



SURF REPORT

Church of the Holy Spirit

Hello Surfers!

Today we celebrate the second Sunday after the Epiphany and our focus is on Jesus' going public with His mission and ministry in the world.

Our Old Testament reading for today is a passage filled with hope, restoration and the promise of divine blessing for God's people (Isaiah 62:1-5). We see the land and people, previously called 'forsaken' and 'desolate', will now be known as 'My delight is in her' and 'married'. This relationship between God and His people is likened to a joyous marriage. As a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so God rejoices over His people. The new name and identity highlight God's power to transform and redeem, reminding believers that our worth is found in God's declarations, not in our circumstances.

In our psalm reading for today we see a contrast between the steadfast love and greatness of God with the smallness and dependence of humanity (Ps. 36:5-10). It celebrates the unmatched greatness of God's love, faithfulness, righteousness, and justice – with these attributes forming the foundation for our trust and worship. The imagery of feasting and drinking portrays God as a generous provider who sustains His people with more than just material needs, but also spiritual nourishment and joy.

Interesting that Jesus' first public miracle was to turn water into wine at a wedding at Cana (Jn. 2:1-11). Although reluctant at first due to His awareness that His time 'had not yet come', Jesus nevertheless has the wedding caterers fill six stone jars with water that He transforms into wine. This symbolises the generous abundance of God, and is an illustration of the old covenant (the purification jars) being supplanted by the new covenant in Christ.

The New Testament reading for today is a key passage in understanding spiritual gifts, emphasising their source, purpose, and diversity in the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:1-11). The writer, the Apostle Paul, contrasts idolatry with the true work of the Holy Spirit, affirming that no one can confess "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's role in both faith and gifts is paramount, and it reinforces the unity within diversity – as all gifts come from the same divine source. All gifts are meant to edify and build the church community, not elevate individuals.

Next Saturday (the 25th) is our next church lunch, and it will be great to get together and share. It starts at 11:30am and we usually finish by 1pm. A reminder to Parish Councillors that our next meeting is tomorrow evening at 6:30pm.

I pray you have a blessed week.
Jim Raistrick,
Rector.

TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
John 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Jesus' mission going public

MONDAY 20TH JANUARY

8.30am Morning Prayer
2.30pm Conversation English
6.30pm Council Meeting

TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY

8.30am Morning Prayer

WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY

8.30am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 23RD JANUARY

8.30am Morning Prayer

FRIDAY 24TH JANUARY

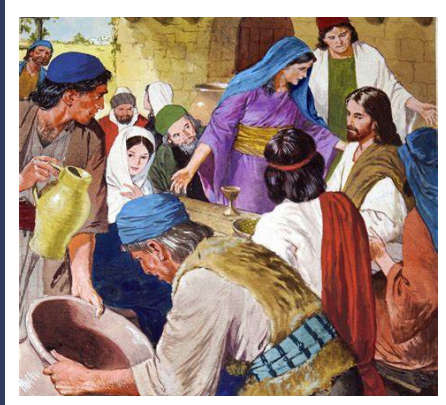
(Jim's day off)
Office closed (Dee away)

SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY

9.00am Music Practice
11.30am Church Lunch

SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY AUSTRALIA DAY

7.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion



Jesus turns water into wine

BIBLE READINGS FOR 26th January 2025

Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10
Psalm 19
Luke 4:14-21
1 Corinthians 12:12-31

CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

Over the Summer break I have had quite a few people ask about making the sign of the cross. Everything from, "Isn't that a Catholic thing" to "How do I do that correctly", so I thought I'd outline why we make the sign of the cross when we say, "Father, Son and Holy Spirit".

- **Invocation of the Trinity** – The gesture accompanies the name of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity, symbolising the unity and presence of God in three distinct Persons. This act reinforces the doctrine of the Trinity.
- **Blessing** – The sign of the cross is a physical way to illustrate God's grace and sanctification. We do this over the sacramental elements to sanctify and dedicate the moment to God.
- **Historical Continuity** – This practice has deep roots in Christian tradition, where early Christians would trace the cross on themselves or the air to process their faith – often in the face of persecution. It connects us to them when we do this.
- **Symbolic movement** – when tracing head, chest, shoulder to shoulder it symbolises several theological themes:
 - From heaven (Father) to earth (Son) and then spreading out (Holy Spirit) represents the divine presence extending to the world.
 - The Cross of Christ, reminding us of the crucifixion and redemption.
 - A Pedagogical tool – it reminds other people, especially in a church setting, to learn and internalise our faith. It's a visual reminder of core Christian beliefs.
 - Liturgical act – during the service this gesture punctuates and solemnises certain prayers or transitions, enhancing the liturgical flow and giving a physical expression to spiritual realities.



Please see two images from our first draft plans for the new church. The full plans are available for viewing in the church and will be on display until February 2025.

We are gathering feedback from all congregant members regarding these plans before resubmitting to the architect for final plans.



Patricia Jackson 20th January, Chloe Ferguson 21st, David Sketcher 25th



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS - RECOMMENCING ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- 22nd January, Wednesday**
10.00am and 2.30pm George Stuart
- 29th January, Wednesday**
11.00am Judith Atkins
- 4th February, Tuesday**
1.30pm Jim Raistrick
- 5th February, Wednesday**
11.00am Jim Raistrick
6.30pm New Wednesday Group - TBC
The Bible Project, Barry Doyle - Continued
- Thursday**
7.00pm Sandra Uptin **TBC**
7.00pm Robert Kelly **30th January**

Paintpots commencing 28th January
Mainly Music, 31st January
Craft, 3rd February
Christian Meditation, 6th February

COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, 20TH JANUARY, 6.30PM
CHURCH LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, 25TH JANUARY, 11.30AM

In Loving Memory
Bill Lusty 19th January
Keith Evers 20th, Judith Nette 21st,
Ron Ferris 22nd, Helen M'CUSKEY 25th



THANK YOU for your ongoing generosity and support, to fund the ministry and mission of **Surfers Paradise Anglican Church.**

Please continue your kindness as we seek to make Jesus known across our city.
You can do this electronically - BSB : 704-901 Account : 00000630
Anglican Parish of Surfers Paradise OR ...if you would like to arrange a direct debit contact the office—we will email you the ANFIN Parish Direct Form
or for one-off donations use our QR Code or EFTPOS machine (come in or over the phone).



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