



Welcome to Church and especially to the start of our Advent season

Our preparation for **This Christmas** comes with a **We wish you.....** each week.

This week we wish you God's Peace.

In 1988 while studying for my degree in Theology I decided to do a Major in Politics. While I know we shouldn't mix the two I actually thought it would help if I understood more of the system and history of Australian Politics.

While doing a course on International Politics, the lecturer on a number of occasions, alluded to the fact, supported by evidence, that if 5% of the world peoples wanted peace we could actually achieve it.

The first time you take this in it is mind blowing? Only 5% is all we need of those who truly want peace to bring it about.

Well that was 30 years ago. The 5% haven't stood up to be counted and we haven't got world peace. In contrast we do have a definite 5% or possibly even less of the world population who own 95% of the world wealth. Maybe that tells us something about world peace.

Jesus had an interesting start in this world when we talk about peace. He was born in the back room of some type of accommodation facility which offered little in the way of creature comforts for the birthing process. Maybe not all that peaceful when compared to today's facilities. Then as a small child he and his parents were forced to live in Egypt because of Herod's desire to rid the world of this so called messiah. Finally the family settled in Nazareth Joseph's home town. Again not a highly peaceful and constant start to life.

Even Jesus later life had little in the way of external peace. This was in contrast of course to his personal life which was full of peace. He was always able to be at peace even in the most difficult of circumstances. There was always those who questioned him, tried to remove him, make fun of him and finally of course those who did kill him. Not externally peaceful.

However in the midst of this Jesus never lost his cool, never lost his God given peace and tranquillity. Even when he turned over the money lenders it didn't have the sting of anger that we are given to.

This is because Jesus came to bring peace. A peace which passes all understanding. A peace which allows us to love God, one another and ourselves. A peace which calms and offers tranquillity and comfort.

And yet we have been fighting peace and Jesus ever since his arrival and we certainly have not let that fight go today. Our rejection of Jesus and the peace he offers is still extremely prevalent. Just look at the way we are continuing to remove Him from Christmas.

It is such a paradox. We all want to live peacefully and have calm lives without any level of pain and suffering and yet we reject the one who has offered it. Consequently we continue to struggle with our own spirit of peace.

This Christmas we wish you God's peace. We pray that we can be in the 5% who truly want to find it.

God's blessing of peace on our lives

Rev Russ and Katie

IMPORTANT NOTICE.....

The Adult Fellowship meeting will be held on Monday 3rd December at 9.30 am for 10 am. Following the meeting our Christmas break-up is to be held at the Currumbin RSL at 12 noon. Please let Robyn Jobst know if you will be attending. All welcome.

