# SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2026, ALL SAINTS' DAY

## SURF REPORT

Church of the Holy Spirit

Hello Surfers!

Today is the first of November, and we celebrate All Saints' Day in the Anglican calendar. It's also the day we begin a new missional focus with our partners at Griffith Christian Students, the group that maintains a Christian presence at one of our local universities. I look forward each year to hearing from Rachel about how things are progressing there.

John's vision reveals a great multitude from every nation, tribe, people and language standing before God's throne and the Lamb, clothed in white and worshipping Him (Rev. 7:9-17). These are those who have come through great suffering and have been made clean through the blood of the Lamb. God promises that they will hunger and thirst no more, that He will shelter them with His presence, and that He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. This reminds us that, even amid suffering and uncertainty, we can look forward with hope to God's promise of eternal life, where sorrow and pain will finally be overcome.

The psalmist praises God at all times and encourages others to join in celebrating His goodness, declaring that those who seek the Lord will lack no good thing (Ps. 34:1-10, 22). God hears the cries of His people, delivers them from their fears, and remains close to those who trust in Him. The psalm concludes by assuring us that the Lord redeems the lives of His servants and does not abandon those who take refuge in Him. This encourages us to praise God in every circumstance, seek His help in times of trouble, and trust in His faithful care.

John reminds believers of the extraordinary love God has shown by calling us His children, a privilege made possible through His love for us (1 Jn. 3:1-3). Although the world may not recognise our identity in Christ, John assures us that we are already God's children and that our future likeness to Christ will be revealed when He appears. This hope encourages us to live in purity, seeking to become more like Jesus as we await His coming. For us, this is a reminder that our identity rests in God's love and that the hope of seeing Christ should shape the way we live today.

Jesus begins the Sermon on the Mount by declaring God's blessing upon those who are poor in spirit, mourn, hunger for righteousness, show mercy, make peace, and endure persecution for doing what is right (Mt. 5:1-12). These Beatitudes challenge the world's usual measures of success and happiness, showing that God's kingdom belongs to those who depend on Him and reflect His character. Jesus promises comfort, mercy, the satisfaction of righteousness, and the joy of belonging to God's kingdom, even when faithfulness brings opposition. This reminds us that God's blessing is not measured by wealth, power or popularity, but by a life shaped by humility, mercy, justice, peace and faithfulness to Christ.

Just a reminder that if you haven't yet put your name down on the Christmas lunch list in the foyer, please do so if you're able to attend. This is likely to be the last time we'll be able to celebrate Christmas together in our church hall.

Have a great week!
Jim Raistrick
Rector

### TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS

Revelation 7.9-17
Psalm 34.1-10;22
1 John 3.1-3
Matthew 5.1-12

*Sermon*

' Character of the Kingdom '

### MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER

8.30am Morning Prayer
9.30am Craft
2.00pm Conversation English

### TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

8.30am Morning Prayer
3.00pm Pure Dance

### WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

8.00am Indoor Fitness
8.30am Morning Prayer
10.00am Holy Communion
3.00pm Pure Dance

### THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

8.30am Morning Prayer
10.30am Fellowship Morning Tea

### FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

Rev'd Jim's day off
11.00am Pure Dance

### SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

8.30am Indoor Fitness
9.00am Music Practice

### SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

7.30am Holy Communion
9.30am Holy Communion

# Church Community News

**All Saints' Day**

Today we celebrate all the saints of the church. Anglicans remember the most notable Christians throughout the year, however the Feast of All Saints' is a day to remember the whole Church across time and space. It is an acknowledgement of the many Christian martyrs whose names were once at risk of being lost. Ever since the veneration of martyrs began during the earliest centuries of Christianity, Christians have honoured holy men and women who have died. We honour their lives and deaths and rejoice in the continued communion with them through membership and participation in the body of Christ. Each week in our prayers we remember the departed from our own community.

In secular culture, this time is also focused on Halloween which has become increasingly popular and commercialised. Its deep Christian origins have been somewhat forgotten though. All Saints' Day will be celebrated across the Anglican Communion. This may include a special commemoration for the faithful departed, vigil services, ringing bells and baptisms. A prayer for today might be: "Loving God give us grace to follow your blessed saints in virtuous and godly living, that we too may receive all that you have prepared for those who truly love you." Amen.

The Rev'd Chris Murray

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Pam Doyle and Tegan Raistrick 1st November
Judy Roberts 6th November

Wishing you a beautiful year ahead filled with good health and God's blessings.

## BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

**8TH NOVEMBER 2026**
Joshua 24.1-3a;14-25,
Psalm 78.1-7
1 Thessalonians 4.9-18
Matthew 25.1-13

## UPCOMING

- **November Mission: Today! Griffith Christian Students -**
  We're here to connect students on campus, encouraging growth in faith and to help share Jesus or just to explore questions of God for themselves at their own pace.
- **Church Luncheon : Sunday, 22nd November at 11.30am**
  Please feel free to bring along a favourite treat to share as we enjoy some time together in fellowship.
- **Parish Council Meeting : Monday 23rd November at 6.30pm**
  Please keep our Parish Council and its work in your prayers.
- **SAVE THE DATE - Christmas Lunch – Sunday, 13 December 2026**
  11.30 am | $35 per person / donations welcomed
  Roast lunch will be served. Please bring along a dessert to share.
  RSVP: Add your name to the list in the Church Foyer.
  Payment: Bank transfer or envelope marked "Christmas Lunch" to the Parish Office.
- **Remembering our ongoing collection of 'Church History'-**
  Photographs and Memory Survey to Rev'd Jim or the Parish Office.

## BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

**JOIN A BIBLE STUDY GROUP**
To join a group, please phone or email the contact person listed below.

**Tuesdays**
1.30pm Rev'd Jim Raistrick
0499 773 570

**Wednesdays**
11.00am Janet Goerling 0424 963 485
11.00am Jim's Bible Study

**Thursdays**
7.00pm Robert Kelly 0439 339 395

**In Loving Memory**
Len Soncum 5th November
David Legge 7th November

**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).

FOLLOW US


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