



The Bush Ministry Fund

Thank you to members of our parish for supporting the Bush Ministry Fund.



The Bush Ministry Fund is vital to maintaining priestly and pastoral ministry in the communities of the west.

If you are one of the people who pledged \$1 per week, your half yearly donation is due.

If you have a Bush Ministry Mission Box, please return it to Ros Kean or Marilyn in the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Help!

We need more volunteers for the January Roster.

If you are available PLEASE let the parish secretary know via a care & courtesy slip TODAY.

COAT—Thank you to all who are supporting the Chinese Orphans Assistance Team—those who have pledged and those who give when they can—your donations make such a difference to these little children's lives.



December donations are due!



Your used stamps really help. Support ABM. Please leave used stamps in the box near

"Life does not consist mainly, or even largely, of facts and happenings. It consists mainly of the storm of thought that is forever flowing through one's head."

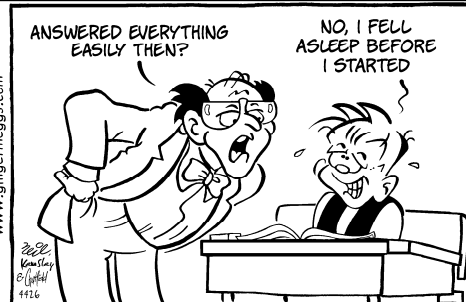
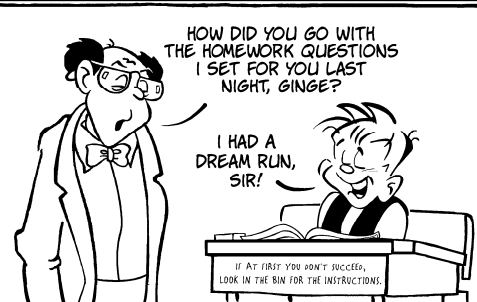
Mark Twain.



Keeping in Touch

If you've noticed someone missing from church lately and they live near you, why not slip a Pew Sheet into their letterbox or give them a call.

A friend is one who knows us, but loves us anyway.
-Jerome Cummings



Good Shepherd Church

Anglican Parish of Bundaberg West

George & Takalvan Sts. Bundaberg

Rector: Rev'd Dr Richard Bowie 41528810
Phone & Fax - Office (07) 41528810
BOX 5120 Bundaberg West Qld 4670

Churchwardens:
Ian Lohse Ph 41 512210
Russ Ford Ph 41516929
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Parish Office: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am – 12 noon

Email address: goodshepherdwest@bigpond.com

Web Site: www.goodshepherdbundaberg.org

The 'family church'... where you're a stranger only once.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



14TH DECEMBER, 2008

The Third Sunday of Advent:

Leader: Last Sunday we lit the first two candles in our Advent wreath.

We light them again today to remind us of God's gifts of hope and peace (The two candles are re-kindled)

Speaker 1: Joy is another of God's gifts to us.

As we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus, we look forward to the joyful celebrations we will share with those we love.

The prophet Isaiah calls us to rejoice, because God will make the desert bloom and will call the people to return home on a great highway.

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angels brought "good news of a great joy, which shall be to people".

The good news of Jesus' birth and the promise of Shalom are still "tidings of great joy" for us today.

Speaker 2: Isaiah says., "Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads". The third candle reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ.

(The Third Pink candle (Joy) is lit.)

Leader: Thank you, Father for the gift of joy.

Help us to recognize the many moments of joy in our lives, and to live accordingly so that others may be filled with that same gift that comes from knowing Jesus Christ, your Son.



*The Good Shepherd Family — our purpose is to grow together in Christ,
to worship and learn, to be the Good News.*

Parish Family News!

Celebrating Birthdays

14th Helen Pickard
16th Emma Edwards
17th Jenny Jose
Courtney Lincoln
Bill Hume



Best wishes from all your parish family

Second Verse of Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to you,
To Jesus be true,
May God richly bless you,
Happy Birthday to you.



Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries.

15th Mike & Phoebe Adams
(46 years)



Congratulations & much love from us all.

ANNIVERSARY SONG

Tell me I may always dance
the ANNIVERSARY WALTZ
with you,
Tell me this is real romance,
an anniversary dream come true,
Let this be the anthem to our future years,
to millions of smiles and a few little tears,
May I always listen to
The ANNIVERSARY WALTZ with you.



New Family Member

Dave & Emma Dennis welcome
with much love the birth of the
beautiful little girl **Olivia Grace** on
9th December weighing 8lbs 4 ozs.
Olivia is a darling little sister for William and
a precious little granddaughter for
Graham & Marilyn.



*Dave & Emma thank you all for your
prayers.*

If you need a parish name badge—please let
us know via a care & courtesy slip.

The price is right — free!

Baptism

We welcome for Baptism
today **Parker Lewis Herron**
together with his Parents
Darren and Kylie, his family and
friends.



May their experience of the warmth of
fellowship here make this Baptism Day
very special for them all.

During the service Fr. Rick will
dedicate a prayer book donated by
Darren & Kylie in thanksgiving for

Christmas Services

CHRISTMAS EVE: SPECIAL CHILDREN'S
SERVICE AT 7PM

CHRISTMAS DAY: CHRISTMAS SERVICE
AT 8.30AM

Archbishop's November Appeal

A total of \$533.25. Bless you heaps!!

Please note: There will not be any
mid-week services in January—last
service 20th December. Services
resume Wednesday 7th February.

Sunday Services after Christmas—
One service only at 8.30am until
Sunday 4th February. This is a
wonderful time for us to worship &
fellowship together.

PLEASE feed the Cookie Jar.

It loves both notes and coins!

With summer upon us—the lawn is
growing fast & needs mowing weekly!!

This week in the Parish:

Monday		Rector's Day Off
Wednesday	9.00am 10.00am	Midweek Service Pastoral Focus Visitors Mater Hospital
Thursday	7.00am	Pastoral Focus Home Visits & Bedside Communion Mater Hospital
Friday	7.00am 8.00am 9.30am	Prayer Group meet in the church Bedside Communion Riverlea & Gracehaven Holy Communion Christmas Service Millbank Village
Sunday	7.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion Family Communion Service

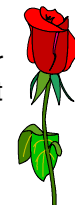
WOLFEN

Thank-you all!

We don't know how they do it, but the Sew 'n Sews have made a further
donation to the parish of \$250.00. This is from the money the ladies put
in their tin each week and from selling some craft items during the year.

Thank you ladies and bless you all.

You are "treasures".



ELECTION OF WARDENS AND PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR 2008

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held in the Church on
Sunday 1st February, 2009 after the combined 8.30am service
(approximately 10am).

Parish Council together with the Rector and Wardens are responsible for both
overseeing the day-to-day operations of the parish and also for setting strategic
directions for our ministry to both the parish and wider communities.

It is important therefore that Council be representative of the range of views and
interests of the parish community.

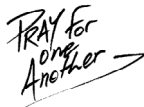
Previous experience is not required! What we need are people with a
commitment and a vision for the parish who are willing to communicate that vi-
sion while also being prepared to listen and be open to the views of others.

Nominations are therefore called for Wardens, Parish Councillors,
Synod Representatives & Nominators.

We ask everyone to prayerfully consider who might be nominated and also be
will to be nominated. Nomination forms will be available on the notices table
from next Sunday—please leave completed nomination forms in the box
provided on the notices table.

Our Parish Prayer

Father God, equip our Good Shepherd family with the resources we need.
Empower us all by your Holy Spirit.
Strengthen, protect and guide us – especially in our times of need.
Remove the obstacles that would block our endeavours to do your will.
Make us one, within the fold of your church.
We ask in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.



Pastoral Focus Prayer.

God our Father,
Grant us the skills to serve your church;
The ears to hear the calls for help;
The lips to speak your words of truth;
The eyes to see the needs to fill;
The feet to go to those in want;
The mind to meet the doubts we find;
The heart of love to share your peace;
The hands to work without reward;
We ask this only to do your will,
Through Jesus, our Saviour, Redeemer and Friend. Amen.



Prayer of Evangelism.

Heavenly Father, Set our hearts on fire to go into the world in your name.
Grant us wisdom, and the confidence to speak your word.
Give us the strength and the will to continue through all circumstances.
Help us take the Good News to all who will listen,
so they may know Jesus as their Lord and master.
May we glorify your name in all we say and do. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



In your prayers, please remember:-

Our Parish Family prayer list this week (from our parish directory – to show we care)

Dulcie Brandon; Barbara Desgrand; Graham & Marilyn Dennis; Glenis George; Bill Hume;
Ian, Susan, Ashlee & Courtney Lincoln; Bev Steemson; Claire Webb;



Absent Friends: Parish Family not with us today.

For those in need:

Prayers for Healing: "Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest"

Sophie; Ernie; Marie; Glenice; Alison; Cindy; Robert; Giz; Barney; Kevin; Florence; Darrell, Ian A; Ruth;
Ros; Judy; Bev; Richard; Sherryl; . . .(and those known only to the Lord).

Special Needs:

Anthony & Family; Tammy; Kym; Julia; Bonny & children; Joyce; (& those known only to the Lord)

Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered: Emma and her baby Olivia Grace

Pray for peace in the Congo

Our School Chaplains: Fr. Andrew, Paula, Kelli, Steven, Adrian, Noel, Craig, Teresa & Brenda

Our Link Missionaries with CMS – Shirley Gent in Pakistan and the Hayes Family – Bruce, Libby
and their children Daniel, Julia, Stephanie & Ruth in Nepal and BCA Missionaries - the Keith

Years Mind – we remember- (i.e. the anniversary of the death of a loved one):-

Terrence Coleman; George Moore; Leonard Christensen; Eric Haylock; Eric Beaman.

Thanksgiving for the Life of: Kerry McCann

Today's Worship—Third Sunday in Advent

Sentence: Bind up the broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, the day of vengeance of our God.
Isaiah 61:1-2

Readings Today:

Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm: The Song of Mary—The Magnificat page 9
New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Readings next Sunday

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm: 89:1-4, 19-27 page 315
New Testament: Romans 16:25-27
Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Saviour's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

YOUR OFFERTORY TRUST

Charles Dickens made famous a character named Scrooge in his sad story about Christmas. However, the end result was that good won over evil. God can still win over evil.



ABM REFLECTIONS ON TODAY'S READINGS

The midpoint Sunday of Advent has long been known as "Rejoice" Sunday (Gaudete) since Advent is not a penitential season but as a season of hope and expectation.

Today's celebration reminds us that we have every reason to hope because of God's goodness to us. John the Baptist points us to Jesus today, whose coming to us is a very real reason to rejoice.

- Give thanks for the coming of Christ amongst us.
- Give thanks for the work of the priests and lay catechists of the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea.