



# Alstonville Anglicans

## Christmas Season



### Sharing the Good Life

We acknowledge the Bundjalung people,  
traditional custodians of the Land.  
Our doors are open: LGBTQIA+ welcome here.  
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# Liturgy for 25<sup>th</sup> December

## Sentence of the Day

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.  
Luke 2.10-11

## Collect

Almighty God,  
who gave your only-begotten Son  
to take our nature upon him  
and as at this time to be born of the virgin Mary:  
grant that we being born again  
and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily  
be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord  
Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you and the same Spirit, ever one  
God, now and for ever.  
AMEN.

## Readings

John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through

him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## Liturgy for 26<sup>th</sup> December

### Sentence of the Day

Clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful. Colossians 3.14–15

### Collect

God of community,  
whose call is more insistent than ties of family or blood:  
may we so respect and love those whose lives are linked with  
ours  
that we fail not in loyalty to you,  
but make choices according to your will;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

### Readings

Luke 2:41–52

<sup>41</sup> Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup> Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among

their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. <sup>46</sup> After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup> When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." <sup>49</sup> He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand what he said to them. <sup>51</sup> Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

## Liturgy for 2<sup>nd</sup> January

### Sentence of the Day

They saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and worshipped him. Matthew 2.11

### Collect

Eternal God,  
who by a star led Magi to the worship of your Son:  
guide the nations of the earth by your light,  
that the whole world may see your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### Readings

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to

Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

# Messages

## Pastoral Care

### To make you smile...

What did Santa ask Rudolph about the weather?

### Is it going to rain, deer.?

What do reindeer hang on their Christmas trees?

### Horn-aments.

Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?  
**because they were two deer**



### Pastoral visits Remember!

If you or anyone you know is ill or in hospital, please let the office or Lynne Watt our Pastoral Care Coordinator know. Also, if you do visit anyone could you email Lynne? [wattlg@bigpond.com](mailto:wattlg@bigpond.com).

Mothers Union: third Monday of each month. Contact Pam on 0417 258 991 or Joyce 0407 690 874  
[joyce@stephanies.com.au](mailto:joyce@stephanies.com.au).

## Community Engagement



### Community-On-the-Verge

Help yourself to what is ripe and ready for picking. If you are keen to be involved as the garden evolves, please contact Alan Larsen on 0409 655 123 or Barbara Fewtrell 0429 385 713.



## Play Place

Play Place is in recess until 10 February 2022.



## Sew Helpful

Sew Helpful is in recess over the holiday period but we plan to meet at Options on Monday 17th January at 2pm for afternoon tea. All welcome. Margaret.



Congratulations to Rev John Kidson who has just had his second book published. The book is available for sale and would make a great Christmas or New Year gift! A good book from a local struggling author! A first edition! and can be signed if you would like! Just \$25 a copy. Contact John on 041103940213



**Plastic lids and Bread tags** If you have any plastic lids / bread tags, PLEASE bring them to the church or to the Op Shop and place them in the white garbage collection boxes. The plastic will be recycled and used to assist children

with disabilities. This is a small step we can take together to help look after our beautiful world.

## Slip and Slide

Waterslide afternoon at the Earners . January 30<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm

### COVID Update

#### Singing without masks

This is the last weekend we must wear masks in church. From 15<sup>th</sup> December NSW COVID rules are relaxed.

1. Masks are not necessary at worship or the Op Shop.
2. COVID check is not required at the Op Shop.  
**COVID check in still required for worship services.**
3. Density limits abolished – as many in church as we like.
4. Ventilation still very important, so Church & Ministry Centre doors and windows must be open while being used.

PS For those of you who want, masks and sanitiser are still available at the door  
COVID Committee

**Finance:** Supporting Alstonville Parish

#### **Parish Provider is now Planned Giving A note from your worried Treasurer.**

For the people who have completed their transition from the old Parish Provider system to the new Planned Giving, thank you. Your vital gifts to the parish are what supports' the continuing ministry of Alstonville Anglicans.

Sadly, less than half of those regular givers have renewed, and alarm bells are ringing in your treasurer's ears! Offertory at services remains consistent so there is a substantial decline in giving already.

Please help by completing your paperwork and sending it off. If you've put aside the letter about changing to the



new Planned Giving system, please make it a priority in the coming week. For help, please call the parish office.

***Luke 6:38 "Give and it will be given to you."***

### **Annual Report & AGM**

If you are responsible for submitting a report for inclusion in the Annual Report, can you please forward them to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Final date for submission is the 14<sup>th</sup> January. **AGM February 20<sup>th</sup> 2022.**

### **Christmas Closing Times**

**Op Shop:** 3pm 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec – 9am 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

**Parish Office:** 12pm 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec – 9am 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

### **Office Closing Times**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 12pm – January 17<sup>th</sup> 9am

**Anam Cara Praying for you** on Monday mornings will be in recess until February

**Anam Cara Wenesdays** will be in recess in January and recommence 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

**Anam Cara Thursdays** will continue each week except for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January when Rev Doug is away.

**Friday 10am Services** will continue each week except for New Years Eve when there will be no service.

## **Sermon Notes 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

### **A Cosmic Incarnation: The Magnificat of the Universe**

**(A reflection based on Luke 1:39–45, 46b–55)**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her

womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."



And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

One point of view is to see the Incarnation as a once off event. What if there is another point of view, another way to see the Incarnation? What if the Incarnation could also be the fulfilment of human history and the final goal of evolution?

Here is an over brief history of evolution:

Some 13.7 billion years ago, our Universe emerges out of a Great Mystery. Existence gives rise to space and energy. Energy cools into matter, sub-atomic particles emerge as radical new beings with new powers. Drawn into relationship, subatomic particles transform into atoms of hydrogen. Intense pressures act on hydrogen to fuse helium, a heavier atom. Atoms are new beings with new powers.

2. Fast Forward to 3.7 billion years later (10 billion years ago), interstellar dust produces molecules, the basis for later life.
3. Let's fast forward even further. About 4.6 billion years ago our ancestral star goes supernova and gives birth to the sun, the earth, and our solar system. The earth and moon dance around each other and together waltz around the sun gathering mass as they go. After planetary crashes and more dancing, the moon and earth cool down.
4. An atmosphere forms giving rise to first rains. Earth comes alive. The earth learns to eat the Sun through photosynthesis. Bacteria and complex cells develop, entering communion with other cells.
5. Let's summarise faster. 460 million years ago, plants and animals move on land.
6. 4 million years ago humanoids leave the forest, stand up, and walk on two legs. The savannah offers the challenges and opportunities for these early creatures to evolve into humans.
7. 100 thousand years ago consciousness develops. Evolution becomes conscious of itself. Modern

Humans emerge. Language, shamanic and goddess religions, and art become integral with human life.

8. Two thousand and twenty-five years ago, in about 4BCE, Mary and Elizabeth meet and sing and dance and laugh and celebrate a new stage in evolution. The new stage in evolution is this: the advent of a human being so open to the divine, so open to Spirit, that his consciousness will become divine consciousness.

The point being made is this: Life on earth developed over millions of years to produce matter, then, plants, animals and then humans. A point in evolution was reached where consciousness emerged when evolution became conscious of itself. We are thinking creatures, and we inherit every stage of evolution. Just as all humans inherit consciousness as benefactors of evolutionary history, so too do we inherit divine consciousness. Divine consciousness, the marriage of our divine and human selves, is the ultimate goal of the universe as reveal in the Incarnation and birth of Christ.

In the incarnation which Mary and Elizabeth sing and dance around, much like the moon and earth danced around the sun in the beginning, a new destiny of the universe is revealed – the marriage of the divine and human.

What does all of this mean for us?

Like Mary we are all pregnant with divine possibility. Mary is *theotokos* the mother of God but in many ways, she is our mother too. Like Mary we are all birthing Christ into the world in the new era of evolution which is the unity between our divine and human selves.



Our capacity for transcendence, for growth, for authenticity and our continual desire for justice, truth and beauty in the world are all sacred signs of the divine within us. We discover the spiritual truth that we are in God, that our deepest identity and joy lies in living the truth

that we are in God. The universal meaning of the Incarnation is converse, God is in us. As advent people, we are pregnant with the full flowering of God's love, and we birth this Christ love into the world, moment by moment. How do we know when the Christ is birthed into the world? Ironically, those moments when we are fully human, moments of kindness, gentleness, and presence, are those moments when we are fully divine too.

Welcome to the Glory of God, the birth of the ones fully alive, human and fully divine.

Sources and further reading:

- Sister Lucy Slinger. *The Cosmic Walk*.
- Bede Griffiths.
- Ilia Delio.
- Ken Wilbur.
- Beatrice Bruteau.

Irenaeus said the Glory of God is humanity fully alive, fully human, fully God (*From Adversus Haereses (Against Heresies)*, 4. 34. 5-7).

## Worship and Spirituality

### Invite your friends for Christmas



### Christmas Celebration Tregagle 24<sup>th</sup> December 6pm

## ANGLICAN PARISH OF ALSTONVILLE

Ministers all the baptised!

Rector The Reverend Dr Desiree Snyman  
0402 764 969 [priest@anglicans.live](mailto:priest@anglicans.live)

Associates The Reverend John Kidson 0411 394 213  
The Reverend Geoff Vidal 0447 645 456  
The Reverend Doug Bannerman 0418 182 450  
The Reverend Greg Ezzy 0412 660 742

Parish Office: 8 The Avenue, Alstonville  
Telephone: 6628 0231  
Postal: PO Box 451, Alstonville NSW 2477  
e-mail: [office@anglicans.live](mailto:office@anglicans.live)  
website: [anglicans.live](http://anglicans.live)

**Bank account:** BSB 705 077 / Acc:00032931

## The Anglican Op Shop

1 The Avenue, Alstonville **Tel:** 6628 8777

## Dates 26<sup>th</sup> December to 10<sup>th</sup> January

26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Sunday 9am Holy Communion
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Parish Office closed Op Shop closed
28 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Tuesday Parish Office Closed
29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Parish Office closed Op Shop closed
30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Parish Office closed Op Shop closed Thursday Anam Cara 6pm
31 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Parish Office closed
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Sunday 9am Holy Communion
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Parish Office closed
5 <sup>th</sup> January	Parish Office closed Op Shop closed
6 <sup>th</sup> January	Parish Office closed Op Shop closed
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Parish Office closed Op Shop closed Friday Holy 10am Communion
9 <sup>th</sup> January	Sunday 9am Holy Communion
10 <sup>th</sup> January	Parish Office closed Op Shop 9am – 3pm

**2022 Calendar over the page.**

<b>Jan 30</b>	<b>Slip 'n Slide 2-4pm @ Earners'</b>
Feb 4	Diocesan Clergy Conference
<b>Feb 6</b>	Anglicare North Coast Sunday
<b>Feb 13</b>	AGM papers distributed <b>Family Service Backpack Blessing</b>
Feb 19/26	LLM Formation
<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>
<b>Feb 27</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>

<b>March 1</b>	<b>Shrove Tuesday Church Social: Pancakes and games</b>
March 2	Ash Wednesday
March 5-6	Diocesan Governance Conference
<b>March 6</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent Lent groups 6 March – 10 April
<b>March 13</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent (DS away 11- 15 March)
<b>March 20</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent (Harmony Day 21 March)
<b>March 27</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>

<b>Apr 3</b>	Mothering Sunday
Apr 6	Blessing of the Oils Grafton
<b>Apr 9</b>	<b>Passover Meal Church Family</b>
<b>Apr 10</b>	<b>Liturgy of the Palms</b> School Holidays (11 Apr to 25 Apr) <b>Holy Thursday Meditation 6pm</b>
<b>Apr 14</b>	<b>All-night vigil 8pm-8am</b>
<b>Apr 15</b>	<b>Good Friday Service 10am</b>
<b>Apr 17</b>	<b>Easter Day Services 6am &amp; 9am</b>
<b>Apr 24</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>

<b>May 1</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Saturday Mothers' Day Fete</b>
<b>May 8</b>	Mothers' day
<b>May 15</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter
<b>May 22</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
May 26	Sorry Day
<b>May 29</b>	Reconciliation Sunday

<b>June 5</b>	Pentecost
<b>June 12</b>	Trinity Sunday <b>Family service bonfire</b>
<b>June 19</b>	Refugee Sunday Winter Life Groups to 31 July
June 24-26	Diocesan Synod
<b>June 26</b>	St Peter and St Paul's Feast Day <b>Messy Church</b>

<b>July 3</b>	NAIDOC week (3 July -10 July) School holidays (4 July to 15 July)
<b>July 10</b>	NAIDOC Sunday <b>Family Service Naidoc Film</b>
<b>July 17</b>	Mary Magdalene
<b>July 24</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
<b>July 31</b>	James Apostle & Martyr

<b>Aug 7</b>	Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
<b>Aug 14</b>	Mary, Mother of our Lord
<b>Aug 21</b>	<b>St Bartholomew's Day Family Picnic @ Rocky Dam</b>
<b>Aug 28</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
Aug 31	Wednesday Earth Vigil launches Season of Creation

<b>Sep 4</b>	Season of creation & Fathers' Day
Sep 10-11	LLM Conference
<b>Sep 11</b>	<b>Family Service Creation</b>
Sep 12-14	Ministry School
<b>Sep 18</b>	Season of creation
<b>Sep 25</b>	Yom Kippur School Holidays 26 Sep – 7 Oct <b>Messy Church</b>

<b>Oct 2</b>	Daylight saving
Oct 3	Labour day
<b>Oct 9</b>	<b>Family Service Pet Blessing</b>
Oct 11-14	Clergy Retreat
<b>Oct 15</b>	Oktoberfest social
<b>Oct 16</b>	St Luke, Evangelist & Martyr
<b>Oct 23</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
<b>Oct 30</b>	All Saints DS away (22 Oct – 4 Nov)

<b>Nov 6</b>	Remembrance Sunday
Nov 11	Friday Remembrance Day
Nov 12/26	LLM Formation Day
<b>Nov 13</b>	<b>"Blue" Christmas service</b>
<b>Nov 20</b>	White ribbon Sunday
<b>Nov 27</b>	<b>Messy Advent</b>
Dec 2	<b>Play Place Party</b>
Dec 10	Christmas Social