	Pg	288

COLLECT: Loving God, your light shone brightly in the stable of Bethlehem: draw us to worship the Child in the manger and use us to tell the story of his love to the world; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

A PRAYER FOR OUR CONTINENT God, bless South Africa and Africa, guard her children, guide her leaders and give her healing and peace; for Jesus Christ's sake. *Amen*

CHRISTMAS DAY 25th DECEMBER 2020 at 8am

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah	52:7-10	OT	Pg	861
Psalms	98	APB	Pg	727
Hebrews	1:1-4	NT	Pg	322
Luke	2:1-20	G	Pg	88
Canticle	Song of the Church	APB	Pg	47

COLLECT: O Christ, light of the world, born into human pain and joy: let our celebration of your birth make us bold witnesses of your love; to the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



27th DECEMBER 2020 at 8am 1st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah	61:10-62:3	OT	Pg	871
Psalms	148	APB	Pg	790
Galatians	4:4-7	NT	Pg	276
John	1:1-14	G	Pg	138
Canticle	Song of Mary	APB	Pg	57
Creed	Baptismal	APB	Pg	59
Eucharistic	Prayer	APB	Pg	119

COLLECT: Almighty God, you wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us: as Jesus Christ came to share our humanity, so may we share the life of his divinity; who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen.*

3rd JANUARY 2021 at 8am THE EPIPHANY

BIBLE READINGS

Jeremiah	31:7-14	OT	Pg	921
Psalms	147:12-20	APB	Pg	789
Ephesians	1:3-14	NT	Pg	280
John	12:44-50	G	Pg	160
Canticle	10	APB	Pg	350
Creed	Apostles'	APB	Pg	58
Eucharistic	Prayer	APB	Pg	117

COLLECT: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.. *Amen.*

GOD'S PROMISE:

Remember that God made you. God loves you. And that God is with you.

FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS



O God, my Father, silence everything in me that would keep me from hearing what you have to say. Control my mind, that all my thoughts may be concentrated on you. Help me find here a light to shine upon my path and strength to walk in it through Jesus Christ my Lord.

THE SICK (JAMES 5:13-16)

For our Parishioners: Barry Lambert, Anand Rapiti, Stan Bromley, Mike Sturgess, Don Attwood, Laurelle Barnett, Adam Fuller, Marcus Smidt, Barbara Crossley, Maeve Pearce, Di Aiken, Shirley McMullen, Wendy Heffer, Rob Stock

For family and friends: Courtney Hunt, Theo Prinsloo, Jessica Wilson, Caleb Camp, Natasha Heffer, Roy Dunster, Alex Whitehead, Belinda Irmischer, Chloe Sherwood

Please can you keep Kerry updated on your progress via email and if you are sick at home or are going into hospital, please also inform her.

For Your Prayers & Reading of Scripture the next two weeks

Monday 28 th	Birthdays Anniversary	Luke Brunsdon, Lynn Litchfield Jerry & Wadzi Chigwande
Tuesday 29 th	Birthdays Years Mind	Dawn Downie, Cameron Le Grange John Forbes, Mavis van der Plank
Wednesday 30 th	Birthday Years Mind	Calvin Price Tom van der Riet
Friday 1 st	Birthdays Years Mind	Natanya Joseph, Daemen Oakley, Ernest Sithole Frank Sugden
Saturday 2 nd	Birthdays	Phil Graham, Henry Muchauraya, Kwanele Sithole
Sunday 3 rd	Years Mind	Jean Brink
Monday 4 th	Years Mind	Alexander Bean
Tuesday 5 th	Years Mind Anniversary	Michael Norris Derek & Francine Rye
Wednesday 6 th	Birthdays Anniversary	Barry Dijoe, Thokozani Chili, Reg Sharp Brian & Cheryl Naidoo
Thursday 7 th	Birthday Years Mind	Maureen Grimsley Graeme Davidson
Saturday 9 th	Anniversary	Bob & Cathy Ten Brink

COVID 2020/21 – ONLINE MINISTRY (SERVICES)

SUNDAY 20th DECEMBER

8am EUCHARIST

	Morning Prayer (M/P) 7am	Midday Vigil (M/V) 12noon	Evening Prayer (E/P) 6pm	Eucharist (H/E) 6pm
MON 21 st	✓	✓		
TUE 22 nd		✓	✓	
WED 23 rd		✓		

CHRISTMAS EVE 24th THURSDAY

7.30am Morning Prayer
6pm Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY 25th FRIDAY 8am EUCHARIST

SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER

8am EUCHARIST

	Morning Prayer (M/P) 7am	Midday Vigil (M/V) 12noon	Evening Prayer (E/P) 6pm	Eucharist (H/E) 6pm
MON 28 th	✓	✓		
TUE 29 th		✓	✓	
WED 30 th		✓		✓
THUR 31 st	✓	✓		

SUNDAY 3rd JANUARY

8am EUCHARIST

SUNDAY 10th JANUARY

8am EUCHARIST

SUNDAY 17th JANUARY

8am EUCHARIST

NO WEEKDAY SERVICES FROM 4th to 17th JANUARY AS FR MARTIN IS ON LEAVE

COVID-19 PRAYER

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

From the Rector's Pen – A Christmas message of Hope

Christmas the Season, has always been understood as a time of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and the herald of the message is Advent. With Christmas comes the manger scene, Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus, the animals, the Angel, the shepherds, Wisemen Three and the Star which shone over the manger. They all paint this amazing picture of a Love that transcends our human understanding; we become mesmerized at Love Divine. Namely Emmanuel – God is with us.

We make merry by adding to the celebration, Father Christmas and the tree all decorated, pudding, turkey, gammon, etc. not forgetting the gifts, and so much more. Family and friends gather in great festivity. Let's not forget the Christmas Carols, the telling of the story of the birth of baby Jesus and making certain we go to church.

This past year as we all know has not been the best of years in our understanding of what normal is meant to be. It has been tragically different, but in some ways a blessing, in that it has got us to consider and reflect on our values, principals and more so our Faith. A measure of equilibrium had been brought to the natural world, while the global economy has been majorly affected.

All because of the Covid 19 pandemic!

Having received the letter from the executive and parish council informing us of the cancelation of all Church services, you might be disappointed that we will not be having our traditional Carol Service, Crib Service and Christmas Day Services. Let us not forget that during the first wave of the Covid virus we did not have any Easter Services together in the church but rather online. Now during this the second wave of the virus we sadly will not be having our Christmas Services together in church.

All this has got me thinking as to how do we now celebrate a most treasured moment in time, how do we celebrate Emmanuel, the birth of our Saviour! We definitely will be having our online services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as well as every other Wednesday and Sunday. To that extent I would ask that you try and gather as family for the Christmas Day Service and

where possible as had been suggested when we first started with the online Eucharists that you have a little bread/biscuit and wine for the moment of sharing together in Holy Communion. (Please do call me if you do not understand this process).

Secondly, consider the great blessing you could receive, if you this Christmas were the only other person in the manger with Joseph and Mary when the baby Jesus is born. Yes, a very lonely basic place, just you, Joseph, Mary and this new born baby – Emmanuel. Think on how privileged you would be if Joseph asked you to help in the birthing process and then Mary allowing you to cuddle this new born baby. What a Joy and Privilege given to each one of us this year, to in a new and unique way understand what Christmas can be all about. Maybe that glorious Carol, "Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm all is bright" will ring out with new meaning and hope to our grieving hearts over Covid 19. This hopefully would ignite a heartiness of Joy, Peace and Love that we would have for those whom we hold dear to our hearts and all of God's people.

Maybe this Christmas is about Christ inviting us as individuals to spend time with Him in a manger. That place of simplicity, peace and joy. My hope is that we would all take the time and listen to the Angel, follow the star and go to Bethlehem. For there we would find what Isaac Watts once wrote based on Psalm 98, "Joy to the world the Lord has come, let earth receive her King."

Together with Linda, Christopher and Melissa may you and your loved ones have a blessed and joyful Christmas.

Bless you all for being the joyful blessing that you are.

Christo et Ecclesia
Your Vicar and friend
Fr Martin

And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21

Dear Family of St Michael's, Matthew 1:21 is our sole reason for celebrating Christmas, giving thanks to God and each other and doing so with great joy and festivity.

Together with Linda, Christopher, Melissa, Quentin, Elwyn, Tracey, Fr Graham, Margot, Kerry, Ros, Goodman, Andries, our Parish Councilors and their families, we want to thank you all for your love and commitment towards us and the ongoing life of the Parish. May God richly bless you and your loved ones during this Christmas Season and may the New Year be one of new life, hope and love.

NOTICES:

Parish Office

Please note that the Office will be open up to and including Wednesday, 23rd December and re-open on Monday, 4th January 2021.
Strict Covid-19 protocols will be adhered to.

RECTOR'S CHRISTMAS GIFT

We are truly blessed for Fr Martin's untiring and faithful service to us his flock and for helping us grow in understanding of God's will for us as individuals and as a Body of Christ. There are only a few days left to Christmas, please contribute to our priest and friend, Fr Martin's Christmas gift.

*Blessings,
From the Church Wardens*



Bank Details: St Michaels Church,
ABSA 4068992982, Umhlanga Ridge, 632005

SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

The Season of Christmas extends from Christmas Eve to the Eve of Epiphany. The focus of the Season is the Incarnation, God taking human form and entering fully into our humanity, fulfilling all of the requirements of the Law.

The Season included the celebration of Christmas both on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and the possibility of one or two Sundays before the Feast of Epiphany.

The liturgical colour of the Season is white or gold.

Christmas Eve is usually a service which focuses on young children and often includes the building of the Crib.

