



# Central Vic Salvos

v  
14th December 2025

**“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” Isaiah 11v1**

Writings of Old Testament prophet Isaiah reflect the longings and expectations God’s people held through centuries of suffering, waiting for the One who would bring salvation. Isaiah captures this despair and hope in the image of the stump of a tree, cut down, hopeless and dead, suddenly sending up a new shoot of growth. Out of defeat and death, a fresh sprig of life breaks in, because beneath the surface the deep roots of God’s lifegiving love and grace remain. We looked at this passage at Castlemaine a couple of weeks ago, using a gallery of photographs that I had taken on my walks through the bush of ‘The stumps of Campbells Creek’ - dry, gnarled, weathered and grey, prompting our reflections.

This week I switched to reading Isaiah in the ancient Greek translation of the Hebrew prophets, and a new image emerged:

**“And there shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a blossom shall come up from [his] root.” Isaiah 11v1 Greek Septuagint\***

This translation from the centuries of oppression just before the time of Jesus, elaborates on the simple idea of a ‘shoot’ coming up from the old stump’s roots, with the word for flower or blossom ‘anthos’.

A shoot sprouting from the roots of an old stump is a strong image of survival, a literal ‘uprising’ which for oppressed people has political overtones - a symbol of justice.

But the Greek translation of this verse, picturing a flower blossoming out of the old stump brings us a fresh way of seeing how Jesus comes in the midst of loss and despair.

Jesus refused to be co-opted into political power: his approach to justice was radical and disruptive, and he spent his time, not amassing an rabble of militants, but a diverse community of followers learning grace and love – a beautiful tender community.



Continued on the Castlemaine page

## PRAYER/PRAISE POINTS:

If you have any you would like to share below please email [centralvicsalvos@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:centralvicsalvos@salvationarmy.org.au) or let your Corps Officer know and they will pass it on



**Pray that we will be a praying church, filled with the Holy Spirit, and experience spiritual revival and a greater hunger for God's presence.**

### BENDIGO CORPS

**General Christmas Season** - Please pray for our Christmas season programmes, that through every event and act of kindness, people may experience the true joy, peace, and hope found in Jesus Christ.

**Community and Outreach** - Pray for those we will meet and serve through Christmas programs, that God's love will touch their hearts and meet their needs in both practical and spiritual ways.

**Church Family** - Please remember in prayer our church family members who are unwell, lonely, or grieving during this season — that they may feel God's comfort and presence.

**Volunteers and Leaders** - Pray for all who are giving their time and energy to prepare and serve during this busy season, that God would strengthen, refresh, and bless them.

#### For Sick

**The world:** for the country's who have had natural disasters recently

**Lord, You have promised us: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7). Today, we come before You asking, seeking, and knocking with faith. May Your will be done, and may Your Spirit guide us as we lift up these requests.**

### CASTLEMAINE CORPS

Continue to surround John and Pam spending Christmas far from family and friends.

pray for a peaceful joyful experience of God's presence for those collecting hampers and toys this week  
prayers of gratitude for abundance to share, and for the generosity of our community in donations and volunteering

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prayer for those travelling over the Christmas period, for care and refreshing, and for families gathering holding the love, the grief and the long complex stories of family relationships together.

### MARYBOROUGH CORPS

Praise God for all the generosity of our community to our Christmas Cheer.

Pray for all the families receiving a Christmas hamper this coming week

Praise God for all He is doing in our CVS communities.

Ask for boldness to share the gospel and to be a witness to God's goodness

Pray for believers to grow in their faith, to be strengthened, and to be able to encourage one another.

Pray for the families in our corps

Pray for healing of anyone who is unwell at this time

Pray for God to raise up more workers for the harvest field

### EAGLEHAWK CORPS

For everyone in the Corps

God's name to be honored and glorified

For people who are sick at the moment

For our community and outreach opportunities

praise God we can celebrate together as a church family





The Hope of Christmas is a series of devotionals designed to help young families connect with each other and with God during the Advent season.

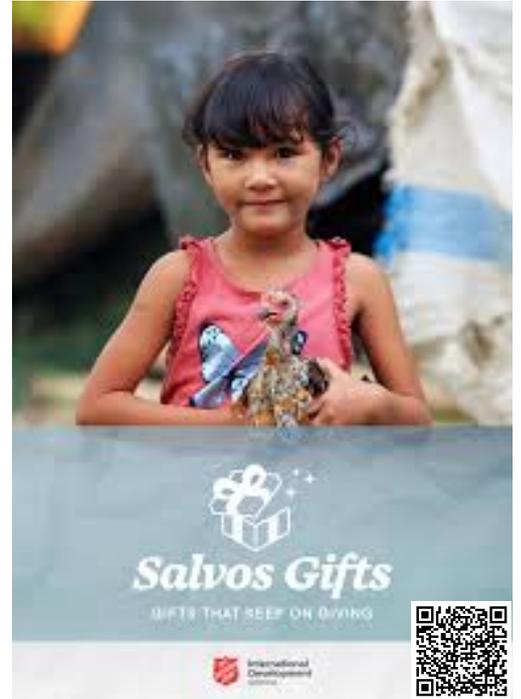
For each day, there is an fun interactive activity, a devotional reflection, prompts for sharing, and a prayer.

## PICK YOUR SALVOS GIFT

Browse our online catalogue and choose the gifts that inspire you or the loved one you are gifting to. Gifts are divided into three categories: Children, Livelihoods and Health. All correspond with projects supported by The Salvation Army International Development. Add the items to your cart and proceed to checkout when done.

## SHARE A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Your gift will bring hope and joy to families and communities around the world. Share this warm feeling with your loved ones by sending them your personalised gift cards and letting them know the impact of your generosity. Scan the QR code or go to <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/international-development/give/salvos-gifts/>



Bethlehem was no ordinary town, and we are no ordinary people,  
because of God's extraordinary purpose at work in us.

**JOIN US SUNDAY FOR WEEK 3 OF ADVENT.**

**WEEK 3: NO ORDINARY TOWN**  
Key Scripture: Micah 5:2-5a; Ezekiel 37:24-27

# Eaglehawk

Eaglehawk Salvos we had a chocolate making day ready for Christmas



Eaglehawk had what is becoming this corps Christmas party. Fun and laughter and the opportunity to reflect on the past year. Also event which are already booked for the coming year.

Merry Christmas everyone. As we celebrate His birth my Jesus bring you hope, peace and more if His presence in to the coming year.

Major Karen.

# Maryborough



## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

21st of December 10:00 AM

Come celebrate with some Christmas Carols

### CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS

24th December 5pm free BBQ & Games

6pm Christmas Carols

Bring your family & friends to sing Christmas carols

Maryborough Salvation Army  
27 Wills Street,  
Maryborough



## IN RECESS

### Indoor Bowls

resumes Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

### Women's Fellowship & Noon Prayer

resumes 2026

### Kids Club & Youth Group

resume February 2026

## IN NEED

If anyone has any egg cartons they don't need our doorways program could use them.

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

Special Christmas lunch on  
Thursday 18th December.

**Christmas Trading Hours:**

Tuesday Dec 23 — 9AM to 4:30PM  
Wednesday Dec 24 — CLOSED  
Thursday Dec 25 — CLOSED

Friday Dec 26 — CLOSED  
Monday Dec 29 — 9AM to 4:30PM  
Tuesday Dec 30 — 9AM to 4:30PM  
Wednesday Dec 31 — 9AM to 12:30PM

Thursday Jan 1 — CLOSED  
Friday Jan 2 — CLOSED

**NO COMMUNITY LUNCH ON THE 25th Dec 2025 and 1st Jan 2026**

**Wishing you and your family a peaceful and blessed Christmas  
and a Happy New Year**



## CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING

Lets get our wrapping on (Christmas wrapping) We are need two people per shift

Dec 15<sup>th</sup>: 10am - 12.30pm, 12.30pm-3pm and 3pm - 5pm

Dec 18<sup>th</sup>: 10am - 12.30pm, 12.30pm-3pm, 3pm - 5pm and 5pm - 7pm

Dec 24<sup>th</sup>: 10am - 12.30pm, 12.30pm-3pm, 3pm - 5pm and 5pm - 7pm

If you can help please call Captain Ashir on 0408 746 144



## CHRISTMAS DRAMA

### SAME GOD CALLING US TODAY

**21st of December 2025 10:00 AM**

Morning tea will be served

Bendigo Salvation Army  
65-71 Mundy St, Bendigo  
enter via Gate # 1



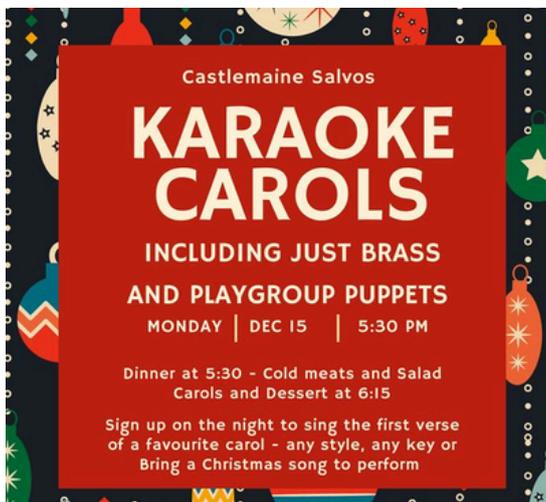
# Castlemaine

The third century BCE Greek translators saw in Isaiah's prophetic word more than just a twig – they saw a flower. They sensed the beauty and tenderness of God's gift of Jesus coming to restore hope and imagined a flourishing community of faith. Their flowery language calls us to reach beyond survival thinking into a life of beauty, tenderness, strong sweet aroma and fruitfulness. As we serve communities in need, we can adopt a 'bare essentials' approach, deliver a service, do the practical things and there's much good in that. But the image of the flowering regrowth rising up from the resilient roots underground invites us to think about the quality of how we live and serve together.

The flower in Isaiah holds the promise of Jesus coming – not just for barely surviving salvation, but the restoration of flourishing beautiful community.

The art work that I made as I pondered all this shows the flowering shoot – but also envisages the whole regrown tree – in this case a magnificent sumptuous mango tree bearing the strong sweet aroma of goodness represented in golden beads around the fruit – and this becomes a vision and a prayer to shape the presence of Castlemaine Salvos in our community. I wonder what prayer image of faithful community arises for you in this season?

**Beth Waldron Anstice**



## Castlemaine Christmas Celebration Diary

- Dec 14 – 10:30 am service
- Dec 14 – Harcourt Carols 4:30pm
- Dec 15 – Playgroup Christmas Party 10 am (Hall)
- Dec 15 – Just Brass Caroling 3:45 - 4:45 (outside IGA)
- Dec 15 – Karaoke Carols 5:30-7:30 (Hall)
- Dec 17 & 19 Christmas Cheer Distribution 9:30-3:30
- Dec 19 – Carols in the Park – Just Brass playing from 6:30pm
- Dec 21 – 10:30 am service and Corps Lunch
- Dec 22 – Blue Christmas service 7pm (Hall)
- Dec 25 – Combined Christmas Day service 9:30

(Church of Christ, Blakely Rd.)



## Blue Christmas Service

Monday December 22, 7pm

A simple, short, quiet reflective time

- \*for those who find Christmas hard and don't feel joy at this time
- \*for those whose Christmas is touched with grief and pain
- \* light a candle to remember a loved one you have lost
- \* All are welcome - find comfort and peace

Castlemaine Salvos – Kennedy Street by the Railway Station



# Thrift Shops

## BENDIGO THRIFT SHOP

2B Thistle Street, Golden Square  
Ph: (03) 5459 0504

### Open Hours:

9am-4:30pm Monday to Friday  
9am-2pm Saturday

## BENDIGO CBD THRIFT SHOP

18 Pall Mall, Bendigo  
Ph: (03) 5459 0509

### Open Hours:

9:30am-4:00pm  
Monday to Saturday

## EAGLEHAWK THRIFT SHOP

4 Marong Rd, Ironbark  
Ph: (03) 5459 0508

### Open Hours:

9:30am-5pm Monday to Friday  
9:30am-4pm Saturday

## CASTLEMAINE THRIFT SHOP

46 Forest Street, Castlemaine  
Ph: (03) 5459 0506

### Open Hours:

10am-4pm Monday to Friday  
10am-3pm Saturday

## ST ARNAUD THRIFT SHOP

70-72 Napier Street, St Arnaud  
Ph: (03) 5459 0503

### Open Hours:

9:30am - 3:30pm Monday to Friday  
10am-2pm Saturday

## AVOCA THRIFT SHOP

114 High Street, Avoca  
Ph: (03) 5459 0502

### Open Hours:

10:00am - 3:30pm Mon, Wed, Fri

## WEEKLY PROGRAMS & SERVICES

### BENDIGO

#### MONDAY

12.00pm - Community Meal  
1.00pm - Art Space

#### THURSDAY

10.30 to 1.30pm - Clothes Washing  
11.15am - Chapel

12.00pm - Community Meal  
1.00pm - Art Space

3.00 to 5.00pm - Drop in space  
6.00 to 7.15pm - Zac's Place

#### SUNDAY

10.00am - Celebration Service  
4.00pm - Discovery Church

65-71 Mundy St, Bendigo

### MARYBOROUGH

#### MONDAY

9:30am to 12.30pm - Doorways

#### WEDNESDAY

9:30am to 12.30pm - Doorways

#### THURSDAY

#### FRIDAY

9:30am to 12.30pm - Doorways

#### SUNDAY

9:15am - Prayer Meeting  
10.00am - Celebration Service

27 Wills St, Maryborough

### CASTLEMAINE

#### MONDAY

10.00am - Playgroup\*

#### WEDNESDAY

9.30am to 12.00pm Doorways

#### FRIDAY

9.30am to 12.00pm - Doorways

#### SUNDAY

10.30am - Worship Service

47 Kennedy St, Castlemaine

### EAGLEHAWK

#### TUESDAYS

3:35 to 5pm - Choir Practice.

#### THURSDAY

1.30pm - Crafty Skills Community

1.30pm - Band Practice

3.00pm - Bible Study \*

4:30 pm - Prayer Meeting - Hall

#### SUNDAY

9:40am - prays

10.00am - Celebration Service

51 Church St, Eaglehawk

\*not on during school Holidays



# Contact Us

## THE SALVATION ARMY CENTRAL VIC SALVOS

### BENDIGO

Capt. Ashir Morris and Hummera Ashir  
65 – 71 Mundy Street, Bendigo | 03 5440 8431  
corpsofficer.bendigo@salvationarmy.org.au

### CASTLEMAINE

Beth Waldron Anstice  
47 Kennedy Street, Castlemaine | 03 5459 0505  
corpsofficer.castlemaine@salvationarmy.org.au

### EAGLEHAWK

Major Karen Armstrong  
51 Church Street, Eaglehawk | (03) 5459 0507  
corpsofficer.eaglehawk@salvationarmy.org.au

### MARYBOROUGH

Major Vanessa Evans (Starting December 1)  
27 Wills St, Maryborough | 03 5459 0500  
corpsofficer.maryborough@salvationarmy.org.au

**2 WAYS TO GIVE**

**IN PERSON**  
PLACE YOUR CASH OR ENVELOPES IN THE OFFERING PLATE

**ONLINE**  
VIA BPAY  
BILLER CODE: 437855  
REFERENCE #: 10009



# doorways

Doorways is our Community Support program. It is the entryway through which those experiencing hardship and/or disadvantage can take proactive steps to find the support they need to overcome life's challenges and find long-term solutions. We offer a range of services from emergency relief to case management and more.

If you are experiencing hardship or financial difficulties, please call the Salvos Phone Assistance Line (PAL) on 03 8873 5288.  
This service operates Monday to Friday between 9am and 4pm.

Please be aware no assistance interviews will be conducted from our local sites. Community members presenting to any of our Central Vic Salvos sites will be invited to contact Salvos PAL.



The Salvation Army Central Victoria acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung and Taungurung Peoples of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional owners of the land on which we meet and work and pay our respect to Elders past, present and future. We value and include people of all cultures, languages, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions and intersex status. We are committed to providing programs that are fully inclusive. We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of people of all ages, particularly children.