



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYNS

22nd December 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Parishioners

Only 3 more sleeps to Christmas! For most people in our community the birthday of Jesus is not what Christmas is about. I was intrigued when speaking with Cathedral College students recently that whilst a few could name the place where Jesus was born, ALL knew where Santa was born and lives. On the radio in the early hours of today (Thursday) I listened to a report of the place in Finland which has set itself up as Santa's home town.

The lure to "pilgrims" is strong, people from Singapore, Australia and other far away places make the journey to Finland to see Santa.

Pilgrims to Bethlehem this year, as for the past few, are likely to be few and far between, the number of Christians in the Middle East continues to shrink as Christians migrate to safer and more welcoming places.

But for disciples of the Christ, no place on earth should ever be more special than another in terms of the presence of God. One of the names ascribed to Jesus is Emmanuel—God is with us. So wherever we are, God is with us and that makes the place special. It means that wherever we are, we take God with us and that makes us angels—messengers of God. God's Peace, God's Love, God's Joy. This is what Christmas is about—God with us.

*Peace and Joy,
Neil Hicks*

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

24th December Christmas Eve

- 6.00 p.m. Holy Trinity Crib Service - N. Hicks
- 7.00 p.m. St Paul's Glenrowan Family Eucharist - Bishop Clarence
- 10.30 p.m. Holy Trinity Choral Eucharist - Bishop Clarence

25th December Christmas Day

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Trinity Eucharist - N. Hicks
- 9.30 a.m. St Michael's Eucharist - Ven. Alan Jarrad
- 10.00 a.m. Holy Trinity Eucharist - N Hicks
- 9.30 a.m. All Saints Moyhu Eucharist - C. Carden
- 11.00 a.m. Holy Trinity Whitfield - C. Carden.



Dates for your Diary

Save the Date 2025 - Artisan Markets Saturday 3 May & Saturday 29 November

Raffle Results

Christmas Hamper Raffle = 1494.00

Christmas Cake Raffle = 336.00

A total of \$1830.00

Thank you everyone who assisted in any way with this result. Hampers and cake were delivered or collected and all recipients expressed their delight in what they had won!



Bishop Clarence was delighted with his 28th celebration at St Michael's last Sunday, and we were delighted to host it. The lovely cake, complete with photo, was made by Sue Wheeler, and everyone enjoyed a piece as well as the usual splendid morning tea. In his sermon he commended our parish on its hospitality, and of course we all know what great hospitality Bishop and Michelle offer at the Lodge.

Car Park Upgrade - As this pew bulletin is being produced, the contractor is busy adding more fill to the centre of the car park, this should resolve the issue of the very wet middle that we experienced after the last heavy rain. As the cost has now risen to over \$3,500, any contributions will be very welcome.



DECEMBER FOCUS:

***Peanut Butter. Pasta sauce. Shampoo & Conditioner.
Milo. Noodle cup varieties. Sweet Biscuits. Body wash.***

Dog food, as this cannot be obtained through the food share programme.

***All non-perishable items are appreciated,
and as a special treat for children - muesli bars or similar.***

WHAT'S ON & DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, 23rd December

Malachi 3. 1-4, 4. 2-3. Psalm 25. 3-9. Luke 1. 57-66.

Tuesday, 24th

2 Samuel 7. 1-5, 8-11, 16. Psalm 89. 2, 19-27. Acts 13. 16-26. Luke 1. 67-79.

See advert on previous page for Christmas Service Times

Wednesday, 25th Isaiah 65. 17-end. Psalm 8. Luke 2. 1-20.

See advert on previous page for Christmas Service Times

Thursday, 26th **STEPHEN, Deacon and First Martyr**

2 Chronicles 24. 17-22. Psalm 31. 1-8. Acts 6. 8-10; 7. 54-60. Matt 10. 17-22.

Friday, 27th **JOHN, Apostle and Evangelist**

Proverbs 8. 22-31. Psalm 97. 1 John 1. 1-5. John 20. 2-8.

Saturday, 28th **HOLY INNOCENTS**

Jeremiah 31. 15-20. Psalm 124. 1 John 5. — 2. 2. Matthew 2. 13-18.

Sunday 29th December, First Sunday after Christmass

8.00 a.m. Eucharist @ Holy Trinity Cathedral—Lady Chapel

COMBINED PARISHES SERVICE

9.30 a.m., Eucharist @St Michael's, Wangaratta.

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

A Message from the Director of Music

Today we reach the last Sunday in the term for our Choristers. Only one day remains in the schedule for the year. Following the Christmas Day service the Choristers will take a well-earned summer break. Today it is fitting to celebrate and give thanks for the marvellous singing and leadership our choristers have offered through the year.

We will celebrate with Charlotte, Elizabeth, Eva, and Hannah the completion of the third level of *Voice for Life*. As they have worked through Dark Blue it has been a real joy to see choristers stepping forward to solo leadership as cantors for the responsorial psalm.

We will also give thanks as one of our choristers completes her time of service with Holy Trinity Cathedral. Hannah Walton came to the Cathedral three years ago and we have been privileged to travel with her through this season of life. Today we have an opportunity to acknowledge her publicly.

Dr Kieran Crichton

Director of Music, Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Sunday 22nd December 2024

- ◆ **The World:** Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan.
- ◆ **Australia:** For all involved in organised tourism through transport, hospitality, catering or any other way.
- ◆ **The Church in our nation:** The Uniting Church in Australia.
- ◆ **Anglican Church of Australia:** The Diocese of Sydney, Abp Kanishka Raffel (*Cailey*); Regional Bishops: Christopher Edwards (*Belinda*) Gary Koo (*Pearl*) Peter Lin (*Isobel*) Peter Hayward (*Julie*) Michael Stead (*Felicity*) Archdeacon for Women, Kara Hartley. Sisters of the Church, Glebe. Clergy and People.
- ◆ **Our Diocese:** Bishop Clarence Bester (*Michelle*). (*Kian & Kyle*).
The Parochial District of Corryong: Locum Deacon in Charge: Peter Pocock, Priest Assisting, Elwyn Enos (*Riya*). The Parish leaders and communities at: All Saints', Corryong: Holy Trinity, Cudgewa; Biggara Congregation.
- ◆ Church Lay Leaders in our Diocese especially: Wardens and Parish Councillors.
- ◆ **Our Parish:** That the Co-operating Ministry between the Wangaratta Parishes may be guided by the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ **Those in Need:** Margot C. Warren Gould. Rob Butler. Mark Heaton. Shirley Cameron. Bp Garry Weatherill. Josef. Wayne. Michael E. Kaye McKenzie.
- ◆ **Year's Mind: 22nd - 28th December.**
[27/12] Claude Constable, 1997.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord.

And may light perpetual shine upon them.

Prayer of the week (*pray daily*) {*Advent Four*}

Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly expectation
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer,
so we may with sure confidence behold him
when he shall come to be our Judge;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Postal Address: 42a Appin Street, Wangaratta, Vic 3677.

Vicarage: 5721 6692. Mob. 0427 584 624

Parish Email: wangwestac@bigpond.com

St. Michael's, Wangaratta. St Paul's, Glenrowan. St George's, Taminick.

Direct Debit: Parish of Wangaratta West & Warbys

A/c No. 126778711. BSB 633 108