

Anglican Parish of Woy Woy

Weekly Bulletin

23 December 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

In the coming week

Today

5.00pm Sunday Night Live-St Andrew's

Monday 24 December

4.30pm Children's Service-St Andrew's

11.00pm Midnight Mass-St Luke's

Tuesday 25 December

8.00am Christmas Communion-St Andrew's

10.00am Christmas Eucharist-St Luke's

Wednesday 26 December

Thursday 27 December

Friday 28 December

Next Sunday 30 December

10.00am Parish Service-St Andrew's
Bring and Share Lunch

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.



Reflection

Drought and bushfires have been much in the minds of Australians of late. Our hearts go out to the country people. Our sympathy for the farmers is, I trust, supplemented by prayer, persistent prayer for the gift of drought-breaking rain. Some doubt the efficiency of such prayer. But there is a long tradition of such prayer in which the universe is not regarded as a completely closed system impervious to its creator. We are encouraged to pray after the example of Jesus, ever aware of the loving mystery of Divine Providence.

Beyond Australia's shores, drought is even worse. Think of Africa. Donations to the Christmas Bowl are one way we can offer a little succour to the thirsty, the hungry and the sick.

The Holy Land has been no stranger to drought as the Old Testament witnesses at many points. Reflection on this moved some writers to generate spiritual images linked to thirst and water. God was seen as yearning for a response in love from human beings. Now the divine love is neither modest nor restrictive. It longs to embrace all, giving life to us in spite of our blindness, weakness and betrayals. From the human side awareness of need is shown in many places in the Scriptures.

"O God, you are my God; eagerly will I seek you; as a dry and thirsty land where no water is" (Psalm 63)

"The Lord's mercy is as welcome in time of distress as clouds of rain in time of drought." (Ecclesiasticus 35)

Such language grew with the development of a longing for the Messiah.

"Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness." (Isaiah 45)

St Jerome would individualise this longing, saying:

"Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth its Saviour."

Words of such beauty seem apt as this Christmas draws near.

Henri Nouwen, the Dutch spiritual guide remarked:

"God's grace is indeed like a gentle morning dew and a soft rain that gives new life to barren soil. Images of gentleness. My call is indeed to become more and more sensitive to the morning dew and to open my soul to the rain so that my innermost self can bring forth the Saviour."

Fr Robert Wheeler

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

Finance - November Summary

RECEIPTS

Offeratories	\$7,612
Donations	\$596
Op-Shop	\$3,162
Rent	\$2,704
Other	<u>\$747</u>
	\$14,821
Tfr-Interest A/c.	\$19,790
Mission - CMS	\$10

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*

Flowers in St Luke's

The flowers in St Luke's today have been donated by John Parker in memory of his late wife Christine.

Next Sunday

There will be one service next week at 10am at St Andrew's followed by a Bring and Share Lunch. Come along and share your Christmas leftovers.

OUTGOINGS

Diocesan Contribution-Insurance, Wages,etc.	\$12,226
Operating Expenses- Worship, Rates,Stationery, Maintenance, etc.	<u>\$6,263</u>
	\$18,489
Balance Visual System	<u>\$19,790</u>
	\$38,279
ABM	\$326

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:

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

Luke 1.45

The prayer of the day

Gracious God,
you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son: as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.

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.

Today's readings

Micah 5.2-5a	Song of Mary
Hebrews 10.5-10	Luke 1.39-56

8.00am	Neville Keen	Rosemary Gillham
10.00am	Nicola O'Regan	Penny Wheeler

This morning's hymns

290 Of the Father's love begotten
161 Tell out my soul
520 Lord enthroned in heavenly splendour
526 *Lord Jesus Christ you have come* (St Luke's)
268 Joy to the world

For our prayers this week

Please give thanks for:

Community Youth
Development.



Wider Community:

The First Peoples of the Diocese. All those who are suffering because of the drought. Artists, sculptors and potters.

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Diocese of Guadalcanal. The Church of North India (United). The Diocese of North West Australia. The Religious Society of Friends, Bishop to Aboriginal People.

In the Diocese of Newcastle:

Our Bishops, Peter, Sonia and Charlie. The priests and people of Clarence Town, Dungog and Gresford-Paterson

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, Bill Gates, 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

Micah 5.2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and feed his flock in the
strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be
great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace.

Song of Mary

To be said by alternate half verses

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Who has looked with favour on his lowly
servant:
**from this day all generations will call me
blessed.**
The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.
God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.
The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.
God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.
He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.



Hebrews 10.5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

‘Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, “See, God, I have come to do your will, O God”

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).’

When he said above, ‘You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings’ (these are offered according to the law), then he added, ‘See, I have come to do your will.’ He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Gospel: Luke 1.39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of

your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

Mary’s Song of Praise

And Mary said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

For next week

First Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2.18-20,26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3.12-17

Luke 2.41-52

Hymns

293 Unto us a boy is born

319 Child in the manger

MP1345 One more step along the way

741 O Lord hear my prayer

687 God give us a future

Notices

Christmas Bowl Appeal

The original idea of the Christmas Bowl was to “get a bowl to put on your Christmas dinner table as a Bowl of Remembrance and see if you can get everybody round the table too make a generous gift so that you can share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands”.

The Christmas Bowl donation envelope is included in the Bulletin today.

Your gifts to the Christmas Bowl this year will provide urgently needed water, shelter kits and other support to Rohingya families in need.

Your gifts will also support Act for Peace’s dedicated local partners around the world to meet urgent need and to create change that lasts; equipping communities affected by conflict and disaster with the skills they need to solve their own problems and get back on their feet - giving them a hand up, not a hand out.

And most importantly, your gifts will help share God’s unconditional love for the world’s most vulnerable people, regardless of their race, religion, gender or background.

Congratulations to Fr Robert

We offer Father Robert Wheeler our heartfelt congratulations on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Prior to ordination, Robert trained for holy orders at St Michael’s Crafers in South Australia. Made deacon in 1967 and ordained priest in 1968, Robert’s priestly vocation has seen him serve parishes in Queensland, Victoria, and NSW; his lengthiest incumbency was in the Parish of Dee Why on Sydney’s northern beaches. We are grateful for Robert’s and Penny’s being part of our parish and for Robert’s ongoing priestly ministry in the Parish of Woy Woy.

Christmas Stamps

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.

Op-Shop Raffle

The Op-Shop Raffle raised \$451.60 - of this \$150 was donated to Samaritans (together with a further \$200 from parish funds).

The main winner was V. Pettit.

Morning Tea

Morning tea following the Sunday morning services will continue throughout January.

Sunday Night Live

Sunday Night Live will be in recess, resuming on 20th January, 2019.

Generosity

Thank you

This week we say thank you to **all those who provide and prepare morning tea**. Thank you for your cheerful service.

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)

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

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.