

# THE VINES UNITING CHURCH

*The Grape: Advent*

## Good morning!

*Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020*



**The GRAPE:** It is a solitary thing and yet even in isolation it has come from a bunch and the bunch is connected to the Vine.



Third Sunday Of Advent

## Children's Service



## SOMETHING TO CHEW ON



I enjoy working with children because they have some great ways of interacting and engaging with themes. This week is no exception; watch out for Sam in the Zoom chat when he states,

*“The Grinch can’t wreck Christmas, it’s about Jesus and Fun!”*

I wonder how many times we have let “problems, events or people” wreck Christmas. Why do you think that is?

If Christmas is about Jesus and Fun why do we make the “problem” the central focus and meaning of Christmas?

The pivotal moment of the “The Grinch who stole Christmas” movie, is when the Grinch expected everyone to express anger and grief at losing their presents (not going to church), but all the Grinch heard was rejoicing. The Grinch discovered the meaning of Christmas was more than presents and as a result his heart grew three times bigger!

This Covid 19 year has and remains a massive problem, that if we let it could easily wreck Christmas, but will you let it? We have some challenges don’t we, not meeting for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day is a massive WOW... that is crazy. I never thought that would happen, or doing Easter ON Line for that matter.

I hope that rather than letting “problems” be the main feature of your Christmas, you will remember Sam’s comment that the Grinch / COVID can’t wreck Christmas, “it’s about Jesus and Fun”.

Let’s continue to stick together and grow stronger together, because one day we will have some stories to tell.

Rev DJPrior.

# **WORSHIP SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS**

This COVID 19 season is all about compromise. Not everyone is happy with compromise and yet the benefit is that it is a way forward for singles, couples, families, sports teams, governments and The Vines. Compromise allows us to continue to grow together, while reducing a COVID outbreak and the Lockdown that no one wants.

After an in depth discussion at The Leaders Meeting on the 11 Dec 20, it was decided to

- Maintain our online strategy and focus
- Encourage people to gather in small groups at homes and view our online service so they can have community connection
- Ensure we have a couple of greeters available at the Church for the duration of our typical Christmas service times on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day to connect with any unexpected visitors.

The opportunity is to invite friends, family or neighbours to gather for “Egg Nog Eve” or “Croissant Christmas Day” and watch the combined 1 off service in the comfort of your home. What an interesting and creative opportunity to relive 1<sup>st</sup> century early church ministry. Covid Compromise can be Creative and maybe allow your friendship to plant and nourish the seed of faith that is sitting dormant or slowly growing within those you know.

**NOTE:** Face to Face worship will resume on the 03 Jan 2021, with the normal Booking arrangements in place, reflecting 2mtr2 spacing; unless Covid restrictions are reintroduced.

Please contact me via email / phone / text if that is helpful.

Rev DJPrior : [davidjprior@bigpond.com](mailto:davidjprior@bigpond.com) or 0403 991 475

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## **TREASURER for 2021:**

The Vines requires a Treasurer for 2021. We are looking at reducing the work load by getting Synod to do the Book Keeping.

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:**

Occurs 2 or 3 times a year, often to elect elders and pass the Budget. Our next meeting will be in February to agree to the 2021 Budget.

# CHRISTMAS MARKET



“The Mini Christmas Market” at the Reynella Community Centre is on today, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December. If you would like to donate items for the stalls- especially baked goods, they can be brought to the Market this morning from 9am. Thank you in anticipation.

**The Vines  
Christmas  
Market**

Saturday 12th December  
10am - 2pm  
Reynella Neighbourhood Centre,  
164-170 Old South Road, Old Reynella

**Christmas Treasure Hunt for the kids**  
**Santa will be with us between 11.30am and 1pm**  
**Christmas show 1 – 1.30pm**

Don't let COVID spoil your Christmas, come and join us for some Covid safe festive fun.  
You are sure to find a unique gift for that hard to buy for person at one of the many fabulous stalls

**COVID SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE:**  
One way system in operation - Sign in - Hand sanitizer available - A face mask is recommended for areas where 1.5m distancing is difficult - QR Code for quick check in. (masks on sale inside)



## Remember OUR key MESSAGE:

*“Connect with people  
and Choose Life”*

**‘Cos to grow stronger during Covid  
we *have* to pass on God’s Love.**

