



The Abbey Church Epistle

1-63 The Abbey Place, Caboolture Q 4510 (Ph: 5495 1565)

December 2014



Christmas Services



Advent Meditation (7.15pm)

December 9, 16

Early Communion (5.30am)

December 10, 17

Midnight Mass (11.50pm start)

December 24

Christmas Day Service (9.30am)

December 25

New Year's Eve Thanksgiving Service (6.30pm)

December 31

ADVENT MEDITATIONS

During Advent we hold meditation evenings, each Tuesday before Christmas. These are a special opportunity for you to enjoy some peace, silence and mediation time during the often hectic Christmas rush. The Church is in candlelight which brings its own special ambience of peace and God's presence. Meditations start at 7.15pm Everyone is welcome to bring along family members or friends.

EARLY MORNING COMMUNION

Each Advent we come together to share an early morning Communion Service at 5.30am on the three Wednesday mornings before Christmas. Come and enjoy the joyous early morning song of the birds, the beauty of the early morning, as well as a peaceful Service to start your day.

DECEMBER



- 6 Sunday Services
- 9 Advent Meditation
- 10 Early Communion
- 11 Christmas Lights Bus Trip (see flyer)
- 14 Sunday Services
- 16 Advent Meditation
- 17 Early Communion
- 21 Sunday Services
- 21 Carol Service and Supper (see flyer)
- 24 **Midnight Mass** 11.50pm start
- 25 **Christmas Day Service** 9.30am
- 28 Sunday Services
- 31 New Year's Eve Thanksgiving Service 6.30pm

JANUARY (quick look ahead)

- 1 New Year's Day
- 4 Epiphany Sunday
- 5 Museum Holiday Program (M-F)
- 11 Church BBQ
- 12 Museum Holiday Program (M-F)
- 26 Australia Day

Christmas Gift Suggestions

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.



Oren Arnold

Sunday Services

- 9.30am Holy Communion
- 6.45pm Evensong
- 9.15am Sunday School (1st and 3rd Sun)

CHURCH NEWS

- **Chairs** - There are still some metal chairs for sale. They are a bargain at \$5 each – sturdy but need a new coat of paint.
- **Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals** - For the month of November we've had 5 Baptisms and 1 Wedding and 2 Funerals.
- **Church BBQ** This happens on the second Sunday of every second month. Next one is 11th January. A great opportunity to catch up with each other as we don't have Baptisms that Sunday.

IS YOUR HUT ON FIRE



After the only survivor of a ship wreck was washed up on small uninhabited island, he began to pray feverishly for God to rescue him. Every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming. Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect him from the elements and to store the few meagre possessions he had grabbed during the disaster.

One day after scavenging for food he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, the smoke rolling up into the sky. The worst had happened; everything was lost. He was stunned with grief and anger. "God how could you do this to me?" he cried. Early the next day, however he was awakened by the sound of a ship approaching the island. It had come to rescue him "How did you know I was here?" he asked mystified. "We saw your smoke signal" they replied!!

NATIVITY SCENE

The nativity scene has significant religious value in modern Christmas observance. St Francis of Assisi wanted to show the humanity and humility of Jesus so he created a re-enactment of Christ's birth.



St Francis desired his nativity scene to send an inspiring message of hope and God's love. His nativity scene used real people and animals. A Church choir stood around the scene, singing passages of scripture, the first known act of carolling. *Happy and Holy Christmas to everyone in our church family!*

*** Help Needed ***

Gift Wrapping: We need more people to help with the gift wrapping roster at Northlakes Shopping Centre. Roster is enclosed. Please see Sr Anne if you have any time to spare. Thank you.

A special welcome to all those who are attending our church for the first time.

You can never make the same mistake twice...because the second time you make it, it's a choice. *Anon*

CHURCH STAINED GLASS RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

The Winchester glass has recently returned to the church. You'll notice a great difference in both windows as during the process it became clear that there were six angel headers amidst all the fragments. We're sure you'll appreciate the beauty of this very old glass.



FROM THE ABBEY CHURCH GUILD

The Guild raises funds to further the ministry of your church. To keep this little ship sailing, the following information is provided for the month of: SEPT: Income \$237.00 Expenditure \$1,983.00



Our annual Christmas Carol Service starts at the customary time of 6.45pm on Sunday 21st December. Come along and enjoy this uplifting Service whilst singing many of your favourite Christmas carols and watch the children bring into the Church the figures for the Nativity scene in Bethlehem's stable.

The Abbey Church Guild is running a Christmas Raffle again this year. Tickets cost 4 for \$2

- 1st prize is a Grocery Hamper valued at \$100+
- 2nd prize is an Iced Homemade Christmas Cake
- 3rd prize is a Beverage pack.

Drawn on 21st December at the Christmas Supper in the Abbey Hall.

JOIN US IN PRAYER

Prayers for Lindy Whitchurch and Richard Mackay who have recently undergone surgery.

Let us all continue to pray for peace in Iraq and Syria this month, particularly



with our Australian forces supporting the effort for peace.

**Don't try to force anything.
Let life be a deep let-go.
See God opening millions of flowers every day without forcing the buds.**

BS Rajineesh

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We extend our well wishes to all the congregation members who celebrate their birthday in **December!**



Advent Sunday

Advent Sunday marks the time when we start to look forward to the anniversary of when a little child was born – a night when angels sang in the heavens and all Creation vibrated in harmony with the song. All music has a theme, a central phrasing flowing through it, and although it may not be discernible for a time, yet it will always resurface.



For thousands of years, music and song have been complementary to mankind's deepest spiritual yearnings. For thousands of years, music has accompanied religion and entertainment, whether derived from simple reed flutes and harps, or the complicated instruments found in modern and large orchestras. And now music also is composed for ballet, opera, films and advertisements – and it all has a theme, a central melody which can be detected flowing through each composition.

A tremendous theme was written over two thousand years ago, written by a certain Jesus of Nazareth, and called quite simply, "Love and Peace" and its beautiful message inspired thousands. Over time, this beautiful theme was twisted to sustain a regime of hate; the Christians were persecuted, the Jewish peoples were held responsible for the crucifixion, God-fearing people were tortured in the Inquisition because they held religious views at some variance to the 'real' interpretations, thousands of innocent women were tortured in the name of Christ and burnt at the stake as witches – what a sad litany of wrongs, all purportedly in the name of Love and Peace.

That theme initiated by the Man of Love as He trod the dusty street of Palestine, is sometimes hardly audible today- but if we listen hard with our hearts, we may yet with wonder hear amid the cacophony, the echoes of that eternal theme.

We hear it in the stories of St Francis with his love of creation, love of Christ, love of man: His Brother Sun and Sister Moon, our interconnection with all created things; St Teresa the mystic; St Therese the Little Flower with her little way of return; Julian of Norwich; with such a comprehension of God's Love that thousands flocked to her tiny anchorite cell.

And we can hear it in our own stories, as we stir up feelings of love for God and our brothers and sisters the whole world over. In these weeks of rushing as Christmas draws nigh, just stop for a moment and listen to that beautiful theme of Love that He wrote for us, and placed forever in our hearts.



May Advent blessings fill you! Fr George



FOR EPISTLE ENQUIRIES

TEL: 5495 1565 OR EMAIL: stmichaelschurch@bigpond.com

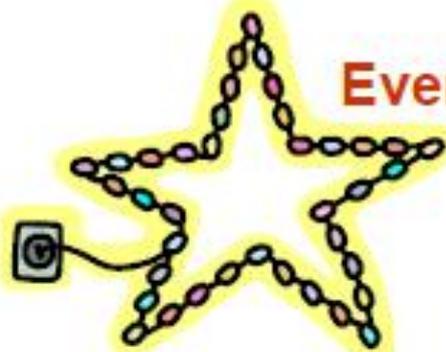
2014 Christmas Wrapping Roster

Monday 15th Dec	9.00 – 11.30 4 Lisa Bamford Sylvia Traves Sue Green Diane Carr Glenda Clark	11.30 – 2.30 4 Diana Marshall Di Grant-Smith	2.30 – 5.30 4	
Tuesday 16th Dec	9.00 – 11.30 4 Linda Ward Margaret Smith	11.30 – 2.30 4	2.30 – 5.30 4 Val Ingham	
Wednesday 17th Dec	9.00 – 12.00 4 Diana Marshall Kay Simpson	12.00 – 3.00 4 Diana Marshall Linda Ward	3.00 – 6.30 4	
Thursday 18th Dec	9.00 – 12.00 5 Margaret Smith	12.00 – 3.00 5 Kay Simpson	3.00 – 6.30 5	
Friday 19th Dec	9.00 – 12.00 5 Diana Marshall Libby Gladwin	12.00 – 3.00 5 Diana Marshall Sr Hilda	3.00 – 6.30 5	
Saturday 20th Dec	9.00 – 11.30 5 Maurice O'Connell Libby Gladwin	11.30 – 2.30 5	2.30 – 5.30 5	
Sunday 21st Dec	9.00 – 11.30 5 Denise Crawley Libby Gladwin	11.30 – 2.30 5	2.30 – 5.30 5 Maurice O'Connell	
Monday 22nd Dec	9.00 – 12.30 6 Di Carr Di Brearly Sylvia Traves Sue Green Lisa Bamford Diana Marshall	12.30 – 4.00 6 Diana Marshall Val Ingham	4.00 – 8.30 6	
Tuesday 23rd Dec	8.00 – 11.30 6 Denise Crawley Yvonne Jones	11.30 – 3.00 6 Margaret Smith	3.00 – 6.30 6 Kerrie & Josie Bevis	6.30 – 10.00 6
Wednesday 24th Dec	8.00 – 11.30 6 Diana Marshall Fr Hugh	11.30 – 3.00 6 Diana Marshall	3.00 – 5.30 6	

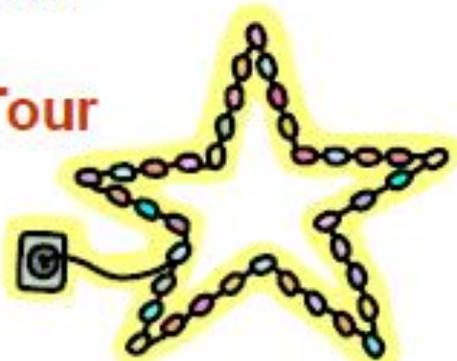
The Abbey Church Guild

is pleased to invite you to an

Evening Coach Tour



of



Christmas Lights

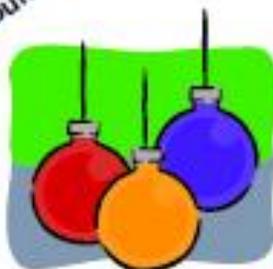
Book early!
Seating limited

Contact Sr Hilda
0418 734 645

accounts@abbeymuseum.asn.au

Thursday 11th December

Departing 6.15pm from the Abbey Hall
for a comprehensive tour
of the spectacular and prize-winning
Christmas Lights displays in the area.



*Bring some snack food and drinks
to enjoy during a 15 minute break
in a popular park*

Tickets must be pre-paid!!!

Adults	\$15.00
5-15 years	\$7.50
Under 5	Free!

Returning to the Abbey Hall at approx 9.30pm



The Abbey Church Guild

is pleased to invite you as our guest
to

Pre-Christmas Supper



Abbey Hall

following the



Carol Service

(6.45pm in the Church)

Sunday 21st December

No cost!

The Abbey Church Guild Inc utilises all income raised for:-

- * *maintenance and improvement of the Church and Hall*
- * *provision of consumables, vestments etc for the Church*
- * *pastoral humanitarian assistance to individuals*
- * *promotion of social interaction and Christian fellowship*
- * *charitable assistance to the wider community*