



Mission Statement:

To love God and to love our neighbours and become an increasingly relevant presence in our community.

**During Covid-19, our Eucharist is in individual serves only -
"This is the Lord's table – all who seek God's mercy are welcome"**

We invite visitors to sign our Visitors' Book,
Unfortunately, we are not yet able to share a cuppa after our services.

SUNDAY DEC 6, 2020 – *"Merciful God, who sent Your messenger John the Baptist to preach repentance & prepare the way for our salvation: give us grace to heed his warning and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."*

LOCUM PRIEST: Rev'd MANDY WHEATLEY – WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY
PH: 4476 3049; e: mmjcwheatley@bigpond.com

ST PAUL'S, NAROOMA: Sundays: 9am – Eucharist.
1st Wednesdays of Month: 9am - Healing Eucharist
Other Wednesdays: 9am – Eucharist, with Music Reflection
Musicians: Mary, Denise, David, Steve, Mick,

ALL SAINTS, BODALLA: Sundays: 11.15am – Eucharist
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 4pm – Evening Prayer
Musicians: Len Mulley & Alma Stearn

Aged & Pastoral Care Deacon: Ven Jane Simmonds,
PH: 0438 134 635; e: jane.simmonds@bigpond.com

Deacon in the Community: Rev'd Karly Ferguson – 0412 232 647

Youth & Families: Rev'd Mandy Wheatley, 0401 670 132; e: mmjcwheatley@bigpond.com

Financial Support: Cheques to Bodalla Parochial Council. PO Box 535 Narooma 2546;
Direct Deposits: Bodalla Parochial Council, BSB 082-744 a/c: 509821522 - Ref: Reg. Giving.

DEC 6, 2020, 2nd SUNDAY of ADVENT -

Isaiah 40: 1-11

Psalms 85: 1-2, 8-33

2 Peter 3: 8-15a

Mark 1: 1-8

Readers: Angela

Lachie

Counters: Angela, David Lachie, Peter Tough

ABOUT JOHN'S
WARDROBE AND
DIET...



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

HE'S IN THE WILDERNESS, ON THE
EDGE OF SURVIVAL, ANTICIPATING
THE COMING OF SALVATION.



AND SHOPPING
LOCAL!



MARK 1:1-8

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ABM Pew Sheet Reflections 2020: "Scholars believe that Mark was the first Gospel written and as such he created the term Gospel meaning a written account concerning Jesus. The other Evangelists begin their narratives at various beginnings. Matthew & Luke with the birth of Christ, & John with the ultimate beginning even before the beginning mentioned in Genesis. However, in Mark, Jesus the Messiah bursts onto the scene to be baptised and begin his mission. In fact, immediately is a favourite word of Mark's and indicates the urgency that the mission be begun and fulfilled.

- Give us grace to repent and hear the Good News afresh.
- Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Church of Kenya.
- Pray Healing for: Pam & Chris; Bob B; Marion; Karly; Wendy B; Sylvia; Stephen L; Lindy C; Kerrie Anne; Greg; Stephen G; Pray Comfort for all who grieve.
- Pray for our Link Missionaries, the Tingle Family, in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- Pray protection & recovery for our virus, drought, fire, & flood affected nation.
- Prayer for selection of a new incumbent: (APBA p.212) "Bountiful God, give to this parish a faithful pastor who will faithfully speak Your word & minister Your sacraments; an encourager who'll equip Your people for ministry & enable us to fulfil our calling. Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment & patience, & to us give warm & generous hearts, for Jesus' sake. Amen."
- Please continue to pray for revival, & "pray the Lord of the harvest for workers for our field."
- "Let all peoples use His name in blessing; all nations call Him blessed." Ps 72:19 (APBA)
- Please continue Praying for our Refugee Family, Selva & Juliat, Lawrence & Marya. News of their visa appeal is expected in December; they are very grateful for our support. "May the Lord bless & protect you all, be gracious to you, show you His favour, & give you His peace."

To MAKE OR CHANGE A RESERVATION for the 9am worship at St Paul's on Sundays &/or Wednesdays, please advise Rhonda: rhonda.both@me.com PH: 0457 477 485.
A basket for your GIVING & DONATIONS is at the rear of the church near the door.

TOMORROW, MON DEC 7, 9am – At All Saints, A SPRING CLEAN of spider webs, restoring of pews with furniture oil, & etc will commence at 9am. **ALL WELCOME!**

FRI DEC 18, 7pm at All Saints: –Nine Lessons & Carols - *Due to Covid, there are just five Choristers singing, but you'll still get to hear all your favourite carols & motets.*

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL, as numbers are strictly limited, due to Covid-safety rules.

Please email your name, phone number and number of people attending to: montague.choristers.narooma@gmail.com INFO: www.montaguechoristers.org 0439 648414

DEC 24, NATIVITY, 5pm at St Paul's. Kids please come at 4.30pm for dressing up.

DEC 25, 9am: Christmas Day Service at St Paul's. (Bookings required, via Rhonda.)

SUN DEC 27, 11.15am – Music with Robyn Scott Charlton.

WED DEC 30 – NO SERVICE – (Parish tradition dictates that our priest has this week off.)

SUN FEB 14, 4pm at St Paul's: AGM, followed by tea at Narooma Golf Club – Please have all reports to Peter Tough by **JAN 24th**, for collating etc. e: toughp8@gmail.com; 0414 912 099

ALL SAINTS' - A KEY REGISTER has been placed in the vestry to record the names of all who hold keys to the front door, organ & shed. **Please** can all with a **key/s advise Executive.**

NAME BADGES – if you'd like a name badge, please put your details on the forms at back.

ST PAUL'S PEWS: To make a donation towards our new chairs, please mark the gift as such, either on the envelope, or by Direct Deposit as per our account details shown on Pew Sheet.

PASTORAL CARE COURSE - David & Angela are running a **Course - Spiritual Care for Life.**

Enquiries Welcome - Angela: 4473 7838; 0477 333442; angeyoung@bigpond.com.

***“When I consider all that life has dealt, the blessings that, unbidden, come my way,
the blows that catch me unawares and faint, that knock me down
and sap heart's store of strength,
I smile to think that I control my life! That my decisions, my resolve so sure
is any more secure than flimsy rudder in a tempest's sea!***

***External circumstances bob me 'round from trough to wave-tip, and back again,
swaying 'mal-de-mer' against the foam, and even thoughts of mine are not controlled
by that desire that bids me do what's right, but steer their wayward course to crash
upon the hidden reefs of life's great surge!***

***Yet Christ, with lifted hand & simple "Peace, be still" subdued the waves on Galilee,
and even so can still my soul amidst whatever storms may rage,
or swirling tides dump their debris upon my footsteps in the sand.”***

- Faye Owen (Christian Fellowship Tours)

Sermon for Advent 2B - The readings for these four weeks of Advent remind us that Advent is a penitential season, a time of reflection and contemplation, helping us to hear the good news of Jesus' incarnation in a fresh way, letting the gospel sink more deeply into our lives.

This year has been a bit different, to say the least. For many, this does not feel like the usual joyous march toward Christmastide. Hundreds of thousands around the globe will be spending their first Christmas without a loved one who has passed on due to the pandemic. Millions more will be attempting a celebration without their usual large and festive gathering, due to travel restrictions. For almost a year now, we have been a people anxious and waiting. And with no cure or vaccine, there is no clear path forward out of this dark season.

And yet, while the harshness of wilderness may be felt more deeply this year, the same ageless truths remain constant. The fundamental truth of these wilderness seasons is that we are waiting on an imperfect and broken world to pass. The season of Advent reminds us that no matter who we are or where we are in time or space, all earthly things will come to an end.

Nearly 30 centuries ago, Isaiah wrote to God's exiled people, who were longing to return home. God's message to them is one of comfort. *The Lord is coming.* On first hearing, Isaiah's message hardly seems one of comfort: *“The grass withers, the flower fades... surely the people are grass.”* It is no fairy-tale ending or “happily ever after” formula. Comfort comes by putting things into a divine and cosmic perspective. *All people will fade like grass, but God is mighty and endures forever.* The goodness of God will prevail. The prophet does not give a date or a solution to the heartbreak and suffering of the people in exile; what is offered instead is a message of hope for the future and instructions on how to live in the present.

The very beginning of the Gospel of Mark thrusts us into the action in the desert. The prophet John the Baptizer proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and points away from himself and toward someone greater to come; someone who will baptise, not with mere water but with the eternal Holy Spirit. John shows that waiting is not a passive action.

We live out our hope by proclaiming God's message of a Kingdom of justice. We name our sin. We stand in the wilderness. We turn toward justice and point to the one more powerful than us. As the psalmist writes, *“Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.”* Where righteousness and peace are actively enacted, God is there.

We are called to be a people that await the coming of the Lord. We are always in waiting—through victory and defeat, triumph and loss, we proclaim peace on earth, goodwill towards all, and joy to the world. It is our job to be visible in the wilderness, naming injustice, oppression, and apathy as sins. We name these things as sin not to cast judgment or humiliate or ridicule. We stand in the wilderness and welcome all to journey with us in the power of the

Holy Spirit. We point to something better. We point to the Christ, the one who is more powerful, more patient, and more loving. We point to the Christ, the one who is to come.

This Advent let us step back and pray for a glimpse of the divine and cosmic perspective. We remember that all things here on earth are temporary and ephemeral, and we work to embody God's patience and love here in this world. Let our lives be shaped by our hope in the truth that God is coming. **As our collect says, *let us live in such a way so that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.***