



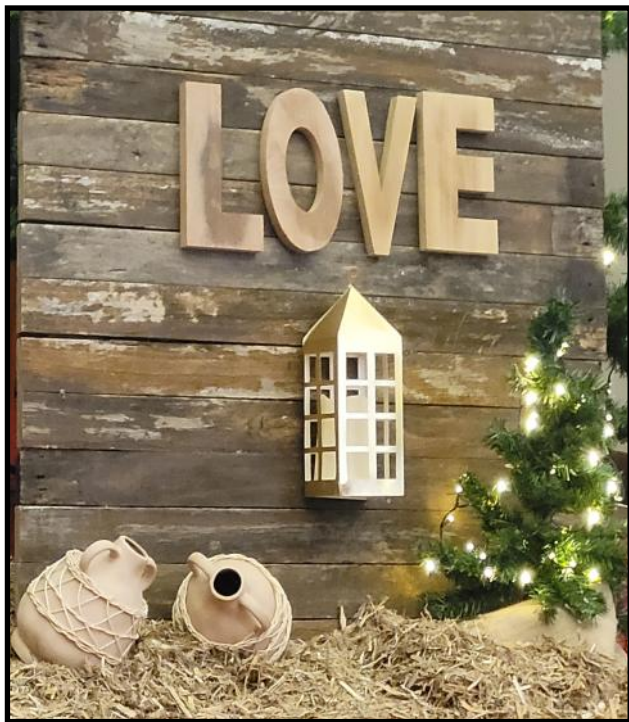
# Welcome

## St John's Anglican Church

[www.tareeanglican.org.au](http://www.tareeanglican.org.au)

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22nd December 2024



### Services

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### Taree & Old Bar

**ST JOHN'S**  
294 Victoria St. Taree

**SUNDAY 9am - Holy Eucharist**

**SUNDAY 5pm - Contemporary**

**TUESDAY 6pm - Christmas Eve**

**WEDNESDAY 9am - Christmas Day  
Holy Eucharist**

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA**  
18 Hall St. Old Bar

**SUNDAY 11am - Christmas -  
Holy Eucharist**

#### PARISH CONTACTS:

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

*O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree,  
we learn from all your beauty*

One of the most popular Christmas traditions is the decorating of Christmas trees.

This tradition has developed over many hundreds, possibly even thousands, of years. There is evidence of decorated trees being used in ancient pagan festivals during the winter solstice. Ancient Romans decorated trees in their temples and Egyptians used decorated palms as part of their worship practices.

In the Christian tradition there is a story from 736 that an English missionary, St Boniface, was in Germany and came across pagans preparing a sacrifice at an oak tree dedicated to the god Thor. Boniface apparently cut down the oak tree and when he was not struck down by Thor he was able convince them of the gospel. He told them that a nearby evergreen tree was the real 'holy tree'. Other sources say that a fir grew on the site of the fallen oak.

Perhaps because of this story, the evergreen tree grew to be part of the Christian tradition. In the middle ages it was used in "Paradise Plays" which told the story of Adam and Eve. These plays were traditionally performed on 24 December, the feast day of Adam and Eve. In these plays an evergreen tree was decorated with apples (representing the forbidden fruit) and later, white wafers (symbolizing the Eucharist). The trees became known as Paradise Trees and over the years people started to put these trees up in their homes on Christmas Eve.

Lights were later added to these trees. There is one legend that says that Martin Luther, the protestant reformer, was walking through a forest one winter night and he was struck by the beauty of the stars twinkling through the branches of the evergreen trees. Inspired by this sight, he brought a small fir tree into his home and decorated it with candles to recreate the scene for his family.

By the 19th century, the Paradise tree had become the Christmas tree and the tradition had spread to other countries as people migrated across Europe to England. The German born Prince Albert and Queen Victoria popularized the tradition among the British when an illustration of the royal family around a decorated tree appeared in a London newspaper in 1848.

For Christians the Christmas tree now symbolises:

- ◆ **Eternal Life:** The evergreen nature of the tree represents the eternal life offered through faith in Jesus
- ◆ **Jesus as the Light of the World:** the lights represents Jesus as light bringing hope and illumination to the darkness



The Nativity Story and biblical themes: Decorations like stars, angels, and shepherds' crooks can reflect various aspects of the Nativity story and Christian faith.

*Reverend Natalie*

# 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; Family & Community Services – Family, Child, Youth & Adolescent Wellbeing Programs; Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College - Penny Curran-Peters; Parish of The Camden Haven – Nathan Killick, Elizabeth Falckh; Parish of Wingham – Brian Ford, The Ministry Team.

The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); The Churches of Christ in Australia.

Diocese of the Murray (Bp Keith Dalby).

**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, Dianne Riley, John (Cameron) Kerr, Bruce Halpin, Luke, Mike Faine, Margaret McDonald, James, Jeanette, Suzanne, Wendy McKeogh, Jamison, Alex Platt & Leonie.

**PRAYERS FOR ANIVERSARIES:** Sidney Davey, Mona Wyatt, Kevin Coombe, William West, Barbara McGlashan & Bruce Cole.

## DIARY DATES

Tues 24 Dec	6.00pm	Family Christmas Eve Service	St Johns
Wed 25 Dec	9.00am	Christmas Day Service	St Johns
Sun 29 Dec	9.00am	<b>ONE PARISH SERVICE</b>	St Johns

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### SENTENCE:

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord. Luke 1.45

### 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.**

### FIRST READING

*Micah 5.2-5a*

A reading from the book of Micah

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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; <sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SONG OF MARY

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.**

## **SECOND READING**

## **Hebrews 10.5-10**

A reading from the book of Hebrews

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> 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).'

<sup>8</sup> 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),

<sup>9</sup> then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the  
first in order to establish the second.

<sup>10</sup> And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offer-  
ing of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Luke  
Chapter 1 commencing at verse 39.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

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Oh Come  
let us adore  
Him

## **9 Lessons & Carols**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7.00pm

## **Christmas Eve**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6.00pm

## **Christmas Day**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> @ 9.00am

294 Victoria Street, Taree



## HOLY EUCHARIST READINGS

### SUNDAY 22 December - Advent 4

Micah 5.2a-5a, Song of Mary

Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39 – 45

### SUNDAY 29 December - 1 after Xmas

1Samuel 2.18-20, 26, Psalm 148

Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.41-52

## WELCOMERS

Sunday 22 December		Sunday 29 December	
9am	David Denning Bruce Walker	9am	David Denning Col Rose

## READERS

Sunday 22 December		Sunday 29 December	
9am	Keith Mascord	9am	Jay Quince

## MORNING TEA

Sunday 22 December		Sunday 29 December	
Margaret + Les Griffis		Bruce Walker + Sam + Fin Quince	

## BRASS CLEANING for December

Lorraine + Bruce Monck



## FOUR SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah speaks of the paradox of Bethlehem, one of the least, being the birthplace of a great one who will rule over Israel. Those who knew only the insignificance of Bethlehem but who had forgotten this prophecy would criticise Jesus for his origins. The paradox remains for us, that out of smallness can come greatness.

- ◆ We pray that our senses are open to see God's greatness even in the small and seemingly insignificant.
- ◆ Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Melanesia.

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](mailto:dps@newcastleanglican.org.au)**

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

