

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

Rector:

Rev'd Canon Grahame Yager
6684 3552

Associate Priest

Rev'd Brenda Yager

Administration Centre:

Office Manager: Anne Wareing

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Website: www.byronanglicans.org.au

Office Support:

Sue Williams

14 Kingsley Street

Byron Bay

Email: admin@byronanglicans.org.au

Phone: 6684 3552

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.

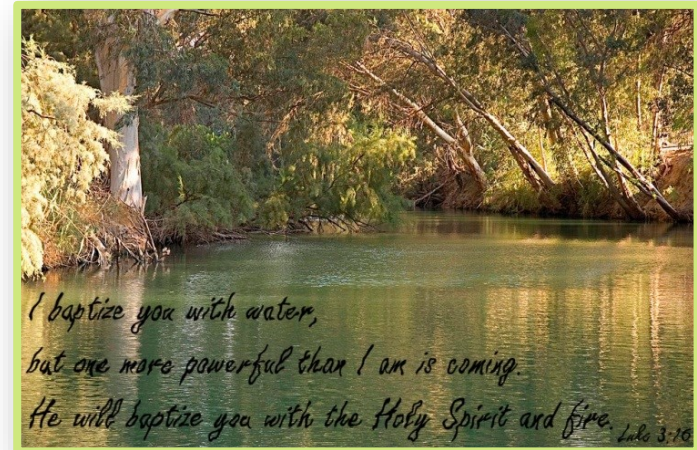


Byron Anglicans
We are one

3rd Sunday of Advent

15th December 2024

All are welcome



The Reflectionary

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

From Brenda

PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD.

When someone important has arrived, it was tradition to play a fanfare. A fanfare is a loud, short piece of music that is usually played on a trumpet or similar to announce the arrival of someone important like a king, queen, leader of a country or in modern times even somebody very famous. The trumpet fanfare has been used to announce the coming of a king for many years. It was even used back in Bible times! The Bible tells us that when Solomon was crowned as the King of Israel they blew trumpets and shouted, "God save king Solomon." (1 Kings 1:34)

In modern times, the word fanfare can also be used to describe any showy celebration surrounding a special event like concerts and large sporting events. If you listen to ABC local radio news at 7.45 am (as Grahame often does) you are still able to hear the complete 20 seconds of the Majestic Fanfare, announcing the news of the day.

However, There wasn't much fanfare surrounding the coming of Jesus. There were no trumpets and no one shouting, "God save the king!" The Bible tells us that there was only a man named John who was like a voice calling out in the desert saying, "Prepare the way for the Lord. Fill in the valleys and level off all the mountains. Make the crooked roads straight and the rough places smooth."

Do you think John the Baptist really wanted the people to work on the roads? What John really wanted was for the people to get ready for the coming of the Messiah, the real King, Jesus Christ. He was telling people to get their hearts right and return to God.

No matter how good we may *think* we are, there are always some crooked ways and rough places in our lives. There are things such as dishonesty, selfishness, pride, jealousy, and many more. John wanted people to make these crooked ways straight in preparation for Jesus' coming.

Weekly Happenings

Clergy & Staff can be contacted via email or phone

TUESDAY	Mullumbimby 9am-4pm
WEDNESDAY	Byron Bay 9am-3pm
THURSDAY	Mullumbimby 9am-4pm AOK St Pauls Byron Bay 10am
FRIDAY	Byron Bay Office 9am-12.30pm Mullumbimby 9am-4pm
SUNDAY	Advent Study Rectory Bangalow 5pm-6pm

15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.30am	Parish Council St Martins Mullumbimby
11am	St Martin's Mullumbimby

22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

7.30am	St Thomas' Brunswick Heads
9am	All Souls Bangalow
9am	St Martin's Mullumbimby
9am	St Pauls Byron Bay

Op Shop Opening Hours

Bangalow	Monday - Friday 10am-2pm Saturday - 9.30am-12.30pm
Byron Bay	Monday - Saturday 9am - 1pm
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:

Mission: Mission to Seafarers

Chaplain: The Reverend Onofre 'Inni' Punay

Diocese of Grafton Senior Leadership Team

Bishop The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey

Archdeacon Tiffany Sparks



THE DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Archbishop Philip Freier & Joy, Bishop Bradley Billings & Karen, Bishop Kate Prowd & Roger, Bishop Paul Barker, Bishop Genieve Blackwell & John, Clergy and Laity

The Parish of Liston

The Rev'd Alan Colyer

Local Prayer Focus

Tina, Mitch, Harriet and extended family, Brett, Greg, Jean, Janie, Marjory, Geoff, Lin, Hilary and Paul, Lorretta, Chris, John, Matthew, Lucy, Sigrid, George, Liz, Gladys, Heather, Chris, John, Sophie, Karen, Carol, Karen, Fran, Rebecca, Thea, Ros, Ann, Wayne & Robyn Elliot.

The Community Centres and their work with the homeless.

The Liberation Larder, The Mullumbimby & District

Neighbourhood Centre, Ministry of Byron Bay &

Mullumbimby Christian Education.

Mission of the Month

The Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre

The MDNC offers free counselling through [Listening Space](#), food parcels through [Community Support](#), frozen meals, and the Coffee Cart, serving free tea and coffee daily. [Hot Showers](#), with all toiletries supplied, are available at the MDNC. [Gulganii Pantry](#) is open for affordable low cost food on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Individual case management for flood affected people still runs through the [Recovery Support Service](#)

During the Advent season, we, can prepare by looking into our hearts and smoothing out rough places like dishonesty and selfishness, and the good news is, God will help us if we ask.

Well there wasn't much fanfare for Jesus birth, and it sure wasn't much of a fanfare for the King of Kings was it? As we look forward to the celebration of his birth again perhaps we could do it with a bit more fanfare. Also, we need to prepare for his return and prepare our hearts and keep praying and reading our Bible so we are prepared whenever he comes. It's like when we have visitors coming, we rush around giving everything an extra clean and tidy, putting things away and making beds. But if we did all this as a matter of our regular practice then we would be prepared whenever visitors call.

With every blessing

Brenda



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

Christmas Closing Times

Parish Office:

Closed 23rd December reopening Tuesday 14th January

Mullumbimby Op Shop:

Closed 23rd December reopening Monday 20th January

Services

15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

9.30am Parish Council St Martins Mullumbimby
11am St Martin's Mullumbimby

22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

7.30am St Thomas' Brunswick Heads
9am All Souls Bangalow
9am St Martin's Mullumbimby
9am St Pauls Byron Bay

Readings

15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20, A Song of Isaiah, Philippians 4:4-7,
Luke 3:7-18

22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a, Song of Mary, Hebrews 10: 5-10,
Luke 1:39-45

Parish News

Parish Pantry

Thank you to everyone who donates to the Food Pantry. Christmas treats are always a welcome addition to the food parcels at this time of year. Mince tarts, shortbread, mini Christmas cakes, sweets etc can make someone's day.

Byron Bay Op Shop



On Monday 9th December the volunteers from the Byron Bay Op Shop gathered at the RSL Club to celebrate the end of another successful year. A big thank you goes to Cathy and her team for making the shop so successful this past year. Such a happy place to be.

**Celebrate Christmas with
The Anglican Parish of Byron**

Christmas Eve 24th December 6pm
'Family Christmas Extravaganza'
All Souls' Ashton St Bangalow

Christmas Day 25th December
7.30am St Thomas'
21 Fingal St Brunswick Heads
9am St Martin's
38 Stuart St Mullumbimby
9am St Paul's
14 Kingsley St Byron Bay

Advent 3 C

Sunday 15 December 2024

Zephaniah 3.14-20; *A Song of Isaiah* (APBA p. 391);
Philippians 4.4-7; Luke 3.7-18

Although prophets often have words of judgement or even condemnation, they also reassure by reminding us of God's overall purposes of love and goodness. Those who have unjustly suffered rejection or disaster will be restored. Past wrongs will be set to right, and we can again rejoice.

We pray that God's love and goodness may once again be known to those who have unjustly suffered.

Give thanks for the work and witness of the Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy

Text: Brother Christopher John SSF © Anglican Board of Mission, 2024