



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY, MANLY
12th January 2025

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

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PARISH PRIEST

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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.



- Christmas festivities
- Our Giving Tree is given
- A Ramsay Farewell
- Recycling News

Even the beasties rejoiced!



And a Merry Christmas was had by all!!

We are denying any allegation that there may have been typecasting or any form of coercion involved in selecting who to play the Ass and the Sheep at our fun Christmas Eve Family Service!

Amanda and Chris were just a few of the impromptu cast members who helped bring alive the Nativity story in our always tasteful if ever so slightly chaotic celebration of the Birth of Christ on Tuesday 24th December. All had a rollicking good time and soon learnt not to catch the MC's eye when an important role had to be filled... with no rehearsal and no specific talent really required. Eschewing the traditional well rehearsed Nativity play of days of yore, the Angel was not a twirling dance trained young woman but our very own Paul Gill... who may have been dance trained at one point but embraced the role, the wings and the halo with fun and warmth. Other highlights were the shepherd "Herman" who added many *Baas* from the wheelchair and a group of dads who valiantly filled the travelling foot steps of the Magi with only a slight "I didn't sign up for this" look on their faces.

More from our Christmas events inside.

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

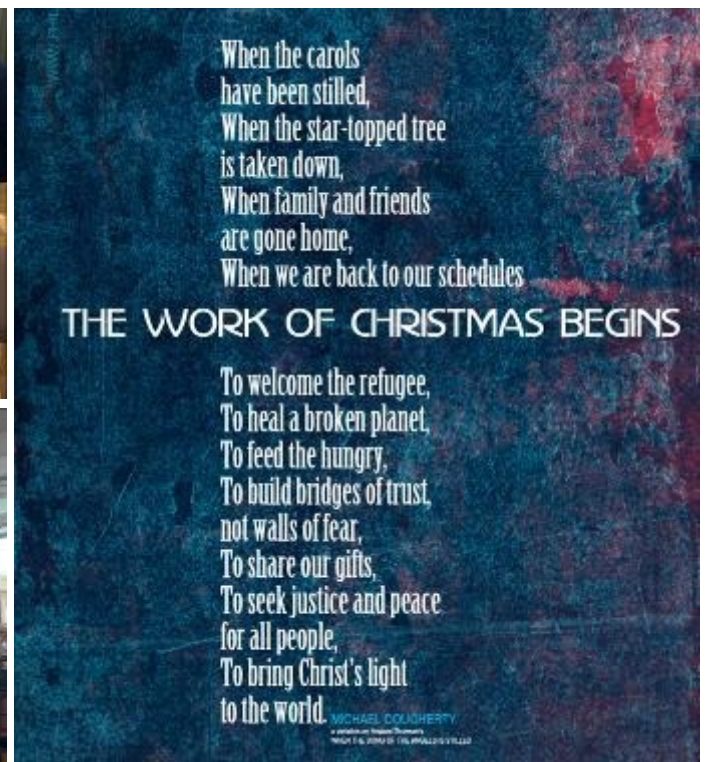
Christmas Services... Music, Memories and a little Mayhem

BAYSIDE BRASS BRINGS CHRISTMAS CLASS!!
Sunday 22nd December was loud, tune-ful, joyous and time to belt out those familiar Christmas favourites.

In a joint event hosted by E M Tooth and St Paul's, we were so grateful for parishioner (and total tuba dude) Mark Austin for organising a magical afternoon of carols with the Bayside Brass. So great to see residents and staff bring their families to share in the big band sound and the festiveness of it all. Thank you to the staff of EM Tooth for assisting with movement of residents and for the yummy afternoon tea!

It was great to meet the Bayside Brass musical director Damian Bowden and the team, to find out a little more about the band members and their instruments and to discover Damian had a starring role as a Wise Man in his youth! We also learnt via our Mark that of course the Tuba is the most technically challenging and vitally important brass instrument in the whole ensemble... is that what you told us to say, Mark?

We look forward to working together with Lifestyle Coordinator Elizabeth and the team from EM Tooth to celebrate some of the year's great events and of course in welcoming Bayside Brass among us again!



Christmas Eve alive and well at St Paul's

Just some of the joy of our wonderful Christmas Eve Family Service.

Family in the all age and very elastic sense of the word as age and any evident talent was bypassed in our impromptu and mostly improvised retelling of the joyous news.

There were some present who foolishly thought passing 21 meant they didn't have to go in the Christmas play anymore!!! Others commented that they'd never seen anything quite like it but the prayers at the end were profound and shaped the real message of hope and joy of the birth of Jesus really well!!

Thanks to those who donned the traditional shepherds' tea towel, tinsel wings, ass's ears, and fake beard or carried their old

remnant baby doll Jesus accompanied by all the glitz and glamour of exotic folk from the East! Thanks also to our readers and of course the wonderful music so generously shared by our Bev.

It was also so special to celebrate the Holy Day in our beautiful tradition Christmas Morning Eucharist. A blessing to us all!



The Giving Tree Generosity is Given Away

Our Giving Tree outreach finds its way to Pete's Pantry and almost straight away into the hands of folk who are struggling.

One of the profound aspects of our Advent and Christmas liturgies and thinking was the Giving Tree that still takes pride of place in the Chapel. It might look like any other Christmas tree... but the Giving Tree became a focus for prayer and generosity over Advent and Christmas.

Initially the Giving Tree was very simply adorned with printed label with suggestions for packing a Personal Care Bag filled with items to be given to clients at Pete's Pantry. There were about 70 tags on the tree, most of which were taken to focus our giving. There's only about 5 left which means about 65 or so personal care bags prepared and ready for those who need them most.

Over the weeks of Advent, the bags started to pile up and our Giving Tree transformed into a tree of prayer as each handmade and coloured ornament was placed on it as a symbol of prayer... for others and in thanks for gifts given. The brightly decorated tree now stands as a sign of that prayer.

Last Monday Nick Crisp volunteered to deliver our offering up to Pete's Pantry... you can see the heavy load he had to organise. They were handed over to the lovely staff during their busy Monday Morning Breakfast.... Nick reports that he turned around briefly and discovered that almost half had already been given to folk who needed a little something extra.

The Team at Pete's Pantry were so grateful for the thought and generosity of all at St Paul's. We look forward to continuing to support their work in the year ahead.



A Ramsay Farewell.

Phyl Ramsay writes: Moving from the Manly area after living here for over 40 years, makes this a very different and interesting phase in our lives to which we will need to adapt.

Having been members of St. Paul's Parish for almost as long, makes "farewells" all that more difficult. However, it does help us to look back in amazement and gratitude, at all the happenings and achievements of which we have been an integral part. So many enduring friendships have been formed, and so many loving and caring relationships.

Col and I have enjoyed being involved in numerous changes for our parish during these years, as well as the usual activities and social events. It has been wonderful to work alongside so many dedicated and faith-filled members of our church. For me, I have enjoyed taking on new challenges in the parish life, and like so many of you, it seems that often the original service you performed, is also still on your agenda!!



For Col, he has enjoyed the various types of woodwork items he has constructed, replaced or adapted to a new situation, and being involved in a number of technological changes along the way.

We look forward to joining the Freshwater Anglican Parish, which is only a short drive from our new abode, and becoming involved in a new community. Col and I would love to have any of you drop by for a visit, as it's less than an hour away, or even an overnight stay if you wished. Just need to give a call beforehand to facilitate the gate opening at the complex entrance, and/or make sure we are home, of course.

We give thanks to God for the time shared with you all, and may the Lord's promise that He is in control, strengthen our hearts to trust Him as we all begin a new year, and be courageous, even when we don't know what the future will bring.

**May the Lord bless and keep you always,
Love and best wishes, from Phyl and Col.**

Col and Phyl, we pray that you depart from us with a sense of wholeness and completion, with memories of this community as a loving community, knowing that our relationships endure. We pray that you carry us in your heart to your new home, and that our love and care for you will always remain with us. We pray that you will find, in your new home, the warmth of community, the joy of new opportunities, new discoveries, and new friends.

OUR RECYCLING PROJECT.

A message from Sandra Davis:

Our recycling project at St. Paul's began on 9th March, 2019 with a balance of \$6.60, equating to 66 cans. Our latest balance stands at \$3,925, equating to 39,250 bottles, cans and cartons delivered over five years: a wonderful effort from the twelve folk who collect the items, deliver them to the various outlets and forward the cash to me, to be banked by our Treasurer, Craig. Since 2023 wine bottles are acceptable, too. This has proven a definite bonus. I congratulate the twelve participants and encourage you to continue supporting this environmentally friendly project.

On a sad note, we shall lose Phyl and Col Ramsay when they move to Burpengary in January this year, but thank them for their enthusiastic support over the past five years.



Scripture Readings: Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-22

Next Week

Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

For your prayers:

- ◆ Parishes seeking new incumbents and schools seeking chaplains
- ◆ The Church in the Province of the West Indies
- ◆ The Diocese of North West Australia
- ◆ The Parish of Redcliffe
- ◆ Oratory of the Good Shepherd, Society of the Sacred Advent, Society of St Francis
- ◆ Toowoomba Anglican School, Toowoomba
- ◆ **Yvonne, Coralie, Richard, Ann, Bruce, Judi, Brad, J, J and J, Chloe and Family**

A Prayer at the Baptism of Jesus

As we reflect on the baptism of Jesus may we be captured by the beauty of You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all present, all working, and not only that, but John being asked to play a part. Open our eyes to see what You are up to today. We are filled with gratitude and wonder that we stand before you as beloved children in whom you are well pleased.
Amen.

Adapted from: <https://churchonthemove.com/>

What's On

This week

Monday 9.30 EM Tooth Worship Service, Activities Room
Tuesday 9.30 Bible Reflection and Discussion @ the Chapel
Sunday 9.30 Parish Eucharist, Lota House Chapel
Sunday 11am-3pm Parish Council Planning Day TBC

Coming up

26th January Australia Day Parish Eucharist

Please let Fr Andrew know of any upcoming events.

The Vicar's Voice

Welcome to 2025 and all it promises!

I'm not sure I really thought too much about where I would be and what I would be doing when the year 2025 rolls around. It seems like so large a number and I wonder where all the years have gone as in my head its still about 2005 and I'm still in my 30's. I also thought I'd have a hover board and a silver space suit but maybe that's too many cartons as a kid.

January is that funny time for us especially if you have some children on holidays or a few weeks off work. For our retired folk its pretty much the same but there's more kids at the shops... but for many there is a bit of a summer lull before things really start to move. I know that I feel a sense that many things will unfold for us as we reflect and pray about God's call for us in this part of the mission field. There's still plenty more to learn but also real opportunities to act and engage. I know God has a plan for us and the gifts of people and talent we need to respond to His call. It might look different to days gone by but St Paul's has much to offer and much to give in our own maybe small way.

I'm here for that but will traverse gently over the next few weeks, treasuring the memory of wonderful Christmas events, deep generosity and precious time spent with my family and yours. It was so special to welcome my sisters Mary and Ellen and niece Pip and show them a little of who we are... and eat lots of cheese and do some really long but beautiful road trips around SE QLD.

May there be more cheese... and more road trips as 2025 unfolds.

Every blessing

Andrew



Support our Ministry

Bank: Anglican Financial Services
Account: Manly Anglican Parish
BSB: 704-901 Account #:00000690
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www.stpaulsmanly.org

Parish of Manly
Anglican
Church Southern Queensland



I do hope your Christmas has had a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter patter and all. It always seems such a mixing of this world and the next - but that after all is the idea!

— Evelyn Underhill —

AZ QUOTES