

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF TAREE



Sunday Services - Taree & Old Bar

ST JOHN'S 294 Victoria St. Taree
9am - SUNDAY
6pm - SUNDAY - Christmas Eve

OUR LADY OF FATIMA 18 Hall St. Old Bar
11am - SUNDAY

PARISH CONTACTS:			
MINISTRY TEAM	Reverend Natalie Quince - 6552 1310-0411 763 448 prieststjohnstaree@gmail.com	Fr Bill Green	Fr Ivan Ransom
WARDENS	Beryl Fenwick - 0414 527 075	Colin Rose- 6552 2775	David Denning - 0416 2968 25.
PC SECRETARY	Beryl Fenwick - 0414 527 075	TREASURER	
PARISH OFFICE	PARISH OFFICE CLOSED (All General enquiries) Email: officestjohnstaree@gmail.com		
HALL MANAGERS	Ken Park - 0412 138 985	Bruce Walker - 0405 697 690	



ADVENT Four

Our gospel passage today focusses on Mary and the part she plays in the coming of Christ (Luke 1.26-38).

In the passage we are told that Mary is chosen to give birth to Jesus because she is favoured by God. Favour is referring to God's invitation to Mary to participate in His great act of salvation. As it was with Abraham, there is no sense that Mary was chosen because she was holy or righteous among women. Favour has nothing to do with Mary's goodness. Rather, favour is referring to God's invitation to Mary to participate in His great act of salvation. She is favoured because she is chosen for such an essential role. We also understand that being favoured does not mean being given the easy life. Much was asked of Mary. She had to face huge challenges – social disgrace, having to watch her Son being despised and crucified. Favour carries responsibility and burden.

Favour also requires obedience. Mary had to accept God's invitation. Despite her own fears and uncertainty Mary pledged herself to be God's servant and give up whatever plans she may have had to live a life of service to the Lord.

If we read on in Luke chapter 1 we see that rather than overwhelm Mary, these challenges brought her great joy. She knew the honour bestowed upon her and it brought praise to her heart. She sings to the Lord (Luke 1.46-49):

My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

As God's people, we are all favoured and invited in our own unique ways to share in His holy redemption mission. We have probably faced huge challenges in this calling and there will be more to come. But within these challenges we also find our deepest joy and peace as we recognise the honour of sharing in God's loving plans and purposes.

Rev Natalie



Prayers

WORLD: People & communities affected by violence & conflict, racism & discrimination, oppression, poverty, natural disasters. Please pray for President Zelensky, the people of Ukraine, Aung San Suu Kyi & for the detained peoples of Myanmar, Lebanon, the Philippines & Papua New Guinea.

CHURCH: Bishop Peter, Assistant Bishops Sonia & Charlie; Toby Mills, Dee Ross; Manning Valley Anglican College-Darren Parkes, Greg Anderson; Parish of Nelson Bay- John West, Di Anderson, Anne Lye, Kyle Taylor, Lissy Vitali-Ross, Alison Keane; Parish of Stockton-Michael Marklew, Stephen Shrubbs; The Ministry Teams . Diocese of Wangaratta (Bp Clarence Bester).

The Church of Pakistan (United); National Council of Churches in Australia

COMMUNITY: For the homeless, and agencies supporting the vulnerable. For the victims of abuse and violence. For those affected by the impacts of floods & other challenges. The First Peoples of the Diocese especially the Awabakal, Biripi, Darkinjung, Geawegal, Kamilaroi, Worimi & Wonnarua peoples.

THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS: Bill & Jill Green, Donovan, Suzanne, Leonie, Diane, Vera, Lyn, Ted Hill, Wendy McKeogh, Norrie Spicer, James, Jamison, Ian, Joan, Alex Platt & Margaret McDonald.

PRAYERS FOR ANIVERSARIES: Kevin Coombe, William West, Bruce Cole, Barbara McGlashan, Verlie Mitchell & Laurice Assef.

PRAYERS FOR DEPARTED:



Excerpt from a letter from Fr Bill and Jill Green

Seasons Greetings for a Holy and Blessed Christmas for our friends and the congregations at Taree and Old Bar.

As you have not seen us since September when I had a heart issue and then almost at the same time, after CT Scans, MRI's, X-Rays, etc and ending up in Manning Base Hospital and then to John Hunter Hospital to have a stint inserted, Jill was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. There have been many visits to doctors and specialists at John Hunter and even this week it is continuing.

I have had checks regarding my Cancer, and Heart in Taree and at John Hunter Hospitals. Mostly all is OK, but there are more tests to come in January.

Although it is a trying time for us both, we know that our Lord is with us and will be with us as we move forward.

We miss you all, and pray that Jesus will be with you all this Christmas time and forever.

God's Blessings to all,

Jill and Bill Green

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SENTENCE:

This child will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Luke 1.32–33.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

**Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7.1–11, 7.16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

¹ Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.' ³ Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.' ⁴ But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord : Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' ⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and

be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 89.1–4, 89.19–27

- 1 Lord, I will sing for ever of your loving-kindnesses:
my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness throughout all generations.
- 2 I have said of your loving-kindness that it is built for ever:
you have established your faithfulness in the heavens.
- 3 The Lord said 'I have made a covenant with my chosen:
I have sworn an oath to my servant David.
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever:
and build up your throne for all generations.'
- 19 You spoke once in a vision:
and said to your faithful one,
- 20 'I have set a youth above a warrior:
I have exalted a young man out of the people.
- 21 'I have found my servant David:
and anointed him with my holy oil.
- 22 'My hand shall uphold him:
and my arm shall strengthen him.
- 23 'No enemy shall deceive him:
nor shall the wicked hurt him.
- 24 'I will crush his adversaries before him:
and strike down those that hate him.
- 25 'My faithfulness and loving-kindness shall be with him:
and through my name his head shall be lifted high.
- 26 'I will set the hand of his dominion upon the Western Sea:
and his right hand shall stretch to the streams of Mesopotamia.
- 27 'He will call to me "You are my Father:
my God, and the Rock of my salvation."

SECOND READING

Romans 16.25–27

A reading from the book of Romans

²⁵ Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1.26–38

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Luke
Chapter 1 commencing at verse 26.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵ The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of

the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸ Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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*****PLEASE NOTE:** There will be only
ONE parish service Sunday 31st December 2023
 @ St John's Taree @ 9.00am

DIARY DATES			
Sun 24 th December	6pm	Christmas Eve Family Service	St John's
Mon 25 th December	9am	Christmas Day Service	St John's
Thurs 28 th December	10am	Old Bar Morning Tea	Village Café
Tues 6 th February 2024	3.15pm	Blue Cross Leaders Meeting	BC Shop

HOLY EUCHARIST READINGS

SUNDAY 24th December - Advent 4

Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5. 12-28; John 1. 6-8, 19-28

SUNDAY 31st December - 1st After Christmas

Isaiah 61:-62:3; Psalm 148

Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 8:4-15

WELCOMERS

Sunday 24 th December		Sunday 31 st December	
9am	Bruce Walker David Denning	9am	Doreen Sinclair Col Rose

READERS

MORNING TEA

HYMNS: 24th December

TIS 322, 292, 311, 268

BRASS CLEANING for December

Margaret Kelly



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we hear how Mary prepared for the coming of the Lord and her 'yes' to God. She is a vital part of our salvation and she wonders how she can be a part of it.

Her questions become ours when we consider how we give birth to the Incarnation. Only with the Holy Spirit and willingness to be part of God's saving work among us is the impossible made possible.

- ◆ God, I say yes to you: may your salvific presence be born in me.
- ◆ Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Kenya.

Text: Fr Matthew Smedley, Diocese of Perth © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023

The Anglican Parish of Taree works to build Faith & Hope in our community despite the struggles around us. Your help to continue this work is essential so please give what you can.

Gifts can be offered for the Parish or for Mission in 2 ways:

- ◆ Directly into the appropriate baskets before or after each service OR
- ◆ By Electronic Funds Transfer

Many People are finding that this is an easy, fuss free way to maintain their support.

Donations this way can be easily arranged by speaking to your bank directly or set it up through internet banking.

Bank: Westpac

Branch: Taree NSW

Account Name: St John's General Account

BSB: 032-587

Account Number: 120 816

Reference: Parish or Mission recipient eg: ABM

*Some give freely yet grow all the richer;
others withhold what is due,
and only suffer want.
A generous person will be enriched,
and one who gives water will get water.*

Proverbs 11:24-25

The Anglican Church of Newcastle takes allegations of misconduct and abuse seriously.

We welcome and encourage everyone with concerns to come forward.

TO REPORT A CRIME TO NSW POLICE RING 131 444 or RING 000 IN AN EMERGENCY

TO CONTACT CHILD PROTECTION HELPLINE RING 132 111 or

TO CONTACT THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIRECTOR PLEASE CALL 1800 774 945

WRITE: Director of Professional Standards PO Box 494, Newcastle NSW 2300

EMAIL: dps@newcastleanglican.org.au

IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE SUPPORT PLEASE CALL LIFELINE ON 13 11 14

