



Worship at St Luke's this weekend

Sunday am: Holy Communion

(Hymns: TIS 275, vv. 1, 3, 4, Deep in darkness vv. 1-3, TIS 272, TIS 270, TIS 276)

Sunday 9am: Family Service (also streamed via ZOOM*)

(Hymns: MP 1086, Deep in darkness vv. 1-3, MP 88, TIS 276, MP 1012)

Sunday 6pm: Carol Service

* <https://zoom.us/j/7210725462> or by telephone (07 3185 3730, meeting ID 721 072 5462).
Contact the office for the password.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.'

Isaiah 35.3-4

Rev'd Timothy writes...

The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday.

Gaudete is Latin for 'rejoice' and was the first word in the introit to the Latin Mass for the day: 'Gaudete in Domino semper', 'Rejoice in the Lord always...'. Hence the candle on the Advent wreath that we light this Sunday



**GAUDETE, GAUDETE
CHRISTUS EST NATUS
EX MARIA VIRGINE
GAUDETE**

**REJOICE, REJOICE
CHRIST IS BORN
OF THE VIRGIN MARY
REJOICE**

is the candle of Joy and is rose or pink rather than purple as the others are. You may also remember the song 'Gaudete', composed in the 16th century, but perhaps made popular by the British folk group Steeleye Span in the 1970s (see <https://youtu.be/cEPmGq0li2o>).

Gaudete Sunday is a reminder that, in the midst of this penitential season of preparation and expectation, we are commanded to rejoice. But why? The lectionary choices of Isaiah 35 and James 5 encapsulate the paradox. In James' letter, he encourages his readers to bear each other's faults and failings with patience, to endure in the present time. In contrast Isaiah paints a picture of the parched land exulting, the desert land blooming, and the whole earth rejoicing, when the redeemed shall return to Zion. We are called to live in both these realities. We are invited into a place of both joy and sorrow; of a grace-filled vocation and the daily grind of duty; of the earth bursting with abundance and the dry-as-dust times when a farmer can barely eke out a living. Strive, but rejoice.

The theme of rejoicing in the midst of the present, whilst looking to God's future promises, continues in the Song of Mary from Luke 1 (commonly known by its first word in Latin *Magnificat*), which we will read in lieu of a psalm. May our spirits rejoice in God our saviour!

Join us tonight for our Community Sausage Sizzle (at 5pm) on the Parish Lawn, followed by Carol Service (at 6pm) in church

Invite your family and friends to join us at this joyous Christmas event.

A collection will be taken up to support the 96five Christian radio station in their community outreach work. We welcome Arthur Muhl their general manager.



Readings for 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1–10 The prophet proclaims God's promise of joy and gladness for all creation. The wilderness will blossom, strength will come to the weary, sight will be given to those who cannot see, and everlasting joy will be the gift of those saved by God.

Luke 1:46b–55 Mary's song, the Magnificat, is a song of praise to God. She calls herself blessed and praises God, who has lifted up the humble and gives food to those who are hungry.

James 5:7–10 The people are encouraged to be as patient as a farmer who waits for a crop to grow. They are told not to grumble against each other but to remain patient in their suffering.

Matthew 11:2–11 Jesus responds to the questions of his identity from John the baptiser's messengers, and then speaks to the crowd about John's purpose in preparing the way before him.

First reading

A reading from the book of Isaiah

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus

² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for

joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,

and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;

no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,

nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 35:1-10

Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:

from this day all generations will call me blessed;

The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.

God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Second Reading

A reading from the letter from James

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do

not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

James 5:7-10

Gospel Reading

A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' ⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11:2-11

Word of the Day

As we approach the Christmas season with its expectations of peace, love, and joy, it can be tempting to try and create the joy of Christmas rather than discover it in the everyday. We decorate our houses and gardens to evoke the Christmas spirit in some way. We buy gifts that we feel will bring happiness to our loved ones. We prepare lavish meals and purchase a variety of drinks to keep things merry.

The joy of the Christmas story is, however, far deeper and simpler than all of this. The story of God coming among us, Word made flesh, is a story of hope and love. This is the God who sees our ordinary lives—the pain, the struggles, and the laughter—and walks alongside us. Our readings highlight the transformation, justice, and peace that are possible with God.

These things are not so evident in the pretty lights, the well-wrapped gifts or even the lavish food we spread on our tables. The joy we know in God is often found in a smile, a flower, an act of kindness, a chance encounter or a moment of reconciliation. Today's readings call us to be attentive to how God is at work in our lives and in the world around us.

Ideas for Reflection

- Where have you experienced the joy of God, even amidst life's struggles?
- What small pleasures bring you great joy? How can you be more intentional about bringing this joy to others?
- Joy is far deeper than mere happiness. How does the presence of God in your life help you rediscover joy?

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Church Mice

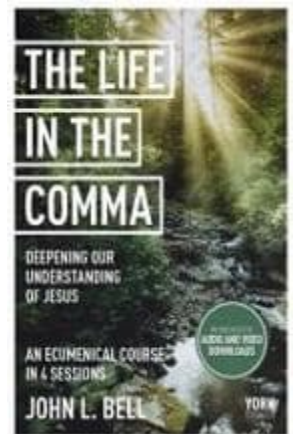
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Advent Study—The life in the comma

Our Advent study this year is written by John Bell who observes that The Apostle's creed moves from the Virgin Mary to Pontius Pilate with only a comma in between, and it is only through understanding what is represented by the comma, Jesus life, that we can really understand Jesus.

Final session this week: 10am Tuesday or 7.30pm Thursday in the Boardroom.



CHRISTMAS AT ST LUKE'S EKIBIN

Sunday 14th December

6pm *Carol Service*

preceded by a community sausage sizzle at 5pm.
There will be a collection supporting the community outreach work of the 96.5 family radio station

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December

5pm Family service with nativity story and communion

11pm Holy Communion by candlelight

Christmas Day, Thursday 25th December

9am Family Service with communion also streamed on Zoom, contact the office for details

193 Ekibin Road East, Tarragindi

3848 2123

www.stlukesekibin.org.au

For our Prayers

Prayer for the day

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The World

Pray for ongoing work to find a just and peaceful solution to the war in Ukraine.

The Anglican Communion

Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

Ministry with the Torres Strait Island People of Australia – Rose Elu

The Parish of Carindale: Lynda Crossley, Allan Paulsen, John Magee, Ron Paschke

Mission to Seafarers – Steven Briggs & Ian McGilvray – Hon Chaplains

St Margaret's Anglican Girls School, Ascot: Principal – Roslyn Curtis; Chaplain – Jasmine Dow; Chair of School Council – Lisa Worner; School Council members; staff & students

Our missionary partners

Diocesan ministries: The Bush Ministry fund and Hospital Chaplaincy.

Local Schools and colleges

St Elizabeths Primary, St Agnes Primary, Red Hill Special School

Our parish

Pray for the community outreach work of the 96five radio station whom we are supporting at our carol service this year.

Those who are sick, frail or emotionally stressed

Ryan, Jocelyn Hawes, Peter F, Peter Pressdee, David F., Jan Moody, Robyn and Maxine McElnea, Rita Johnson, Sharon L., Margaret Sheehan, Don Rennie, Georgina Crawford, Glenda, Sue, Liz and Angie Lockhorst, Rev'd Shane Hubner, Natalie McHue, Lynette Coop, Sue, Rose, Al, Nancy Capern, Jennifer D, Sandy Tonello. Mary Bickerdike, Lee.

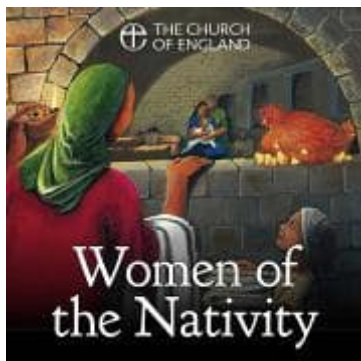
From the Parish Book of Remembrance

14 December: Mary May Dowling; *16 December:* Olive Dawn Schomacker;

17 December: David Massey Cole; *18 December:* Aileen Scott Houston, Mavis Enid

Retschlag; *19 December:* Thomas Bevan Bell, Shirley Muriel Croyden, Stewart

Charles Croyden, Neil Eric Anthon; *20 December:* Marjorie Alice Elizabeth Abbott.



Evening prayer will also be said on Zoom on Saturdays at 6pm in Advent, including Women **of the Nativity** stories by Paula Gooder.

December Church News

Printed copies of Church News are available at the back of the church today.

Also available on line on Parish website:

notes.stlukesekibin.org.au/church-news/church-news-december-2025

Containers for Change

Donate your '10c refund' bottles and cans to St Luke's. Either by bring them to church or take them direct to TOMRA (9/655 Toohey Road, Salisbury) and use the parish code: C10686424

Also part of St Luke's:

Little Angels Tarragindi

Anglican Childcare
opening early 2026:

littleangels.qld.edu.au



St Luke's Theatre Society:
stlukestheatre.asn.au

Services This Week:

Tuesday-Saturday

6pm: Evening Prayer (Zoom)

Sunday 21st December
(Fourth Sunday in Advent)

7am: Holy Communion


9am: Family service
(St Luke's/Zoom)

*Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19,
Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25*

Keep in touch:

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 @stlukesekibin

Parish Wardens:

Brian Wood (0466 656 149)

Alison Lampe (0408 183 701)

Lynn Mitchell (0409 150 861)

Offerings:

Bank details
(internet banking):
Anglican Parish
of Ekibin
A/C 0000 7820
BSB 704 901



Or scan the QR code to give online:

<https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/TIM/?BillerCode=1709377>