



Alstonville Anglicans

Advent 2

Bulletin for Thurs 5th Dec - 8th 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 PEACE— Perhaps some images of Advent will guide us into its meaning. Images that are helpful are lessons from nature; how seeds grow in dirt and darkness, hidden from the sun's light. Another image is of a child growing in its mother's womb, hidden, mysterious, uncertain, but growing to maturity in darkness.

Similarly Advent is a time of darkness for us; we are set free to embrace doubt and questions. In fact doubt is often a sign of spiritual growth: the more faith the more doubt. In advent we embrace darkness, doubt and questioning. As a child grows in the darkness of the womb, so too does our faith grow in darkness, in doubt, in questioning, in waiting. So much of our faith is about being "full" and so much of our spirituality is about having answers. Some expect their faith to make their life full: full of happiness, full of answers. The Creed for example is too direct, too exact, too correct, too forceful, too right. We expect of ourselves to constantly be on a spiritual high, to always feel the immediate presence of God, to always have peace and joy. In contrast Advent asks us for "emptiness." Advent asks us to be comfortable with our questions and our doubt and wants us to realise that doubt is the other side of faith. Advent is about owning the shadows, not turning our backs on them and trusting that they will eventually lead us to God, albeit by another road.

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 Gospel according Matthew 3:1–12

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ” ⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷ But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹ Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”



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..

Please return your Ministry Review responses ASAP



Christmas Bowl - Bringing PEACE to Sri Lankan refugees returning home. When ethnic violence swept across Sri Lanka, the poorest and most vulnerable families fled to India. With the war now over, many of them wish to return to their homeland to live in peace and freedom, and to help rebuild their nation. Your gifts can help provide skills training and financial assistance and support families to make the return home. A donation bowl is in the Church entrance.

A Message from Desiree.

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your prayers and kind wishes concerning my husband, Marius, when he was suddenly admitted to hospital with septicaemia. He is rapidly improving after the removal of a gangrenous gall-bladder. Secondly, I am being admitted to hospital to deal with some women's issues. I am dreadfully sorry about the timing with so many things going on in the Parish, but I have no choice. I am a private person, so if you wish to leave messages, please send them through the office. Would you keep me in your

Rappville Bushfire Aid—Thank you for your donations. \$818.25 has been forwarded to the aid centre in Casino for distribution to those in need.

Christmas on the Plateau

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

Come along and join in celebrating Christmas together.

Whether you have been naughty or nice ...

Who are
you inviting
for
Christmas?



Alstonville Anglicans have a place for you

Family Christmas 5pm 24 December St Bartholomew's

Christmas Eve Holy Communion 6pm St Peter & St Paul's Tregagle

Christmas Eve Carols Holy Communion 11.30 pm St Bartholomew's

Christmas Day 9am St Bartholomew's

 **Alstonville
Anglicans**
8 The Avenue - anglicans.live

Rosters Sunday 15th December 8.00am (3rd Sunday team)

Person in Charge: Mark Stuckey **Worship Leader:** Iris Cowie

Music: Choir **Sound:** Mark Stuckey

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

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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	8th Dec	8.00am	Holy Communion St Barts
		10.00am	Holy Communion, St Peter & St Paul's, Tregeagle
Monday	9th Dec	4.00pm	Families @4
		6.00pm	Sunday@6 St Bart's
		10.00am	Prayer Meeting
Tuesday	10th Dec	10.30am	Life Group (TBA)
		1.00pm	Sew Helpful
		7.30am	Women's Birthday Breakfast
Wednesday	11th Dec	7.30am	Nat's Wollongbar
		7.30am	Men's Breakfast, 86 on Main
		1.30pm	Life Group at Carol Stone's home
Thursday	12th Dec	9.00am	Meditation Group, St Bart's
		4.00pm	LLM Meeting
Friday	13th Dec	9.30am	Play Place
		6.00pm	Contemplative Church, Eucharist
Saturday	14th Dec	10.00am	Holy Communion, St Bart's
Sunday	15th Dec	2.00pm	Choir Practice, St Bart's
		8.00am	Holy Communion St Barts
		4.00pm	Families @4
		6.00pm	Sunday@6

Bible Readings

8th December Isaiah 11:1-10 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

15th December Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 11:2-11