



**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 20, 2020** – *"Gracious God, whose eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of Your will: prepare our hearts for His coming again and keep us steadfast in hope, that we may be ready for the coming of His kingdom; for His sake, 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](mailto:mmjcwheatley@bigpond.com)

**ST PAUL'S, NAROOMA: Sundays: 9am** – Eucharist.  
**1<sup>st</sup> 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  
**2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 20, 2020, 4th SUNDAY of ADVENT -**

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Psalms 89: 1-4, 19-27

Romans 16: 25-27

Luke 1: 26-38

Readers: David O

Jen M

Counters: Angela, David

Jen M, Carol McC



**ABM Pew Sheet Reflections, 2020: "The Annunciation: Mary is at the very bottom of the social scale - female in a society which values males, young in a society that values age, & poor in a society that sees wealth as a blessing from God. However as is often the case in salvation history it is the lowly who are chosen. The youngest sons - Jacob & David; the foreigner - Ruth, the shepherd - Amos. In fact the Old Testament people of God are to remember their lowly beginnings. ("A wandering Aramean was my father").**

*Gabriel tells Mary that she has found favour with God. In spite of all the serious consequences for her, Mary's response is unequivocal. Yes."*

- **May we too** say an unequivocal yes to actively follow the Christ.
- **Give thanks** for the work and witness of all who are preparing churches throughout the country for Christmas around this time.
- **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, still awaiting News of their **visa appeal.** *Dear friends, "May the Lord bless & protect you, be gracious to you, show you His favour, & give you His peace."*

**"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."



Pray for **CAROLS BY STREET-LIGHT**, from **FRI DEC 18-THURS DEC 24** – as Christian folk across Australia sing the Christmas story into the heart of their communities. [visionradio.org.au](http://visionradio.org.au)

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

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

Isaiah 52: 7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1: 1-12 John 1:1-14

**ABM Pew Sheet Reflections, 2020:** *"This Gospel reading for Christmas Day is chosen from St John. It sets the coming of Jesus in cosmic terms. God chooses to rescue humankind by inserting himself into our reality. Why do we celebrate the birth of Jesus in such a focused way? Because the saving event of His death and resurrection only makes sense if we know who he is - both truly human and truly divine. Jesus does not simply turn up to go to his death, but enters human life as we do, and lives his life before the people. It is precisely because of who he is that his death is redemptive for us and the whole of creation."*



**SUN DEC 27:** The 11.15am service will feature Music with Robyn Scott Charlton.

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

**NOTE: 8am Thursday Prayer Meeting** will be on as usual.

**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](mailto:toughp8@gmail.com); 0414 912 099.

**P/Council** has ordered 14 chairs to replace St Paul's old pews, 4 will have arms. To make a donation towards them, please mark the gift as such, either on the envelope, or by Direct Deposit as per our account details shown on the front page of the Pew Sheet.

**NAME BADGES – LAST WEEK to order one**, please put your details on the forms at rear.

**A basket for your GIVING & DONATIONS is at the rear of the church near the door.**

**REV'D MANDY'S MINUTE!** This year has been full of surprises, hasn't it? And this morning we focus on one of the greatest surprises that ever was, the surprise that took place when an angel by the name of Gabriel appeared to a young teenager by the name of Mary. With these words, *"Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you."* the Angel Gabriel changes the course of Mary's life by announcing God's purpose for her life. Out of the blue, she is offered a pivotal role in the redemption of all creation. No longer just a teenager, she will be the mother of God's Son. And not only is it the greatest surprise of all time - the angel's announcement is impossible!

A pregnant virgin is impossible – right? But wait a minute, so is a barren woman, way past child-bearing years having a baby! That is what happened to Elizabeth, Mary's cousin and remember Sarah, Abraham's wife? Ok, this is a story of biblical impossibilities.

But what if God's intention is to address the impossibilities in our world by surprising us? I wonder what would you label "impossible" in your life?

Peace in our world? No more poverty? Politicians and media speaking only the truth? Impossible! The church making our world a different place to live in? Impossible! Restoring relationships, healing past hurts in our lives? Surely can't happen! A relative or friend entering a relationship with Christ. Breaking an addiction and overcoming past hurts and disappointments? Impossible!

Whatever Mary thought of her surprise visit, we see in her simple faithfulness the model for how God can and will use each of us. Mary's response of *"Here am I"* is part of a pattern woven into scripture. Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Samuel, and so many others heard God's call and responded with those words.

All these people of faith share the common attribute of making themselves available to God. God calls and they reply, *"Here am I,"* even before they know what God has in mind for them. Sometimes we find ourselves with the same troubled mind as Mary, wondering over the impossible (v. 29). We even ask the same question Mary asked, *"How will this be?"* (v. 34). To us it seems impossible! No way! Can't happen!

God's plan always involves using ordinary people to bring about extraordinary changes. God calls and uses ordinary and flawed me and ordinary and flawed you, fitting the pattern we see working its way through human history. Every Christian shares a common call to use the gifts God has given us to further the reconciliation of all the world with Jesus.

What is stopping us from saying 'Yes'?

So in this year of strangeness and surprises, ask God to direct your path. Attend to what that might be. When something arises, test it and continue to listen. If something is of God, ask for the Holy Spirit to open doors, even though it seems impossible. Meet with wise friends for encouragement and advice, like Mary visiting Elizabeth. Restore broken relationships like Joseph did when he decided to marry Mary and look after her instead of divorcing her. Take a step into the unknown with God – because God is full of surprises and does the impossible for Jesus' sake. When we live our lives with the Creator, free from evil, sin, and death we are filled with confidence, singing God's praises in spite of not knowing

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](mailto:rhonda.both@me.com) PH: 0457 477 485.

what will happen next.

We may not experience a call as world changing as the one Gabriel announced to Mary, but God is with us every step of the way. Why not say 'Yes'?