



# Welcome

## St John's Anglican Church

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

**CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**24th and 25th December 2024**



# Merry Christmas

**Sunday 29th December - One Parish Service**  
**@ St John's Taree - 9am**

### 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

*We three Kings of Orient are  
bearing gifts, we travel afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.*

The journey of the Magi is a familiar Christmas passage celebrated in churches around the world. It has become so familiar that sometimes we overlook some of the details of the biblical account. We forget that the bible only tells the story of the Magi visiting Jesus once in a few short verses in Matthew's gospel (Mt 2.1-12). The story is not in any other gospel account and none of the other New Testament writers refer to it. Matthew's gospel does not say how many Magi there were and it doesn't say where they came from. It is arguable that the word Magi does not even mean King. Some translations say 'wise men', others say 'astrologists' (see Bible Reflection).

So why do we sing songs about three Kings coming from the Orient to worship Jesus? Possibly we have filled in these details from other ancient traditions, legends and apocryphal documents that also tell the story of the Magi. Some of these sources name three Kings who followed a star to Bethlehem to worship King Jesus based upon ancient prophecy. These stories name the kings as Melchior - King of Persia who gave the gift of frankincense, Caspar - King of India who gave the gift of gold, and Balthazar - King of Arabia who gave the gift of myrrh.

The idea of three kings may also have been influenced by ancient art. Some of the earliest pictures of the Magi were discovered in the Catacombs of Priscilla. These images possibly date back to the third century CE. There is one image on the ceiling of the chapel in the Catacomb and another on a tomb of a woman named Severa. Both images depict three people handing gifts to a woman who is seated holding a baby in her lap.



These are all interesting stories. However, irrespective of whether there were three or more Magi, irrespective of whether they were Kings from across the Orient or wise men or astrologists, the song ends in celebration - the way we come to Christmas, in worship of our Lord and saviour:

*Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.*

**Praying you have a happy and blessed Christmas**  
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; Newcastle Grammar School - Matthew Macoustra; Parish of Stroud - Maree Armstrong; Parish of Williamtown, Medowie Mallabula - David Davies, Maureen Frances; Ministry Teams; Vocations to the ordained ministry; People & Culture.

The Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea; Heads of Christian Churches (Newcastle).

Diocese of Willochra (Bishop Jeremy James).

**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, 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

Sun 29 Dec @ 9.00am

**ONE PARISH SERVICE - St Johns**

**NO POTLUCK DINNER**

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## SENTENCE:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; for to us a child is born, to us a son is given. Isaiah 9. 2, 6

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

**Good Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 9. 2-7*

A reading from the book of Isaiah

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 96

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song:  
**sing to the Lord, all the earth.**
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his holy name:  
**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

- 3 Declare his glory among the nations:  
**and his wonders among all peoples.**
- 4 For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised:  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are mere idols:  
**it is the Lord who made the heavens.**
- 6 Majesty and glory are before him:  
**beauty and power are in his sanctuary.**
- 7 Render to the Lord, you families of the nations:  
**render to the Lord glory and might.**
- 8 Render to the Lord the honour due to his name:  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness:  
**let the whole earth stand in awe of him.**
- 10 Say among the nations that the Lord is king:  
**he has made the world so firm that it can never be moved;  
and he shall judge the peoples with equity.**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad:  
**let the sea roar, and all that fills it:**
- 12 Let the fields rejoice, and everything in them:  
then shall all the trees of the wood shout with joy before the Lord;
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth:  
**he shall judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.**

## **SECOND READING**

**Titus 2.11-14**

A reading from the book of the Titus

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Matthew  
Chapter 2 commencing at verse 1.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



# 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:

**Good Almighty God,  
who gave your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary:  
grant that we being born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace,  
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;  
through the same our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, ever 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:  
I 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 the 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.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Luke  
Chapter 2 commencing at verse 8.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ**

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.**

## HOLY EUCHARIST READINGS

**Wednesday 25 December - Christmas**

Isaiah 62. 6-12, Psalm 97

Titus 3. 4-8a; Luke 2. 8-20

**SUNDAY 29 December - 1 After Xmas**

1 Samuel 2. 18-20, 26, Psalm 148

Colossians 3. 12-17; Luke 2. 41-52

### WELCOMERS

Sunday 29 December

9am	Colin Rose David Denning
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### READERS

Sunday 8 December

9am	Jay Quince
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### MORNING TEA

Sunday 29 December

Sam & Fin Quince and Bruce Walker

### BRASS CLEANING for December

Lorraine + Bruce Monck

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

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah bursts with joy as he describes the coming of the saviour-liberator, like light in darkness. All the longings of the people for freedom are fulfilled in this prophecy. We hear these words thousands of years later, and see a prophecy of Christ, and they are. But they also remain concrete words of reassurance for all who suffer that's God's action and desire reach into the very specifics of history to set people free.

✦ Pray for all who "sit in darkness", that they come to know the light which brings healing, restoration, and whatever it is they need in order to know joy in their lives once again.

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**

