



December/January 2025 Newsletter

Helping the people of Pakenham find life in Jesus



God Keeps His Promises



Welcome to our December January Newsletter.

Today is the beginning of the Advent season! We pray that you and your family have hearts filled with joy and peace as you prepare and celebrate receiving the greatest gift imaginable!

During this season everywhere you look people are buying, selling, setting up, decorating, wrapping, baking, cooking and rehearsing. There is so much preparation to do.

But Christmas is not just preparing to remember God's wonderful grace in sending Jesus to rescue us in the past. It is also about looking forward to Jesus coming again, when He will renew all His creation. We reflect on God's plan of salvation and how He has only one promise to fulfill – Jesus' return to judge the living and the dead. When

Jesus ascended into heaven after He rose from the dead, angels appeared to His disciples and said; "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."(Acts 1:11)

I encourage you all to take time to reflect on the cost, and gift, of our salvation and to look forward God keeping His final promise. May we share this Good News with everyone who will listen.

Pastor Richard Schoenmaker

pastor@pc3.org.au

0416 204 797

2-1-2 Prayer Tool

1 Timothy 2:1-2



This tool is a help for us to pray for

2 people,
every **1** day,
for **2** minutes.

We all know at least two people, close to us, who need Jesus. My phone alerts me at the same time every morning to pray for the two souls He has laid on my heart. I keep watching for opportunities to lead them to Jesus.

Sermon Series



This Advent season we are asking the question “Is Your Inn Door Open?” going through the “one another” passages of the New Testament. When Mary and Joseph needed a room to give birth to God the Son there was no room for them in the Inn, so they had to use a stable. What a terrible image! There was no room for Jesus to be born. This is also true of many hearts in our world who have no room for Jesus. We are learning that as we allow Jesus into our hearts, we experience supernatural character change, that actively loves each other and our world. Our prayer is that we open our hearts wide and grow in receiving and giving out true love.

If you need a refresher, or to catch up on a sermon you missed, you will find all the messages on our YouTube Channel, via the website and on your favorite podcast channel.

1st December Freedom Sunday Romans 15:7

8th December ‘Serve’ 1 Peter 4:10

15th December ‘Speak Truthfully’ Ephesians 4:25

22nd December ‘Submit to One Another’ Ephesians 5:21

Christmas Day ~ 25th December ‘God’s Inn Door is Wide Open’ 2 Corinthians 4:6

29th December ‘Sharing our Joy’ Luke 19:1-10

5th January ‘Sharing our Hope’ Hebrews 10:23

Upcoming Events



From Wednesday the 11th of December until Saturday the 21st of December, we will be running a **free Christmas wrapping service at Pakenham Market Place.**

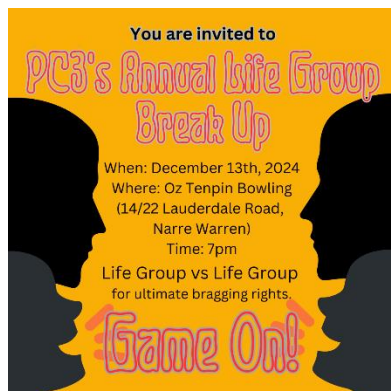
A sign-up sheet is available on the Sunday morning tea table with dates and times we will be running. If you could please put your name down for a timeslot that works for you that would be great. This is wonderful opportunity to bless someone this Christmas. Any queries, please see Lesley or Jenna.



It is time to bring out the good old picnic basket from the back cupboard, grab some sandwiches and pack the drinks.

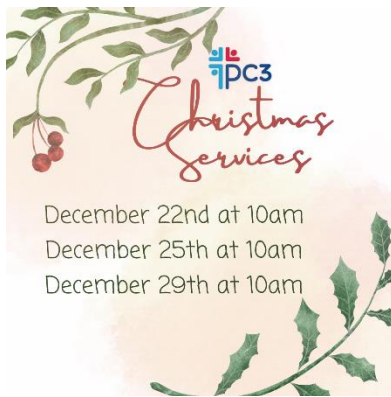
Next Picnic: Sunday 8th December

Following the Sunday service, we will be heading down to Oakland Way Playground for a picnic. Please bring your own lunch, BBQ facilities are available onsite. There are no toilets at the playground so please use the church toilets before heading down.



The end of the year is fast approaching and with that comes the comes our annual life group break up. To end 2024, we are inviting all life groups to a ten pin bowling completion on **December 13th at 7pm at Oz Tenpin, Narre Warren.**

Please RSVP to your life group leader by 9th of December. If you are not a member of a life group, we would love to see you there for some fun. We can slot you into one of the life group teams on the night.

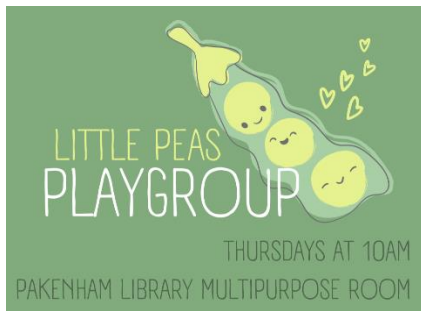


PC3's Christmas Services

PC3 will be holding services on the following dates over the Christmas/New Year period.

If you or someone you know is around on these dates, we would love for you to join us!

- December 22nd at 10am
- December 25th at 10am
- December 29th at 10am



Little Peas Playgroup runs on Thursday mornings 10am until 11:30am at Pakenham Library (multipurpose room). Please note: Our last playgroup session for 2024 will be Thursday the 12th of December and we will recommence

in January, 2025.

Children 0-5 and their families are welcome. Please bring a water bottle and a gold coin donation along with you. Morning tea is provided.

If you find yourself needing a bit more notice or thrive with having a calendar on hand, jump onto the PC3 calendar to sync with your calendar app. Simply click on the following link:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=pakenhamc3%40gmail.com&ctz=Australia%2FMelbourne>

PC3's Faithful Volunteers



Thank you to all our family who help out weekly with the setup, pack down and running of our Sunday service.

We could not do it without you!

If you would like to join our volunteer roster, please speak with Pastor Richard Schoenmaker or a member of our leadership team.

	1 st December	8 th December	15 th December	22 nd December	25 th December	29 th December	5 th January
Pastor	Ps Richard	Ps Richard	Ps Richard	Ps Richard	Ps Richard	Ps Richard	Ps Richard
Call to Worship	Charis	Dan	Peter	Dave	Ps Richard	Dan	Charis
Communion Set/Pack Up	Lucy	-	-	-	-	-	Renee
Second Offering	International Justice Mission	-	World Transform	-	-	-	Reformed Theological College
Sound	Johnny	Andre	Malachi	TBA	TBA	Malachi	Malachi
Media	John	Dave	Sean	John	Dave	Sean	Sean
Music Coordinator	Siska	Siska	Jenna	Siska	Siska	Jenna	TBA
Jam 1	Lynn	Leah	Renee	School Holidays	School Holidays	School Holidays	School Holidays
Jam 2	Ansa	Janet	Anneke	School Holidays	School Holidays	School Holidays	School Holidays
Greeter 1	Vivi	Vivi	Youth	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Greeter 2	Marius	Marius		TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Set Up/Morning Tea	J,R de Haan	J,J Gould	Van Rossen	Madhavan & Ormesher	Schoenmaker	Beard	Bond
Pack Up	J,J Gould	Van Rossen	Madhavan & Ormesher	Schoenmaker	Beard	Bond	J,R de Haan
Notes	Lord's Supper Freedom Sunday				Christmas Day		Lord's Supper

Church Council Update

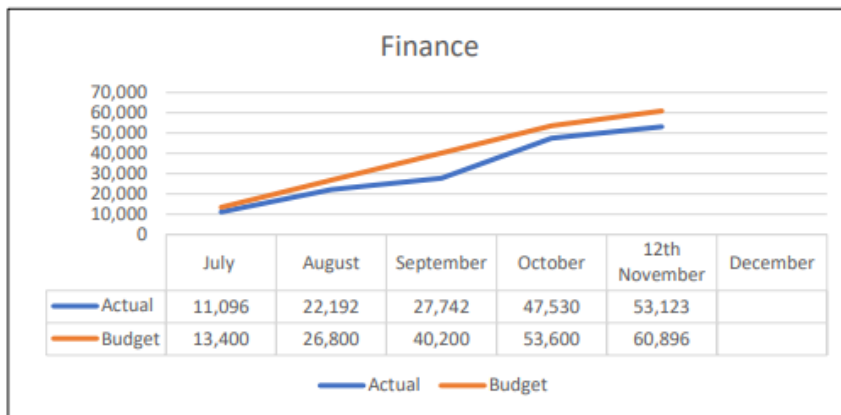
Dear PC3 Church Family,

This Christmas/New Year season we are praying you take time to reflect on how you are God's workmanship, see how He has formed you over the past year, and are looking forward to Him carry His work on to completion. (Phil 1:6)

We began our November Church Council meeting looking at Chapter 10 of the book "Enjoy Your Prayer Life." We learned how the Holy Spirit is the wind in the sails of our prayer. That since the Spirit knows our weakness, we can be real with our Father, accepting how babyish we are in our faith, and simply pour out what is on our hearts.

We gave thanks to God that our Dashboard showed our Worship Service attendance has been the best and most consistent we have had so far, and how we continue to welcome visitors each week.

A grave concern we are bringing to God in prayer is the downward trend to meet our budget. We are now \$7773.00 behind. Please prayerfully consider your level of giving.



Finance	
Budget:	\$60,896
Actual:	\$53,123
Deficit:	\$7,773.00

Some of our members have requested we regularly updated the congregation on how our finances are going, as placing in this newsletter is not working. So we will email a graph and summary after each Council meeting.

We are now considering fundraising events to help meet our budget obligations. Sadly, Mark and Anne Benson, for personal reasons, have decided to make a new start and are moving on to another Church fellowship. We pray they find a new spiritual home that will meet their needs.

Lesley reported that she is organising a Christmas Gift Wrapping outreach in the Pakenham Market Place. It will run from the 11th to the 21st of December. She is calling for volunteers to be involved.

We are so grateful for how God is blessing the Little Peas playgroup with new families that are joining each week.

Charis reported on how our youth are going and how next year's topic to study will be "What does the Bible say about...?"

We discussed the future of our by-monthly VIBE family services. We concluded that they are not worth all the work and resources required so we will look at our Youth organising social events instead.

All our ministry teams reported their joys and challenges. Please pray for our hard working volunteers and staff and pray more of us will get on board to share the load.

Please continue praying for us as we seek to serve you as faithful godly leaders.

Deacon's Dispatch

Greetings Church Family,

As the year comes to an end we would like to extend our gratitude to you, our church family for helping out in so many ways during 2024.

From providing a meal through the meal train, assisting in the Children's Giveaway, purchasing items and packing shoe boxes to name just a few. We pray that as you celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas with your family and friends that you will experience his unfailing love.

Blessings,
Justin, Renee and Lucy

Youth

November was a busy time for our youthies. We went on an adventure down to Geelong as we helped put on our first youth service in a while. It was a great blessing to come together as believers all across Victoria and take time to fellowship as a state youth network one last time. There was also a workshop we were invited to participate in at Wonga Park about 'God and the Algorithm' and how we should be using AI to glorify God.

We also were able to spend some time reflecting on the year that has been and what we would like to see happen next year. The areas we wish to grow in and what we would like to learn about and I'm excited to say that we will be doing a series that the youth have responded to the prompt 'What does the Bible say about...', the responses were really exciting, challenging, and deep. I'm really excited about what God has done this past year in the youth and am keen to see what He will do next year!

Blessings,
Charis

Little Peas Playgroup

It has been a pleasure to see Little Peas Playgroup grow over this term and friendships blossom. We have seen our group grow and connect in ways that only God can be glorified for. We want to thank everyone who is a part of Little Peas, everyone who has donated to the group and those who have been in prayer for us.

Thank you so much!

As we move into 2025 and a new term for Little Peas, can we ask you to consider whether you would like to be part of the group to assist Michelle and I in running it? We are looking for people to help us run the sessions and also who would be willing to provide morning tea or time to have a conversation on the day. If this is you, please come and speak to us.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Blessings,
Jenna and Michelle

Giving

Thank you to all those who generously give to our Gospel Work!

We believe regular, joyful, and sacrificial giving is our act of worship to a God who has so sacrificially given to us. As we give, we proclaim our faith to God as our Provider and the Lord of our lives. Your generous giving supports our mission to reach Pakenham with the Gospel.

If you would like to give, you can do so in the following ways:

General Fund	Building Fund	In Person
Bank: West Pac	Bank: West Pac	Donations can be made
BSB: 033-341	BSB: 033-126	in the offering bag
Account number:	Account number:	passed around during
505817	616792	the closing song.
Account name:	Account name:	
Pakenham Christian	Building Fund	
Community Church		

Soul Enrichment

The Christmas season is not just a time to prepare and remember Jesus first coming into the world, it is also a time to look forward to His second coming. Jesus said; "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back--whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'" Here are four ways to keep watch until His return:

1. GOSPEL LIVING

Gospel living is a way of life that is fully surrendered to Jesus. It involves reflecting on our sins and shortcomings while also remembering God's gracious love for us by sending Jesus to be born, serve, suffer and die to make it possible to enter God's presence through faith. "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." (Col 3:1-4)

2. LIVE DISCERNINGLY

In these last days before Jesus' return, we should be spiritually and mentally alert to satanic deception and false teaching. But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God-- having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:1-5, 14,15)

"Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." (Eph 5:15,16)

3. LIVE PRAYERFULLY

Prayer is a vital connection to God. We cannot survive these last days without living in communion with our almighty Heavenly Father.

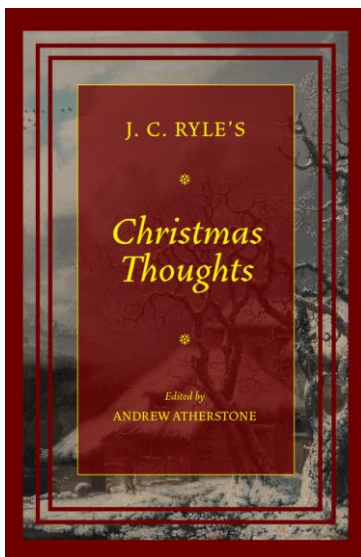
“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (Eph6:18)

4. LIVE EXPECTING TO SUFFER

We need to be prepared for suffering for the sake of the Gospel. Jesus said, “All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.” (Mat 10:22) Paul and Barnabas travelled preaching the good news and “strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” (Acts 14:22). But we are not be afraid because Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

We will be truly blessed and keep alert if we accept the things God sends, do what He calls us to do and say what He calls us to say.

This month's MUST READ:



Christmas Thoughts

This little book contains five of Ryle's most popular Christmas tracts. His spiritual wisdom is timeless. While we are enjoying Christmas delights, he challenges us to consider seriously the person of Jesus Christ and the questions of eternal significance.

CONTENTS

- Chapter 1: Come! A Christmas Invitation (Matthew 11:28)
- Chapter 2: What Think Ye of Christ? (Matthew 22:42)
- Chapter 3: The Whole Family! (Ephesians 3:15)
- Chapter 4: Without Christ! (Ephesians 2:12)
- Chapter 5: Our Gathering Together! (2 Thessalonians 2:1)

Life Groups

Our Life Groups are the main way we grow as disciples of Jesus together. We open God's Word together, pray together, support each other, and think creatively about how we can get involved in God's mission to reach Pakenham for Christ.

Sunday

JAM kids

Every Sunday during the service (except during school holidays)

Contact Lynn de Kretser

Life Group 5

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday evening each month.

Contact Dan van Rossen

Wednesday

Life Group 4

Fortnightly on Wednesday evening, 7:30-9pm

Contact Sean de Kretser

Thursday

Life Group 1

Fortnightly on Thursday evening, 7:30-9pm

Contact Richard Schoenmaker

Life Group 2

Fortnightly on Thursday evening, 7:30-9pm

Contact Lesley Schoenmaker

Friday

Life Group 3

Fortnightly on Friday evening, 7:30-9pm

Contact David Barrot

