



ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA  
PAROCHIAL DISTRICT OF WANGARATTA WEST & THE WARBYLS

**The First Sunday of Advent**  
**3rd December 2023**

Dear Parishioners, HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

We begin a new cycle of the Christian Calendar today. Advent Sunday might seem a strange day to begin a new year but if we look at the themes of Advent we may be able to appreciate why this is so. Advent tells us in 4 short snippets why Jesus is important in God's total scheme of things. Having got that under our belts so to speak, we are then ready to celebrate the Nativity of Jesus whom we call the Christ (thus Christmas—Christ's Mass). The trimmings that have accrued to Christmas in our society, the giving of gifts, the seemingly endless "Christmas meals" from October through to Christmas Day, the tinsel, the jingles in the shops—all these are NOT Christmas, they are frippery. Christmas is about Jesus and to appreciate just who Jesus is (and therefore why we bother to celebrate his birth) we need Advent to prepare ourselves.

May we all have a blessed and fruitful Advent.

Neil Hicks,  
Vicar.

**December 6th is St Nicholas Day. Santa—St Nicholas Trivia**

The Viking god Odin is one precursor to the modern Santa Claus. According to myth, Odin rode his flying horse, Sleipnir (a precursor to Santa's reindeer), who had eight legs. In the winter, Odin gave out both gifts and punishments, and children would fill their boots or stockings with treats for Sleipnir.

Santa Claus is based on a real person, St. Nikolas of Myra (also known as Nikolaos the Wonderworker, Bishop Saint Nicholas of Smyrna, and Nikolaos of Bari), who lived during the fourth century. Born in Patara (in modern-day Turkey), he is the world's most popular non-Biblical saint, and artists have portrayed him more often than any other saint except Mary. He is the patron saint of banking, pawn broking, pirating, butchery, sailing, thievery, orphans, royalty, and New York City. St. Nicholas was bishop of the Turkish town of Myra in the early 4th century. The Dutch first made him into a Christmas gift-giver, and Dutch settlers brought him to America where his name eventually became the familiar Santa Claus.

When distributing gifts in Holland, St. Nicholas is accompanied his servant Black, who is responsible for actually dropping the presents down their recipients' chimneys. He also punishes bad children by putting them in a bag and carrying them away to Spain.

When visiting Finland, Santa leaves his sleigh behind and rides on a goat named Ukko. Finnish folklore has it that Ukko is made of straw, but is strong enough to carry Santa Claus anyway.

Thursday 7th December—Parish Pre-Christmas lunch gathering.

12.00 Midday @ King River Café.

Over a number of years we have contributed cash or suitable vouchers for Loaves and Fishes, and you are invited to do so again.

Cars leave St. Michael's at 11.30am.

## Advent and Christmas Appeal 2023




This Advent and Christmas, Anglicans In Development (AID) seeks your support for Nungalinya and Wontulp-Bi-Buya colleges, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may receive the training they need to lead their churches and communities.

Envelopes will be available from next Sunday or donations can be made online at <https://www.abmission.org/appeals/appeals-major/advent-christmas-appeal-2023/>

**Christmas Stocking Raffle** - tickets are still available for this raffle - two absolutely crammed stockings filled with all sorts of goodies. Please see Suzie for tickets. Please ensure that your books and money are returned by 10th December, for the big draw on 17th!



### Christmas Cracker Joke:

An honest politician, a kind lawyer and Santa Claus were walking down the street and saw a \$20 note. Which one picked it up?? *Answer* 

Vocal Dimension presents—*Our Christmas Favourites.*

A stocking-full of choral delights, including Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Christmas Carols.

**Benalla Uniting Church Saturday 9th December 2023 7.30 pm**

**Wangaratta Uniting Church Hall**

**Sunday 10th December 2023 7.30 pm**

Admission \$20 at the door. Under-18 free.

Complimentary supper available after the concerts.

*Please see pamphlet for more details.*

## WHAT'S ON & DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**MONDAY, 4th Dec.** *Nicholas Ferrar, deacon and man of prayer (d 1637)*  
Isaiah 2. 1-5; Psalm 122; Matthew 8. 5-11.  
10.30am, Parish Council—St Michael's Hall.

**TUESDAY, 5th** *Fr Neil's Priesting 1987*  
Isaiah 11. 1-10; Psalm 72. 1-7; Luke 10. 21-24.  
8.00am, Pangerang Breakfast Club etc.—St. Michael's Hall.

**WEDNESDAY, 6th** *Nichols of Myra, bishop and philanthropist (d c 342)*  
*Fr Neil's Deaconing 1986*  
Isaiah 25. 6-10; Psalm 23; Matthew 15. 29-37.  
9.30am Craft Group—St Michael's Hall.

**THURSDAY, 7th** *Ambrose of Milan, bishop and teacher (d 397)*  
Isaiah 26. 1-6; Psalm 118. 19-25; Matthew 7 .21-27.  
9.30am, Pangerang Playgroup at St. Paul's Hall.  
9.30am, Eucharist — St. Michael's Hall.  
10.15am, morning tea and Bible Study—St Michael's Hall.

**FRIDAY, 8th** *The Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary*  
*Richard Baxter, pastor and spiritual writer (d 1691)*  
Genesis 3. 9-15, 20; Ps 97. 1, 2, 8-end. Eph 1. 3-6, 11-12 Luke 1. 26-38.

**SATURDAY, 2nd**  
Isaiah 30. 19-26; Psalm 147. 1-6; Matthew 9. 35 — 10.1-8.

### Sunday 10th December, **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

9.30am, Eucharist @St. Michael's, Wangaratta.

11.00am, Eucharist @St Paul's Glenrowan.

Isaiah 40. 1-11; Psalm 85. 1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3. 8-15a; Mark 1.1-8.

**Answer: Santa! - The other two don't exist!**

You are invited to a free  
**Christmas Activity Morning**  
for children and families



**Saturday 9th December**

**9.30 - 12.00 noon**

In the King George Gardens  
(Ovens St, Wangaratta)

Help is needed for this Christmas Activity Morning, all that is required is a name tag and Working with Children's Card.

Puppets, Christmas Craft, Games and Challenges, Face Painting, Nativity Phone Booth, Playdough Fun, Stories and more.

If you are able to assist or require more information please contact  
Ela Heaton 0419001184

## Sunday 3rd December 2023

- ◆ **The World:** Myanmar, Thailand.
- ◆ **Australia:** Formulators of public policy, legislators.  
The Justice System: police, courts, judges. All who deal with law and its administration. Politicians, their staff, and all in public office.
- ◆ **The Church in our nation:** Romanian Orthodox Church.  
The Victorian Council of Churches.
- ◆ **Anglican Church of Australia:**  
The Diocese of Armidale: Bishop Rod Chiswell (*Jenni*). Clergy and People
- ◆ **Our Diocese:** Bishop Clarence Bester (*Michelle & family*).  
Bishop in Council: the Bishop, the Registrar, Vicar-General/Archdeacon,  
The Dean, Chancellor, Advocate, Treasurer.  
Jerome Francis, Matthew Healy, Imogen Gillespie, Rhonda Holden.  
The Episcopal District of Milawa:  
Locum: The Ven. John Davis. St Paul's Milawa.
- ◆ **Our Parish.** Wednesday Craft Group.
- ◆ **Those in Need:** Mark H. Vivienne S. Melanie. Warren G. Wayne. Vi Bussell.  
Kaye McKenzie. Michael Tomlinson. Josef. Nina Colson.
- ◆ **Year's Mind: 3rd—9th December:**  
[03/12] Robert Hodson, 2003. Sandra Tonna, 2003. Arthur Bedford, 1983.  
Thomas Wallis, 1970.  
[04/12] Jim Hocking, 2010. Jeffre Johnson, 1967. Jean McDonald, 2019.  
[05/12] Lou Bracken, 2011. [06/12] Valerie Kemp, 2011.  
[09/12] Noela Williams, 2010. Gordon Nicholls, 2000. Nina York, 1994.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord.  
**And may light perpetual shine upon them.**

### **Prayer of the week** (*pray daily*)

Almighty God,  
as your kingdom dawns,  
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,  
that we may be ready to meet you  
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



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*St. Michael's, Wangaratta. St Paul's, Glenrowan. St George's, Taminick.*

Direct Debit: Parish of Wangaratta West & Warbys

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