

# Anglican Parish of Woy Woy

## Weekly Bulletin

9 December 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

### In the coming week

#### Today

- 12.00 Parish Luncheon-The Bayview  
5.00pm Sunday Night Live-St Andrew's

#### Monday 10 December

- 7.00pm Choir Practice-St Luke's

#### Tuesday 11 December

- 9.00am Cottage Crafters-The Cottage  
1.30pm Bible Study-104 Gallipoli Ave  
7.00pm Parish Council-St Andrew's

#### Wednesday 12 December

- 9.30am Communion-Blue Wave  
10.00am Communion-Peninsula Village  
1.30pm Senior Citizens-St Andrew's  
7.00pm Bible Study-Rosemary Gillham

#### Thursday 13 December

- 8.30am Communion-St Luke's  
10.00am Little Pelicans-St Andrew's  
10.30am Coffee&Chat-Ruby's Umina

#### Friday 14 December

- 2.00pm Op-Shop Christmas Party

#### Next Sunday 16 December

- 8.00am Communion-St Andrew's  
10.00am Eucharist-St Luke'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

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Dear friends,

The term 'wilderness' conjures up images of a severe, forbidding environment somewhat akin to the Australian 'outback', what the early settlers saw as a lifeless and God-forsaken place. And yet, like the authors of the Old Testament, New Testament writers such as Luke see the 'wilderness' as the perfect context for listening to God's voice as it's a place devoid of worldly distraction.

John the Baptist facilitates our transition between Old and New Testaments - between Jewish and Christian traditions, and is something of a lynchpin for both. John is the last of the great prophets and is of a type found only in Hebrew tradition. He is reminiscent of Isaiah, Ezekiel, and especially Elijah before them. His appearance, knowledge of Scripture, and appeal to the gathering crowd, bears out his authenticity and authority as a prophet. But John the Baptist's task is simply to point to Jesus and highlight the latter's unique status and role as the Son of God and Saviour of humanity.

On reflection, John's task mirrors something of our own as baptised Christians, we too are called to be messengers of God and prepare

the way of the Lord, we too are called to proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The Church's prophetic voice echoes down through the ages calling a wayward humanity to repentance.

Repentance means to turn back to God, having gone in the opposite direction, it means doing an 'about-face' and reordering our priorities to ensure God takes precedence over all else.

The need for repentance lies not just with those outside the church! As Christians we may not be going in the opposite direction to God, but we need be on our guard lest we stray off the path leading to God. This is a particular trap for us, living in an affluent, materialistic society that presents us with multiple choices. Let us not be seduced by the clever marketing ploys of the season and instead fix our gaze on Christ in whom creation and creator come together as one.

May God continue to bless your Advent

Fr Michael

## From the Parish

### Op-Shop News

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

Remember the Christmas Raffle drawn 19 December. Tickets \$1 each or 5 for \$3 - lots of great prizes.

### Christmas Tree in the Church

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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 Stamps

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Mission agencies convert used stamps into income.

When you receive your Christmas mail, please remove the stamps with 1cm of the surrounding envelope, and bring them to the parish office by the end of January. Thank you so much.

### Service of Lessons and Carols

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Brisbane Waters Ministers Association warmly invite you to a Service of 9 Lessons and Carols to be held at Ettalong Baptist Church, Cnr Barrenjoey Rd and Maitland Bay Drive, Ettalong at 7 pm on Saturday 22nd December.

## Christmas Service Times

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### 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

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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

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## 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:

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1.78–79

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## The prayer of the day

God of our salvation,  
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts  
and smooth the paths made rough by sin:  
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,  
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.

We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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## Today's readings

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

8.00am	Neville Keen	Rosemary Gillham
10.00am	Judy Campbell	Nicola O'Regan

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## This morning's hymns

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

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## For our prayers this week

Please pray for:

Samaritans Youth  
Homelessness Support  
Service.



### Wider Community:

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

### Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Diocese of Guadalcanal. The Church of the Province of Central Africa. The Anglican Church of Tanzania. The Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

### Wider Church

Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay.

### In the Diocese of Newcastle:

Our Bishops, Peter, Sonia and Charlie. The priests and people of Toukley-Budgewoi and Woy Woy. Cursillo.

### 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:

Olga Arkell, Joan Armstrong, Helen Baker, Rosemary Bond, Shannon, Brett Donnelly, Jean Dor'e, Carol Fraser, Jenny, Sandra Heath, Elaine Rand, Lucy Roy, Lorraine, 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

### Malachi 3.1-4

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See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

### Song of Zechariah

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*To be said by alternate half verses*

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel:

**you have come to your people and set them free.**

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour:  
**born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets, you promised of old:

**to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,**

To show mercy to our forebears:

**and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

Free to worship you without fear:

**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,**

To give God's people knowledge of salvation:

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God:

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## Philippians 1.1-11

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Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

## The Gospel: Luke 3.1-6

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In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Iturea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth;

and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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## For next week

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

Zephaniah 3.14-20  
Philippians 4.4-7

Song of Isaiah  
Luke 3.7-18

### **Hymns**

275 Hail to the Lord's anointed  
447 Lord your almighty word  
137 For the beauty of the earth  
2607 *Make me a channel*  
414 There's a spirit in the air

## Notices

### **Christmas Songs of Praise**

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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.

### **St Luke's Christmas Clean-up**

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Please come along to a working bee on Saturday 22nd December 10am-2pm to tidy up St Luke's for Christmas.

## **Basic SRE (Scripture) Teacher Training**

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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**

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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.

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## Generosity

### Thank you

This week we say thank you to our **Op-Shop volunteers**, headed by the **Op-Shop Committee**, for the many hours they contribute, for the friendly welcome and helpful service they offer.

### 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)**

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## 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](mailto:ahaughain@gmail.com)

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## 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](http://www.woywoyanglican.org)

E-mail: [woywoyanglican@gmail.com](mailto:woywoyanglican@gmail.com)

9.00 am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday

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.