

21 December 2025 | 9am Fourth Sunday of Advent

WELCOME to St Peter's Church today. I am delighted that you can join us in worship.

If you are a newcomer or visiting, I especially look forward to meeting you and hope that you feel welcome. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask one of the greeters at the door, or someone in the pew next to you.

I hope you can stay and enjoy morning tea after the service. Rev Mark Wormell, Acting Rector.

Today's Service

Sung Eucharist

CELEBRANT & PREACHER REV. MARK WORMELL

ORGANIST & CANTOR GLENN AMER

SETTING DUDMAN

Rejoicing Together In Christ

A Hearing Loop is available in the pews on the left-hand side of the church. Toilets are available in the Lower Hall and a mobility access toilet in the David Armstrong Room.



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Tune: Merton

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand

- Hark! A herald voice is calling:'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;'Cast away the dreams of darkness,O ye children of the day!'
- Startled at the solemn warning,
 Let the earth-bound soul arise;
 Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
 Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heaven; Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all to be forgiven;
- 4 So when next he comes in glory, And earth's final hour draws near, May he then as our defender On the clouds of heaven appear.
- Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
 To the Father and the Son,
 With the co-eternal Spirit,
 While unending ages run. Amen.

E. Caswall, 1814 - 1878

The Celebrant greets the people with a welcome.

₱ Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you.

And also with you.

SENTENCE

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us.

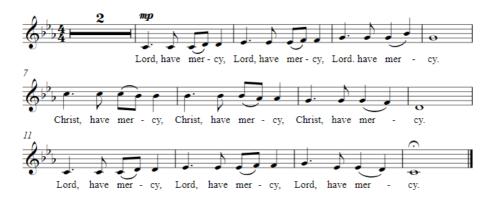
Matthew 1.23

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON



LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Advent Candle marks the progress of the Advent season of waiting, watching, and praying - waiting with Israel for the Messiah, reading the prophecies of his arrival, waiting with the world for Messiah's return – the light of the world.

Celebrant

As we light our advent candle

Light of the world, shine on us.

The Lord of the light comes to save us.

Let us live in his light.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

1 John 4:9

No one has greater love than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

Silence is kept

Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. Love your neighbour as yourself."

Matthew 22:39

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

THE CONFESSION

Senior Server

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Silence

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God,

our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;

Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.

THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:

₱ pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Gracious God,
you chose the virgin Mary, by your grace,
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour:
so fill us with your grace,
that with her we may rejoice in your salvation,
and in all things embrace your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah 7.10-16

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.' ¹² But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.' ¹³ Then Isaiah said, 'Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

Hear the Word of the Lord, thanks be to God.



- 1 Hear O Shepherd of Israel you that led | Joseph like a | flock: you that are enthroned upon the cherubim| shine | out in | glory;
- 2 Before Ephraim Benjamin | and Man|asseh: stir up your | power and | come to | save us.
- Restore us again O | Lord of | hosts: show us the light of your countenance and we | shall be | saved.
- 4 O Lord | God of | hosts: how long will you be | angry • at your | people's | prayer?
- You have fed them with the | bread of | tears: and given them tears to | drink in | good | measure.
- You have made us the victim | of our | neighbours: and our | ene•mies | laugh us to | scorn.
- Restore us again O | Lord of | hosts: show us the light of your countenance | and we | shall be | saved.
- 17 Let your power rest on the man at your | right | hand: on that son of man_ whom you | made so | strong • for your|self
- And so we shall | not turn | back from you: give us life and we will | call up|on your | name.
- 19 Restore us again O | Lord of hosts: show us the light of your countenance and we | shall be | saved.

THE SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ

Hear the Word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand

Cantor
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; His name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 1.18-25



This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yetdid not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us'). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON Please sit

HYMN Tune: Cranham

Please stand

In the bleak midwinter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone: Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

- Our God, heaven cannot hold him Nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign: In the bleak midwinter A stable place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
- 3 Enough for him, whom Cherubim Worship night and day, A breastful of milk, And a mangerful of hay: Enough for him, whom angels Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel Which adore.
- 4 Angels and archangels
 May have gathered there,
 Cherubim and Seraphim
 Thronged the air
 But only his mother
 In her maiden bliss
 Worshipped the Beloved
 With a kiss.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him
Give my heart.

Christina Rossetti, 1830- 1894

THE NICENE CREED

Senior Server

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:

We believe in one God, the Father,

the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God.

begotten, not made,

of one being with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary

and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life

who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Senior Server Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

All sit/kneel

Periods of silence may be briefly kept for personal prayer. Each petition ends with this response: Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord. As Christ has taught us, we pray:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

All stand

Celebrant

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ:

Jesus said: Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11.28

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3.16

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

All are invited to greet those immediately around them with the words, "Peace be with you" "And also with you".

Tune: Wachet auf

OFFERTORY HYMN

Please stand

1 Wake, O wake! with tidings thrilling
The watchmen all the air are filling,
Arise, Jerusalem, arise!
Midnight strikes! no more delaying,
'The hour has come!' we hear them saying.
Where are ye all, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes in sight,
Raise high your torches bright!
Alleluya!
The wedding song
Swells loud and strong:
Go forth and join the festal throng.

- 2 Sion hears the watchmen shouting,
 Her heart leaps up with joy undoubting,
 She stands and waits with eager eyes;
 See her Friend from heaven descending,
 Adorned with truth and grace unending!
 Her light burns clear, her star doth rise.
 Now come, thou precious Crown,
 Lord Jesu, God's own Son!
 Hosanna!
 Let us prepare
 To follow there,
 Where in thy supper we may share.
- Every soul in thee rejoices;
 From men and from angelic voices
 Be glory given to thee alone!
 Now the gates of pearl receive us,
 Thy presence never more shall leave us,
 We stand with Angels round thy throne.
 Earth cannot give below
 The bliss thou dost bestow.
 Alleluya!
 Grant us to raise,
 To length of days,
 The triumph-chorus of thy praise.

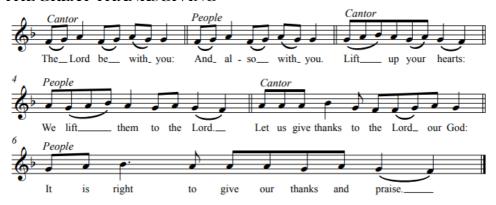
Philip Nicolai, 1556 - 1608

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

Response: Blessed be God for ever.

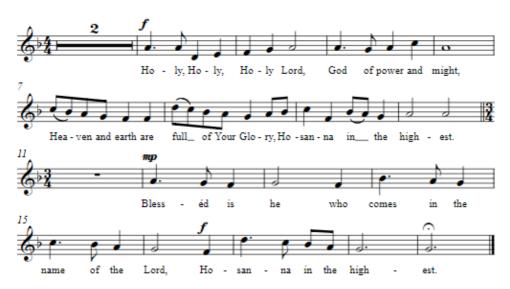
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, ever living God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:



Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night when he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Cantor

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith,



Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people, into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise.



THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The celebrant breaks the bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body,

for we all share in the one bread.

AGNUS DEI



INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

As the sacrament is received the communicant responds. **Amen**.

All baptised Christians who love and serve the Lord Jesus are welcome to join in the sharing of Holy Communion. If you are not yet ready to receive Communion, we encourage you to come forward for a prayer of blessing. Please indicate your desire for a blessing by holding your hands behind your back.

Alcoholic wine is available in the Common Cup, and both alcoholic and non-alcoholic wine is available in individual cups. If you prefer an individual cup, please take one on your way to the Communion Rail.

After receiving communion, the congregation sits or kneels. Silence for prayerful reflection may be kept.

SENTENCE

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means 'God with us').

Matthew 1:23

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All stand

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us grow in love and obedience that we may serve you in the world and finally be brought to that table where all your saints feast with you for ever.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

NOTICES

Please be seated

GOD'S BLESSING

Please stand

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Senior Server

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ, Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

- Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
 The Saviour promised long!
 Let every heart prepare a throne,
 And every voice a song.
- He comes the prisoners to release
 In Satan's bondage held;
 The gates of brass before him burst,
 The iron fetters yield.
- He comes the broken heart to bind,
 The bleeding soul to cure,
 And with the treasures of his grace
 Enrich the humble poor.
- Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
 Thy welcome shall proclaim,
 And heaven's eternal arches ring
 With thy belovèd name.

Philip Doddridge, 1702 - 1751

Tune: St Magnus

ORGAN POSTLUDE

The sanctuary party leaves and the congregation sits. As a courtesy to those who remain in the church to listen to the organ postlude in its entirety, you are encouraged to enjoy conversation and fellowship outside the building.

OFFERTORY

On the table at the entrance to the church building there is a basket for financial gifts, and also an electronic card reader to accept donations by credit or debit card.

PARISH BULLETIN WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

FOR GOD'S KINGDOM

Lord our God, giver of all grace, have mercy on your Church throughout the world. Renew its life; restore its unity; sanctify its worship; empower its witness; and make it a fit instrument for the furtherance of Christ's kingdom among all people, to the glory of his great name. Amen.

THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

We pray for the Anglican Communion, Bishop Sarah Mullally as she prepares to take up the role as the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Mark Short, Primate of Australia, Kanishka our Archbishop and Bishop Chris and The Anglican Church of Burundi.

PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH AND LOCAL CHURCHES

For our Acting Rector Rev'd Mark Wormell and our Honorary Associate Minister Bishop Peter Watson. We also pray for the clergy and parishioners at Neutral Bay Uniting Church.

PRAY FOR MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The Boardman Family, serving at Holy Trinity, Kelso, NSW.

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Leader of the Opposition Sussan Ley.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Regions of the world affected by natural disasters: floods, fire, drought, famine, disease.

OUR PARISHIONERS

Edwina Lambkin, Judith Lloyd, Enzo Macchiavelli & family, Margaret MacNabb and Helen Matheson.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR ONGOING PRAYER

Janne, Pamela, Margie & Rein , Russ McLean, Bobbie Deal, Val, Giuseppe & Maria and Lynette.

THOSE IN RESIDENTIAL CARE - Fr Robert Alexander, Judy Chapman, Kathy Moss, Patricia Reuben, Stan Thomas, Anne Blake, Gill Stemp and those who attend our monthly services at Bougainvillea, Neutral Bay and BUPA Mosman.

FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We praise God for his faithful servants in every age. We pray that we, with all who have died in the faith of Christ, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of God's eternal kingdom.

Today we remember those whose anniversary occurs at this time, and the recently deceased.



December 2025

Tues 23 Dec	10am	Eucharist & morning tea
	No bible study	Bible Study – Café Laon
	(on holiday break)	
Wed 24 Dec	No bible study	Men's Bible Study – Parish Meeting
	(on holiday break)	Room
	No bible study	Bible Study at a home in Cremorne
	(on holiday break)	
	5:30pm	All Ages – Family service
	11pm	Christmas Eve Solemn Eucharist
Thur 25 Dec	9am	Christmas Day Service

PLEASE JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS

All are welcome to attend our services this week including: Tuesday 23 December – 10am eucharist and morning tea Wednesday 24 December – All Ages Service at 5:30pm and Christmas Eve Solemn Eucharist at 11pm. Thursday 25 December Christmas Day – 9am service.



CHRISTMAS PRODUCE STALL

Thank you to everyone who made goods and who supported the Stall on Sunday. For the first time we set up 2.5 tables showing your generosity. As our diocesan financial year closes on 31 Dec, the funds gathered on Sunday have been sent to the Japan Christian Link this week, and will then go to Makito in



Tokyo. There were some remaining items for sale, and these funds will reach the bank in January. Total sent is \$711.00, which included some Morning Tea donations.

Edwina Waddy - Mission Secretary

PARISH FAREWELL TO REV MARK & KAH LIN

As previously announced, Sunday 1 February will be Rev'd Mark and Kah Lin's last day with us at St Peter's. Everyone is invited to join them for lunch at The Oaks in Neutral Bay from 12 noon.



This is a self-funded occasion. If you are able to come, may we ask you to put your name/s on the sheet at the back of the church to ensure we have enough seats together to welcome you.

Thank you. Anna, Helen and Norman, Wardens.

BIBLE STUDY ON HOLIDAY BREAK

Weekly Bible Study groups will be on break from 24 December – 9 January 2026. Groups will resume the week starting Monday 12 January 2026.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The office will be temporarily closed for the holiday season from:

Wednesday 24 December - Monday 5 January 2026
Email and voicemail will be monitored regularly during this time. The office will reopen on Tuesday 6 January 2026 9am – 2pm.



THIRTY NINE ARTICLES - ARTICLE 22

As we continue with our review of the 39 Articles of religion of the Anglican Church, here is article 22. When these were first



written 'man' included men and women. If you have any questions, please contact Father Mark.

The Romish Doctrine concerning Purgatory, Pardons, Worshipping, and Adoration as well of Images as of Reliques, and also invocation of Saints, is a fond thing vainly invented, and grounded upon no warranty of Scripture, but rather repugnant to the Word of God.

ROSTERS

	This Week 21 December 4 th Sunday of Advent	This Week 24 December 11pm Christmas Eve
First Reading	Isaiah 7.10-16	Isaiah 33:17 – 22
Psalm	Psalm 80.1-7, 80.17- 19	Psalm 89
Second Reading	Romans 1.1-7	2 Samuel 7.1-5, 7.8-11, 7.16
Gospel	Matthew 1.18-25	Luke 1.67-69
Preacher	Rev Mark Wormell	Rev Mark Wormell
Celebrant	Rev Mark Wormell	Rev Mark Wormell
Senior Server	Laura Mock	Gordon Heathcote
Crucifer	Margaret MacNabb	Margaret MacNabb
Thurifer		Roy Bartlett
Acolyte		Laura Mock
		Taylor Mock
Welcomer	Margo Watson	Helen Matheson
Sideperson	Peter Watson	
Readers	Philip Wood	Edwina Waddy
	Edwina Waddy	David Cohen
Intercessor	Ruth Cohen	Margaret MacNabb
Chalice	Alison Peterson	Kah Lin
Livestream	Prabhu Boddu	
Morning tea	Barbara Gordon	
	Sharon Boddu	
Sacristy Linen	Barbara Gordon	

ROSTERS

	This Week 25 December Christmas Day	Next Sunday 28 December
First Reading	Isaiah 62.6-12	Isaiah 63.7-9
Psalm	Psalm 97	Psalm 148
Second Reading	Titus 3.4-8a	Hebrews 2.10-18
Gospel	Luke 2:1 - 20	Matthew 2.13-23
Preacher	Rev Mark Wormell	Bp Peter Watson
Celebrant	Rev Mark Wormell	Bp Peter Watson
Senior Server	Laura Mock	John Halford
Crucifer	John Halford	Sharon Boddu
Thurifer		
Acolyte		
Welcomer	Philip Wood	Noreen Bernie
Sideperson	Thos Hodgson	Helen Matheson
Readers	Graham St Quintin	Strephon Billinghurst Cheryl Dunn
Intercessor	Margo Watson Cheryl Dunn	Edwina Waddy
Chalice	Stefan Trofimovs	Ruth Cohen
	Enzo Macchiavelli	
Livestream	Taylor Mock	Prabhu Boddu
	1 agior moon	
Morning tea	Not required	Margaret MacNabb Barbara Gordon
Sacristy Linen	Kerrie Trofimovs	Edwina Waddy



Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24 December All Ages Service at 5:30pm Christmas Eve Solemn Eucharist 11pm.

Christmas Day Thursday 25 December Service will be held at 9am.