



Manly

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN COMMUNITY, MANLY

SUNDAY 21st December 2025

# ST PAUL'S NEWS

JESUS CHRIST | SPIRITUALITY | COMMUNION | TRADITION



## A big announcement... with very mixed feelings!

Last Sunday, Warden Rob Wilson had the task of announcing that Reverend Andrew Cooper has been appointed as the next Rector of the Parish of Wallsend with oversight of the Parish of Lambton in the Diocese of Newcastle.

This means Reverend Andrew will be leaving St Paul's to move to NSW at the beginning of February.

**Reverend Andrew has asked for your prayers at this complicated time of goodbyes and new beginnings.**

### WELCOME

At St Paul's "we love because God first loved us" (1 Jn. 4:19). We believe in the inherent goodness of all people - that the divine dwells at the heart of all living things. We believe the whole world is sacred and so we seek to celebrate God's presence among us with joy.

St Paul's is an inclusive church, welcoming all and offering equal opportunities for those seeking an authentic spiritual community.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Quandamooka people and their elders past and present. We honour the connection the traditional custodians have with this place



- Gaudete Gala Goodness
- E M Tooth Festivities
- Hamper Happiness
- Christmas is coming!
- The Vicar's Voice

*St Paul's Anglican Community, Manly gathers every Sunday at 9.30am in the Chapel, Lota House 162 Oceana Terrace, Lota. We welcome you!*

#### PARISH PRIEST

Rev Andrew Cooper 0447 409 188 [priest@stpaulsmanly.org](mailto:priest@stpaulsmanly.org)

**PEOPLE'S WARDEN** Dr Jennifer Crisp 0423 782 646

**PRIEST'S WARDEN** Mr Rob Wilson 0414 270 006

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# Community Matters

## Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice!!



Rev Andrew burst into song at the beginning of his sermon on Gaudete Sunday... and a few hardy souls joined in! Ok, it was a bit of a mixed day as Warden Rob had to make that announcement but there was much joy on show despite the news.

The service started with two lovely acts of blessing... of Marilyne as we acknowledge her transfer of Liturgical Assistant licence which has now been renewed 7 times!!... and of the beautiful Baptism blanket created by our Bev for her yet to arrive newest grandchild.

We considered how Joy impacts our lives and acknowledged the spectrum from belly laughs to wry smiles and particularly the bitter sweet joy when blessing comes mixed with sadness. The festively set tables had a rose coloured bauble which became a symbol of thanksgiving for joys of all kinds and placed on our Giving Tree.



## MORE ADVENT CREATIVITY AND SYMBOLS

Sandra Davis continues her series on our tapestry cushions displayed during the Season of Advent.

The final cushion in our Advent series, appearing at the altar on 21<sup>st</sup> December, is aptly titled “Peace On Earth” and was worked by our parish archivist, Sandra Davis in 2000, in memory of her mother, Joy Wharton, who passed away on 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2003. Joy was a parishioner at St. Paul’s for many years. Elliott Gibson is holding the cushion. His baby son, Jack, was baptised by Andrew on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November this year.

Luke tells us that the host of angels who appeared to the shepherds outside Bethlehem with the news of Jesus’ birth said:

**“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men...”**

Regrettably, the years following the working of this cushion have witnessed some terrorist acts which are far from peaceful: the destruction of the Twin Towers in New York on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2001, the hijacking of United Flight 93 and, on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2002, the bombing of the Sari Club in Kuta, Bali.

In the subsequent years similar violent acts have occurred, among them the Russian attack on Ukraine on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022, and the warfare in the Palestine and Israel area in October, 2023. These two theatres of war continue at the present time. However, we may do well to reflect on the words of one of our hymns:

**“Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me”.**

The front of this cushion features the words “Peace on Earth” in purple yarn, with a pale blue dove of peace on the right and an olive green olive branch near its beak. In each of the four corners are a purple Latin cross.

**All five cushions we have showcased over Advent are a credit to the creators who worked them and present a lovely image of Jesus and his message.**



The chapel looked so welcoming with its rose coloured accoutrements as we continued our service with a table fellowship meal with plenty of Subway and sweet treats for all. The “How well do you know the folks” trivia kept us puzzling and laughing at Rev Andrew’s cryptic clues... apologies to Lyn for mistaking her place of birth and high fives to the Shirley named after a Temple. We also welcomed visitors from Aveo and past St Paul’s parishioners Russell and Natalie Byl all the way from Emerald.

**Thank you to the furniture movers, decorators, people wranglers, sweet makers, serverers and tidier-uppers who helped make our Gaudete Sunday and End of Year Parish Brunch such a special event.**



# E M Tooth Celebrates with Joy and Love



Our Assistant Deputy Trainee Media and Publicity Work Experience Girl (Honorary) Amanda Moran did a pretty good job capturing the joy and friendship of the E M Tooth Christmas Party. She caught regular Sunday Service attendees Hettie, Beryl, Chris and Marlene with family and friends.



Lifestyle Coordinator Elizabeth and her team did an amazing job transforming Jacaranda, the chapel, the Parlour and the deck into a high end eating establishment. There were Christmas carols at one end of Jacaranda and a lovely harpist outside the chapel.

Amanda may have enjoyed clicking away joyfully as Mum Ann welcomed four generations of Stannards including Santa (who knew Ann was the grandmother of St Nick himself) and the youngest wee festive elf, Great Grand Daughter Harriet.



## Christmas with St Paul's @ Lota House Chapel 162 Oceana Terrace, Manly.



**Sunday 21st 2pm Big Band Christmas Carols with Bayside Brass**  
Sing along with the big band sound of the Bayside Brass. Familiar Carols and lots of joyous noise. Afternoon tea to follow.

### **Wednesday 24th 5pm All Age Family Christmas Eve Service**

For the young and young at heart. An interactive, fun all age family prayer and praise celebrating the birth of Jesus. Come dressed as your favourite Nativity character... the kids can too!

### **Thursday 25th Christmas Day Communion Service 9.30 am**

Our beautiful traditional Christmas Morning Eucharist with beautiful carols and Holy Communion.

**Please park on Oceana Terrace.**

**There is no onsite parking due to building works. Drop off ok.**

**Email: [office@stpaulsmanly.org](mailto:office@stpaulsmanly.org) or 0447 409 188**



### **Sharing Christmas Joy at Pete's Pantry.**

It's been a special thing to be part of reaching out in loving service to Bayside folk who are struggling at Pete's Pantry. The Christmas Hamper distribution was a joy indeed and it was a lift to the soul to see the impact some Christmas treats bring. Ably organised by Paul, Rosie and the team, rows and rows of hampers for both singles and families wait to be collected. A special wrapped gift added that something special for families with children.

It was wonderful to work alongside volunteers from Guardian Angels and St Peter's. Especially welcome were some fit young fellas from Kara Cook's office who were very helpful in the lifting and carrying department.

We are very grateful to all the volunteers and donors who do such important ministry! We can still help by participating in our parish Giving Tree. Gift Tags are still available with suggestions for personal care items. We will be collecting right up to early January!



### Scripture Readings: Advent Four Year A

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19;

Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 18:25

### Next week: Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97;

Titus 3:4-8a; Luke 2:1-20

### For your prayers:

- ◆ The Anglican Church of Burundi
- ◆ The Diocese of Rockhampton
- ◆ The Parish of Coolum
- ◆ The Park – Centre for Mental Health, Wacol
- ◆ All Saints Anglican School, Merrimac
- ◆ Parish Council

**Yvonne, Coralie, Richard, Ann, Bruce, Judi, Brad, J, Chloe and Family, Shirley, Val, Vivien, Zoe, Ben, Desley, Michael, Peter, Jean, Carmel, Heidi, Fred, Ruby, Kay, Jane**

We give thanks for the life of Reverend Sandy Marshall and pray for Judy and his family as they mourn his loss. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

### A prayer in the wake of tragedy.

We cry out to you, O God, in shock and grief in the wake of violence at Bondi Beach.

Hold in your eternal love the people who were killed. Surround their families and friends with compassion in the depths of their sorrow.

Hold in your care the survivors, the injured, and all who witnessed the attacks.

Guide those responsible for investigating what happened and how to prevent such devastation from ever happening again.

Have mercy on those who are afraid. Give courage.

Have mercy on all who are in grief. Give comfort.

Stir up Australians of all faiths and none to stand in solidarity with our Jewish neighbours.

Make us builders of community where everyone has safety, and dignity, and peace.

**Amen**

Source: Rev Margaret Wesley

## What's On

### Every week

**Monday 10.30am** EM Tooth Prayer and Praise

**Tuesday 9.30am** Bible Reflection/discussion @ the Chapel

**Wednesday 7pm** Men's Ministry, Wynnum

**Sunday 9.30** Parish Eucharist @ Lota House Chapel

### Coming up in December/January

21st Big Band Carols 2pm

22nd Blue Christmass Service @ St John's Cathedral 6pm

24th Christmas Eve 5pm

25th Christmas Day 9.30 am

28th Br Nathan presiding

4th January Rev Shan presiding

28th-Dec—10th Jan Rev Andrew on Leave

## The Vicar's Voice



So the news has been shared that I am leaving St Paul's next Feb and I can now breathe a little easier. It's been a challenge navigating our system that takes months to discern an appointment. It's also hard not being able to share what is happening and have to mumble something vague when hopes for the future are shared.

The decision was not easy and had to involve a bit more head than heart than I'd like. However the move to Newcastle brings some financial stability, proximity to my family and the opportunity to share what I have learnt here at St Pauls and learn more with a new group of God's faithful ones. There is much to rejoice in there.

St Luke's Wallsend and St John's Lambton echo lots of my journey so far. Like Bulimba and Jedburgh, St Luke's is a beautiful heritage listed Victorian gothic delight filled with carved wood, leadlight and all the anglo-catholic trimmings. St John's on the other hand has great movable chairs, AV equipment and flexibility for a variety of styles of worship.

Like St Paul's and Gympie, the parishes are stepping out in faith to do things differently. St Luke's and St John's have been working together informally for years but now have made the decision to combine in partnership and ministry, a change that will involve adapting to new ways, patient kindness and listening to each other and to the Holy Spirit.

Like Edinburgh and Brisbane Dioceses, the Diocese of Newcastle has affirmed a welcoming, inclusive and progressive ethos that treasures the beauty of our Anglican tradition, rejoices in the scriptures and opens itself to the continued revelation of God. I sense I will be at home there.

However, I am still among you for the lovely celebrations of Christmas and after some leave back for the many tasks of handing over in January and saying farewell on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February.

**Know that you are all very much on my heart.**

**Every blessing, Andrew**

### Support our Ministry

Bank: Anglican Financial Services

Account: Manly Anglican Parish

BSB: 704-901 Account #:00000690

Reference: 'offering'

[www.stpaulsmanly.org](http://www.stpaulsmanly.org)

**Parish of Manly**

**Anglican**  
Church  
Southern Queensland