

Welcome to the Townsville (CBD) Ministry Unit



**December
Parish News
2025**

Our Ministry Unit

Dean

**The Very Rev'd
and Venerable
Dr Kenneth Lay
0422 148 952**

Assisting Clergy

**Rev Vic Hall
Rev Shirley
Thomson
Rev Christine
Readman
Fr Mitchell Porter
Fr Kevin Bourke**

Wardens:

**Owen Stanley
0419656816**

**Leigh Kennedy
0473974282**

Phone 0432 833 451

Post PO Box 108, Townsville, 4810

Email

stjamescathedral@hotmail.com

Website

stjamescathedral.com.au

Facebook

/townsvillecathedral/

Instagram@cathedral.tsv

Services

Sundays:

7.15 am St Marks Belgian Gardens

9 am St James

Mon, Tues, Wed & Friday St James:

8.30 am Morning Prayer

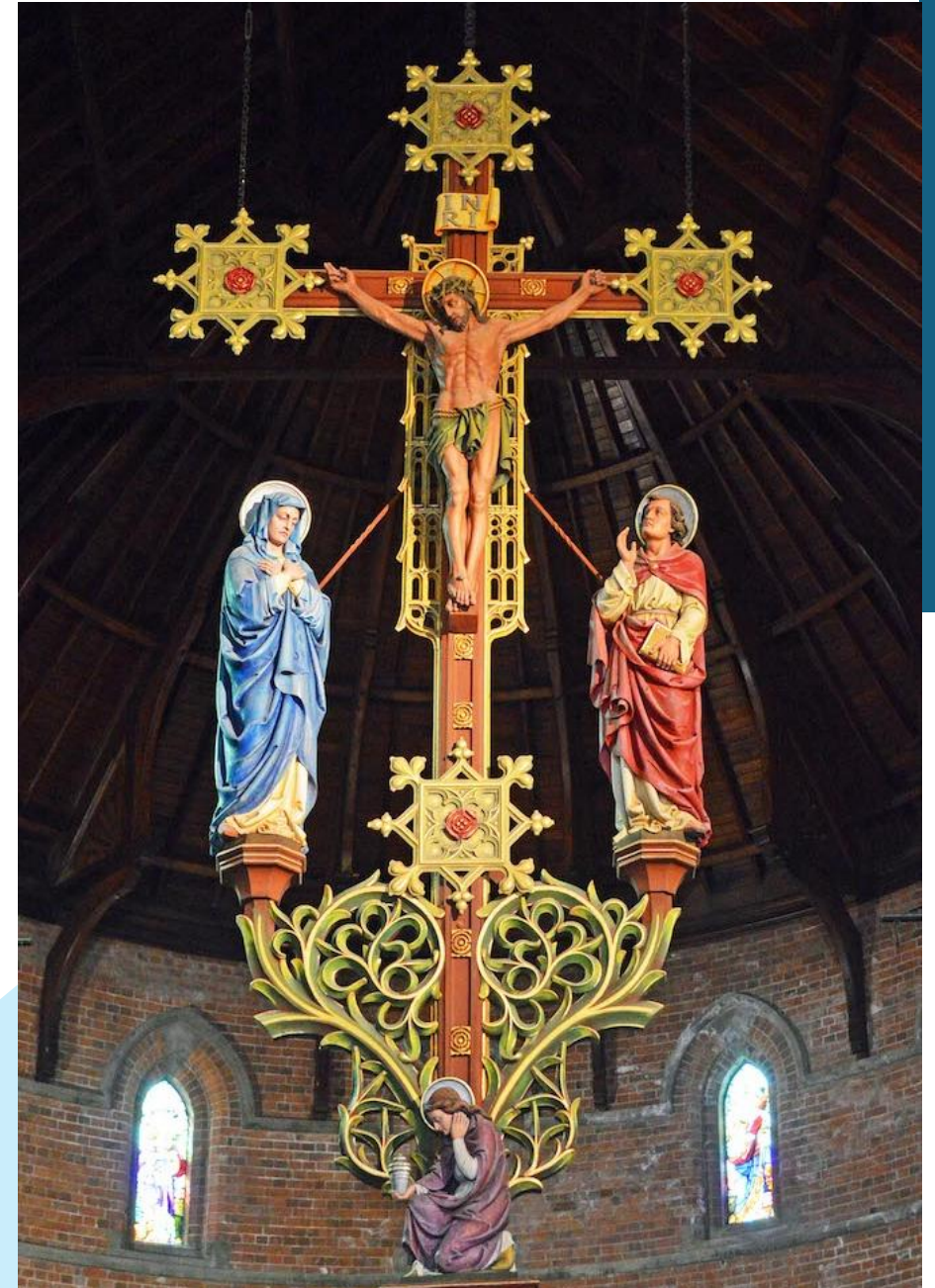
Wednesday St James:

Eucharists 12 noon & 5.30pm

Saturday:

5 pm St Margarets Magnetic Island

**St James is open most weekdays 8am-noon
(except in Jan)**



DIRECT DEBIT

- Church Wardens of St James Cathedral General Account
 - BSB 034 222
 - Acc 250713

ANONYMOUS DONATION (ANFIN)

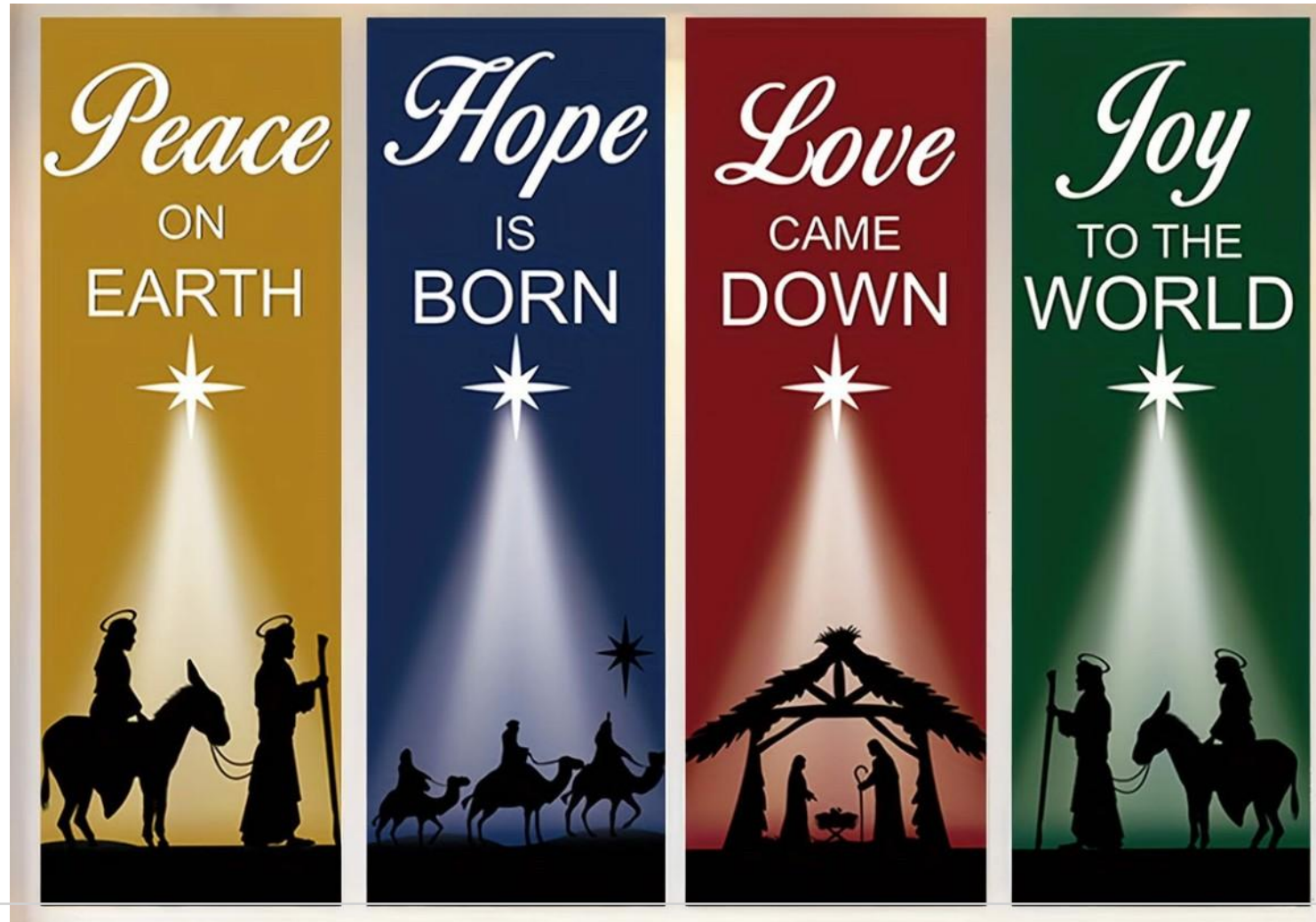


A full brochure & information can be found at

ANFIN — Anglican Church Southern Queensland (anglicanchurchsq.org.au)

Thanksgiving

If you use either of these methods you may pick up a laminated card from the table on entry, to deposit in the offering plate



what's happening in December

December, 2025 **The Townsville Ministry Unit**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 8.30 Morning Prayer 1.30 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke	2 FRANCES PERRY 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	3 FRANCIS XAVIER 7.00 Bible Study 8.30 Morning Prayer 11.00 Bible Study 12.00 Eucharist at St James 5.30 Eucharist at St James	4 NICHOLAS FERRAR all day Fr Kenneth at Charters Towers 7.00 Franciscans at St Marks	5 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	6 8.30 Morning Prayer 10.00 AMUA Service for 16 Days of Activism 5.00 Service at St Margaret's
7 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James 11.00 Baptism at St James	8 CONCEPTION OF MARY 8.30 Morning Prayer 1.30 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke	9 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	10 7.00 Bible Study 8.30 Morning Prayer 11.00 Bible Study 12.00 Eucharist at St James 5.30 Eucharist at St James	11	12 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	13 Lucy 8.30 Morning Prayer 5.00 Service at St Margaret's
14 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James 6.00 Lessons and Carols for Christmas	15 8.30 Morning Prayer 1.30 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke	16 8.30 Morning Prayer	17 7.00 Bible Study 8.30 Morning Prayer 11.00 Bible Study 12.00 Eucharist at St James 5.30 Eucharist at St James	18 all day Fr Kenneth at Charters Towers	19 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist 11.00 Baptism at St James	20 8.30 Morning Prayer 10.00 Baptism at St James 5.00 Service at St Margaret's
21 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James 11.00 Baptism at St James	22 ST THOMAS 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist 1.30 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke	23 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 8.30 Morning Prayer 5.00 Eucharist at St James 5.00 Service at St Margaret's	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 7.15 Christ-mass at St Mark's 9.00 Christ-mass at St James	26 ST STEPHEN 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	27 ST JOHN 8.30 Morning Prayer 5.00 Service at St Margaret's
28 HOLY INNOCENTS 7.15 Eucharist at St Mark's 9.00 Eucharist at St James	29 THOMAS BECKET 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist 1.30 Eucharist at Bolton Clarke	30 8.30 Morning Prayer/Eucharist	31 8.30 Morning Prayer 12.00 Eucharist at St James 5.30 Eucharist at St James			

BIBLE STUDY

7.30am Tuesdays & 11am Wednesdays



9am-12 noon daily
Nov 25th – Dec 10th
St James Cathedral

Souls of our Shoes
A Reflective Display



A static display in the Warrior's Chapel during these 16 days, focuses on the elimination of Gender Based Violence in the community





16 Days of Activism

As part of the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the Anglican Church of Australia's Families & Culture Commission will be posting on Facebook and Instagram between 23 November and 10 December. Follow, like and repost here →



Building communities where everyone can flourish



Anglican Church of Australia
FAMILIES & CULTURE COMMISSION



10am
6th December

Grace over Violence

A prayer service for victims and perpetrators of domestic and gender-based violence

A service to mark 16 Days of Activism will be held in St James Cathedral



ANGLICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA



Townsville Concert Band

December 7th

Advent 2

The Second Candle:
The **PEACE** that
is to come

The candle of **Peace** shines bright with God's
plan

The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to the gardens that heal and restore





When: Sunday 7 December

Time: 5 - 9pm

Where: Riverway Oval

Carols by Candlelight returns to Riverway under the big top tent!

Sing along to your favourite carols and enjoy a family-friendly evening showcasing local talent and featuring the 1 RAR Band and Carols Community Choir.

Bring your family, your friends and your festive spirit for a magical night of music, fun and community.



Nativities from around the World

6pm – 8pm December 10th – 13th

The display will be launched with a Family Night (sausage sizzle and Christmas crafts) on December 10th

St Peter's Anglican Church

- Cnr Leigh & Ralston Sts, West End

December 14th

Advent 3
The Pink (or
Rose) Candle
symbolises
JOY for the
promise is
almost fulfilled.

The candle of **Joy** reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled, the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise



A Christmas tree and a manger scene are visible through blue curtains. The tree is decorated with white lights. The manger scene features a wooden manger with a baby Jesus, surrounded by hay and a small stable structure.

6pm Sunday December 14th

*Lessons
and Carols*



- [Promotional Video](#)

December 21st

Advent 4

The Fourth Candle:
The **LOVE** of God
for humanity



Blue Christmas

a service of remembrance and hope

6 pm

December 21st

Christmas can be a painful time for some. It may be the first Christmas without a loved family member who has recently died or it may be a time that has always been lonely. The constant refrains on radio and television, in shopping centres and churches, about the happiness of the season, about getting together with family and friends, reminds many people of what they have lost. We can feel alone in the midst of the celebrating and joy. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness; we need to know that we are not alone. We sometimes need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

December 12th

Happy Birthday

Rev Shirley



1985 Dip BS Vision Bible Coll

1995 Deacon (NQ)

1995-1999 Deacon Ascension Heatley

1995-1998 Chaplain Kirwan Hosp for Women

1996-1998 Duty Chaplain Townsville Correctional Centre (Women's)

1998 Dip ACEF

1999 Deacon St John the Evangelist Cairns

2000-2005 Alpha Advisor Tropical NQ

2000-05, Deacon St Alban's Innisfail

2007. Safe Min Accreditation Tas

2008-2009 Deacon Innisfail

2008-2009 Deacon Christ Church Cooktown

2009 Permission To Officiate Diocese North Queensland

2010-2011 Deacon Christ Church Cooktown

2011 Priest (NQ)

2011- present Associate Priest, St James Cathedral

Christmas Eve

St James

5pm Eucharist with Children's Talk (building the crib)

9pm Vigil Mass for Christmas

St Margarets, Magnetic Island

5pm A service of Lessons & Carols

Christmas Day

St James

9am Christmas Eucharist

St Marks, Belgian Gardens

7.15am Christmas Eucharist



The Centre
White Candle
is lit on Christmas
Eve or Day to display
that the light of Christ
has come into the
world in fulfilment of
the prophecies





YOUR GIFT TO THE WORLD – TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH FAITH AND ACTION

For over 75 years, Australians have offered more than donations through the Christmas Bowl, with each act of giving helping to sow peace across the globe.

Today, thanks to the generosity of church communities like yours, Act for Peace is partnering with local agencies to bring tangible change to people displaced by conflict and disaster.

By contributing to the Christmas Bowl, your congregation helps to provide vital emergency relief, foster education, and promote peace in regions where hope is scarce. The faith of your church community becomes tangible change that offers displaced families not just aid, but a renewed sense of dignity and belonging.

The work featured throughout this toolkit highlights just some of the incredible work that your congregation is supporting around the world.



Gaza: Despite the ongoing humanitarian crisis, local organisations supported by Act for Peace provide vital assistance to displaced families. Through mobile clinics, emergency cash support, and hygiene kits, your support is helping restore dignity and hope to those affected by conflict.



Jordan: The Forsa youth program empowers refugees to rebuild their lives through vocational training, business development, and financial literacy. Families who fled Syria and Palestine are finding hope and self-reliance through this locally led and transformative initiative.



Pakistan: Through education programs, Act for Peace is empowering girls and women to break the cycle of poverty. By providing access to education and vocational training, communities are building a brighter future for the next generation.



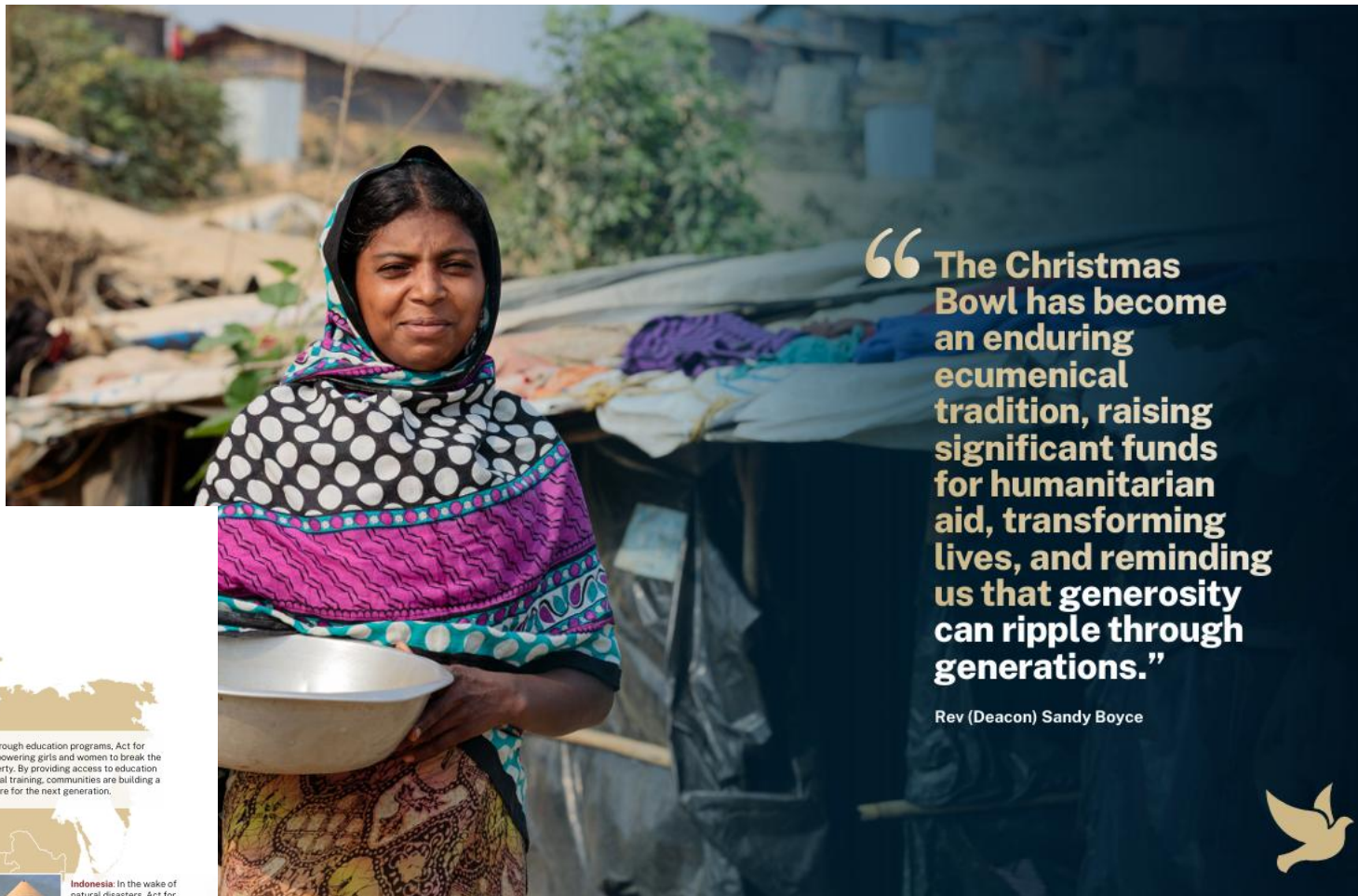
Indonesia: In the wake of natural disasters, Act for Peace supports communities to build resilience through disaster preparedness and response programs. Local organisations are leading efforts to ensure communities are equipped to face future challenges.



Zimbabwe: In partnership with the Zimbabwe Council of Churches and Christian Care, Act for Peace is supporting communities to become more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Through programs like climate-resilient farming, wetland regeneration, and community gardens, families are rebuilding their lives and securing their futures.



Ethiopia: The Tesfa program offers urban refugees a pathway out of poverty. By providing training, mentoring, and financial support, refugees are gaining the skills and confidence to create sustainable livelihoods for their families.



“The Christmas Bowl has become an enduring ecumenical tradition, raising significant funds for humanitarian aid, transforming lives, and reminding us that generosity can ripple through generations.”

Rev (Deacon) Sandy Boyce



ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE ACT OF GIVING



National Council of
Churches in Australia

Mission of the Month

Connect • Volunteer • Give

to educate, prepare, & empower

THERE'S HISTORY IN THIS BOWL

For more than seven decades, Australian Christians from across the breadth of the Church have gathered around the Christmas Bowl, turning generosity into a living tradition of hope.

Now in its 76th year, the Christmas Bowl is, for many churches, as much a part of Christmas as singing Christmas carols or their Christmas Eve service. What began in 1949 with Rev. Frank Byatt placing a simple empty bowl on his family table has become one of the country's longest-running and most unifying expressions of Christian witness.

Since its beginning, the Christmas Bowl has been about love in action. As Byatt himself reminded the church in 1958: *"The evangel is complete only when the action of the Gospel matches the message of the Gospel."*

That conviction has shaped generations of giving. Year after year, church congregations of all shapes and sizes have contributed their gifts to the Bowl — forging a tradition of faithful service that has helped countless families uprooted by conflict and disaster.

That same legacy continues today.

Around the world, more families than ever are being forced from their homes by conflict and climate disasters. From Gaza to the Pacific, from Ethiopia to Pakistan, people are searching for safety and belonging. Through the Christmas Bowl, your church community can stand alongside them, offering practical support and a powerful reminder that they are not forgotten.

Every gift matters. What you donate, whether large or small, helps meet urgent needs and continues this legacy of compassion. Together, through the Christmas Bowl, we can shine Christ's light into some of the darkest places in our world.

As you gather as a church community this Christmas season, you are invited to add your gift to the Bowl.

To continue the legacy. To Act for Peace.

"The evangel is complete only when the action of the Gospel matches the message of the Gospel."



Pictured: Christmas Bowl founder Rev. Frank Byatt and his family.

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

By the Rev (Deacon) Sandy Boyce
Executive Officer of the Victorian
Council of Churches

"There is history in that bowl — each gift of compassion today becomes part of the story of hope for generations to come."

Reflecting on history, I am reminded of two sayings: Kierkegaard's *"Life can only be understood backward; but it must be lived looking forward"* and the Māori wisdom of *"walking backwards into the future with our eyes on the past."* Both remind us that the past is not gone — it shapes how we live today and how we step into the future.

This is important when the present feels overwhelming. We see fragmentation and intersecting crises: the climate emergency, wars and displacement, widening inequality, the normalisation of violence, and the degradation of the environment. The suffering of the vulnerable can too easily fade into background noise.

So, we step back in time... to one man and his family around a Christmas table. Rev. Frank Byatt, grateful for food, family, security and safety, also knew that, in many parts of the world, these everyday blessings were torn away by war and disaster. In the aftermath of World War II, millions were displaced and refugees faced starvation. Frank placed an empty bowl on his table as a "Bowl of Remembrance" and invited his congregation to make a generous gift to share their good fortune with hungry and vulnerable people overseas. From that simple, prayerful act came the first formal Christmas Bowl appeal in 1949.

There is history in that bowl.

Over decades, it has become an enduring ecumenical tradition, raising significant funds for humanitarian aid, transforming lives, and reminding us that generosity can ripple through generations.

Frank Byatt's vision should not be consigned to history. His example shows how one person's faithful imagination can mobilise others, and how momentum grows when we act together. We do well to also remember the prophets — Jeremiah, Isaiah, Micah, Amos — who cried out for justice. Isaiah spoke with piercing clarity: *"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness"* (Isaiah 58).

True worship is not empty ritual. To love God is to love our neighbour. To honour God is to act with compassion. Jesus revealed to us the heart of God, who delights when the hungry are fed, the naked clothed, the thirsty given drink, and the weary given hope.

The Christmas Bowl invites us to step into this living history. As we look back with gratitude, we also look forward with hope, trusting that our gifts today will help shape a more compassionate future for generations to come.



CLOSING PRAYER

God of compassion and hope, as we gather at our tables this Christmas, keep before us the vision of your prophets and the example of Christ, that our generosity may bring light in dark places, bread to the hungry, and hope to the weary.

Bless the gifts we offer through the Christmas Bowl, that they may become signs of your love at work in the world.

Amen.

Until January 13th 2026



- Don't waste your points.
- Redeem the glasses for Althea

The Coles logo, featuring the word 'coles' in a bold, red, lowercase sans-serif font.



Thank you to all who have contributed
toiletries for the MU Hygiene Packs.
This year 600 Packs have been distributed to 5 different charities

Stamps



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation of stamps which are a valuable source of income for the work of ABM. The money generated from your donation of stamps supports the work of ABM throughout the Anglican Communion and often funds much needed projects which we find difficult to resource from our regular donations.

Please note we no longer take Australian Stamps under 50c.

Please pass on our thanks to the people involved in collecting, and in some cases cutting and sorting, the stamps and who have helped make your donation possible.

Kind Regards
Denise Geddes

Anglican Board of Mission - Australia Ltd



Thinking of Christmas gifts?

Beautiful cards made by Noela &
Anglican Prayers beads made by
Bernice. Proceeds to St James



The Mission to Seafarers Port of Townsville, invites our supporters to help us make Christmas a time of Joy and Celebration for our international Seafarers working over the Christmas Season away from their loved ones and friends.

All Australians benefit from the work performed by these crews, in one way or another. This is a simple way in which we can say Thank You to them.

Seafarer Christmas Appeal 2025

To assist our annual appeal, please contact
The Mission to Seafarers on 0418886050 or
mtstownsville@hotmail.com

MtS prefers to purchase the gifts themselves to ensure each seafarer receives a consistent and high-quality pack. These typically include items such as a beanie, cap, tea or coffee mug, small souvenir(s), and individually wrapped chocolates.

This year, they aim to prepare at least 300 gift packs for distribution to crew members on ships visiting the port in the two weeks leading up to and during Christmas.

<https://www.mts.org.au/donations>



Remember Althea at
Christmas
Thank you to those who
regularly bring in
groceries.

As well as installation of new fans and a new fridge, the
Port of Townsville Rotary Club have just donated individual
plum puddings for the Christmas Lunch



WHAT HAPPENED?



in November

We welcome in

Holy Baptism



Tevita Vanisi Fa'ukafa
Mila Mae Viven
Charlie James Spragg
Cooper Wilson
Linkin Wilson



9am November 9th

Service and
Presentation

for the Order of St John



St John





Award Recipients



St Margaret's
Church,
Magnetic Island
Patronal Festival



St Margaret's Anglican Church, Magnetic Island, celebrates its Saint's Day

The annual celebration of the Feast of St Margaret of Scotland is always of particular importance to our church on the Island, but this year was especially memorable for us. On Saturday, 15th November 2025, in addition to our small congregation and visiting locals, we were graced with the presence of retired Archbishop of Melbourne, Bishop Philip Freier and his wife Joy, as well as Dean Fr Kenneth, Rev Christine Reedman and a goodly number from St James' Cathedral. In anticipation of being joined by extra worshippers, we had put our heads together to plan a Maggie Island welcome.

On emerging from the ferry at 4.20pm, eleven visitors were whisked away to church in a maxi-taxi, while everyone else was driven to St Margaret's in private cars. Afternoon tea gave us an opportunity to greet and mingle with our guests, then the ringing of our church bell signalled the start of the service. Bishop Philip's sermon on St Margaret's devotion to the early Scottish church, and how attitudes change over time, was enjoyed by all and the hymn-singing fairly raised the roof!

After service we proceeded to a small Indonesian-themed restaurant, Beach Bums, where, seated in their shady garden around a very long table, we ate tacos, burgers, nachos or nasi goreng. There was a constant buzz of conversation, punctuated with bursts of laughter, as people found common ground: places they had lived in, clergy they had known and ailments overcome! At 7.30pm, the guests again piled into the maxi-taxi and cars to catch the 8pm ferry. We waved goodbye to our new friends from the "Big Island" and were left with wonderful memories of the 2025 celebration of St Margaret's Day.

We would like to thank everyone who helped make the afternoon and evening such a success, in particular Fr Kenneth, Úna Glavin, Susan Darlington, Janis and Alan Chapman, Barbara Abé and Rumi Dunlap.

Úna Glavin & Susan Darlington

MACKAY ANGLICAN CHURCH.

Rector Accepts office of Canon.

MACKAY,- 21-12-25,— The Bishop of North Queensland (Bishop Feetham), who has been on a visit to the Mackay district for the past few days, administered- confirmation in Holy Trinity Anglican Church tonight- to 45 candidates.-

He announced after the close of the service that the Rev. F. L. Ash who twice in six months had declined offers of promotion, had been asked, to accept the office of Canon in the Cathedral of St James', Townsville. This, however, did not mean that Mackay would lose the services of Mr. Ash. The Rev. Ash in accepting, said he, trusted the people of the Mackay parish would continue to support him in the work of building their new church.

- [The Evening News \(Rockhampton, Qld. : 1924 - 1941\) Tue 22 Dec 1925](#)
- [MACKAY ANGLICAN CHURCH.](#)

MACKAY ANGLICAN CHURCH.

RECTOR ACCEPTS OFFICE OF CANON.

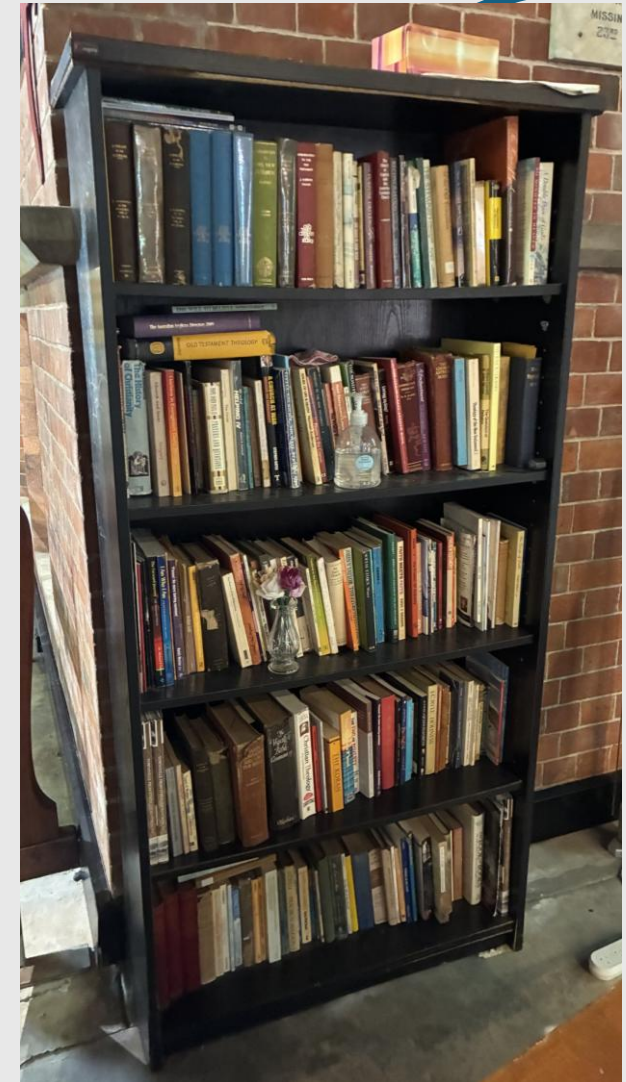
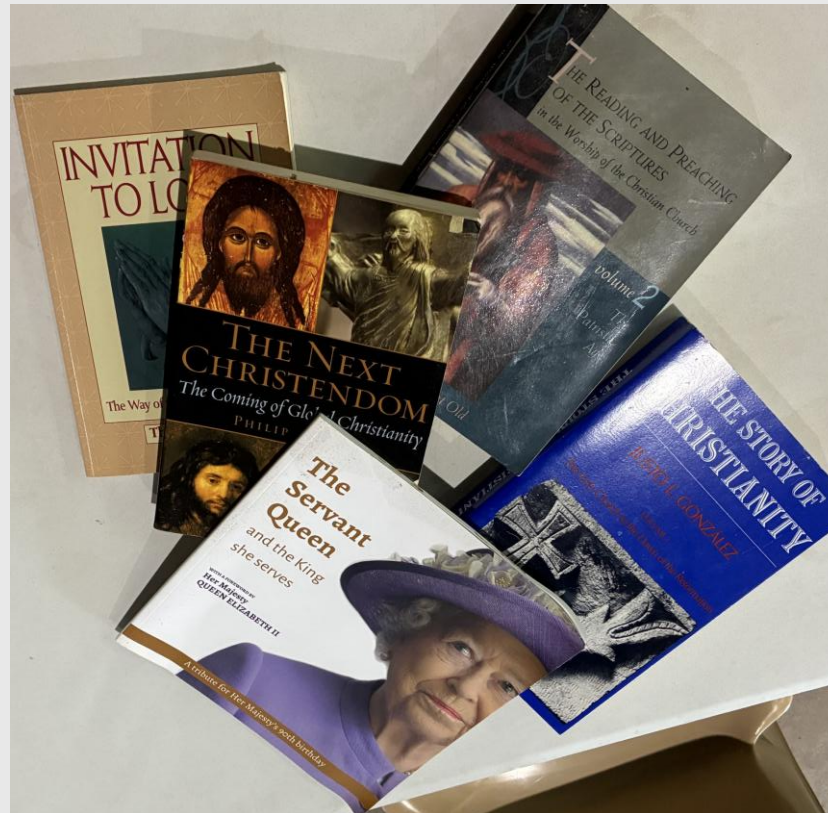
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100
Years
Ago

Nothing to read for the long, hot summer?
Check out the interesting titles
in the Cathedral bookcase



Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC):

- **Category B** - Individuals who have no affiliation with the institution and do not currently engage in medical, scientific, legal, or academic work
- **Category C** – A person with knowledge of, and current experience in, the professional care or treatment of people (e.g. nurse, counsellor, allied health professional).
- **Category D** – A person who performs a pastoral care role in a community (e.g. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander elder or community leader, chaplain, minister of religion, or other recognised spiritual leader).
- **Category E** – A qualified lawyer, who may or may not be currently practising, and who is not engaged to advise JCU on research or institutional matters.

Animal Ethics Committee (AEC):

- **Category C** – A person with demonstrable commitment to, and established experience in, animal welfare (e.g. member of an animal welfare organisation such as RSPCA).
- **Category D** – An independent member who is not currently involved in the care, use, or supply of animals for scientific or teaching purposes, and has no affiliation with the institution.
- **Category A** : A registered veterinarian, independent of JCU, to provide impartial professional advice to the committee.

For more
information,
contact the
Ethics Team
ethics@jcu.edu.au.





The Twelve Days of Christmas

(The twelve days following Christmas Day)

From 1558 to 1829 Christians in England were not able to practice their faith openly so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs. This song is one example of how they did it, with each of the items in the song representing something of religious significance. The meaning of each "gift" was designed to help Christians with their faith.

The song goes:

1 "On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me ..." The "true love" represents God, giving gifts to Christians. The "partridge in the pear tree" was Jesus Christ who died on a tree as a gift from God.



2 The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments - another gift from God.

3 The "three French hens" were faith, hope and love - the gifts of the spirit that abide (1 Cor 13)

4 The "four calling birds" were the four Gospels which sing of salvation through Jesus Christ.



5 The "five golden rings" were the first five books of the Bible also called the "Books of Moses"

6 The "six geese a-laying" were the six days of creation.

7 The "seven swans a-swimming" were the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinth 12:8-11, Romans 12, Eph 4, 1 Peter 4:10-11)

8 The "eight maids a-milking" were the eight beatitudes. (Matthew 5:1-12)



9 The "nine ladies dancing" were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. (Gal 5: 22-23)

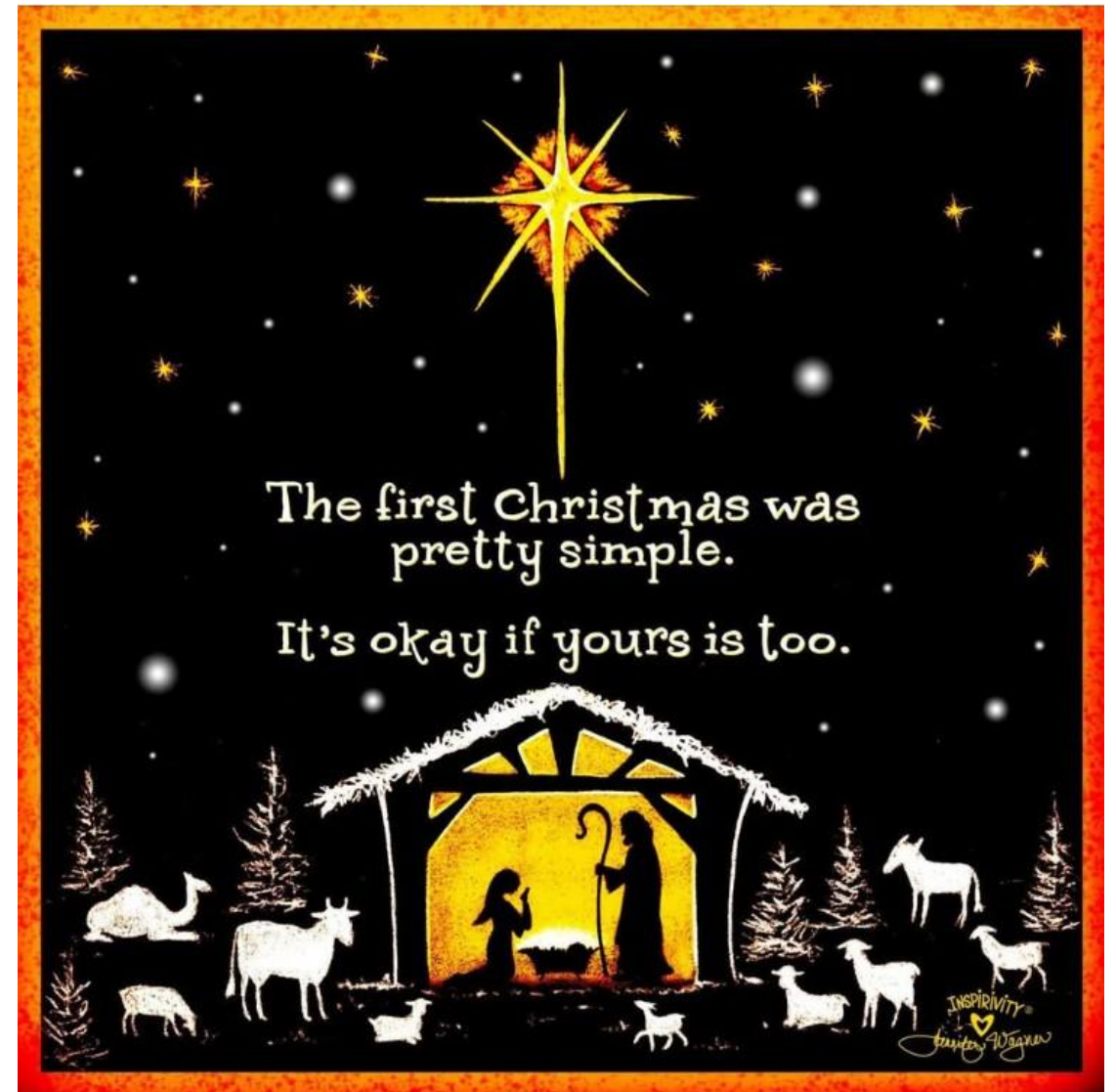
10 The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments

11 The "eleven pipers playing" were the eleven faithful disciples.



12 The "twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of the Apostles Creed.

These twelve gifts are from God to you this Christmas and every day of the year.



ACTS PRAYER MODEL

A

ADORATION

- Expressing our love, awe and praise to God for who He is.
- Praising God for His attributes
- Worshipping Him through prayer, hymns & spiritual songs.

C

CONFESSION

- Acknowledge and repent for your sins.
- Admitting specific sins
- Asking God to search your heart and reveal sins

T

THANKSGIVING

- Express gratitude for all the Lord has done for you.
- Thank Him for spiritual blessing & physical provisions
- Thank Him for answered prayers, wisdom & guidance

S

SUPPLICATION

- Humbly bring your requests before God.
- Seek God's guidance on decisions.
- Ask Him to meet your needs & the needs of others

