

# Bribie Beacon

Sunday 29 November 2020

St Peter's Anglican Church  
Banya Street Bribie Island

Anglican  
Church  
St Peter's Bribie Island

## PARISH NOTICES

**Online Sunday Worship** - A new online service is available each Sunday via [Vimeo](#), [FaceBook](#) or our [Webpage](#).

**MU Christmas Cards and 2021 Diaries** - These are available in a box in the Narthex.

**Empty Christmas Tree** - We are continuing to collect gifts for the Empty Christmas Tree with the final day for giving, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Gifts for children aged from infant to 17 years who are in foster care in our area can be left under the Christmas Tree as of this Sunday. Gifts may be wrapped with the appropriate age on a tag. Please no pre-loved toys as this may be the only gift the child receives. Anglicare for Children & Families Caboolture are very grateful for our ongoing generosity.

**Celebration of Memories** - This service will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm in St. Peter's followed by afternoon tea in Cooina. All are welcome, however for COVID safe purposes, please advise Lorice if you (and partner or friend) wish to attend by this Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Please do not bring any food for afternoon tea. Phone 5497 6212 or email - [loricekeith@bigpond.com](mailto:loricekeith@bigpond.com).

**Parish Cleanup** - The wardens are having a BIG clean morning for the church, Cooina and the grounds this Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December starting at 8:00am or earlier if you wish. The buildings will be opened at 7:00am. We need window cleaners, brass cleaners, general cleaners and grounds people. Please come along and join in the camaraderie as you clean and polish with your fellow parishioners.

## WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday - 7.30am & 9.30am

Wednesday - 10am

## PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

### PARISH PRIEST / RECTOR

Rev Steven Schwarzrock

3408 3191

[rector@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:rector@stpetersbribie.org.au)

### CHURCHWARDENS

Kay Benson 3408 1058

Margaret Peterson 5497 6978

Greg Rollason 3408 1998

### COVID WARDEN

Lynn Macbeth 5497 5268

### PARISH OFFICE (by Appointment)

3408 3191

[office@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:office@stpetersbribie.org.au)

### WEBSITE

[www.stpetersbribie.org.au](http://www.stpetersbribie.org.au)

### ONLINE GIVING BY CREDIT CARD OR DEBIT CARD

[https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?  
BillerCode=1730050](https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1730050)

### ONLINE GIVING BY DIRECT DEPOSIT

Ac Name - Bribie Island Parish

BSB - 704-901

Account Number - 00000040

### POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 1087 Bongaree 4507

# SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Readings - Isaiah 64.1-9; Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1.1-9; Mark 13.24-37

Sentence - 'Heaven and earth will pass away,' says the Lord, 'but my words will not pass away.' (Mark 13.31)

Prayer of the day - Eternal God, through long generations you prepared a way for the coming of your Son, and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths: renew us in faith and hope that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts and claim our love; to whom be glory for ever. Amen.



## QUESTIONS FOR SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

- 1. If "we are the clay, and you are our potter" how are we still a work in progress? (Isaiah 64:8)*
- 2. How are you "blameless"? Who or what reminds you of this promise? Where do you draw strength? (1 Corinthians 1:8)*
- 3. Eclipse, earthquake, hurricanes. Feels like the end. How are you called to be a "woke" witness? (Mark 13:24-37)*

## PRAYER POINTS

**Those in Need** - Barbara Earner, Beverley Fegan-Grimmer, Kaye Bush, Phillipa Booth, Jenny Sullivan, Aileen & Ralph Johnson, Valerie Bowser, Elizabeth Kubler, Robert Van Buerle, Krista-Liisa Pulkkinen.

*To add someone to the prayer list please email [office@stpetersbribie.org.au](mailto:office@stpetersbribie.org.au)*

**Birthdays this week** - Jan White (1 December), Gillian Parry (3 December).



## SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

This Sunday we commence the season of Advent and the gospel reading for this Sunday calls the disciples to keep awake, alert and be on the watch, as something is going to happen. We are invited to join in with anticipation and expectation of an impending event. “In those days, after the suffering the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light...” (13:24). As we commence Advent it is not the birth of the baby Jesus we are waiting for, we are not called to focus on a manger or an overcrowded inn or shepherds in search of a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes. Nor is it lights, trees, carols or presents. It is not what we expect to hear at this time of year, or perhaps, it is just not what we want to hear. In fact, at first glance the prophetic overture is dim. The selected text is made clearer as the whole of Mark 13 is brought into view. Early on Jesus calls the disciples to pay attention. Watch for deception. Watch out for yourselves. Watch during the difficult days ahead. In the face of environmental, political, social, and cosmic calamity - stay woke. It is as if there is the possibility that the disciples will miss that which should be seen and known. The disciples’ tendency towards ignorance in the midst of divine activity is a dominant theme in Mark’s Gospel. They do not seem to recognize Jesus, though they believe he is the Messiah. Jesus’ insistent call for attentive living might also be read as apocalyptic pastoral care. Despite their dull perception, Jesus urges them: stay alert and woke. What is at stake when we sleep or allow our senses to become dull during times of crises? Who is at risk when God’s people slip into spiritual slumber? What is the cost for sleeping when the call is to see, to remain awake, and to work? While the disciples were sleeping, Judas, the religious leaders, and a crowd were en route to arrest Jesus (14:43). The speech of Mark 13 is Jesus’ response to the disciples’ query: “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” (13:4). With traditional eschatological and Jewish apocalyptic imagery, the culmination of the realm of God is foretold. Jesus’ response on the Mount of Olivet indicates that signs of the impending tribulation and destruction of the temple will be pervasive. The center of religious life will surely be destroyed; the question is when will it be destroyed? A pertinent question for contemporary readers is what happens when the temple is destroyed? Time emerges as a theme related to watchfulness. When will these things be? The lesson of the fig tree juxtaposed to the parable of the homeowner may be interpreted as predictable imminence and unpredictable suddenness. The imagery of the ripening fig tree suggests a definite urgency; new sprouts hint that a new season is on the horizon (13:28). Similarly, the signs of the times let the disciples know, “he’s near, at the entrance” (13:29). Exactly who he is, is unclear. But with surety, when all else fails, Jesus is reliable. In contrast to the certainty of the fig blossom is the unpredictable suddenness of a traveling homeowner. The timing of the return of the homeowner is unknown to the servants. They are charged to work and watch, and not to be found asleep. The work referred to here is not specified but is often interpreted as the work of discipleship. But what happens when the return is delayed? The longer the delay, the more likely servants become at risk of complacency, slackness, and even distraction. The absence of certainty about the return makes ripe the conditions for workers to AWOL, meaning that God’s mission goes unfulfilled. Jesus is adamant that his followers remain alert and engaged. The precise timing of what is to come is irrelevant; preparedness for what is to come is what matters. We enter the Advent season with a tripartite call—to watch, to wait, to work. Watching can be hard. Waiting can cause disillusionment. Work can be difficult. Still, Jesus’ disciples are called to actively wait, with anticipation. We may not know what is to come, but we know Who is to come.

# **PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE**

**Financial** - the Parish will end 2020 in a sound financial position. Giving has increased, thanks to those who have increased their support of the Parish. During the pandemic the Parish has received \$16,500 as part of the government's Job Keeper scheme. This means the Parish general fund will run at a profit this year. The Parish was also blessed to receive grants from Busy Fingers (\$20,000 for the new roof for Coinda) and the Moreton Bay Regional Council (\$15,750 for painting of Coinda). Also, this year, the Parish has received donations from the estates of Claire Tesch (\$20,000) and Trevor Reed (\$15,000). These funds have been set aside for future use.

**COVID Safety Plan** - Government changes to regulations have now increased the capacity of St Peter's to 108 at each service. We are still required to adhere to physical distancing as best as possible. Therefore we are still asking that people follow the 1.5 metre rule and keep two spare seats between households during services.

**Sunday Morning Tea** - Morning Tea after Sunday services has resumed on the first and third Sundays and will be held in Coinda.

**Tree Maintenance** - During December the fig trees will be pruned. Parish Council has also decided to remove the four golden pandas along Banya Street. It is deemed that they pose a safety issue if they are allowed to grow to full size. There will be parish wide consultation early next year to decide how they will be replaced.

**Appellate Tribunal** - Last year the Diocese of Wangaratta passed legislation to allow clergy to bless civil marriages (including same sex marriages). This was brought to the Anglican Church's highest legal authority, the Appellate Tribunal, which on November 11 released a 5-1 majority opinion that a service of blessing for civil marriages authorised by the Synod of the Diocese of Wangara last year is valid. The tribunal has also commented on related legislation drafted by the Diocese of Newcastle. Accompanying this newsletter is a response issued by the house of Bishops.

## **ATTENDING WORSHIP AT ST PETER'S IN PERSON**

**Safety Plan** - St Peter's is required to adhere to the Industry Plan for Places of Worship. For more information on this please speak to Lynn Macbeth (COVID Warden) or a Churchwarden.

**Physical Distancing** - People should practice physical distancing at a minimum of 1.5 metres at all times. No physical greetings or exchanges such as handshakes or hugs. Sit separately (unless from same household) and per approved seating plan.

**Hygiene** - Hands should be cleaned with hand sanitiser upon entering church, before receiving communion or after contact with any surfaces. People who feel unwell or have cold or flu like symptoms should not attend.

**Record of Attendance** - A record of each attendee's name, address and phone number will be kept by the Rector as per government requirements.

**Cleaning** - The church will be cleaned in line with Safe Work Australia standards.