



ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY, MANLY  
26th 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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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.



- New Zealand memories
- Australia Day Thoughts
- Why make room for kids
- News from Yvonne and Craig

## Happy Wanderers Return



### A New Zealand Odyssey brings treasured memories for a couple of St Paul's church friends.

Proving that friendships formed at church are more than just standing over the urn making cups of tea at Mothers Union or earnestly discussing the implications of the Markan Messianic Secret on a dialectic of suspicion when considering an imminent eschaton, Ailsa Gill and Robyn Lawler, pictured here at the edge of the Franz Josef Glacier, recently returned from a trip of a lifetime to New Zealand.

Both returned to us still friends despite the close quarters of the bus trip. Living closely with each other and with the various quirky characters that make up a bus tour group has had a profound impact on their friendship and outlook on life, the universe and everything. They have some great stories of personalities they encountered on the way and new perspectives of how community is formed and sometimes stormed.

Have a chat to them to hear more about their glimpses of God in the glory of creation in the natural world and the people on the way.

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

## Robyn and Ailsa take a trip and live to tell the tales.

**Ailsa Gill writes:** The trip to New Zealand with Robyn was a one down memory lane for me. I was excited as we approached every destination, trying to find familiar sights from when I was a 20 year backpacker.



First up was Christchurch. When I worked in Christchurch I caught a bus to Cathedral square every day... here's a picture of the cathedral as I remembered it. However, after the earthquake of 2011, the cathedral is now only partially restored, and may not ever progress any further as money has run out. The cost of repairs and restoration after the Christchurch earthquake and in more recent times the earthquake on the Kaikoura coast of the South Island, has been enormous on a country with such small population.



Our trip took us around the South Island of New Zealand and we enjoyed the most amazing scenery. We did have one or two cloudy days, but mostly the weather was perfect for taking in the most amazing vistas – didn't seem to matter which side of the bus we were seated. I was really looking forward to the visit to Franz Josef glacier. From the pictures you may be able to see that in 1969 the glacier came down to meet the road. Now the glacier has receded a very long way up the valley and it would be a very long hike before you even came to the glacier to commence walking on it.



We also visited Dunedin, Milford Sound, Queenstown, took the Trans Alpine train across Arthurs Pass, toured the beautiful Kaikoura coast and travelled on the interisland ferry from



Picton to Wellington on the one day of that particular week when there was hardly a ripple on Cook Strait (the ferry didn't run for three days prior to our trip because of bad weather).

The North Island also turned on perfect weather, after a wet and cold start in Wellington. The geyser in Rotorua sent up some steam just as we visited, there was bubbling mud all around and the Māori hangi and concert was a real treat.

Our trip included bus and train travel, four wheel drive over one way roads beside very steep cliffs, jet boat ride, a helicopter flight, boat and ferry rides, luge, chair lift, gondolier, golf cart ride, milking a cow, lots of food and lots of laughs (and just a few wool shops).

**Robyn Lawler adds:** This trip fulfilled my bucket list – to visit New Zealand. Following an introduction to the joys of the Qantas lounge, I took my longest flight ever arriving in wet and cold Christchurch – not terribly inviting. However, from there on it was a great adventure as we travelled around the country enjoying beautiful scenery, great company with our fellow travellers, and also for me, seeing so many places that featured in Lord of the



Rings. I had to keep educating Ailsa on what all these places were and we sat through the Hobbit Movie one evening to bring her up to date.

So a visit to Hobbiton was definitely a highlight. I was able to ride around the Shire on a Golf Cart with my own personal guide, (Hero) – what a great experience. Even had my photo taken outside Bag End, home of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins. Mount Doom (Mt Ngauruhoe) was another special place to see.



Also Skippers Canyon (above) site of Ford of Bruinen. Those who know, know :-)

I had to make Ailsa cup of tea every morning to get her going so we wouldn't miss the breakfast or the bus. However, she did encourage me to walk a little further



each day and I was able to enjoy some of the little extras that were offered on the tour. This included St Faiths, Rotorua, an historic timber church intricately decorated with Māori carvings.

**We are both very thankful for such a wonderful trip and very happy to be back home safely.**



## Bev Schmidt has news to share..

### Tatters & Chatters will start back on Thursday 6 February.

A reminder that we meet every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

This year we are trying out having some fun games available on the 1st Thursday. Totally ok if you don't want to play. You can still bring your craft, or chat or just sit and enjoy the company!



So far I have Sorry, Dominoes, Code Breaking Game and packs of cards for anything from Fish and Old Maid to Gin Rummy. You can also bring along one of your games if you'd like.

While we bring our own lunch to have on the 1st Thursday, if you'd like to bring along a small tasty contribution to morning tea, that would be great.

**Robyn and I do hope to see you all on the 6th.**

And just coz I can, thanks to Sandra for the lovely picture of Darryl and I with our daughter Angela at church last Sunday. We were so happy to have her even for a short time. She and her husband live in Perth on an army posting. Darryl and I know only too well the reality of army life and though we hope she will be on this side of the country sometime soon, know that being apart from family and friends comes with life in the armed services. Travel home safely!



Warden Rob Wilson holding the beautiful canvas printed picture organised as the farewell gift for Phyl and Col Ramsay... the printers eventually delivered. It is now on its way to their new home in Burpengary.

## Some news from Yvonne Chown



Hi lovely people of St Paul's Manly, I just wanted to pass on news about my Auntie Yvonne, a former very faithful parishioner from St Paul's who worshipped with my Uncle and parents before their passing, for many, many years.

Many of you will remember Yvonne, who now resides in Northern NSW with her eldest daughter as most of her close family live down that way.

Well the good news I would like to share, I spoke with her on Christmas Day and apart from aging issues, she is well and God willing will turn 100 on the 3rd March.

I wasn't sure if she is still in touch with friends from St Paul's so please accept my apologies if you guys are already aware of this significant milestone. A family gathering has been organised to celebrate the occasion and I will take photos and upload some to you to share in your newsletter. Auntie, as did my Uncle Eric and parents, Pat and Derek Hunt loved St Paul's which really was their 2nd family.

Thanks again and I will be in touch in a couple of weeks...

**Blessings to all you lovely people at St Paul's.**  
**Liz Law**

## Men's Ministry Dinner 7 pm Wednesday 29 January at the Bengal Curry House Fox Street Wynnnum



### Manly Wynnum Men's Ministry Group kicks off for 2025.

Convenor Charlie Dunbar invites the blokes to join them for a community curry this week at the Bengal Curry House in Fox Street, Wynnnum.

Give Fr Andrew a call on 0447 409 188 if you are interested in checking this group out and we can book you a place. The community dinners include partners as well and are a great night of fellowship.

The Men's Ministry group then meets every Wednesday at 7pm at St Peter's Hall in Wynnnum. They usually have a book they are sharing together and lots of thoughts, questions and support for the journey abound.

**Have a chat to Nick Crisp or Chris Rodhe if you'd like to know a bit more about how our blokes are supporting other blokes.**

### Why do we do that?... Our Children's Space.



St Paul's is a diverse group of men and women with all sorts of backgrounds and gifts... things we rejoice over regularly. One of our deep prayers is that we would have children and young people among us. However, the reality is the group of

children attached to the parish is small, come irregularly but are in no way a lesser part of community.

As an Inclusive church we need to make space for everyone... so we create a child friendly space EVERY week. Ok, most weeks its main role is as a prayer focus... to remind us to hold before God the young people in the broader community and in our lives. But we need to be ready when needed. There is nothing more unwelcoming for a family to arrive and there is a bustle of activity to hurriedly put a few token things out as if they are an after thought or so unusual to cause us a bit of fluster. Having the space ready means the weans and their grown ups can calmly be shown to the space made just for them.

This came home vividly to me two weeks ago. Noah and Millie came to church with mum Jenny. We were able to lead them straight to their special space and the books and activities were ready for them. I had great fun engaging with them in the sermon... kids say the greatest stuff! What was most profound was inviting them to come with Jenny to stand next to me during the Thanksgiving Prayer. The great foam steps we have out made it simple for them to stand unaided and help and see. Jenny thanked us for making the day so special and now we have a conversation about Reception to Communion for Noah. None of that would have happened if they were hidden down the back.

**Children  
should be  
seen &  
heard**  
*especially in  
church*

**So yes... we do it EVERY WEEK in hope and love and as an important aspect of living as an Inclusive church. Children are welcome here!**

### Some news from our treasurer Craig Lawrence.

Craig has informed us of the following...



*"I am very grateful for the support I have received from many people in the Parish over the past few years. It has been a*

*very trying and tiring time. Over the summer break, I have reflected on where I may be called next. I will not be putting myself forward for Treasurer or Parish Councillor at the 2025 AGM."*

We have had a long and productive conversation with Craig and while his skill and expertise will be missed, parish council supports his decision. Appropriate words of thanks for his sterling efforts will be shared obviously and the search to fill his commodious shoes commences.

**Thank you Craig for all you give so generously and may all you are and do in the year ahead be blessed!**

**THANK YOU!**

## An Aboriginal Pastor shares on Australia Day.

"There's a heartache still in this land," says Pastor Michael Duckett of the Macarthur Indigenous Church as he shares a message for Australia Day, calling on non-indigenous Australians to remember the mixed feelings in the Aboriginal community about the day.



Speaking in a video titled *The Ministry of Reconciliation, Australia Day 2020*, Pastor Duckett gives a greeting in the indigenous Gumbayggirr language of the North Coast of New South Wales. He said he hopes people will enjoy Australia Day but be sensitive to Aboriginal People.

"Australia Day, what a day!" Pastor Duckett says. "Today I hope that many of you will be blessed. It's a great day to celebrate this nation our God's goodness and His many blessings but at the same time recognise there is a debate in this country about should we or shouldn't we debate about how aboriginal people feel."

"So my encouragement is this. Every day is a good gift from God and we should be thankful for every day and we should rejoice in it and be glad for God's blessings fall upon us all who walk on this earth. But also being mindful of the Aboriginal People, as some may view it as Invasion Day, Sorry Day or as a Survival Day where our people struggle to survive in this country, to find justice and to be equal in this country."

The video, available to watch on YouTube is offered by Macarthur Indigenous Church in Sydney's Southwest as a gift and encouragement to the prayers and thinking of churches around Australia. Pastor Duckett ends the video with a plea.

*"So as you celebrate this day, I encourage you to rejoice in God's goodness but also to remember those of this land who walked this country for generations upon generations. Many are still struggling to find a place in this nation with the loss of land, of culture and of our children who were taken away. There's a heartache still in this land that we could be mindful of and as Christians, we should be concerned about our brother and our neighbour. So take the time today maybe just to say a prayer. Lift up our people to God, asking him to bring hope and healing, salvation through his son Jesus Christ that he might unite this nation and (that) as a church, we can demonstrate to this nation how to unite in Christ. Have a blessed day!"*

Source: <https://sydneyanglicans.net/news/an-aboriginal-pastor-shares-on-australia-day>

## Prayer Thoughts for Australia Day by Reverend Peter Adam, St Jude's, Carlton Victoria

### Gracious heavenly Father,

We thank and praise you for your creation of this land of Australia. We praise you for its beauty and its bounty, for mountains, hills and plains, for rivers, creeks and seas, and wonderful variety of animals, birds, and sea-creatures. We praise you for the peoples to whom you first entrusted this land, each one made in your image, and all loved by you. We thank you for their careful management of the land, for the strength of their communal life, and the richness of their culture.

We pray that indigenous people may find their rightful place as citizens, and that their voices would be heard in our society. We pray that you would help us close the gap in the provision of health, education, housing, justice, and opportunity.

We praise you for Christians who came to Australia, who continued in their faith, who prayed and read their Bibles, who lived to honour you, who loved their neighbours, who planted churches, and who worked for gospel growth in their own generation, and for generations to come.

We thank you for Christian people who tried to defend the indigenous people, who provided for them, who brought them the gospel of the Lord Jesus, who translated the Bible into their languages, and who recognised their common humanity. At the same time we grieve their mistakes, and any damage they did, while trying to do good.

We thank you that Australia has provided a new start for people from many countries in every generation. We especially praise you that many who arrived with very few resources have been able to find education, training, and employment, and have enriched our common life.

Please give us good government, wise policies, justice and equity, and the ability and wisdom to tackle the major issues of our day. Please rid us of corruption, incompetence, selfishness, greed, inequalities, and self-indulgence. Help us to contribute generously to our neighbouring nations, and to our world.

Please have mercy on all Australians, and teach us to trust in your Son and our Saviour, to love you, and to love our neighbours. May your name be sanctified in Australia, your kingdom come, and your will be done.

**Amen**

Adapted from <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/>

### Scripture Readings:

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10;

Psalms 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

### Next Week

#### The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 24; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40

### For your prayers:

- ◆ Parishes seeking new incumbents and schools seeking chaplains
- ◆ The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
- ◆ The Diocese of Adelaide
- ◆ The Parish of Stafford
- ◆ Youth, Children's & Families Ministry: Elissa Cotroneo
- ◆ Anglican Church Grammar School, East Brisbane
- ◆ **Yvonne, Coralie, Richard, Ann, Bruce, Judi, Brad, J and J, Chloe and Family, Doreen, Shirley, Maggie, Lyn**

We give thanks for the life of Brian Olem and hold Nancy and all the family in prayer as they mourn his loss.

We also give thanks for positive outcomes for J and answers to prayer.

### A Back to School Prayer

Lord, we pray that all children will love learning; that their hearts would seek to understand the world you have created. We pray that you would surround them with friends who make wise choices and encourage their faith. We pray that you would free them from the pressure of trying to be like everyone else by instilling in them the confidence to know that they are uniquely made by you.

## What's On

### This week

**Monday 9.30** EM Tooth Worship Service, Activities Room

**Tuesday 9.30** Bible Reflection and Discussion @ the Chapel

**Wednesday 7pm** Men's Ministry Community Dinner

**Sunday 9.30** Parish Eucharist, Lota House Chapel

### Coming up

**February 1st** Car Boot Sale, Carindale TBC

**February 2nd** MU Planning day in the Parlour

**February 6th** Tatters and Chatters 9.30 am in the Parlour

**February 8th** Cursillo Meeting

**February 9th** Parish Council Planning Day

**February 18th** MU Service and Meeting

**February 20th** Tatters and Chatters

**Parish AGM to be advised**

Please let Fr Andrew know of any upcoming events.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

## The Vicar's Voice

Welcome to the umpteenth week of January. It can seem to drag on forever as the warm wet weeks unfold, the festiveness can seem just a memory and unless you are off to Parkes for the Elvis Festival or Tamworth to indulge in both kinds of music, it can be the long wait for pay day and for things to kick off when the kids go back to school.

This week was the beginning of the warm up with a couple of coffee catch ups, a hospital visit, some pastoral conversations and some planning meetings. It was also good to be able to help Fr Sam out by taking the Wednesday Service at St Peters for him supported by Ailsa and Kay. I am grateful I have time to do those things and still have a few moments for reading, reflection and a late night Zoom session with my Spiritual Director in the United States.

It was interesting to get a perspective from someone living in the States at the moment. Its hard to imagine anyone being unaware of the division in opinion and the difficulty many folk have with the rhetoric and tone of dispute in the USA... and its echoes around the world. Its easy to get despondent at our inability to love our neighbours and just treat each other with dignity and respect... basic human courtesy but also core values for Jesus.

I appreciated the following prayer from Nadia Bolz-Weber shared by Archbishop Jeremy this week.

**Dear God,**

**All I can think to say this morning, is please guide my attention to that which is worthy of it. When I am overwhelmed by everything that has to get fixed in this broken down world, show me what is MINE to do then please give me the strength to do it and the humility to rest afterwards.**

**Open my eyes to behold that which is hopeful and lovely and to know that the terrifying and malicious will always be there and that looking away for a moment is not callus, it's calculating. Guide my attention to that which is worthy of it: making art, cooking food, loving people, noticing birds, petting dogs, contacting friends, and doing the work that is mine to do.**

**And when I am scrolling through meaningless videos, once again wasting more precious moments on this Earth than I realize, snap me out of it, Lord and help me just go for a walk or something. In your holy name, Amen.**

Every blessing in whatever the week brings

*Andrew*

### Support our Ministry

Bank: Anglican Financial Services

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BSB: 704-901 Account #:00000690

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[www.stpaulsmanly.org](http://www.stpaulsmanly.org)

**Parish of Manly**

**Anglican**  
Church Southern Queensland