



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 13, 2020 – *"Eternal God, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for the coming of Your Son: grant us wisdom to see Your purpose & openness to hear Your will, that we too may prepare the way for Christ who is coming in power & glory to establish His rule of peace & justice; through Jesus Christ our Judge & our Redeemer, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever & 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 13, 2020: 3rd SUNDAY of ADVENT -

1 Thess 5:12-28

PS 126

John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Readers: Jock

Janie

Counters: Jock & Jenny

Janie & Lachie

JOHN IS REALLY
REWINDING UP THE
CROWD HERE!

THIS WAS A TIME OF EXPECTATION. EVEN
THE ROMANS THOUGHT THEY WERE IN
THE DAWN OF A NEW GOLDEN AGE.

WAITING FOR NEWS THAT
WILL CHANGE EVERYTHING.
I WONDER WHAT THAT'S LIKE?



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- **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:** "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.**"

ABM: "PARTNERS PRAYING TOGETHER - As we wish all our readers a happy & holy Christmas season, we invite you to pray for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem which includes Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria & Israel. There has recently been a new spike of COVID-19 cases in the region, particularly in Jordan where scores of people are dying each day. Most of the countries are in lockdown. Ahli Hospital in Gaza has been treating COVID-19 patients in a special isolation unit.

**Loving God, as we wait to celebrate your coming among us at Christmas,
we pray for your Church in the Diocese of Jerusalem.**

**For those at the Ahli Hospital working with limited supplies to treat COVID-19 patients;
for people who have lost family & friends to the disease;
for all who are suffering economically, psychologically & spiritually from the lockdowns;
for those in power, that their hearts & minds**

may be attuned to relieving people's suffering.

We bring these & all our prayers to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

Next FRI DEC 18, 7pm at All Saints: –NINE LESSONS & CAROLS - Due to Covid-19, 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.

Please email your name, phone number and number of people attending to:

montague.choristers.narooma@gmail.com INFO: www.montaguechoristers.org 0439 648414



Also from "FRI DEC 18-THURS DEC 24: CAROLS BY STREET-LIGHT, a movement within Christian churches across Australia, to sing the Christmas story into the heart of the community. (Vision Radio) is asking churches nationwide to join by going into their local neighbourhoods to sing 'Carols by Streetlight.'

To find out more about the vision behind **Carols by Streetlight**, check out the promotional video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDIMLhIL31I>. & feel free to spread the word. **Singing ability is not important – many voices make a great sound.** We have all the resources you need to get started, so create a group & start carolling!" - visionradio.org.au

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 – All reports must be in to Peter Tough by **JAN 24**: e: toughp8@gmail.com; 0414 912 099.

And a big thank you, following our extra-ordinary on Nov 27, to our new-look Parish Council: St Paul's People's Warden - Rhonda Ober; Parish Councillor – Rev'd Mick Wheatley; Synod Rep - Bill Cartwright; Alternate Synod Rep - George Hogge.

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

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.



Advent 3B – Sermon 13th December – “Did you ever play with mirrors with a cat or dog, shining light up and down the floor and walls? You can signal a long way off with a mirror, as any scout would know.

After the war a poor German child found a little piece of mirror & played a game shining light into dark corners. He kept the little mirror, and became a professor, teaching his students that this was not just a child's game but a metaphor for what he had done with his life. He said; “I came to understand that I am not the light nor the source of light. But light — which represents truth, understanding, wisdom —will only shine in the dark places of my world if I reflect it.”

We hear a description of John the Baptist in our Gospel text today: “He was not the light, but came to testify to the light.” (John 1:8) John the Baptist so wanted to reflect the light of Christ that he wanted himself to get out of the way, so he said: “I am not “the Christ,” nor am I “the Prophet.” He described himself purely in terms of being a mirror to reflect Christ: “the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord.’”

Today is “Gaudete Sunday. A day dedicated to spiritual light and joy. That is why we light the rose candle, the colour represents spiritual joy which can be found in many ways.

1). Joy comes from reflecting the light of Christ in our service to others. Research shows happiness is often boosted more by providing support to other people than from receiving support yourself.

2) “the Joy of Truth”, comes from searching for, discovering, and communicating truth, especially the truth about the revelation of God's love in Jesus.

3) Satan's counterfeit of the joy of truth is self-seeking pleasure. He knows the pleasure of sin will last only a moment and leaves the soul desolate.

True joy is deep down in the soul and does not fade. It has been said that; “The presence of spiritual joy is the surest sign of the presence of God.”

4) True joy can appear unexpectedly even in dark times when we recall that “all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” (R 8:28)

5) Mystics understand this truth and with practice can experience ecstatic spiritual joy. Ecstasy literally means to be "placed outside oneself". The mystics are "placed outside

themselves" by being focused on a higher and more perfect understanding of the Divine Being, rather than the anxieties everyday pressures and circumstances.

To be possessed by the "ecstasy" of joy is the consequence of being so intently focused on the object one loves, it causes the lover to draw his or her attention away from all other things. Losing oneself in joy is a consequence of a of desire to love God above all else. May we during this Advent season learn to shine with the '*love of the Lord our God with all our hearts, and with all our souls, and with all our strength, and with all our minds; and our neighbours as ourselves*'. (Luke 10:27). God bless you, Rev'd Mandy