

Anglican Parish of Woy Woy

Weekly Bulletin

2 December 2018

1st Sunday of Advent

In the coming week

Today

5.00pm Sunday Night Live-St Andrew's

Monday 3 December

3.00pm Home Group-Verna Rice

7.00pm Choir Practice-St Luke's

Tuesday 4 December

9.00am Cottage Crafters-The Cottage

1.30pm Bible Study-104 Gallipoli Ave

3.00pm Cursillo Group Reunion-St Andrew's

Wednesday 5 December

9.30am Mothers Union-St Andrew's

10.00am Communion-Peninsula Village

6.00pm Prayer, Praise & Proclamation-St Luke's

7.00pm Bible Study-Rosemary Gillham

Thursday 6 December

8.30am Communion-St Luke's

10.00am Little Pelicans-St Andrew's

10.30am Coffee&Chat-Ruby's Umina

Saturday 8 December

9.00am Op-Shop Open

Next Sunday 9 December

8.00am Communion-St Andrew's

10.00am Eucharist-St Luke's

12.00pm Parish lunch at the Bayview Woy Woy

3.00pm Pastoral Care-St Andrew's

5.00pm Sunday Night Live-St Andrew's

Welcome to everyone visiting our churches!

Our services are all slightly different, but each offers a friendly space in which you can worship God and be part of God's community.

St Andrew's at 8am: Holy Communion, is a less formal worship service, each Sunday except the second Sunday of the Month when we observe **Morning Prayer**.

St Luke's at 10am: Holy Eucharist has a more formal style of worship. The Eucharist is also celebrated at St Luke's on Thursdays at 8:30am.

St Andrew's at 5pm: Sunday Night Live or 4:30pm: Messy Church (3rd Sunday of each month) is a space for families with children and the young at heart to join in informal and fun worship, discussion and activities.

At our Sunday morning services you will need the **middle pages of this booklet** to join in the prayers and the Psalm that we read together.

If you need a **gluten-free wafer** at Communion, please tell the person who welcomed you at the front door before the service.

We pray in silence before worship

Before worship speak to God.

During worship let God speak to you.

After Worship speak to each other.

Both of our churches are equipped with an audio loop. If you use a hearing aid, use the 'T' switch to connect.



Rector's Reflection

Dear friends,

As the first season of our liturgical year, Advent anticipates our Lord's return every bit as much as our re visitation of His Nativity. Focussing prematurely on Christmas at the cost of Advent diminishes the uniqueness of this seasonal observance with its twofold significance.

Our society tends to celebrate Christmas well in advance of the 25th December, as evidenced by the endless raft of Christmas parties, the seductive allure of the mega shopping malls marketing ploys, and suburban homes festooned with decorations and lights. Occasionally a cardboard cut-out Nativity scene is to be found amidst the plethora of wintry depictions of Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman, reminding passers-by that 'Jesus is the Reason for the Season'.

Sadly, the sanctity of Christmas is obscured by the commercial and material values of our society. Santa is more marketable than Jesus, and is the personification of our seasonal over-indulgence, whereas Jesus personifies the poverty of God. When we tear away our societal Christmas wrapping, what we discover beneath and within is God's reduction of self to humanity in the incarnation. In the person of Jesus, God identifies with us that we might identify with Him.

Whilst of secondary importance to Easter, Christmas is a unique feast of the church insofar as we attract people we don't usually see on other occasions. Why is this so? Is it because they seek respite from the hype of consumerism? Is it because Christmas awakens happy memories of childhood and family togetherness around the Nativity's retelling? Or is it because they recognise - in their heart of hearts - this story as the ultimate love story of the creator God for His creation in Christ?

Whatever their reason for being with us, they are most welcome. It's important we seize the opportunity to convey God's love for them in Jesus in the hope that He might be born anew and afresh in them as in us.

As with last Advent so too this year I want to prevail upon your generosity in bringing non-perishable food stuffs and toiletries to church each week for placement at the foot of the Christmas tree in both centres. With an ever increasing need in our community, our food appeal is a good way to render Christian service and outreach to our less fortunate neighbour.

May God bless us as we embrace Advent, let us not rush to Bethlehem but keep pace with the season, enabling our hearts to prepare Him room. Peace!

Fr Michael

From the Parish

Op-Shop News

During December everything will be half-price and trading will be extended until Thursday, 20th December.

Remember the Christmas Raffle. Tickets \$1 each or 5 for \$3 - lots of great prizes.

Monthly Parish Luncheon

Would interested people please contact Jacky King if you are coming to the luncheon on Sunday 9th at the Bayview so she can reserve enough tables. Last luncheon 27 people attended and we all had a great time with lovely food and company. Ph 0404 897 766.

Service of Prayer, Praise & Proclamation.

All are welcome to worship, to pray and contemplate the coming of the Christ child at a service of Prayer, Praise & Proclamation to be held at St. Luke's on Wednesday 5th December from 6.00pm - 6.45

Christmas Tree in the Church

In recent years we have placed a Christmas Tree in each of our churches during Advent to receive donations to be given to Mary Macs. This year Mary Macs have advised that they do not require these donations, so we will collect your gifts for Samaritans Emergency Relief at Wyoming. Please take a leaflet listing some suggestions of items sought if you have not received one previously in the Bulletin.

Christmas Service Times

Christmas Eve, 24th December

ST ANDREW'S

4.30pm Family Crib Service with Traditional Carols

ST LUKE'S

11.00pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, 25th December

ST ANDREW'S

8.00am Christmas Communion

ST LUKE'S

10.00am Christmas Eucharist

Sunday after Christmas, 30th December

ST ANDREW'S

10.00am Parish Service followed by Bring and Share Lunch - Cold Meats, Salads, Desserts

Prayer for all in Newcastle Diocese

As the diocese considers future strategies maybe we can each pray this prayer

*Come Holy Spirit of God, restore the lives which, without you, are lifeless and dead;
kindle the hearts, which without you, are cold and dull;
enlighten the minds which, without you, are dark and blind;
fill the church which, without you, is an empty room;
teach us how to praise and pray that we may grow together in love and have courage to make wise decisions as servants, messengers and ambassadors of God's reign, all this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.* Amen

We pray in silence before worship

As you prepare for this morning's service please pray for yourself and those around you. You might like to reflect on this thought for the week:

Stand up and raise your heads; your redemption is drawing near. Luke 21.28

The prayer of the day

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert,
watching for your kingdom,
and make us strong in faith,
so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth,
we may go out joyfully to greet him;
and, with all your saints,
may worship you for ever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Today's readings

Jeremiah 33.14-16	Psalm 25.1-10	
1 Thessalonians 3.9-13	Luke 21.25-31	
8.00am	Derek Corless.	Elizabeth Corless
10.00am	Anthea Haughain	Bill Gates

This morning's hymns

273 Lo! he comes with clouds descending
272 Come, thou long expected Jesus
271 The advent of our God
Our Supper Invitation
315 Mine eyes have seen the glory

For our prayers this week

Please pray for:

Out of Home Care (OOHC)
child fostering in
Coonabarabran, Hamilton,
Maitland, Mudgee and Wyong.



Wider Community:

The First Peoples of the Diocese. All those who are suffering because of the drought.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Diocese of Guadalcanal. The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea. The Diocese of Armidale.

Wider Church

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay.

In the Diocese of Newcastle:

Our Bishops, Peter, Sonia and Charlie. The priests and people of Georgetown and Hamilton. Hospital Chaplaincies

In the Parish of Woy Woy:

We pray for our ministry team, Fr Michael and Anthea, and we pray for ourselves and the work we do in the mission of this parish.

For those seeking God's help:

Joan Armstrong, Helen Baker, Rosemary Bond, Shannon, Brett Donnelly, Jean Dor'e, Carol Fraser, Jenny, Sandra Heath, Elaine Rand, Lucy Roy, Mary, Rebecca, Joy Woodward.

Would those who wish to include names in the above list, please ensure that permission has been obtained from the person or their carer.

Readings for this week

Jeremiah 33.14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Psalm 25.1-10

To be said by alternate half verses

1 In you, O Lord my God, have I put my hope:

in you have I trusted, let me not be ashamed,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

2 Let none who wait for you be put to shame:

but let those that break faith

be confounded and gain nothing.

3 Show me your ways, O Lord:

and teach me your paths.

4 Lead me in the ways of your truth, and teach me:

for you are the God of my salvation.

5 In you have I hoped all the day long:

because of your goodness, O Lord.

6 Call to mind your compassion and your loving-kindness:

for they are from of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth,

nor my transgressions:

but according to your mercy think on me.

8 Good and upright is the Lord:

therefore will he direct sinners in the way.

9 The meek he will guide in the path of justice:

and teach the humble his ways.

10 All the paths of the Lord are faithful and true:

for those who keep his covenant and his commandments.

1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Gospel: Luke 21.25-31

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.'

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For next week

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachai 3.1-4 Song of Zechariah
Philippians 1.1-11 Luke 3.1-6

Hymns

265 O come, O come, Emmanuel
203 Fairest Lord Jesus
270 On Jordan's bank
276 *There's a light upon the mountains*
409 O breath of life

Notices

Christmas Songs of Praise

Presbyterian Women's Association, St David's Presbyterian Church 118-120 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy warmly invite you to attend their Annual Songs of Praise for 2018. Jeff Long from REM will be Guest Speaker.

Tuesday 11th December at 10.15 am

Service followed by a special Christmas morning tea.

An offering will be invited to support Youthlife (REM) at Brisbane Water Secondary College

RSVP: 4th December - Mrs Jeanette Stephenson 4344 7220.

Flowers in St. Luke's today

The flowers in St. Luke's today have been donated by Jeffrey Allen in memory of his wife Margaret.

Basic SRE (Scripture)Teacher Training

There are some schools on the Central Coast where students do not have an SRE lesson as there is no one available to take the SRE lesson.

You may like to prayerfully consider taking up the challenge to teach SRE next year, attend the Basic SRE Teacher Training Course (5 x 2 hour modules) in February at either Kincumber or Bateau Bay and to support and pray for the SRE (Scripture) programme in Primary Schools on the Central Coast.

Remember, SRE Teachers are missionaries when they go into the schools spreading the Good News about God, the Bible and important Christian truths.

Please see Fr Michael or Rosemary Gillham (0408 416 181) if you feel God is challenging you to help meet this need.

Mission Giving-Advent and Christmas

ABM envelopes will be included in the weekly bulletins during Advent -

1st Sunday in Advent - Support the Nungalinya College, Darwin and Wontulp-Bi-Buya College, Cairns.

2nd Sunday in Advent - Support Kenyan school children to shape a healthy environment for the future

3rd Sunday in Advent - Support the establishment of a language and training centre at St Peter's Bible School, Myanmar.

Christmas Bowl envelopes will be included in the 4th Sunday in Advent Bulletin.

Generosity

Thank you

This week we say thank you to **Jean White, Elizabeth Corah and Pam Borland** for laundering and care of linen in St Andrew's and St Luke's. Thank you for all the work that you do.

Samaritans

Please remember to bring non-perishable food items and place them in the baskets provided near the door of the church for the work of the **Samaritans** organisation in our diocese.

Direct giving

Thank you for your generous financial giving to the mission of our parish. We encourage parishioners to give directly to the '**Anglican Parish of Woy Woy**' account: BSB 032-527 ACCOUNT 228059.

Reminder

If you would like a notice in the bulletin please give information to office staff by **Thursday** for inclusion in the bulletin the following **Sunday**.

Parish Churches

St Luke's: 151 Blackwall Rd, Woy Woy (opposite Park Rd)

St Andrew's 360 Ocean Beach Rd, Umina (near Albion St)

Refreshments are served after each of the services. We would love you to join us! At St Andrew's, refreshments are served in the foyer, and at St Lukes in the church hall.

At the end of the service, please introduce yourself so that we can welcome you properly. Ask for our Welcome Pack, which offers more information about who we are and what we do.

Ministry Team

Parish Priest:

Rev Canon Michael Davies

Mobile phone: **0417 650 805**

Email: **mdavies0968@gmail.com**

Day off Monday.

Children & Family Worker:

Anthea Haughain

Mobile phone: **0421 779 305**

Email: ahaughain@gmail.com

The Cottage: parish office, op-shop and community space

151 Blackwall Road, Woy Woy 2256

PO Box 709, Woy Woy 2256

Phone: (02) **4344 1347**

Website: www.woywoyanglican.org

E-mail: woywoyanglican@gmail.com

9.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday