

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter December 2023

Advent

Adam Grazanio, age 10, of Queens, New York, had suffered massive head injuries in November 195 in a skating accident and lay comatose in a New York hospital. His mother, Margaret Grazanio, kept constant vigil at his bedside and consequently lost her job. As Advent dawned, Adam came out of his coma. His first word was, 'Mommy.' And then he said, 'God smiled on me.' Rejoicing over her son's words, Margaret said, 'I'll remember it as my Christmas gift that came early.'

Christmas is a time when the world rejoices because God smiled on us and gave us the new 'Adam.' It is a time of abundant gifts but they pale into insignificance beside God's ultimate gift.

'Gabriel appeared to Mary and said, "Greetings, favoured woman. The Lord is with you!"'

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm Carols in the Park
11.00pm Holy Communion
Christmas Day: 9.30am Holy Communion.

Please note: Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. It has been decided not to hold the usual Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion service, but to focus on the 6.00pm Carol Service. All information regarding services, YouTube links and notices can be found on our website – stpaulsinthepark.nz
Carols in the Park: seating will be provided but if you would like to bring your own, that would be helpful.

Nativity Lights

Many thanks to Pete Darier and Joseph George for erecting the nativity lights on the northern side of the church. They have become quite a feature for our local community.

Finances

The end of the financial year for our church is looming (December 31st). We are heading for a deficit. I appreciate that significant financial pressure is brought to bear at this time of the year, but if you would like to help us end the year on a good fiscal note, please consider extending your seasonal goodwill to our church! Bank a/c – 06 0991 0056055 00.

Build

Speaking of ending the year on a good note, the contract with McMillan and Lockwood will be signed off by the General Trust Board early next week and construction will be under way! Alleluia!! However, you will not see any activity on site until the New Year as preparation for construction takes place off-site for the first couple of weeks. It has certainly been a long and, at times, frustrating journey but I suppose we have to abide by the well-known adage, 'All in God's good time!' However, as I said at the blessing, in terms of the concept of time, God and I are on different planets! I hasten to add, we do agree on virtually everything else.

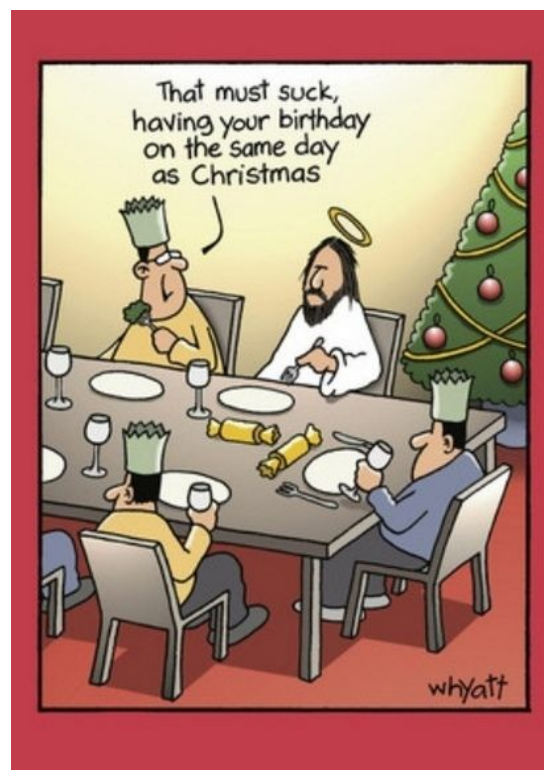
Food Bank

The fruits of our food bank are always much in demand, but even more so at this time of the year. If you are able to drop anything off over these next 2 weeks, perhaps you might consider something with a Christmas flavour.

Time for a Smile

Last Christmas I bought my friend a lie detector as a gift. 'Oh.....I love it!' she said. 'We'll see,' I said.

I asked my wife what she wanted for Christmas. She told me, 'Nothing would make me happier than a diamond necklace.' So I bought her nothing.



To Ponder

'Christmas isn't just a day, it's frame of mind.' Valentine Davies

'One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas Day. Don't clean it up too quickly!' Andy Rooney

Rev Warner Wilder
021 548 407