Pews News

Sunday 22nd November

10am Joint Parish Communion, Hascombe

The Collect
Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

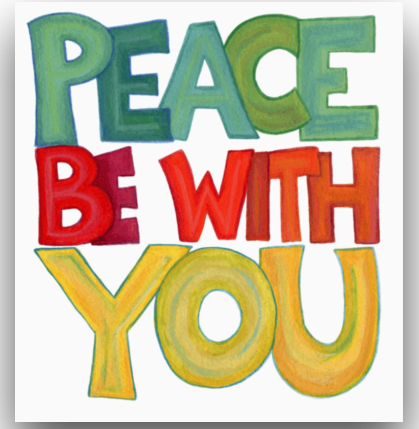
Please remember in your prayers
The Sick: Marilyn Bailey, Sandra Baxter-Brown, Ginny Fraser, Jacquie Griffiths, Fr Shane Griffiths, Pat Higgins, Stacey Medalyer, Dean Perkins and Hazel Wiltshire.





Howdy from the Wild West...where we are trying out the cowboy lifestyle. Safe to say one of us is a natural...

Peace Be With You
Are you ready for the big day? Christmas tree decorated? Presents wrapped? Perhaps I am being a little premature. Incredibly Advent is on the horizon, and before you can say 'Jack Frost', Christmas Day will be here.



I'm beginning to get a little stressed thinking about everything that needs to be done. There are cupboards to clean, gutters to clear, jobs to finish and countless items pending on the "To Do" list.

I've lived with clutter, chaos and terribly untidy gutters for eleven months, yet Advent arrives and I'm called to action, tasks become urgent and non negotiable. It must be that little known eleventh

commandment, "Thou shalt not have untidy cupboards during the Advent season."

Do clear gutters make the season brighter? When we pause and reflect on the true meaning of Advent, we are reminded that it is not about perfect homes and flawless Christmas preparations. We are taught that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. At His birth, the angels praised God and proclaimed peace on earth. Every Sunday we still share those same words with one another: "*Peace be with you.*"

As Christians, we are called to be people of peace.

The reality, however, is that the world often gives us little reason to feel peaceful. Many people are anxious about world events, financial pressures, rising living costs, family concerns, and the many demands of daily life. Added to this are the expectations and expense that accompanies the perfect Christmas.

The book of Corinthians reminds us that ‘For God is not a God of confusion but of peace."

It is a timely reminder.

When it comes to preparing for Christmas, perhaps I should take counsel from Romans 14:17:

"*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*"

God does not call us to a season of frantic activity. He invites us into His presence. He longs for us to experience His peace, not only when life is calm, but especially in the midst of life's demands and uncertainties.

Perhaps the challenge for us this Advent is to shift our focus. Instead of concentrating solely on everything that needs doing, perhaps we should ask ourselves how we can make space for God. How can we create moments of prayer, reflection, gratitude and stillness amid the festivities?

The world has commercialised Christmas to such an extent that many people feel inadequate if they cannot provide the perfect gift or create the perfect moment. God, however, offers something far more valuable: His peace.

As Philippians 4:9 reminds us:

"*What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me - practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*"

Imagine entering Advent not exhausted and overwhelmed, but peaceful and expectant, ready to experience the joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Perhaps the most important item on our "To Do" list this year should come from Peter 5:7:

"*Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.*"

As we prepare for Advent, may we do so prayerfully, peacefully, and with our hearts fixed on Christ. **Peace be with you.**