



Welcome

St John's Anglican Church

www.tareeanglican.org.au

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15th December 2024



Services @ Taree & Old Bar

ST JOHN'S
294 Victoria St. Taree

SUNDAY 9am
Holy Eucharist

SUNDAY 5pm
Contemporary

WEDNESDAY 11am
Holy Eucharist

OUR LADY OF FATIMA
18 Hall St. Old Bar

SUNDAY 11am
Holy Eucharist

PARISH CONTACTS:

MINISTRY TEAM	Reverend Natalie Quince 6552 1310 - 0411 763 448 Email: nataliequince@newcastleanglican.org.au		Fr Bill Green Fr Keith Mascord
	WARDENS	Beryl Fenwick - 0414 527 075	Colin Rose- 6552 2775
PC SECRETARY	Beryl Fenwick - 0414 527 075	Safe Ministry Officer	Jay Quince
PARISH OFFICE	10am - 12 midday - Wednesday and Thursday (All General enquiries) Email: secretary.taree@newcastleanglican.org.au		
HALL MANAGERS	Ken Park - 0412 138 985		Bruce Walker - 0405 697 690

PP'S

The following very good questions touch on similar topics:

How do I explain the resurrection to a clear and logical thinking non-Christian (though not an atheist)?

John 3:16 says, "God loved the whole world so much that he sent his only son that all who believe in him will be saved." Can you please explain the difference between "all who believe in him" and "all who believe about him as a human who lived" but who don't believe he is the Saviour and whose lives are not affected by that?

If a non-believer is struggling, it may provide an opportunity to share your story about how God helped you during such a time. However, do you have any suggestions as to how to open up a conversation about the gospel message with a family member who admits he hasn't given it much thought and doesn't understand the "whole Jesus thing" and puts up a barrier if he even thinks you are going to preach to him?

Miracles are still happening. Why are we not hearing about them or recognizing them?

There are a number of places in the Bible which refer to those who have died as "fallen asleep." However, Jesus told the repentant thief on the cross, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Do you think the word "asleep" means the same as we understand it or is that how people in Bible times described death?

There are many people, more so these days, who either don't know much about the Christian faith, or, if they do, find it hard to believe in aspects of it, including miracles like the resurrection. They (and we also) don't have first-hand experience of a resurrection, nor of miracles like those described in the New Testament. Their (and our) experience of death is that it appears final. And so, I'd suggest that someone's reluctance to believe in the resurrection is not unreasonable. A 'clear and logical thinking non-Christian' has good reason to be initially sceptical. However, if this person is not an atheist, you might point out that a God who created this amazing universe – along with its various laws or regularities – would surely be able to raise someone from death, including us.

Belief in a bodily resurrection to a better life after death only emerged at the tail-end of the Old Testament. It was, very much, a faith position, arising from the conviction that God's loving care must surely extend beyond the grave. The resurrection was initially believed to only occur at the end of human history. This is reflected in New Testament description of death as 'sleep.' The dead go into a state of sleep until the general resurrection. According to the Gospels, the disciples were fully surprised by their experience of a risen Jesus – which they then went on to describe as the first-

fruits of the more general, end-of-history resurrection. As for the thief being assured he'd be in paradise that very day, various theories have been suggested, including that the thief, in fact, would, like everyone else, have to wait until the general resurrection, but for him (as for us) time passes quickly and it feel like no time at all has passed when we wake to eternity. Alternatively, it may be that people do go straight to heaven in some perhaps non-bodily form. We've not enough information to know either way.

As for what to say to someone – about the gospel or the resurrection – I'd suggest patience and a quiet approach. We might even admit that we don't know (which we have found out to often be the case with some of the questions we've considered over the last few months). But I also think that we can have a go at answering people's questions. One of the helpful ways to do that is to meet people where they are at by tapping into the beliefs of the person we are speaking with.

What I often find is that people already have beliefs – we might call them bridge beliefs – that are similar or compatible with what we believe. Many people still believe in life after death, for example. It has been a common belief amongst many, in fact most human cultures. People also still talk about miracles, such as the 'miracle' of birth, and the 'miracle' of life itself. They often believe or hope that their lives have meaning, and are not meaningless. This too can be a point of connection.

It is true that many of our friends and even family members don't understand much about the 'whole Jesus thing' and are reluctant to believe more about Jesus that that he was a person who lived. Our view, the New Testament view of Jesus as Son of God, redeemer, lord and friend is something people can be persuaded of (sometimes by reading a helpful book), but they are more likely to be persuaded by the quality of our lives and love, by the transformative effect of our faith.

More of course could be said in answer to the above questions. If you have asked one of those questions and would welcome a quiet conversation, please be in touch with Natalie or me.

Fr Keith



9 Lessons & Carols
Sunday 15th @ 7.00pm

Christmas Eve
Tuesday 24th @ 6.00pm

Christmas Day
Wednesday 25th @ 9.00am



St John's
Anglican
Church

294 Victoria Street,
Taree

Daily 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; John Barriga, Alison Dalmazzone, Tara Cubbin; The Cathedral - Katherine Bowyer, Parish of Adamstown; Parish of All Saints ANeW - Arthur Copeman, Beck Bishop, Sam Broadfoot, Kate Rogers, Amy Soutter, Ministry Assistants.

The Diocese of Adelaide (Abp Geoff Smith, Bps Tim Harris, Chris McLeod and Sophie Relf-Christopher, Asst Bp).

Prime Minister and Cabinet

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: David Allon, Dianne Frost, Ian Dyball, Elaine Sawyer, Dianne Riley, Bruce Halpin, Marilyn Simpson, Luke, Mike Faine, Margaret McDonald, James, Jeanette, Suzanne, Wendy McKeogh, Jamison, Alex Platt & Leonie.

PRAYERS FOR ANIVERSARIES: Margaret Butterss, Raymond Burns, Louise Lord, Ricky Clarke, Valerie Atkins, Denis Barstow, Marcia McBroom & Terrie Platts.

DIARY DATES

Sun 15 Dec	7.00pm	Lessons and Carols	St Johns
Tues 24 Dec	6.00pm	Christmas Eve Service	St Johns
Wed 25 Dec	11.00am	Christmas Day Service	Latham Centre

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SENTENCE:

Do not fear. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love.
Zephaniah 3.16–17

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

**Almighty God,
you sent your Son into a world
where the wheat must be winnowed from the chaff
and evil clings even to what is good:
let the fire of your Spirit purge us of all corruption,
so that, purified, we may wait eagerly for 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.**

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3.14-20

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

15 The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

18 as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
19 I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
20 At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord .
Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4.4-7

A reading from the book of Philippians

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 3.7-18

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Chapter 3 commencing at verse 7.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to your-

selves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' ¹¹ In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' ¹² Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' ¹³ He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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Old Bar Christmas Service

Sunday 22 December 2024 @ 11am



HOLY EUCHARIST READINGS

SUNDAY 15 December - Advent 3

Zephaniah 3.14-20, Song of Isaiah

Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

SUNDAY 22 December - Advent 4

Malachi 5. 2-5a, Song of Zechariah

Hebrews 10. 5-10; Luke 1. 29-45

WELCOMERS

Sunday 15 December		Sunday 22 December	
9am	Judy Mascord Colin Rose	9am	David Denning Bruce Walker

READERS

Sunday 15 December		Sunday 22 December	
9am	Margaret Griffis	9am	Keith Mascord

MORNING TEA

Sunday 15 December		Sunday 22 December	
Bruce Walker + David Denning		Margaret + Les Griffis	

BRASS CLEANING for December

Lorraine + Bruce Monck



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Although prophets often have words of judgement or even condemnation, they also reassure by reminding us of God's overall purposes of love and goodness. Those who have unjustly suffered rejection or disaster will be restored. Past wrongs will be set to right, and we can again rejoice.

- ◆ We pray that God's love and goodness may once again be known to those who have unjustly suffered.
- ◆ Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy

Text: Brother Christopher John SSF (ABM Board) © Anglican Board of Mission, 2024.

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: Anglican Parish of Taree

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

