

WELCOME TO THE PARISH OF TAREE



to you
 is born this day
 in the city of David
 a Savior,
 who is
 the Messiah,
 the Lord.
 Luke 2:11

PARISH CONTACTS:

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HALL MANAGERS	Ken Park - 0412 138 985	Bruce Walker - 0405 697 690

Christmas PP's

Our One of our favourite Christmas carols in the Anglican Church is O Holy Night. There is a wonderful line in the carol which recognises that Jesus comes into a weary world. For many of us, this is true. We have lived with fear and uncertainty and change for many years, and it is exhausting. Trying to remain positive and joyful when we see and experience so much tragedy all around us is hard.

But the carol goes on to remind us that we have a Saviour Jesus. It encourages us to rejoice and to feel the thrill of hope because all the burdens of the world are not up to us to fix on our own.

In Luke's gospel we are told that Jesus was born at the time when Caesar Augustus ruled the Roman Empire. Caesar Augustus was a powerful ruler and he called himself a god and saviour. There is an ancient inscription, called the Priene calendar inscription, dated around 9BC (so a few years before Jesus was born), which claims that Augustus was the 'good news' and the one who would bring peace and salvation for his people. Amazingly, these are the very claims that the bible makes about Jesus. We are told that Jesus is God's son, our saviour and the good news of salvation for the world.

When we push God aside and decide to do things our own way, we also take on all the burdens of the world. We feel it is up to us to bring the joy and peace and hope of Christmas. Like Caesar Augustus in the bible story, we think we are the good news! But we're not. The true message of Christmas is about Jesus. Jesus is the one who brings us joy, makes peace for us and gives us hope for the future.

The wonder and the beauty of Christmas is not up to us. We do not have to exhaust ourselves buying or cooking or decorating the Christmas spirit. The wonder and beauty of Christmas is the unexpected, unmerited and love laden gift of our Saviour Jesus. In the middle of this weary world, take some rest in Him this Christmas.

Wishing you Christmas blessings.

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:



DIARY DATES

Thurs 28 th December	10.00am	Old Bar Morning Tea	Village Café
Mon 8 th January 2024	4.00pm	Choir Practice	St John's
Sun 4 th February 2024	4.00pm	Service recommences	St John's
Tues 6 th February 2024	3.15pm	Blue Cross Leaders Meeting	BC Shop

CHRISTMAS DAY

SENTENCE:

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord. Luke 2.10-11.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

**All glory to you, gracious God,
for the gift of your Son,
whom you sent to save us.
With the angels, let us praise your name,
and tell the earth his story,
that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62.6-12

A reading from the book of Isaiah

⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸ The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have laboured; ⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹ The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, 'See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.' ¹² They shall be called, 'The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord'; and you shall be called, 'Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.' .

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 97

1 The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice:
let the multitude of islands be glad.

- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him:
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- 3 Fire goes before him:
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light the world:
the earth sees it and quakes.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax before his face:
from before the face of the Lord of all the earth.
- 6 The heavens have proclaimed his righteousness:
and all peoples have seen his glory.
- 7 They are ashamed, all those who serve idols and glory in mere nothings:
all gods bow down before him.
- 8 Zion heard and was glad, and the daughters of Judah rejoiced:
because of your judgements, O God.
- 9 For you, Lord, are most high over all the earth:
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The Lord loves those that hate evil:
**the Lord guards the life of the faithful,
and delivers them from the hand of the ungodly.**
- 11 Light dawns for the righteous:
and joy for the true of heart.
- 12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous:
and give thanks to his holy name.

SECOND READING

Titus 3.4-8a

A reading from the book of Titus

4 But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ The saying is sure. I desire that you insist on these things, so that those who have come to believe in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works; these things are excellent and profitable to everyone.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I proclaim to you good news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us,
Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2.1-20

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Luke
Chapter 2 commencing at verse 20.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what

had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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**

ABM
Anglican Board of Mission - Australia
Working for Love, Hope & Justice

**PEW REFLECTION
FOR
CHRISTMAS**



We hear again our favourite account of the Nativity from the Gospel of Luke on this holy day. There is order and process, named people and places, animals, darkness and angels. What all the prophets and generations of Jews had been hoping and waiting for is born. Many witness God's act of salvation, even if they do not realise it. The light has come. God becomes one with our humanity in the birth of Jesus and we praise God.

- ◆ God, with the angels I praise you. Glory to God in the highest.
- ◆ Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

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

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





*Wishing
you all
life's greatest Blessings,
Peace,
Joy,
Faith
and Love.*

Merry Christmas