



Welcome

St John's Anglican Church

www.tareeanglican.org.au

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
8th December 2024



*We welcome
Bishop Peter
to our
services today*

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

Someone from our congregations has asked the following great question:

'Why do we hang on to all the "good" bits of the New Testament writings, especially from Paul, but either ignore the more controversial or difficult bits or explain them away by saying that he meant something else? Is it to fit in with the modern beliefs of our secular society?'

It is understandable that we are attracted to the more positive and affirming teachings of the New Testament, and of the Bible as a whole, but the questioner is right that we can do that to the detriment of letting ourselves be challenged and even rebuked by some of the harder words we find in Scripture. There is a saying that the Scriptures 'disturb the comfortable and comfort the disturbed.' We need both.

Some of the sayings of Jesus come to mind:

'You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.' Matt 5:27-28 – from Jesus's Sermon on the Mount

'You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also, and if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, give your coat as well ... Matt 5:38-40

'You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy,' but I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven ...' Matt 5:43-45

Granted there is a tendency to ignore or explain away the more difficult bits of Scripture, but it is also helpful to be aware of the various genres of Scriptural literature, and of literary devices such as hyperbole (exaggeration). The above passages are, I think, deliberately provocative to make a point – to get us thinking. Also in the Sermon on the Mount is Jesus's advice that if your eye causes you to offend, you should 'tear it out and throw it away.' Matt 5:29. The point of this saying is fairly obvious, but we do need to understand the role of hyperbole so as to prevent dangerous facial surgery!

As mentioned in answer to some other questions, we also need to understand Scriptural passages in their Ancient Near Eastern context, respecting that context, while also drawing out the meaning of texts for a 21st century world. At times, our Christian beliefs will stand in stark contrast to contemporary views, but at other times we can draw upon the best insights and knowledge available to us as a result of increased knowledge about the Bible and about our world. We as Christians can learn from secular society, while also providing challenge and comfort.

Fr Keith

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; Quality & Risk Anglican Care - Andrew Harrison, Jenny Foley, Melanie Whalley; Parish of St Albans - Mike Wilkinson; Parish of Terrigal - Mark Watson; Parish of The Entrance & Toukley Budgewoi -- Brad Lovegrove & The Ministry Team.

The Anglican Church of Canada; The Episcopal Church of Sudan & Southern Sudan.

Diocese of Bunbury (Bp Ian Coutts).

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, Joan (Cameron) Kerr, Bruce Halpin, Marilyn Simpson, Luke, Mike Faine, Bill Green, Margaret McDonald, James, Jeanette, Suzanne, Wendy McKeogh, Jamison, Alex Platt & Leonie.

PRAYERS FOR ANIVERSARIES: Gwen Riley, Anthony Davies & Lindsay Riley.

DIARY DATES

Sun 8 Dec	9.00am	Bishop Peter's Annual Visit	Today
Tues 10 Dec	3.00pm	Team Leaders Meeting	BC Shop
Thurs 12 Dec	11.00am	Mothers Union	Latham Centre

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SENTENCE:

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1.78–79

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

**God of our salvation,
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts
and smooth the paths made rough by sin:
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.
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

Malachi 3.1-4

A reading from the book of Malachi 3.1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel:

who has come to his people and set them free.

The Lord has raised up for us a mighty Saviour:

born of the house of his servant David.

Through the holy prophets, God promised of old:

to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

To show mercy to our forebears:

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear:

holy and righteous before him, all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High:

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation:

by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God:

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death:

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1.1-11

A reading from the book of Philippians

¹Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine

what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,
¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through
Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Hear the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Luke 3.1-6

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according Luke
Chapter 3 commencing at verse 1.

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,² during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" '

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 15th @ 7.00pm

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24th @ 6.00pm

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25th @ 9.00am

294 Victoria Street, Taree



HOLY EUCHARIST READINGS

SUNDAY 8 December - Advent 2

Malachi 3. 1-14, Song of Zechariah

Philippians 1. 1-11; Luke 3. 1-6

SUNDAY 15 December - Advent 3

Zephaniah 3.14-20, Song of Isaiah

Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

WELCOMERS

Sunday 8 December		Sunday 15 December	
9am	Bruce Walker David Denning	9am	Judy Mascord Colin Rose

READERS

Sunday 8 December		Sunday 15 December	
9am	Sue Prentice	9am	Margaret Griffis

MORNING TEA

Sunday 8 December		Sunday 15 December	
Margaret + Les Griffis		Bruce Walker + David Denning	

BRASS CLEANING for December

Lorraine + Bruce Monck



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Malachi's voice rings loud and clear. The Lord is coming. Not as a jolly Santa but coming to cleanse. The Lord's own righteousness will expose and purify that which is not of God. The message is clear: turn from evil and do good by doing justice.

- ◆ May our ears be open to the insistent voice of God calling for us to be people of justice.
- ◆ Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

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

