



St Luke's Torquay  
Transfiguration Anglesea  
St Aidan's Aireys Inlet

## ADVENT 4 & CHRISTMAS DAY

# Surfcoast Anglican Parish

24/25 December 2017

When we engage with the beautiful Christmas story through Scripture, carols, and pictures from Christmas cards, we can indulge in an emotionally sanitised version of it. Phrases like: '*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!*' can encourage a romanticised perspective.

Compare this with the reality of a labour ward in action, and we might find it hard to make a connection between that and the Christmas story!

Life as we experience it is messy, with its highs and lows, its precious moments, its humdrum moments, and its ghastly moments often jumbled together.

This is not to say that we shouldn't look out for, savour and cherish the precious moments - both in celebrating once again the Christmas story, and in our every day lives. It is literally vital that we do so - it is part of the vitality of our lives.

The point is that these precious moments - moments of inner silence and wonder - are often mixed up with other events and disruptions, so that we might miss seeing them, or miss making the most of them.

Let us be encouraged to look out for them in the ordinary busy-ness of our lives, and even better, *make* the time to pause and reflect on these precious moments.

Let Christmas - this year and every year - be a time when you deliberately make the time to encounter anew the precious gift God gives us, by being born of a young woman in difficult and awkward circumstances, in order to enter into our lives, and reconnect us with the source of love and light and life.

### **Parish Mission** (*our purpose*)

Surfcoast Anglican Parish exists to:

- nurture people's relationship with God;
- encourage people by example to live by the teachings of Jesus;
- engage and work with the broader community.

### **Parish Vision** (*our aspiration*)

An enthusiastic and welcoming Church valued for its contribution to the wellbeing of the Surf Coast community; and for providing innovative ways for people from all backgrounds to explore their spirituality.

## THIS COMING WEEK

*Sun 24 Dec* Christmas Eve

St Luke's - Crib service, 6pm  
St Aidan's - Eucharist, 8pm  
St Luke's - 'Midnight Mass', 11.30pm

*Mon 25 Dec* Christmas Day

Transfiguration - Eucharist, 9am (*note earlier time*)  
St Luke's - Eucharist, 10.30am

*Tue 26 Dec* St Luke's Op Shop closed today

*Wed 27 Dec* St Luke's, Eucharist, 10am (*weekly*)

*Thu 28 Dec* -

*Fri 29 Dec* St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 4pm (*weekly*)

Group Meditation, Transfiguration 11am (*Fridays weekly*)

*Sat 30 Dec* St Luke's Op Shop, 9am to 4pm (*weekly*)

*Sun 31 Dec* St Aidan's - Eucharist, 8am (*weekly*)

Transfiguration - Eucharist, 9.15am (*weekly*)

St Luke's - Eucharist, 10.30am (*weekly*)

Readings for Epiphany

*Isaiah 60.1-6; Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3.1-12; Matthew 2.1-12*

## Regular Parish Meetings

St Aidan's Group, 10 for 10.30am (*fortnightly*) - next: to be decided

Torquay Home Group, 7.30pm (*fortnightly*) - next: to be decided

Anglesea Aged Care, Eucharist at 10.30am (*monthly, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thu*) - next: 18  
Jan

Elouera, Eucharist at 2.15pm (*monthly, usually every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday*) - next: 23  
Jan

Parish Council, 7pm at St Luke's (*monthly, on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays*) - next: 23 Jan

Coffee & Chat, St Aidan's 10am (*monthly, every 1<sup>st</sup> Fri*) - next: 2 Feb

G-RAP run (*to St Andrew's Corio*) from St Luke's at 12.45pm (*monthly, every  
1<sup>st</sup> Fri*) - next: 2 Feb

St Aidan's Painters, 10am (*Tuesdays, weekly*) - next: 6 Feb

Mainly Music, at both St Luke's & Transfiguration 10am (*weekly, Tuesdays  
during term time*) - next: 6 Feb

Parish Lunch, Beach Hotel Jan Juc, noon (*monthly, every 1<sup>st</sup> Tue*) - next: 6  
Feb

**Maintenance committee, 11am St Luke's (mthly, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed) - next: 7 Feb**

**Torquay Craft Group, 1.30pm (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays) - next: 8 Feb**

**Mission Committee, after the St Luke's service (quarterly) - TBC**

### **General Notices**

**Op Shop** - summer hours: Saturday opening hours are extended to 4pm. The Op Shop will be closed on Tue 26 Dec, Boxing Day.

**Theos, Anglesea** - will be camping in Transfiguration Wed 27 Dec to Wed 3 Jan. The Torquay team will not be operating this year.

**Christmas Bowl** - our mission giving for December/January. Please use the envelopes found in the TMA, or your planned giving mission envelopes, and put it into the offertory plate during any service.

**Planned giving envelopes** - for 2018 are available to collect. There are sets of 52 envelopes for weekly giving, and sets of 12 envelopes for monthly mission giving. Kindly collect and use one or both sets - it helps you with your financing of your church, and it helps with managing the parish's income and cash-flow through the year, especially during winter.

**Fete** - this is three weeks away (Sat 13 Jan), and it's time to look through home libraries for donations to the book stall - as usual clean good quality books, but NO encyclopedias or magazines as these do not sell at the fete. Donations to be left inside St Luke's hall near the kitchen servery when the Op Shop is open (Tue/Fri/Sat).

Those who provide cakes, jams, etc, kindly update your details as necessary on the lists on the notice board of each centre.

**St Luke's hall** - now has split system air-conditioning installed. Different opinions have been expressed regarding where the remote controllers should be kept. We need to find a balance between us and hall users being able to access and operate them easily, and keeping them safe.

**Parish donation to SCRAR** - we have been invited to join with Surf Coast Rural Australians for Refugees to materially assist with a refugee family - a single mum with many children. The Parish Council approved a donation of \$1,000.

**Icon at St Luke's** - Ken and Chris Farrow have (after consultation and approval) kindly presented St Luke's with an icon of Christ acquired during their last trip to Greece. This has been installed behind the pulpit, and will be blessed at one of the Sunday services in the next few weeks.

### **Prayers**

**Anglican Church:** Diocese of Yola, Nigeria (*Bp Markus Ibrahim*); Diocese of The Murray (*Bp John Ford, Clergy & People*); Royal School of Church

Music (*Roslyn Carolane, Chair*); St Stephen's Gardenvale (*Paul Carr*).

**For the Parish:** Give thanks for those who support our parish life: the Op Shop team, Maintenance committee, the Parish Treasurer and office support, and those who contribute through rostered help at each centre; and pray that they do this all in the name of Jesus, who called people to serve others.

**For the sick & in need:** Keiran, Gail Lubie, Sally Newson, Joan, Michael, Lachie Richardson, Megan Evans, John Bell, Hannah (*Pauline Reeve's granddaughter serving in Middle East*), Ron Donohue, Will, Kane Harvey, Deirdre Baker, Russ, Yvonne, Eileen Gleimius (*Phillippa's mother*), and those in need of our prayers.

**Community of the sick:** Heather Weiss, Therese Cummins, Don, Alec Baker, Fiona Tunley, Jenny Stewart, Chris Erving.  
*This community are those who need ongoing prayers for strength, courage, and peace of heart, mind and soul as they journey onwards.*

**Rest in peace:** Brian Holt (*Fr John's effective brother-in-law*). Brian was on our prayer list for only one week, and sadly died from complications following surgery. We pray for Liz, and Brian's family, in their grief at this time.

Year's Mind

*none recorded for this week*

Birthdays & Wedding anniversaries

24th Helen Roberts

**Contact details for the Parish**

<u>Vicar:</u> Rev'd John Webster	<u>Assistant Priest:</u> Rev'd Sharon Valentino
Email: <i>use parish email</i>	Days available: <i>Friday, Saturday, Sunday</i>
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	Website: <a href="http://www.surfcoastanglican.org.au">www.surfcoastanglican.org.au</a> ( <i>Ken Farrow</i> )

*Notices for the pew sheet to the Office by Thursday.  
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