



**THE ABBEY
CHURCH**
at St. Michael's

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**DECEMBER '21
JANUARY '22**



The Abbey Church Epistle

Welcome to The Abbey Church. We are a welcoming, inclusive community where questions are encouraged and everyone has a place at God's table.

A message from Fr George...

On this Sunday in Advent, I begin to think more deeply about what this period is leading up to, and start to wonder again, what it is about this time that makes it so different from the rest of the year. The inner joy of this Christmas tide, which always comes, although sometimes, in that pre-Christmas rush, it's midnight on Christmas Eve, before it really hits you. The total wonder of that moment when we celebrate what? Just something so ordinary that most people passed it by. The birth of a little baby in a stable. Just a few animals standing quietly around, watching a baby being placed in their hay in their feeding trough by Joseph, with Mary watching him. Everything so seemingly ordinary, a picture that has happened thousands of times to poor people who could not afford lodging. So what is it about Christmas? Why did that event change the world so much?

Ah yes, the angels! That must have been it! Thousands of angels in the sky, telling all people that the Christ had been born! But that doesn't work either. Hardly anyone saw the angels, just some insignificant shepherds on the hills. Just ordinary people. And then, perhaps, I began to see some of the answers about Christmas. Humble, lowly, poor, insignificant, ordinary. All the words that could be used about Christ's birth on earth, and indeed, through His whole life. And this is part of the secret of Christmas, part of His message that He brought to us so long ago on that starry night in Bethlehem. That it is in the ordinary, insignificant, humble things of our daily lives as men and women that we truly find God. By what we do within our own hearts in our daily lives in our work, and those people and situations, day to day, which we live through. By practising the presence of God in our hearts.

Christ's message was to change ourselves within, in little ways. We don't have to go out and change other people, just change our own outlook on life. Just carry on doing what lies next to hand, however ordinary it may seem, but within ourselves, be filled with inner peace and a great joy, as this special time approaches, and once more the little Christ child is born in our hearts.

Blessings,
Fr George



The Magic of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence. Anon

God's Boxes

*I have in my hands two boxes,
Which God gave me to hold.
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black box, And
all your joys in the gold."*

*I heeded His words, and in the two boxes,
Both my joys and sorrows I stored,
But though the gold became heavier each day, The
black was as light as before.*

*With curiosity, I opened the black,
I wanted to find out why,
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole, Which my
sorrows had fallen out by.*

*I showed the hole to God, and mused,
"I wonder where my sorrows could be!"
He smiled a gentle smile and said, "My child,
they're all here with me.."*

*I asked God, why He gave me the boxes,
Why the gold and the black with the hole?
"My child, the gold is for you to count your
blessings, The black is for you to let go."*

*We should consider all of our friends a blessing.
Send this to a friend today just to let them know
you are thinking of them and that they are a joy in
your life.*

*A ball is a circle, no beginning, no end.
It keeps us together like our Circle of Friends.
But the treasure inside for you to see, Is the
treasure of friendship you've granted to me.*

*Today I pass the friendship ball to you.
Pass it on to someone who is a friend to you...*

DECEMBER

- 5** Sunday Services 9.30am & 6pm
- 12** Sunday Services 9.30am & 6pm
- 13** Archery Week @ Museum
- 18** ARTefact Tour @ Museum
- 19** Carol Service and Supper 6pm
- 24** **Midnight Mass 11.50pm start**
- 25** **Christmas Day Service 9.30am**
- 26** Sunday Service (Morning only)
- 31** **New Year's Eve Thanksgiving Service 6pm**

JANUARY

- 1** New Year's Day
- 9** Epiphany Sunday
- 10** Museum School Holiday Program (Kids Dig It! - Mon - Fri)
- 16** Sunday Services 9.30am & 6pm
- 16** Church BBQ



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We extend our well wishes to all the congregation members who celebrate their birthday in December / January.



VICTORIAN HIGH TEA

The Museum held two very successful Victorian High Tea's recently.

Guests enjoyed a beautifully presented and delicious High Tea and Victorian Carollers singing nostalgic Christmas favourites. A wander through the Abbey Museum and guided tour of the beautiful Stained Glass in the Abbey Church was available to guests. The spirit of Christmas was alive and made even more special with the 4-metre Victorian Christmas tree, beautifully decorated.

Christmas Carols and Services

- [Dec 19 Carol Service in the Church & Supper](#) - 6pm then supper in the Abbey Hall
- [Dec 21 Carols at Toorbul & Supper](#) - 6pm at 158 Esplanade and supper provided after
- [Dec 24 Midnight Mass](#) - 11.50pm Candlelight Service in the Church
- [Dec 25 Christmas Day Service](#) - 9.30am in the Church
- [Dec 31 New Years Eve Service](#) - 6pm in the Church

Christmas is the Spirit of giving, without a thought of getting. Thomas S Monson

SWEDISH LUCIA

On Monday evening, **13th of December** there will be a Swedish celebration from **7pm - 9pm**.

A Swedish choir will come together in song at our Abbey Church and will endeavor to bring the Christmas feeling into summer. Afterwards there will be some Swedish food and treats in the hall. Bring your family and everyone who is curious about this tradition. Everyone is welcome!



Online tickets: \$17 + family options, at the door \$25, or go to humanitix.com and search for events in Caboolture.

Kids Dig It!
ROMAN
FAMILY FUN

Monday 10th - Friday 14th January

ABBEY MUSEUM
OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

**Thank you
Moreton Bay
Regional Council**

THE ABBEY IS CELEBRATING !

We are very grateful to the Moreton Bay Regional Councillors for recognising the Abbey Museum's contribution to the region.

Moreton Bay Regional Council has helped secure the future of the Abbey Museum of Art and Archaeology with a \$200,000 Community Operational Support Grant.

The Council acknowledged the Museum's remarkable collection of priceless international antiquities as a cultural treasure. Mayor Peter Flannery said the preservation of the iconic collection was vital for future generations. "The Abbey Museum is a veritable treasure trove of international history, placing it in a rare category, and making it a highly valuable cultural asset for the Moreton Bay Region," he said. *Thank You Moreton Bay Regional Shire Council!*

The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!

A message from Fr George...

And so we leave 2021 behind us and venture into the uncharted territory of 2022. For every one of us, 2021 brought the highs and lows of the human experience common to the almost 8 billion children of Earth - the highs and lows that help us to realize that we are all connected with each other around the globe, all sharing the experience we call *life*.

Yet each person is an individual, and unique, and it is in coming to know oneself that we begin to catch a glimpse of that God, far above space and time, yet hidden deep within our hearts - within the hearts of all people the world over.

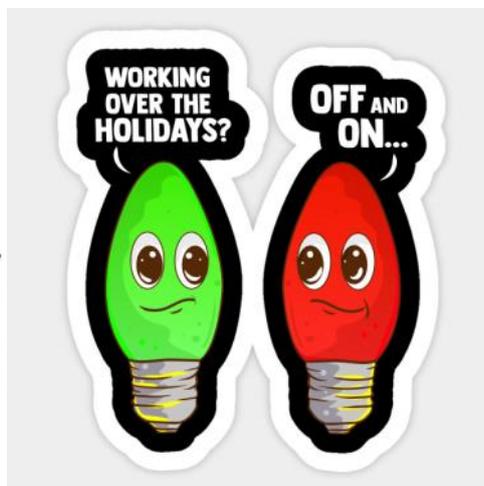
So as we trim our sails to leave 2021 behind, and begin this exciting voyage called 2022, we pray the One who stilled the tempest will ever sail with us into the future, and help us to comprehend that even with the dark and stormy skies with strong winds blowing us onward, we may be travelling faster on our individual and collective journey towards the Light.

And having Him standing with us at the tiller of our frail craft, no fear need accompany the raging storms, nor doubt assail during the gentle zephyrs, for He is Lord of all.

For we know with an inner knowledge, with a certainty none can shake, that we are sailing towards a safe harbour, sure lodging, and Peace at the last. May we ever keep our compass set on the star seen above Bethlehem's stable, and accept that our gallant ship is named *The Love of God*.

May that Love support, strengthen and uplift you all throughout this New Year.

Blessings - Fr George



"We can stay home Christmas Eve! This year everyone is getting music, movies and games they can download from my website!"

Praying you'll see the blessing of God's plans unfolding for you in the New Year!

God gave us Christmas to give us hope and peace in our hearts. Catherine Pulsifer

The Arioso Chamber Ensemble

Last Sunday afternoon The Arioso Chamber Ensemble played in our Abbey Church. There were over fifty people who attended and it was lovely to hear their comments whilst they were sharing tea and scones in the grounds outside the Church after being immersed in Baroque Music for more than an hour. Sunshine Coast musicians played on a baroque cello, a baroque violin and a harpsichord, with soprano soloist singing Music from Bach and Vivaldi.

A most enjoyable afternoon!

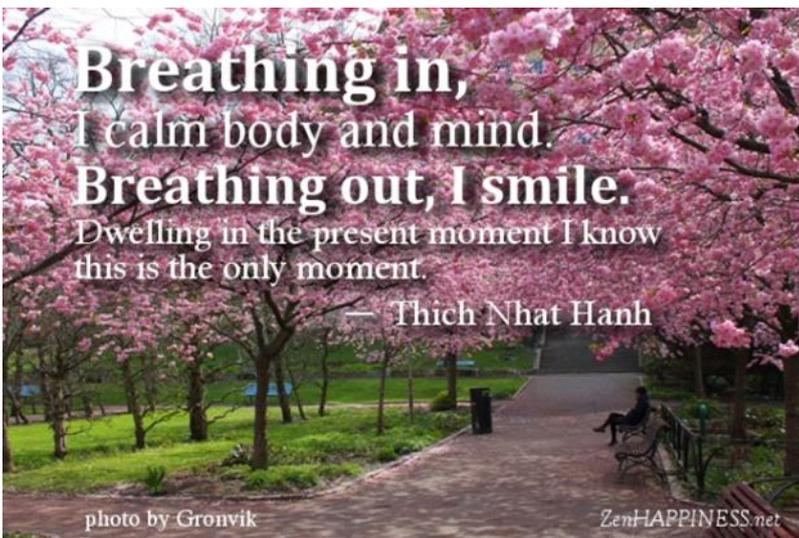
Thank you for remembering these people in your Prayers



Rob Bettridge, Rosa Wort, Brian Newell, Nancy Foreshow, Tonia Selman, Br Charles, Malachi Carmichael and all those others on our Sunday sick list.

Rest in Peace Val Breeze. We extend our love and sympathy to Gwen Newell who lost her dear childhood friend in England last week. May her friends and family find comfort at this sad time.

We also send Light and Peace to those in the world who are affected by floods, fires and famine, the homeless, disadvantaged, sad, lonely, depressed, disillusioned, hungry, displaced and suffering from COVID. We pray for an end to this pandemic.



A thought for January...

Long after the angels disappear into the heavens, the shepherds return to their flocks, the Magi journey home and the great star sets, Jesus remains. The Child in whom we rediscover God's great love for humanity becomes the adult Redeemer who challenges us to imitate his selflessness and compassion in order that we might transform our world into love. May we allow the miracle of Christmas to continue long after the holiday trappings have been packed away; may we welcome the Messiah and His challenging Gospel to recreate our lives, making the peace, justice and hope of this holy season a reality in every season of the new year.

I am the New Year

I am the New Year
I am unused, unspotted without blemish
I stretch before you
Three hundred and sixty-five days long
I will present each day in its turn
A new leaf in the book of life
for you to place upon it your imprint
I am the New Year
Each hour of every day
I will give you sixty minutes
that have never known the use of man
white and pure I present them;
it remains for you to fill them
with sixty jewelled seconds
of love, hope, endeavour, patience
and trust in God
I am the New year
I am coming
But once past
I can never be recalled
Make me your best.

We are celebrating the feast of the Epiphany on Sunday, 9th January.

The Three Kings

They laid their offerings at his feet:
The gold was their tribute to a King,
The frankincense, with its odour sweet,
Was for the Priest, the Paraclete,
The myrrh for the body's burying.

And the mother wondered
and bowed her head,
And sat as still as a statue of stone,
Her heart was troubled yet comforted,
Remembering what the Angel had said
Of an endless reign and of David's throne.

Excerpt from Henry Longfellow's poem...

Morning of Prayer 2022 DATE CLAIMERS



- Wed 9th February
- Wed 9th March
- Wed 13th April
- Wed 11th May
- Wed 8th June
- Wed 13th July
- Wed 10th August
- Wed 14th September
- Wed 12th October
- Wed 9th November
- Wed 14th December

You are welcome to come, bring your friends and be part of this Morning of Prayer. Share your thoughts about your own spiritual journey with others of like mindedness.

There's a lovely morning tea afterwards on the verandah of the Abbey.

Starts at 9.30am - Please bring a plate to share.



READINGS for *December and January*

COMMUNION SERVICES

DATE		EPISTLE	GOSPEL
5 Dec	Second Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 7 v 13- 15	Luke1 v 26- 38
12 Dec	Third Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 11 v 1-5	Luke1 v39-45.
19 Dec	Fourth Sunday in Advent	Micah 5 v 2 and 3	Matthew 1 v 18-21
25 Dec	Christmas Day	Isaiah 7 v13-15	Luke 2 v 1-20
26 Dec	Sunday after Christmas	Galatians 4 v1-7	Luke2 v 33-39
2 Jan	Second Sunday after Christmas	Acts 4 v 5- 12	John 1v 1-14
9 Jan	Epiphany Sunday	Isaiah 60 v 1-6	Matthew 2 v1-12
16 Jan	First Sunday after Epiphany	Romans 12 v1-10	Matthew 2 v 13-18
23 Jan	Second Sunday after Epiphany	Colossians 3 v20-25	Luke 2 v41-52
30 Jan	Third Sunday after Epiphany	Romans 12 v16-21	Matthew 3 v 13-17

CHURCH NEWS

- **For the Children** - On Sunday 19th December the children bring the figures of the Nativity to the stable during the Service at 6pm which will be held in front of the Church again. We would love to see lots of children participate and enjoy this tradition—please bring a picnic blanket.
- **Thanks** - We would like to extend our thanks to all our friends and families in our Congregation for their prayers, support, help and friendship throughout 2021. We hope that your Christmas is a very special one of giving and receiving and one filled with the true spirit of Christmas. May you be richly blessed in the coming year.
- **You're invited** - We hope your time with us is special and that you are able to join us after the Sunday Service for tea or coffee and some morning tea. If you are visiting from another Church or tradition, and if you wish to do so, you are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us this morning. Children are welcome to come up for a blessing as well.



2022 DATE CLAIMERS & THEMES

12 Mar Entertainment
 21 May Mainly Geographical
 1 Oct Art & Literature



Our next **SING-A-LONG** will be in May next year. Check your 2022 calendar.