

The Clergy, Wardens and Office welcome your enquiries and calls.

Rector:

Rev'd Canon Grahame Yager
6684 3552

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9am-3pm

Friday 9am-12.30pm.

Wardens Patricia Ellis (Rector's Warden),
Ian White, Laura East.

Acknowledgement of Country

We, acknowledge the Bundjalung people, traditional custodians of this land.

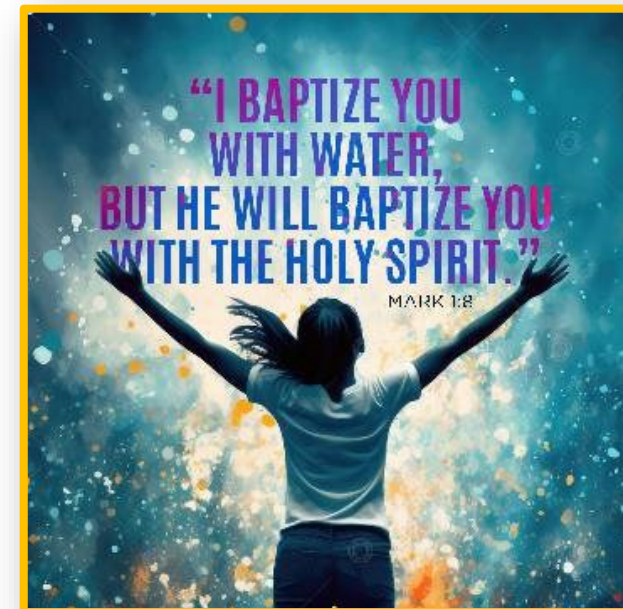
We pay tribute and respect to the elders both past and present.



Advent 2

10th December 2023

All are welcome



Sermoncentral.com

*A Christian presence in the community, living by faith,
known by love, sharing a voice of hope.*

From Grahame

When we meet we often say things to fill in dead air like 'ready for Christmas' my answer is usually nope – then we are back to dead air. When we ask these types of questions, if we mean anything by them, we probably mean – have you ordered your Christmas ham; have you sent out your Christmas cards; have you organised the major family gathering?

As people for whom the approaching holiday has particular significance perhaps we might take this a little more seriously and ask ourselves, are **we** ready for Christmas? Are we ready to reflect on the coming of God among us? Are we ready to reflect on what this means for us? Are we ready for Jesus to return in glory? The answer to each of these questions is probably honestly, nope!

This week, as we move through the season of Advent, we focus on John the Baptist who received his title because he came baptising. We say baptism is an outward and visible sign of an inward grace. In baptism we confess our readiness to receive God's gift of grace, love and forgiveness. In baptism we are made one with God and God's Church, everywhere, A Church which strives to be always ready to receive God's grace, love and forgiveness and to share the same with all people.

A common theme through our pattern of readings recently, and again today is of our need for preparedness and of the faithfulness of God. Although he probably did not fully understand at the time, John the baptiser was a partner in ministry with his cousin Jesus in the reconciling of God's people to God. John worked under challenging conditions in the ministry of helping all who came so that they might identify the obstacles they had placed between themselves and God. He ministered to encourage God's people to a better path than the one they were on. John was a sign post pointing the way to God through the grace, love and

Weekly Happenings

Clergy & Staff can be contacted via email or phone

TUESDAY	Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm RSL life Care Communions 10am
WEDNESDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-4pm Advent Study 2pm St Pauls Byron Bay
THURSDAY	Mullumbimby 9am-4pm
FRIDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-12.30pm Mullumbimby Office 9am-4pm

10th December Advent 2

7.30am	St Thomas Brunswick Heads
9am	St Martins Mullumbimby
11am	St Columba Ewingsdale

15th December Lessons and Carols

6pm	All Souls' Bangalow
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17th December Advent 3

7.30am	St Thomas Brunswick Heads
9am	All Souls Bangalow

Op Shop Opening Hours

Bangalow	Monday—Friday 10am-2pm Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm
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Byron Bay	Monday— Friday 9am-1pm
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Mullumbimby Monday—Friday 9.30am-3.30pm

Parish Direct Debit details for tithes.

Anglican Parish of Byron **BSB:** 705 077 **Account:** 00041263

Prayer Focus This Week:

Missions GFS/Kids+

National Chaplain Rev'd Sandra Kjellgren

Diocese of Grafton Senior Leadership Team

Bishop The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey

Archdeacon Tiffany Sparks



Defence Force Anglican Chaplaincy

Bishop Grant Dibben & Jeanette, Chaplains & members of the Defence Forces

The Parish of Kingscliff

The Rev'd Michael Lazarus Locum, The Rev'd Hilary Singleton, The Rev'd Graeme Hodgkinson.

LLM Kim, Leonie.

Local Prayer Focus

Greg, Rev Gloria Shipp, Janie, Jean, Marjory, Geoff, Judith, Lil, Lin, Hilary and Paul, Lorretta, Chris, John, David Williams, Matthew, Lucy, Sigrid, George, Liz, Gladys, Heather, Chris, John, Sophie, Karen, Carol, Karen, Fran, Rebecca, Irene, June, Thea, Elaine, Ros, Ann.

The Community Centres and their work with the homeless.

The Liberation Larder, The Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre, Ministry of Byron Bay & Mullumbimby Christian Education.

Bulletin News Items

For inclusion in the weekly bulletin please forward to Sue Williams by Wednesday morning. Sue Williams Phone 66843552
Email: admin@byronanglicans.org.au

forgiveness made possible in Jesus the Christ. In our passage from Peter's second letter this week, we are reminded this is taking place in God's time. It is not God who is part of our timetable but we who are part of God's timetable.

How is this Advent season going for you? How is your time of preparation unfolding?

All through this day dear Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for you, and every life I touch please bless by your Holy Spirit, whether through the words I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live; so shall your kingdom come on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Adapted from the daily prayers of
Mary Sumner founder of Mother's Union and Brother John Dent Martyn BGS

With every Blessing Grahame

Services

10th December Advent 2

7.30am St Thomas Brunswick Heads

9am St Martin's Mullumbimby

11am St Columba Ewingsdale

15th December Lessons and Carols

6pm All Souls' Bangalow

17th December Advent 3

7.30am St Thomas Brunswick Heads

9am All Souls' Bangalow

Readings

10th December Advent 2

Isaiah 40:1-11, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3:8-15a, Mark 1:1-8.

17th December Advent 3

Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11, Song of Mary APBA p.9, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28, John 1:6-8,19-28.

Parish News

Blessing of the Ballina Labyrinth

Saturday 9 December at 9.30 am, St Mary's Ballina

You're invited to the community blessing of the labyrinth at St Mary's Anglican Church, Ballina. Walk the labyrinth, and be part of the blessing with water and bubbles. Music by the Threshold Choir. Refreshments available from the Coffee Cart Bring a hat/umbrella/sunscreen, and a picnic rug or chair to sit on. Bring your kids and grandkids too!

Back Packs for Kids

We have the opportunity to partner with the Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre to supply back packs filled with essential items to those children escaping Domestic Violence. Donations can be left in the Parish Centres. If you prefer you may give money and the goods will be bought. Just place the money in an envelope marked backpacks and place on the offertory plate.

Advent Study

Advent starts on Wednesday 6th December at St Paul's at 2pm. We Look forward to you joining us for the study.

Parish Pantry

Thank you to all who donate to our Parish Pantry. The demand for support has been very high. As we approach Christmas we would like to include some Christmas items in the food bags. Things like mini Christmas puddings, mince pies, tins of ham or Christmas sweets are always very much appreciated.

Ewingsdale Community Christmas Party

Sunday 10th December 4.30pm. Everyone welcome.

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?



Tinsilitis!



Advent 2 B

Sunday 10 December 2023

Isaiah 40.1-11; Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3.8-15a; Mark 1.1-8

John the Baptist is an important figure in Advent for he prepares the way for the coming of our Lord. He appears odd and acts differently to most, calling people to repentance and making paths straight. Yet, people are drawn to him, they confess their sins, and he is busy baptising them in the river Jordan. There is still more to come and he promises the Holy Spirit.

God, I confess my sins and in my repentance straighten my path to holiness and truth.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Church of the Province of Central Africa.

Text: Fr Matthew Smedley, Diocese of Perth © Anglican Board of Mission, 2023

Mission of the Month Liberation Larder

The Larder provides material aid in the form of hot lunches, bags of fresh produce as well as emergency frozen meals for singles and families in financial distress.