

20 DECEMBER 2015

TODAY'S SERVICES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7.30AM—SUNG EUCHARIST

9.00AM— FAMILY EUCHARIST

ST JOHN

THE BAPTIST

EST. 1888

ANGLICAN CHURCH

Incorporating ministries with Eastern Hills Parish

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

THURSDAY	24	6.00pm	Christingle Service
CHRISTMAS EVE		11.30pm	Midnight Eucharist
CHRISTMAS DAY	25	7.30am	Sung Eucharist
		9.00am	Family Eucharist
SUNDAY	27	8.30am	Eucharist
ONE SERVICE ONLY			

Quiet Before the Service

Please be sensitive to the fact that when you are sitting in the pews prior to the service and whilst other people are receiving communion, those around you may well wish for quietness.

Thank You

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

SENTENCE FOR THE DAY:

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord. *Luke 1.45*

HYMNS: 7.30am Eucharist:- MP: 102, 428, 697, 435

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath -- the candles of **HOPE, PEACE and JOY.**

Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of **LOVE.**

Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also.

In the Book of Deuteronomy we find these words:

"For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. *-- Deuteronomy 10:17-19a*

From the Gospel of John we hear:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." *-- John 13:34-35*

Let us pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Saviour. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

Gracious God, you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son" As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose Day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

FIRST READING: MICAH 5. 2-5a

VANESSA HANLON SARAH DAVIES

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

PSALM 80.1-7 (SAID ALTERNATELY BETWEEN READER AND CONGREGATION)

1. Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
2. **before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!**
3. Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
4. **O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**
5. You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.
6. **You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.**
7. Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10.5-10 ANN WINFIELD LINDA MITCHELL

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God" (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL

LUKE 1.39-55

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 leapt 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 the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt 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, 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 for ever.'

Parish Prayers

The Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

- **The Diocese of Yewa (form. Egbado) - (Lagos, Nigeria):** +Michael Adebayo Oluwarohunbi
- **The Diocese of Riverina: +Rob Gillion; Clergy and People**

In The Diocese:

- **The Parish of East Brisbane:** Ceri Wynne, Mark Vincent, Paul Bland
- **Anglicare SQ Wide Bay Community Services**
- **West Moreton Anglican College:** Principal - Geoff McLay; Chaplain - Lizzie Gaitskell & Brenda Davis; Chair of College Council – Mr Ian Lupton; members of School Council

Locally: For all who are homeless.

Pray for The Sick: Joel, Jim, Valmai, Bronwyn, Albert , Duncan Family, Coral, Marie, Steph, Kerrie, Ollie, Adrienne, John, Helen, Roselee, Esther, Arch, Pam D.

(NOTE: under the Federal Privacy Act, consent of the person you wish to pray for must be obtained. No details of need / illness can be published without consent)



The Fourth Sunday of Advent– Sunday 20 December 2015
Micah 5.2-5a; Psalm 80.1-7; Hebrews 10.5-10; Luke 1.39-55

Is there greater witness to true discipleship than the deep and meaningful engagement of Mary through her words, “My soul magnifies the Lord”? Where would we be if she had said, “No”? What thoughts came to mind as she travelled the long distance from Nazareth to Ein Karem near Jerusalem to visit with Elizabeth? Did she have doubts? Did she have any regrets? Imagine her relief at hearing Elizabeth’s greeting and the affirmation afforded by John the Baptist who leapt for joy within the womb! What reassurances do we need in our own discipleship? What affirmation do we seek?

Pray that we may know how to say “yes” so that our souls might also magnify the Lord!
Pray for the Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma), giving thanks for the work they do to further God’s mission in the world.

20 December 2015 News & Coming Events for your Diary

If you are new to the parish or visiting Welcome. Please accept this invitation to stay and join in with us for fellowship and a chat outside after the service, where tea and coffee will be served.

Thursday 24 December— Christmas Eve—6.00pm Christingle Service

Thursday 24 December—Christmas Eve-11.30pm—Midnight Mass

Friday 25 December—Christmas Day: 7.30am—Sung Eucharist

Friday 25 December—Christmas Day: 9.00am—Family Eucharist

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24th Christmas Eve

6.00pm—Christingle Service, a very special way to celebrate the coming of Jesus. Very family orientated. (the children love it.)

11.30pm—Mid-night Eucharist

December 25th Christmas Day

7.30am—Sung Eucharist

9.00am—Family Eucharist

December 27th

8.30am- Eucharist

January 3rd

8.30am- Eucharist

No Friday Eucharist until 8th January

What We Do

Knitting Circle:

The knitting circle meets once a month in the Maheno room, the next meeting is on Wednesday, 16th March 2016 at 9.30am. Come along and join this happy group, for knitting, fellowship and morning tea; bring your knitting, or come and learn. Morning tea is provided.

Mah-jong Group:

The Mah-jong Group meet every Thursday morning from 9.30am—12.30pm at the back of the Church but is in recess until February 2016. If you can play mah-jong, or would like to learn, please join us on Thursday morning at 9.30am. Tea and coffee is supplied.

St. John's Guild:

The Guild meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 8.50am in the Maheno Room, for their meeting. This is followed by a morning of Hoy starting at 10.00am at which morning tea is served. This dedicated group of ladies also do catering for Funerals and other small functions and would welcome any new members. 2nd February at 9.30am will be their AGM and general meeting. 9th February 10.00am for Hoy. If you are interested, please contact the office on 3399 1508 or office@stjohnsbulimba.org or Peg Gladstone on 3217 9589.

Connect2Veterans:

Organised by Emma Simpson who has monthly get-togethers with teenagers and the more mature in our community who are veterans or shut-ins who do not have young people in their lives to connect with them. Emma brings these two groups together in the Maheno Room to enjoy a lovely afternoon tea and enjoy various activities. Please contact Emma on: 0407 384470 or connect2veterans@gmail.com Transport can be organized if needed. Next afternoon tea is Sunday 21 February 2016, 3.00—4.30pm.

WEEKLY GIVING ENVELOPES

Envelopes for your weekly givings are at the back of the Church. They start on 3rd January 2016 and go through to Christmas Day 2016. These are excellent for those who do not have direct giving set up, but wish to contribute to our ongoing ministry on a weekly basis, even if you are away.

There are no numbers on the envelopes so your giving can remain between you and God.

NEXT WEEKS READINGS

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2015

1 Samuel 2.18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3.12-17

Luke 2.41-52

ROSTERED DUTIES	8.30AM
L.A.'S	ALLAN THOMSON ROSLYN THOMSON
READERS	JUNE PARKER ANN WINFIELD
INTERCESSOR	LYNETTE MCALLAN
DOOR	MARGARET SALTER
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
LITTLE CHILDREN'S	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS