



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

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**24th December 2023**

## **Researchers: Jesus was Born in June**

*By Aaron J. Leichman, Christian Post Reporter*

*Thu, Dec. 11 2008 09:23 AM EST*

Christmas in Australia takes place each year at the height of summer. But if it was celebrated on the day that some researchers allege Jesus Christ of Nazareth was actually born, Christmas would be white for those down under and hot for those elsewhere. "December is an arbitrary date we have accepted but it doesn't really mean that is when it happened," Australian astronomer Dave Reneke told media this week after his team of researchers used a computer program to pinpoint the date of Jesus' birth.

According to the researchers, Jesus was born on June 17, 2 B.C. – the day that Venus and Jupiter became so close that they would have appeared to be one bright beacon of light. "We are not saying this was definitely the Christmas star – but it is the strongest explanation for it of any I have seen so far," Reneke told the London-based Daily Telegraph newspaper.

Previous theories have suggested that the star may have been a supernova, a comet, or the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C. Reneke, however, says the technology that his team utilized has provided the most compelling explanation yet.

"There's no other explanation that so closely matches the facts we have from the time," said the former chief lecturer at the Port Macquarie Observatory in New South Wales.

Reneke was quick to point out, however, that his team's claim is "not an attempt to decry religion." "It's really backing it up as it shows there really was a bright object appearing in the East at the right time," he told the Telegraph. "Often when we mix science with religion in this kind of forum, it can upset people. In this case, I think this could serve to reinforce people's faith," he added.

Currently, Reneke is the news editor of *Sky and Space* magazine and teaches astronomy at the college level. "Astro Dave," as some have labelled him, is also a frequent guest on ABC Local, the local gateway of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

**Christmas Stocking Raffle -**  
Winners are: Dianne Peacock and Chris Spriggs.  
Congratulations. \$529 raised for parish funds.  
Thankyou to all contributors.

## Share God's love through the Christmas Bowl



Thank you for joining with churches across Australia as we share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Since 1949, the Christmas Bowl has brought together committed Australian Christians with dedicated local partners around the world to give hope to people uprooted by conflict and disaster. By sharing this tradition, you are helping build a world where all people have a safe place to belong. **Thank you.**



CALL: 1800 025 101 VISIT: [christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au](http://christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au)

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

## Advent and Christmas Appeal 2023



This Advent and Christmas, Anglicans In Development (AID) seeks your support for Nungalingya 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/>

We wait for you,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
not surrounded by snow and holly,  
but by blazing sun,  
ultramarine, turquoise and  
cerulean blue seas,  
fiery bottlebrushes and  
crimson waratahs.

As we wait for you to come to us,  
Lord Jesus Christ,

as our food for the journey  
in your great gift of the Eucharist,  
may we all prepare for that day  
when the redeemed shall sit and  
feast with you,  
you who come to us today  
as Bread and Wine  
that we may know you  
more and more  
as we walk together  
towards the heavenly banquet.

## WHAT'S ON & DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### MONDAY, 25th Dec. Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

7.00pm: Isaiah 52. 7-10. Psalm 96. Luke 2. 1-14.

8.00am: Micah 5. 2-5a Psalm 97. Luke 2. 8-20.

9.30am: Hebrews 1. 1-12. Psalm 98. John 1. 1-14.

### TUESDAY, 26th **Stephen, Deacon and first Christian martyr**

2 Chronicles 24. 17-22. Psalm 31. 1-8.

Acts 6. 8-10 + 7. 54-60. Matthew 10. 17-22.

### WEDNESDAY, 27th **JOHN, Apostle and Evangelist**

Proverbs 8. 22-31. Psa 97. 1 John 1. 1-5. John 20. 2-8.

— 9.30am Craft Group—St Michael's Hall.

### THURSDAY, 28th **THE HOLY INNOCENTS**

Jeremiah 31. 15-20. Psa 124. 1 John 1. 5—2.2. Matthew 2. 13-18.

— 9.30am, Eucharist—St. Michael's Hall.

— 10.15am, morning tea and Bible Study—St Michael's Hall.

### FRIDAY, 29th *Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, martyr (d 1170)*

1 John 2. 3-11. Psalm 96. 1-6. Luke 2. 22-35.

### SATURDAY, 30th *Josephine Butler, social reformer (d 1905)*

1 John 2. 12-17. Psa 96. 7-9. Luke 2. 36-40.

### Sunday 31st December, **FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMASS**

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

Isaiah 61. 10—62.3. Psalm 148. Galatians 4. 4-7. Luke 2. 22-40.

**OUR PARISH'S VISION IS  
TO STRENGTHEN AND GROW A COMMUNITY  
OF FAITH IN CHRIST**

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

### Christmas Eve

St Paul's, Glenrowan @7.00pm

### Christmas Day

St George's, Taminick @8.00am

St Michael's, Wangaratta @9.30am



## Sunday 24th December 2023

- ◆ **The World:** Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Taiwan.  
For peace in Jerusalem and the Holy Land.
- ◆ **The Church in our nation:** Uniting Church in Australia.
- ◆ **Anglican Church of Australia:** The Diocese of The Murray: Archdeacon Simon Waters, Administrator. The Clergy and People.
- ◆ **Our Diocese:** Bishop Clarence Bester (*Michelle & family*).  
The Parochial District of Yackandandah: P-i-C: Matthew Healy (*Katherine Presley*), (*Elizabeth, Madeleine*). Priest: Lesley Lewis (*David*).  
Parish leaders and communities at: Yackandandah, Kiewa, Dederang, Allans Flat, Tawonga.
- ◆ **Our Parish.** Parishioners community groups involvement.
- ◆ **Those in Need:** Robert P. Nina Colson. Mark H. Melanie. Warren G. Wayne. Vi Bussell. Kaye McKenzie. Michael Tomlinson. Josef.
- ◆ **Died Recently:**  
Vivienne Still, obit 17/12/2023.
- ◆ **Year's Mind: 24th—30th December:**  
[24/12] Frank McQuade, 2003.  
[25/12] Peter Heffernan, 1971.  
[27/12] John Cryer, 1991. Claude Constable, 1977.  
[29/12] June Willams, 2003. Gordon Nugent, 2001.  
[30/12] Jean Clyde, 2011. Ethel Oates, 1984.

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

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

Almighty God,  
you make us glad with the yearly expectation  
of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer,  
so we may with sure confidence behold him  
when he shall come to be our Judge;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



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

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