

28 December 2025 | 9am First Sunday after Christmas

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. Bp Peter Watson.

Today's Service

Sung Eucharist

CELEBRANT & PREACHER BP PETER WATSON

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand

- Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; listen well to what we say:
 Jesus Christ is born today, ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now!
 Christ is born today,
 Christ is born today.
- 2 Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you hear of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this; he has opened heaven's door, and you are blest for evermore; Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this.
- 3 Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save, calls you one and calls you all, to gain his everlasting hall; Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save.

John Mason Neale, 1818 - 1866

Tune: In Dulci Jubilo

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.

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

■ Blessed be God's K

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

Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

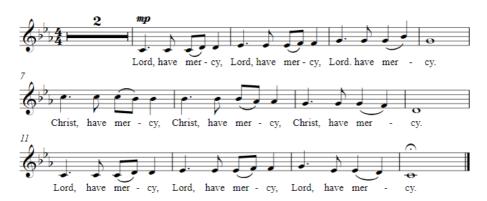
Hebrews 2.18

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



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;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in
newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created,
and yet more wonderfully restored,
the dignity of human nature:
in your mercy,
bring us to share the divine life of Jesus Christ,
who came to share our human life,
and who now lives and reigns with you and 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 63.7-9

I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us – yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. ⁸ He said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me'; and so he became their Saviour. ⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

148



- Praise the Lord praise the | Lord from | heaven:
 O | praise him | in the | heights.
- 2 Praise him | all his | angels: O | praise him| all his | host.
- 3 Praise him | sun and | moon: praise him | all you | stars of | light.
- 4 Praise him you | highest | heaven: and you waters that | are a|bove the | heavens.
- 5 Let them praise the | name of the | Lord: for he com|manded and | they were | made.
- 6 He established them for | ever and | ever: he made an ordinance which | shall not | pass a | way.
- 7 O praise the | Lord from the | earth: praise him you sea-|monsters and | all | deeps;
- 8 Fire and hail | mist and | snow: and storm-wind fullfilling | his com|mand;
- 9 Mountains and | all | hills: fruiting | trees and | all | cedars;
- 10 Beasts of the wild and | all | cattle: creeping | things and | winged | birds;
- 11 Kings of the earth and | all | peoples: princes and all | rulers | of the | world;

- 12 Young | men and | maidens: old | men and | children to|gether.
- 13 Let them praise the | name of the | Lord: for | his name a|lone is ex|alted.
- His glory is above | earth and | heaven: and he has lifted | high the | horn of his | people.
- †15 Therefore he is the praise of | all his | servants: of the children of Israel a people that is near him | Praise | the | Lord.

THE SECOND READING

A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews 2.10-18

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. 12 He says, 'I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters: in the assembly I will sing your praises.' 13 And again. 'I will put my trust in him.' And again he says, 'Here am I, and the children God has given me.' 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death that is, the devil – 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All stand

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

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to Egypt. This was to fulfil what the Lord had said, 'Out of Egypt I have called My son.'

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 2.13-23



When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.' 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.' 16 When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: 18 'A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted. because they are no more.' 19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead.' 21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

Please sit

HYMN

Please stand

- 1 Child in the manger, infant of Mary; outcast and stranger, Lord of all!
 Child who inherits all our transgressions, all our demerits
- 2 Once the most holy child of salvation gently and lowly lived below; now, as our glorious mighty Redeemer, see him victorious over each foe.

on him fall.

3 Prophets foretold him, infant of wonder; angels behold him on his throne; worthy our Saviour of all their praises; happy for ever are his own.

Mary MacDonald, 1789 - 1872

Tune: Bunessan

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.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

■ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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".

OFFERTORY HYMN

Please stand

- Unto us a boy is born
 King of all creation
 Came He to a world forlom
 The Lord of every nation
- 2 Cradled in a stall was He With sleepy cows and asses But the very beasts could see That He all men surpasses
- Herod then with fear was filled
 "A Prince", He said, "In Jewry!"
 All the little boys be killed
 At Bethl'em in His fury
- 4 Now may Mary's son, who came So long ago to love us Lead us all with hearts aflame Unto the joys above us
- 5 Omega and Alpha He
 Let the organ thunder
 While the choir with peals of glee
 Doth rend the air asunder

Percy Dearmer, 1867 - 1936

Tune: Puer Nobis

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.

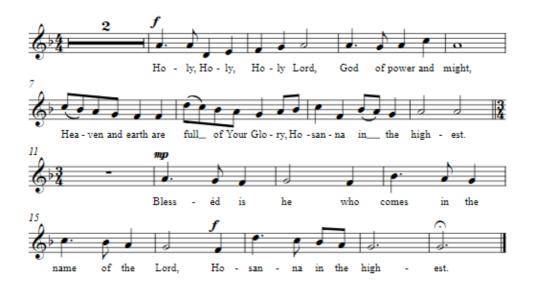
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

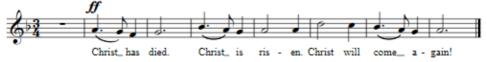
On the night when he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

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.



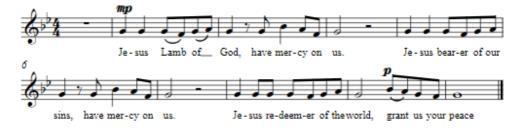
THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Joseph, having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene. Matthew 2:22

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

- The north wind is tossing the leaves.
 The red dust is over the town;
 The sparrows are under the eaves,
 And the grass in the paddock is brown;
 As we lift up our voices and sing,
 To the Christ-child the heavenly King.
- The tree ferns in green gullies sway;
 The cool stream flows silently by;
 The joy bells are greeting the day,
 And the chimes are adrift in the sky,
 As we lift up our voices and sing,
 To the Christ-child the heavenly King.

John Wheeler, 1901 - 1984

Tune: North Wind

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 Canada.

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 Harbourside Baptist Church.

PRAY FOR MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Makito Miyashita, serving with the Samurai Project, Tokyo.

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Federal Member for Warringah; Zali Steggall.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

International, National, and local charities and organisations that seek to alleviate suffering among the world's poorest, most needy, or most vulnerable.

OUR PARISHIONERS

Jim McCallum, Ross & Yoshiko McCallum, Fiona McKenzie, Russ McLean, Laura Mock, Taylor Mock.

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 30 Dec	No service	Eucharist & morning tea will resume next
	today	Tuesday 6 January 2026.
	No bible study	Bible Study – Café Laon
	(on holiday break)	
Wed 31 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)	

TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER 10am SERVICE

There will be no Tuesday 10am eucharist service held on Tuesday 30 December. Services will resume on Tuesday 6 January 2026 at 10am followed by morning tea. Thank you.



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 GROUPS 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ON HOLIDAY BREAK

Sunday School will be in recess throughout January and will resume on Sunday 1st February 2026.



THIRTY NINE ARTICLES – ARTICLE 23

As we continue with our review of the 39 Articles of religion of the Anglican Church, here is article 23. When these were first



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

It is not lawful for any man to take upon him the office of publick preaching, or ministering the Sacraments in the Congregation, before he be lawfully called, and sent to execute the same. And those we ought to judge lawfully called and sent, which be chosen and called to this work by men who have publick authority given unto them in the Congregation, to call and send Ministers into the Lord's vineyard.

ROSTERS

	This Week 28 December First Sunday after Christmas	Next Sunday 4 January 2026 The Epiphany of Our Lord
First Reading	Isaiah 63.7-9	Isaiah 60.1-6
Psalm	Psalm 148	Psalm 72.1-7, 72.10-14
Second Reading	Hebrews 2.10-18	Ephesians 3.1-12
Gospel	Matthew 2.13-23	Matthew 2.1-12
Preacher	Bp Peter Watson	Bp Peter Watson
Celebrant	Bp Peter Watson	Bp Peter Watson
Senior Server	John Halford	John Halford
Crucifer	Sharon Boddu	Margaret MacNabb
Thurifer		Roy Bartlett
Acolyte		Prabhu Boddu
-		Gordon Heathcote
Welcomer	Noreen Bernie	Noreen Bernie
Sideperson	Helen Matheson	Sharon Boddu
Readers	Strephon Billinghurst	Ken Bernie
	Cheryl Dunn	Audrey Bradshaw
Intercessor	Edwina Waddy	Peter Watson
Chalice	Ruth Cohen	Kah Lin Wormell
Livestream	Prabhu Boddu	Enzo Macchiavelli
Morning tea	Margaret MacNabb	Lizzie St Quintin
	Barbara Gordon	Graham St Quintin
Sacristy Linen	Edwina Waddy	Audrey Bradshaw