



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY, MANLY
CHRISTMAS 2024

ST PAUL'S NEWS

JESUS CHRIST | SPIRITUALITY | COMMUNION | TRADITION

WELCOME

At St Paul's "we love because God first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19).

We believe in the inherent goodness of all people - that the divine dwells at the heart of all living things. We believe the whole world is sacred and so we seek to celebrate God's presence among us with joy.

As such, we are committed to the spiritual growth and wellbeing of all who seek a place to belong.

St Paul's is an inclusive church, welcoming all and offering equal opportunities for those seeking an authentic spiritual community.

Rev Andrew Cooper - Parish Priest

Contacts

PARISH PRIEST

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PEOPLE'S WARDEN

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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Quandamooka people and their elders past, present and emerging. We honour the connection the traditional custodians have with this land.



- Be still and know I am God Quiet Day
- A Beaut Brunch for a Beaut Bunch
- The Vicar's Voice returns
- Lot of Christmas still to come.



Wishing you Hope, Joy,
Peace and Love as we
celebrate the Birth of our
Saviour, Jesus Christ

St Paul's Anglican Community, Manly gathers for worship every Sunday
at 9.30am in the Chapel, Lota House 162 Oceana Terrace, Lota.
We welcome you!

Community Matters

We Do Brunch.... Our Parish End of Year and Christmas Fellowship.

In the middle of so many events that mark the end of year, our parish took another Holy Pause over the literal nourishment provided by our God and prepared by many hands.

None of us should ever be surprised at the abundance of yumminess that just seems to appear as tasty delights were shared along side conversation, story telling and a few laughs.

Priest's Warden Rob Wilson spoke warm words of appreciation and thanks for all that has been in a year of settling into our new way of being and the many hours of love and care offered in response to the call for us to journey together as a community of faith.

Things are looking good for the Anglican Community of St Paul, Manly!



From our website: Just as Jesus mediates our oneness with God, St Paul's is an intentional community focused entirely on bringing people together as an act of unconditional love and service. Our common and personal relationship with Jesus, our spiritual lives and our tradition are all grounded in and sustained by the communion we share with God and with each other.

Christmas with St Paul's @ Lota House Chapel 162 Oceana Terrace, Manly.



Sunday 22nd 2pm Big Band Christmas Carols with Bayside Brass
Sing along with the big band sound of the Bayside Brass. Familiar Carols and lots of joyous noise. Afternoon tea to follow.

Tuesday 24th 5pm All Age Family Christmas Eve Service

For the young and young at heart. An interactive, fun all age family prayer and praise celebrating the birth of Jesus. Come dressed as your favourite Nativity character... the kids can too!

Wednesday 25th Christmas Day Communion Service 9.30 am

Our beautiful traditional Christmas Morning Eucharist with beautiful carols and Holy Communion.

Please park on Oceana Terrace.

There is no onsite parking due to building works. Drop off ok.

Email: office@stpaulsmanly.org or 0491 062 877



The Giving Tree Comes Alive

Recently retired Pete's Pantry Coordinator Marilyn Jacobs visited last week and was chuffed by our response to our Advent Giving focus. Our Giving Tree appeal is aimed at providing basic personal hygiene care packs. St Paul's folk have generously responded by taking a tag of the Giving Tree with simple suggestions for an age and gender appropriate Wash Bag. Look at them piling up under the tree as folk bring them or a donation back!!

You can still help.... By taking a Giving Tree tag and preparing a Personal Care Pack, a donation of simple supermarket vouchers, a cash donation or just a bulk pack of personal care items like soap .



Be Still and Know I Am God Quiet Day

We were still, quiet... and eventually wet. 10 souls gathered on Saturday the 14th for a beautiful time of wandering and wondering in God's Little Acre that is Christ Church Pioneer Chapel at Tingalpa. The crew wasn't put off by the threat of rain for a morning that started with a Celtic inspired morning prayer then a time of mooching about guided by the invitation that wasting time with God is a precious gift.

Our reflection booklet suggested "Today you don't have to do anything... you can sit in a shady space, snooze, cogitate whatever comes into mind... sing to yourself, wander, wonder... there's no rules other than give others the space and quiet to be too."

Folk took this to heart as they walked and paused and noticed. Fr Sam encouraged us to hold each other in prayer with a gentle exercise in selecting a named ball to carry with us through the morning to focus some loving energy.

As always the shared morning tea was abundant and the connection conversation warm. Lucky as the storm clouds gathered. We set off on a pilgrimage walk with 8 stations focused on the advent journey... despite attempting to keep going under umbrellas, the downpour defeated us and we had to hastily retreat to shelter... but we were safe and dry and the simple sharing of Eucharist closed the day and fed the soul. The Be Still prayer we shared is below and might help you when you need a moment.

Here's to more wasting time with God in 2025



St Patrick's prayer comes from Psalm 46:10 of the Hebrew Scriptures: **"Be still and know that I am God."** Use this prayer to try and draw yourself and others into a contemplative frame of mind.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

- 1) Find a quiet place, gently close your eyes and take a few deep breaths. Prepare to pray the Psalm in 5 consecutively diminishing sentences.
- 2) Either aloud or quietly to yourself, say the words, "Be still and know that I am God."
- 3) After a couple deep breaths, pray, "Be still and know that I am."
- 4) After a couple deep breaths, pray "Be still and know."
- 5) After a couple deep breaths, pray, "Be still."
- 6) After a couple deep breaths, pray, "Be."
- 7) When ready, pray, "Amen."



The Vicar's Voice... Holy Days Variation

While Shepherd's washed their socks at night... or something like that. I'm not too annoyed by repetitious Christmas music just yet... but that's with three Christmas services ahead and a far bit of festive pffaffing to sort out, so who knows how I'll be by Boxing Day.

Advent and the lead up to Christmas are weird times. I spoke the other day about *the 'Brood of Vipers'* and *"Rejoice you goodly people"* paradox of our scripture choices in the lead up to The Big Event and the challenge of balancing quiet reflection with letting the good times roll in our hot and humid subtropics.

In some ways, I've found all of that a useful distraction from the yuckness of a lot of what folk are feeling and experiencing in news of the world and struggles just to keep their head above water. I've done a funeral and a couple of end of life visits and I know some folk are trying to stay positive when memories of loss of those they love surface. Grief is real in so many ways.

I think our special calling this year is actually the same as any year... to keep the fragile, shy glimmer of hope alive, even when things can seem so dark. It's why I appreciate the effort that goes into lights on houses, trees and in dancing reindeer antlers. The lights are an act of defiance in the face of gloom. We don't have the early twilight or deep cold of the North but our show of light still means a lot more than we realise.

So when you drive around, notice and appreciate. Lots of folk who light up possibly don't have an awareness of the profound act in turning on Christmas lights but I like to think something remains in the cultural memory of a star above a manger and the glow of glory of choirs of angels. May you hold onto your light this Christmas... and may the birth of the Christ Child... our Saviour incarnate... the Light of the World... continue to help you hold on when things seem dark.



A Blessed Christmas and a content, creative, resilient and hope filled New Year to you and all those you love. Andrew

Bush Ministry Fund Collection.

Sandra Davis writes: It gives me great pleasure to report that the total of our 2024 Bush Ministry Fund collection is \$618.00, which is \$91.60 higher than last year. I thank the ten people participating in this very worthy cause. **Since 2005, St. Paul's has donated \$26,609.85.**

The Fund was established in 1998 and provides support for clergy and parishes in the western region of Southern Queensland. Anyone wishing to take a church shaped money box and join our group of donors, please see Sandra.

Next collection date will be December, 2025.



Scripture Readings: Advent Four

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

Christmas Day

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20

First Sunday after Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148;
Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14;
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

For your prayers:

Sunday 22 December

- ◆ The Church of the Province of Uganda
- ◆ The Diocese of Rockhampton
- ◆ The Parish of Kilcoy
- ◆ Anglicare SQ St Martin's Residential Aged Care – Taigum
- ◆ St John's College UQ

Christmas Day

- ◆ The Diocese of Kumasi – The Church of the Province of West Africa
- ◆ The Diocese of The Murray
- ◆ The Parish of Leichhardt
- ◆ Anglicare SQ Home and Community, South Coast Region
- ◆ All Anglican Schools Business Managers/Bursars and Senior Leaders

Sunday 29 December

- ◆ The Episcopal Church
- ◆ The Parish of Mitchell
- ◆ Anglicare SQ Out of Home Care, Central Region – Sunshine Coast Foster & Kinship Care
- ◆ Yvonne, Coralie, Richard, Ann, Bruce, Judi, Brad, Stephen, J, J and J, Chloe and Family

What's On

This week

Monday 9.30 EM Tooth Worship Service, Activities Room
Tuesday 5pm Christmas Eve All Age Family Service
Tuesday 11.30 pm Midnight Mass @ St Peter's Wynnum
Wednesday 9.30 Christmas Day Eucharist
Sunday 9.30 Parish Eucharist, Lota House Chapel with Rev Shan Veirow

Coming up

Sunday 29th Parish Eucharist with Rev Shan Veirow
Tuesday 31st Bible Study on a break
Sunday 5th Jan Feast of The Epiphany of Our Lord

26th December-4th January

Fr Andrew on Leave

Please let Fr Andrew know of any upcoming events.

Blessings to all in St. Paul's Parish Manly.

EM Tooth resident and St Paul's parishioner, Eric Lugg writes:



I wish to send a Christmas Greeting to all who have welcomed me to the worship in the fellowship of the Parish. The move from Ernest Street to EMT was such a significant change from the known and loved to an unusual and uncertain future.

It has been welcomed by the residents though, as it creates for us the continuity of a lifetime of worship and a source of comfort in stressful periods. The real pastoral care of residents is greatly appreciated.

And now, in the Season of Advent we rejoice in God's great gift to mankind in the birth of Jesus His Son to redeem the world, and teach us the lessons of love.

The way of the world has robbed Christmas of the link God created, and the season has become focused on the exchange of gifts, equating love as an emotion to be exploited.

God grant us the wisdom to recognise His intention, and to respond to his gift of love with loving service. Then we will know joy and peace.

Joy to all... Eric



Support our Ministry

Bank: Anglican Financial Services
Account: Manly Anglican Parish
BSB: 704-901 Account #:00000690
Reference: 'offering'

www.stpaulsmanly.org

Parish of Manly

Anglican
Church Southern Queensland