

Hello Surfers!

Welcome to February! We're already well on our way through 2025 and yet it feels like we only just had Christmas.

Our Old Testament reading today speaks of the coming of God's messenger, who will prepare the way before the Lord, and the refining work of God to purify His people (Mal. 3:1-4). It highlights the need for holiness and readiness for God's presence. Today, it reminds us that God's refining work is necessary to cleanse us and make us righteous so that we can truly serve Him.

Today's psalm reading celebrates God's sovereignty as the Creator and King of glory (Ps. 24). It asks, "Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?" emphasising the need for purity, righteousness, and a heart that seeks God. This psalm inspires us to approach God with reverence and humility, striving to live lives that reflect His holiness.

In today's gospel reading from Luke it recounts Mary and Joseph presenting Jesus at the temple, where Simeon and Anna recognise Him as the Messiah (Lk. 2:22-40). It reflects the fulfilment of God's promises and the joy of seeing His salvation. Today, it calls us to trust in God's faithfulness, wait patiently for His plans to unfold, and recognise Jesus as the light for all nations.

For our New Testament reading we see emphasised Jesus' humanity and His role in defeating death and freeing us from the power of sin (Heb. 2:14-18). It underscores that Jesus became like us to be a merciful and faithful high priest, able to help us in our struggles. It assures us that we are not alone in our suffering and reminds us of the profound love of Christ, who shares in our humanity to bring us salvation.

We also begin a new sermon series this month "Against Heresies". It is important for us to recognise and attest to not only that which we believe to be true, but also that which is not true. Today we explore the heresy of Docetism – the belief that Jesus was not actually fully human – and discuss how this insidious belief has long plagued Christianity. While Docetism itself may not be explicitly present in modern debate, its underlying tendencies—devaluing physical reality, overemphasising the spiritual, and alienating suffering—continue to echo in challenges faced by modern societies.

Just a reminder that Bible study group recommence this week. If you're not already in a group why not consider joining one?

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



TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4
Psalm 24
Luke 2:22-40
Hebrews 2:14-18

Presentation of Christ at the Temple



MONDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.30am Craft
2.30pm Conversation English

TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.30am Paintpots
3.00pm Pure Dance

WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

8.00am Indoor Fitness
8.30am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 6TH FEBRUARY

8.00am Christian Meditation
8.30am Morning Prayer

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

Jim's day off
9.30am Mainly Music
11.00am Pure Dance

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

8.30am Indoor Fitness
9.00am Music Practice

SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

7.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion

BIBLE READINGS FOR 9TH FEBRUARY 2025

Isaiah 6:1-13
Psalm 138
Luke 5:1-11
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWS

The Eucharist, also known as Holy Communion, is a central act of worship in the Anglican Church, embodying the remembrance of Christ's sacrifice and a celebration of His presence among us. Through the consecrated bread and wine, believers share in Christ's body and blood, drawing closer to Him and to one another as members of His Body, the Church. Receiving the Eucharist signifies a commitment to live in unity with Christ and in fellowship with the Church. When a priest declines to administer the Sacrament to someone, it is often a call to reflect on their spiritual readiness or the need for reconciliation within the faith community. Those who seek a blessing instead of the Eucharist do so as a gesture of reverence, acknowledging the sacredness of the Sacrament while pausing to prepare themselves fully for its reception. In every instance, the Eucharist serves as a profound invitation to grace, renewal, and deeper communion with God and His people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marge Nichols 3rd February,
Gina Drescher 6th and
Philip Prouten 7th



UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2025

- 10th to 14th, Jim's in Melbourne this week
- 14th at 12pm, Nominations close for Council election
- 16th at 9am, Annual General Meeting, invitation to all, to attend.
- 23rd, Bishop John Roundhill officiating at our Sunday services
- 23rd at 11.30 am, Church luncheon, bring a plate to share.
- 24th at 6.30pm, Council meeting

This week's Surf Report email includes the proposed church new build plans. Please share any thoughts, questions or concerns with Rev'd Jim email: jim@surfersanglican.au

VOLUNTEERS

"Blue card expiring soon?" Please confirm with the Church office your new card number and expiry date, if it has been recently renewed.

JOIN A BIBLE STUDY GROUP in 2024

Please phone/email the contact person to join a group:

TUESDAYS

1.30pm Jim Raistrick 0499 773 570

WEDNESDAYS

10.00am George Stuart 0407 741 669
11.00am Judith Atkins 5532 0798
11.00am Jim Raistrick 0499 773 570
2.30pm George Stuart
6.30pm New Wednesday Group,
The Bible Project, Barry Doyle 0414 931 010

THURSDAYS

7.00pm Sandra Uptin Sandrauptin@icloud.com
7.00pm Robert Kelly 0439 339 395

Christian meditation is a means of experiencing God's gentle, loving presence in a very real way, as we seek Him in silence. Those who practise it, find a release from anxiety - and a sense of well-being.

Could this be for you?

We meet in the church hall, at 8 am each Thursday; and our session lasts about 40 minutes.

Any enquiries, please ring Helen Kness on 0437 859784, or simply come and try meditation for yourself.



In Loving Memory

Alan Kingsley-Smith 5th February,
Rae Fairlie and Lesley Peardon 6th
Margaret (Peg) Banbrook 8th



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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