



17 December 2023

Our mission is to:

Shine with the love of Jesus, grow mature disciples and declare the Good News.

Advent 3—Joy

When we use the word joy, we often see this as a happy emotion that we either feel or don't feel. Biblical joy is different as it is a state of being that finds its source in God. God's word is clear that joy comes from God (Nehemiah 8:9-10) and our joy is a product of what God has done and is continuing to do in and through our lives and those around. It is gladness and contentedness flowing out of the well-spring of God's faithfulness and mercy, quite independent of our circumstances. The Psalmist writes, "Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it...Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth." (Psalm 96:11-13). Isaiah declares, "Sing for joy, O heavens! Rejoice, O earth! Burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on them in their suffering" (Isaiah 49:13). God's people had joy because they anticipated a time when the promised Messiah would come and "Those who have been ransomed by the Lord...will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness" (Isaiah 35:10). Their faith in God's promises meant that even in sorrow, "Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines. Though the yield of the olive should fail...Yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation" (Hab 3:17-18).

Today, our joy is anchored in the knowledge that God fulfilled his promise. And with Advent more than half over, our joyful anticipation of Christmas is coming to a head. Let's rejoice in the good news that the angels brought to the shepherds, "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Saviour—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!" Luke 1:11).

(Adapted from an article written by Robin Basselin)

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Christmas Services at the Longbeach Church

Sunday 17 December at St Chad's

10am Nine Lessons and Carols at St Chad's (no communion)

Sunday 24 December

10am Family service at St Chad's (With the pageant and puppets)

11am Nine Lessons & Carols at St Aidan's (no communion)

11pm Holy Communion at St Chad's

11pm Holy Communion at St Aidan's

Monday 25 December

9.30 am Holy Communion at St Chad's

Singing Group

On Thursday night, the Singing Group are practicing for the 9 lessons and carols service where they will be leading the singing of the carols. If you would like to join them, or you know of others who would like to sing, you are most welcome to come along on Thursday night from 7-8:30pm.

Building works at St Chad's and St Aidan's

So far, we have raised over \$25000 of the \$50000 needed towards our building works. Thanks for your support. If you are able to contribute to the building fund, please place your money in the envelope provided or bank a donation of any amount to our ADF building fund:

Account name: Longbeach Anglican Building Fund Account

BSB: 703122 Account number: 05009441

Nominations Committee changes (Previously Incumbency)

This year there were some changes in the governance act and one of these was that churches needed to have a male and female representative on the Nominations Committee (previously the Incumbency Committee). As we did not have a man on this team, we needed to rectify this. Natalie has resigned her place as a nominated representative and has become the Warden's delegate. When a new person needs to be elected after the APM, it is the Parish Council's role to vote them on and they have chosen Caleb Peterson for this role. With the two centers we can have four on this team and they are:

Natalie Allinson (Warden's Rep), Zilpha Barker, Lissy Crombie and Caleb Peterson. Thank you for your willingness to be part of this team.

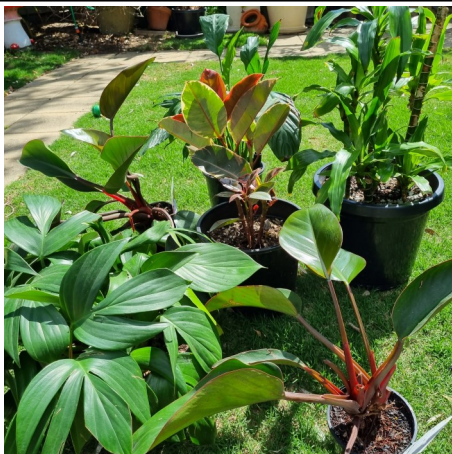
Christmas presents for children & teenagers...

...can be left unwrapped under the tree at St Chad's. They will be distributed to needy families by CCSS before Christmas.

Next Church Market

16 December 9am – 12.30 pm

Please continue to drop items in the shed and remember that home baked Christmas treats are a terrific seller. We will also have some fantastic plants for sale at the market including Monstera Monkey face, Monstera Deliciosa, Red heart syngonium, fiddle leaf figs, pothos, rubber plants, dragons tail and peace lilies. We'll also have white/pink roses for \$10.



Lunching with the Vicar

Sue would like to invite you to the Vicarage for Sunday lunch on January 14 or 21 if you are around. If you would like to come, then please put your name down on the sign in sheets on the notice boards or at the back of Church.

Opening and closing times for our outreach programs

Matt's Place & Lunch Church

Christmas lunch at 11:30am on Tuesday 19 December (last day for 2023)
and reopening on Tuesday 23 January 2024

Pantry 5000

Wednesday 20 December 9:30am-1:30pm

Wednesday 27 December PANTRY CLOSED

Wednesday 3 January 10:00am-12:00pm

Wednesday 10 January 9:30am-1:30pm

Wednesday 17 January 9:30am-1:30pm

No market in January

Services in the parish over the New Year

On the Sundays following Christmas we will have combined services on the following dates, times and churches.

December 31—10:00am Combined Service at St Chad's

January 7, 14 & 21—10:00am Combined Service at St Chad's

January 28—10am at St Chad's & 11am St Aidan's

This Week...Christine Taylor, Pamela Norton

Services in the church (except in January)

10am at St Chad's every Sunday
8am at St Chad's 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
11am at St Aidan's 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

This week in the church

Mon	9:30am	Pastoral Care Meeting
	7:00pm	Meeting of the Parish Council
Tues	10:45am	Matt's Place at St Chad's Christmas Lunch
Tues	11:15am	Lunch Church
Wed	9:30am—1:30pm	Pantry 5000 at St Aidan's
Wed	1pm	Church Prayer Meeting
Thurs	7-8:30pm	Singing group at St Chad's (2nd & 4th Thursdays)

Soon in the church

16 December	9am-12:30pm	Market
17 December	10am	Nine lessons and carols at St Chad's
14 & 21 January		Lunch with the Vicar
4 February		Commissioning of Lauren Raiter, Scots Church, Melbourne
17 February	9am-12:30pm	Market
16 March		Fete

Pantry 5000 Food of the Week ... Cereal and instant noodles

Prayer Chain requests—Christine Taylor 0407 725 692

Ongoing prayer—email requests to Jaqueline or Sue

Pastoral care—Sue Bluett 0433 024 626

Prayer has been requested for: Alethea, Audrey, Cheryl, Di, Don, Doug, Dylon, Gisela, Helen, Hunter & Stefanie, Jaqueline, Jasmine, Julie, Kayden & Elisabeth, Lorraine, Lynne, Margot, Mia, Nick, Nigel & Chris, Phoebe, Richard, Ruth, Sandra, Stephen T, Sue, Wayne, Will

Offering Via Direct Debit—Our bank details are:

Account Name: Anglican Parish of Longbeach

Bendigo Bank BSB No. 6 3 3— 0 0 0 Account No. 1 5 3 7 4 5 2 2 9

Please label with the words "tithe" or "offering". Thank you!

Wardens	Di McGreal, Natalie Allinson, Julie Whalen
Treasurer	Sofia Gerandt finance@longbeachanglicans.org.au
Child Safety Officers	Zilpha Barker, Jaqueline H.
Compliance Officer	Zilpha Barker