



Alstonville Anglicans

Advent 3

Bulletin for Thurs 12th Dec - 15th Dec 2019

We acknowledge and pay respect to the traditional custodians of the land, on which we worship, work and meet, the Bundjalung people. We recognise the significant role the past and future Elders play in the life of the region. We are mindful that within and without the beautiful sandstone church, the Land always was and always will be Bundjalung Land.



ADVENT JOY— The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical colour for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have

reached the midpoint of Advent.

Rolheiser (2002) writes that: Every year on the third Sunday of Advent, the church asks us to do a meditation on joy. That seems a curious thing to ask, though it becomes less curious when we actually reflect on the nature of joy. What is joy?

Few things are as misunderstood as is the notion of joy. Of itself that wouldn't be serious except that in this case we are often left chasing the wrong things in life.

Too often we confuse joy with good cheer or with a certain rallying of the spirit that we try to crank up when we go to a party or let off steam on a Friday night. We tend to think of joy this way: There is ordinary time in our lives, when duty, work, emotional and financial burdens, tiredness, worries, and pressure of all kinds keep us from enjoying life and from being as cheery and pleasant as we would like. We think of ordinary times in our lives as keeping us from joy - the grind, the routine,

**Please note a hearing loop is installed on the right hand side of St Barts.
Please turn off your mobile phone during worship. Toilets are located in the front of the Hall.
First Aid Kits are located in the Church & the Hall.**

the rat-race, the work-week - and so we look forward to special times, weekends, nights out, vacation times, social times, celebrations, and parties where we can break the routine, break out, enjoy ourselves, and experience joy.

Joy then is identified with the boisterous good cheer we try to crank up at parties or the lack of pressure and the freedom from burdens that we feel when on vacation. But is this joy? It can be, though often isn't. The loud robust cheer that we enter into at parties is often little more than a desperate effort to keep our depressions at bay, a form of denial. That's why the good cheer dissolves so quickly when we go home and why, three days after returning from vacation, we are again just as tired and in need of a vacation as before.

What is joy? Joy can never be induced, cranked up, or made to happen. It's something that has to find us precisely within our ordinary, duty-bound, burdened, full-of-worries, and pressured lives.... You can't find joy, it has to find you. That's its real quality. As the various versions of The Prayer of St. Francis put it, we can never attain joy, consolation, peace, forgiveness, love, and understanding by actively pursuing them. We attain them by giving them out...The great mystic, John of the Cross, ends one of his most famous instructions with this poem:

*To reach satisfaction in all
desire its possession in nothing.
To come to possess all
desire the possession of nothing.
To arrive at being all
desire to be nothing.
To come to the knowledge of all
desire the knowledge of nothing.
To come to the pleasure you have not
you must go by the way in which you enjoy not
To come to the knowledge you have not
you must go by a way in which you know not
To come to the possession you have not
you must go by a way in which you possess not
To come to be what you are not
you must go by a way in which you are not
That, and that alone, is a recipe for joy.*

Thank you

Rev Desiree and Marius wish to thank you all most sincerely for your care and concern during their recent ill health.

The Gospel according Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.



Christmas Bowl - Finding JOY in resilience. Your gifts help the people of Tonga to prepare for, and stay safe through worsening disasters.



Prayer for...

Jeremiah 29:10 says "Seek the welfare of the city". Prayer for youth, children, families and the church on Monday strictly 10am–10.30am.

Christmas on the Plateau

Friday 13th December 4.30-8pm—Elizabeth Ann Brown Park, Alstonville

Come along and join in celebrating Christmas together.

Support is needed in setting and packing up on the day—see Paul Earner.

Rosters Sunday 22nd December 8.00am (4th Sunday team)

Person in Charge: Johnny Sernberg **Worship Leader:** Helen Nicholson

Music: Ros Sharp **Sound:** Shane McBurney

Flowers: Nancy West, Joyce Shepherd, Jane Cooke

Church Cleaning: Robin & Brian Delaney, Graham Ireland

ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers	all the baptised!	
Rector	The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman	0402 764 969
	priest@anglicans.live	
Associate	The Reverend John Kidson	0411 394 213
	The Reverend Geoff Vidal	0447 645 456
Parish Office:	The Ministry Centre, 8 The Avenue, Alstonville	
Telephone:	6628 0231	
Postal:	PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477	
e-mail:	office@anglicans.live	
website:	anglicans.live	

The Anglican Op Shop 1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

We give thanks to God for all people making offertories to the vision of God's Kingdom here on earth. If you would like to contribute electronically to the Parish Provider these are the details: **BSB: 705 077 / Acc: 32931**

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday	15th Dec	8.00am	Holy Communion St Barts
		4.00pm	Families@4
		6.00pm	Sunday@6 St Bart's
Monday	16th Dec	10.00am	Prayer Meeting
		10.30am	Life Group (in recess)
		1.00pm	Sew Helpful (in recess)
Tuesday	17th Dec		
Wednesday	18th Dec	9.00am	Meditation Group, St Bart's
			(in recess)
Thursday	19th Dec	9.30am	Play Place (in recess)
		6.00pm	Contemplative Church,
			(in recess)
Friday	20th Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion, St Bart's
		2.00pm	Choir Practice, St Bart's
Saturday	21st Dec		
Sunday	22nd Dec	8.00am	Holy Communion St Barts
		10.00am	Holy Communion,
			St Peter & St Paul's, Tregagle
		4.00pm	Families@4
		6.00pm	Sunday@6

Bible Readings

15th December	Isaiah 35:1-10	Matthew 11:2-11
22nd December	Isaiah 7:10-16	Matthew 1:18-25