

ANGLICAN PARISH OF KINGSCLIFF  
BULLETIN

# Higher

“as it is in heaven”

VOL 46 DECEMBER 14 2025



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# Higher

Welcome stranger! If you are visiting St James in Kingscliff or St Marks in Pottsville, this page is especially for you. We are the two Anglican Churches in this part of the world and are delighted to welcome you to our growing Parish. You can learn more by leafing through this magazine, HIGHER, our weekly bulletin, which keeps our Christian community informed and updated about all that is going on.

If you are curious to know more about our Christian faith please contact our Rector, Rev. Constantine Osuchukwu whose details can be found at the back of this bulletin. Give him a call and invite him for coffee. We are all about hospitality and the love of God here and would love you to join us. You can also get a better idea of who we are what we are about by attending worship on Sundays (8.30 – 9.30 am at St James, 10.30 – 11.30 am at St Marks) and staying on for morning tea afterwards.

## Advent

# Letter from Constantine

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

*“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”  
(Philippians 1:9–11)*

## **60 Years of God’s Love and Faithfulness**

Our heartfelt thanks to all who attended and supported our 60th anniversary celebrations last week. These events were true moments of encounter with the living God and with one another. We pray that God’s love and faithfulness will continue to guide us in the months and years ahead as we seek to build a Christ-centred, welcoming community of faith.

## **Parish Quiet Day – Saturday, 13 December**

Tomorrow, around eight of us will travel to the Carmelite Monastery in Ormiston, QLD, for our Advent Quiet Day in spiritual preparation for Christmas. Please pray for a spiritually uplifting and grace-filled time. Be assured, too, of our prayers for every member of our parish and for our shared mission.

## **‘Cans for Christmas’**

This is the final week to bring canned food and non-perishable items for those in need this Christmas. Donations can be placed in the designated area in the church foyer at St James and near the back table at St Mark’s. All items will be given to the “You Have A Friend” charity to support individuals and families doing it tough this season.

## Flowers for Jesus' Birthday

Let us adorn our churches beautifully this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. If you are able to contribute toward Christmas flowers, please place your gift in an envelope marked '**Christmas Flowers**' and hand it in via the collection plate, the Wardens, or our treasurer, Terry McNellee.

## Welcome to the Family

Last Thursday, we joyfully welcomed Henry O'Neill into the family of God through baptism. This Sunday, we look forward to baptising Isla-May and Malia Meiklejohn at St Mark's. We thank the Lord for adding to our number and pray that these children may come to know, through Christ, who they are and whose they are.

## Gratitude and Joy

I thank God for each one of you and rejoice in our partnership in the Gospel. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, may we, like Mary and Joseph, say our own faithful "Yes" to God's plan for our lives. In this surrender to God's will, may we discover our true purpose and the deep joy our hearts long for.

## Induction of The Reverend Mandy Larkin – 27 January 2026

The Reverend Mandy Larkin will be inducted as the parish priest of All Saints, Murwillumbah, on **27 January 2026**. Please keep her in your prayers and, if you are able, plan to attend. We will share the service time as soon as it is confirmed.

May God's richest blessings be yours in every way.

*Constantine*



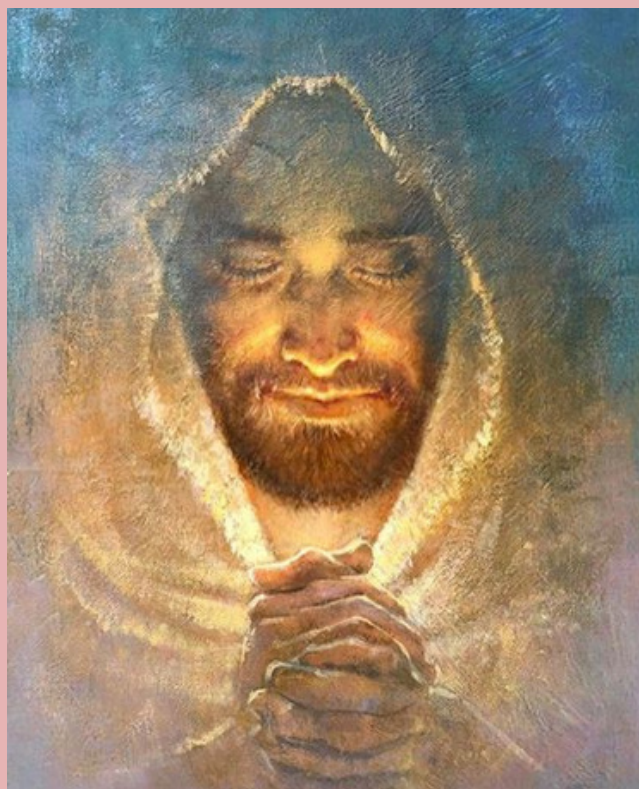
## Preparing for Christmas

"If in your heart you make a manger for his birth then God will once again become a child on earth."  
~*Angelus Silesius*

"... And then, just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever (people) may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives."

~*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God Is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas.*

In the busyness and rush of this time of the year, let us make time daily to pray: "Come, Lord Jesus, Come" (*Revelation 22:20*).



# Constantine Baptises Henry O'Neill



The Parish welcomes the family of Henry O'Neill, who was baptised at St James on Thursday, 11 December by Reverend Constantine.

At St. Mark's Isla-May and Malia will be baptised on Sunday, 14 December, 2025. Please keep these children in your prayers as we rejoice in their new life in Christ.

## Parish Council Agrees to Disagree Well

Parish Council met on Wednesday and discussed a range of issues upon which different views are held (as well, happily, as many upon which there is general consensus).

Rev. Constantine often says that we should try to “disagree” well. On this topic, Jason made a point worth repeating, noting the difference between “putting an idea forward” and “making a decision”. In the Anglican world, individuals or groups may suggest ideas for discussion (at Parish Council and other venues), but actual decisions are made through the collective wisdom of Parish Council, which relies on open discussion and prayerful discernment. Let's not discourage people from putting forward new ideas for discussion, but trust that our system of governance will produce good decisions.

# Parish Strategic Map & Project Leadership

A key item on the agenda was implementing the Strategic Map developed at the Parish Discernment Day in September. That map is reproduced below and prioritises five Strategic Projects for 2026 (and the leadership team assigned to them), being:

**SP1.** Develop a phased upgrade plan for buildings and facilities within a Master Plan. [Lead by Phil George, Steve Elworthy, Glenn Kellow, Brian Wyver, Jason Saltearn]

**SP2.** Recruit extra LLM's, lay leaders and a Music leader. [Lead by Rev. Constantine, Peter Pine, Wendy Hawkins]

**SP3.** Create a volunteer register; formalise the structure and publicise existing groups. [Lead by Jason Saltearn, Peter Pine, Terry McNellee]

**SP4.** Develop and implement an upgrade plan for IT and tech. [Lead by Mike Sainsbury, Stephen Elworthy, Sam and Stuart Reid].

**SP5.** Develop and implement a calendar of new and repeat events for 2026 [Lead by Kaz Sainsbury, Ximena de Sada]

Any parishioner who would like to join one of these teams are encouraged to let Rev. Constantine and/or the Wardens know. Your contribution would be most welcome.

As always, let us pray fervently that the Holy Spirit will empower and enable us to work together to achieve these projects for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.



# APOK Strategy Map 2026

## Amplifying Our Impact

Vision

"By 2032 we will be a Christ-centred thriving, community welcoming to all"

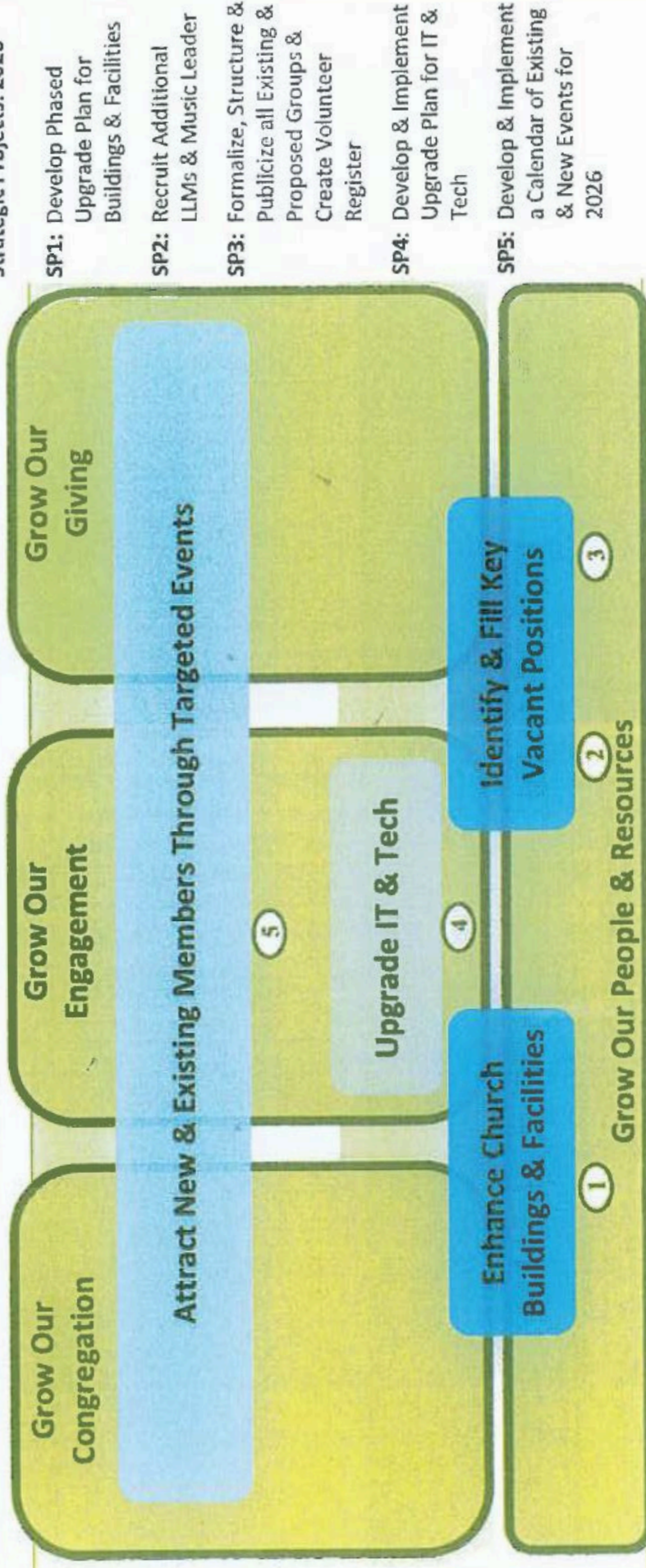
Ministry/  
Financial

Constituents

Internal  
Operations/  
Processes

People &  
Resources

Strategic Projects: 2026





# 60th Anniversary Celebrations

Hot on the heels of the monster effort parishioners made for the Christmas Market, the Parish plunged headfirst into a week of celebrations last week, at both St Marks (who hosted the Hope Vale walkers for a BBQ) and St James (who hosted the Bishop, who preached, cut the cake and bravely participated in a 'Q & A').











## Diners Raving About Charlotte's Green Curry Chicken

The second week of Soup Kitchen saw a delicious Green Curry Chicken served by Charlotte whilst Richard, Laurie and Constantine enjoyed convivial conversations with our guests, who raved about the tasty dish. Next week Constantine and Faith are on cooking duty and have promised to dish up a delicious Nigerian delicacy, Jollof Rice. Laurie is doing a stellar job of promoting Soup Kitchen to people doing it tough, so word continues to spread through the community.

# Bishop In the Hot Seat

Bishop Murray takes a keen interest in what goes on in our Parish, often putting tough questions to the Wardens about this or that project already underway, or looking to get his approval. So it was great when he agreed to have the tables turned and to submit to questions from the Parish in a 'Q & A' session at our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, where he led the service. Facilitated by Jason, the event put Bishop Murray in the "hot seat", giving him the opportunity to share his views on a wide range of topics, by answering parishioners questions. Amongst other things, he spoke about achieving work-life balance in his role, the Church's response to the appointment of the first female Archbishop of Canterbury, and what constitutes "best practice" for Parishes (answer : prayer).

## Contemporary Service This Sunday

The Contemporary Service returns to St James at 5pm on Sun Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Inspiring preaching and uplifting Gospel music in a less formal atmosphere than the traditional Anglican Communion service. The theme is "Preparing for Christmas" and there will be an excursion to the Kingscliff Beach Hotel afterwards. All welcome. Be there or be square!

## Christmas Services 2025 schedule

Please see the poster at the back of this bulletin

## New Years Eve 2025

Amidst your busy social calendars for the Christmas New Year period please keep in mind that the Parish will gather at St James for a Social Gathering on New Years Eve, Wednesday, 31 December 2025. The event will run from 4pm - 8pm, starting with a Christian Meditation/ Evening Prayer from 4 - 5 pm, followed by a BBQ and drinks to celebrate the end of 2025 and to welcome in the New Year. More details to follow next week.



# St Marks Historical Photos



One of the many discoveries brought to light by the Parish History project undertaken last month, is the treasure trove of historical photos held by St Marks (compared to very little at St James). We at HIGHER admire the dedication to recording the history of the Church in Pottsville. Over the next few weeks we will be publishing a selection of these photos as part of our ongoing celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Parish in 1965.

# Our Parish Support for Mission

(A message from the Parish Mission Secretary, Graeme Hodgkinson)

Since there have been new people join our parish in recent years it is probably a good time to clarify what support our parish gives to mission so that everyone understands how we operate in that regard.

The parish has a Mission Support Group (MSG) that acts under the direction of the Parish Council. Acting on the advice of the MSG and in accordance with the tradition of the parish the Parish Council has decided that as a parish we should support four Missionary groups:

***Locally,***

**we support the Tweed Coast Christian Education Association (TCCEA).**

This association includes representatives from churches in the local region that finds and supports teachers to give Religious Instruction to students in local High Schools. Funds are raised through those churches to provide salaries for the teachers and to pray that the Word of God would reach local students through them. Currently there is one teacher supported in this way (Kirsten Strong in the Kingscliff High School).

***Australia-wide,***

**we support the Bush Church Aid Society (BCA).**

This Anglican Society raises up and supports people (both clergy and lay) to take the gospel message of God's love in Jesus to remote and outback parts of Australia, as well as maintaining strong support for indigenous outreach.



*Globally,*

**we support two missionary organisations:**

### **1. The Church Missionary Society (CMS).**

This society exists to raise up, send, pray for and fund missionaries in overseas countries. It is planned to have a speaker from CMS to bring us up to date with the work of the society before the end of the year.

### **2. The Anglican Board of Mission (ABM).**

This mission board raises funds and prayer support for projects in other countries to assist local Christian groups to take the love of God to their own people. We use ABM envelopes in Lent and Advent to support whatever project is recommended.

Our parish sets apart \$10,000 each year to support these mission groups, giving \$2,500 to each of them. Members of the church are encouraged to give support to these organisations and pray that our Lord's Commission to his church might be fulfilled.



# *Christmas Services*

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday 24 December

- 5.30pm Christmas Play with Carols at St James Kingscliff followed by
- 6.00pm Family and Children's service including the decoration of the Christmas Tree
- 11.00pm Christmas Vigil Service with Carols at St James Kingscliff

## CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday 25 December

- 8.30am Holy Communion Service at St James Kingscliff
- 9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Marks Pottsville



# Tweed Anglican Parishes invite you to celebrate the Birth of Christ with us

## **All Saints Anglican Parish**

All Saints, 32 Byangum Road, Murwillumbah

Holy Trinity, 1473 Kyogle Rd, Uki

St John's, 4 Carrabol Terrace, Tyalgum

### Sunday 21 December

9.00 am Christmas Service at Holy Trinity, Uki

### Wednesday 24 December

5.30pm Holy Communion Service at All Saints,  
Murwillumbah

6.00pm Traditional Christmas Carol Service  
at St John's, Tyalgum

### Thursday, 25 December

9.00am. Holy Communion Service at All Saints,  
Murwillumbah

## **St James Anglican Parish**

St James, 122 Marine Parade, Kingscliff

St Marks, 15A Coronation Avenue, Pottsville

### Wednesday 24 December

5.30pm Christmas Play with Carols at St James, Kingscliff

6.00pm Family & Children's Service - decorate the

Christmas Tree

11.00pm Christmas Vigil with Carols at St James, Kingscliff

### Thursday, 25 December

8.30am Holy Communion Service at St James, Kingscliff

9.30am Holy Communion Service at St Marks, Pottsville

## **St Cuthbert's Anglican Parish**

13 Powell Street, Tweed Heads

### Wednesday 24 December

8.00pm Christmas Eve Family Service

### Thursday, 25 December

9.00am Holy Communion Service



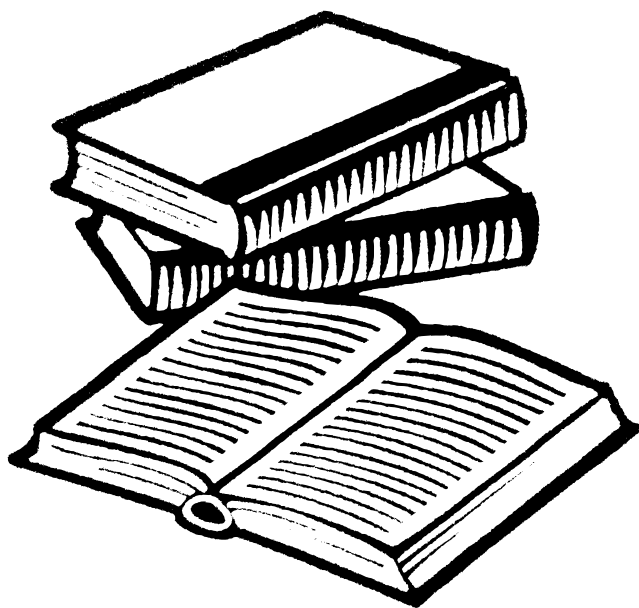
# Parish Food Ministry

The Parish would like to thank all who helped distribute the meals through the Food Ministry this week, add both St Marks and St James. Well done all for keeping this vital long running ministry alive.

St James - 95 meals

St Marks - 20 meals

Praise be to God!



## Sunday Worship Readings

### Sunday 14 December 2025

Isaiah 35 v 1-10

Psalms Song of Mary (APBA p9)

James 5 v 7-10

Matthew 11 v 2-11

### Sunday 21 December 2025

Isaiah 7 v 10-16

Psalms 80 v 1-7, 17-19

Romans 1 v 1-7

Matthew 1 v 18-25

# Service Schedule

**St James @ 8.30am**

**Sunday 14 December 2025**

**Officiant & Preacher:**

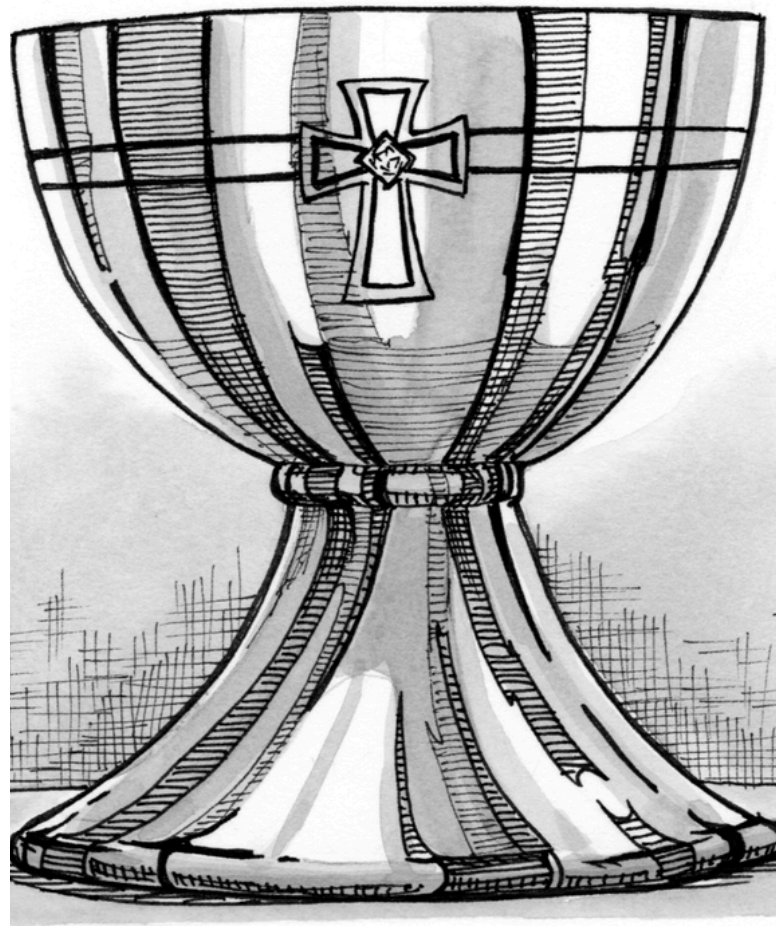
Rev. Constantine Osuchukwu

**St Marks @ 10.30am**

**Sunday 14 December 2025**

**Officiant & Preacher:**

Rev. Constantine Osuchukwu



## Contacts

### Parish Office

[www.apok.org.au](http://www.apok.org.au)

p: 02 6674 1513

e: [office@apok.org.au](mailto:office@apok.org.au)

### Rector

Reverend Constantine Osuchukwu

0435 750 155

[rector@apok.org.au](mailto:rector@apok.org.au)

### Wardens

Stephen Elworthy

0408 757 876

Jason Saltearn

0406 450 056

[jsaltearn@gmail.com](mailto:jsaltearn@gmail.com)

Peter Pine

0407 732 440

### Grievance Officers

Graeme Hodgkinson

0407 209 819

Marg Dephoff

0437 400 429

# Parish Calendar for Dec/January 2025

## ● Mondays

- U3A Art Group – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–12:00pm
- *Evening Prayer – St James Kingscliff, 5:15pm–5:30pm*

## ● Tuesdays

- Justice of the Peace – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–12:00pm
- Meal Handout – St Mark's Pottsville 11:00am–1:00pm
  - *Holy Communion/Eucharist – St Mark's Pottsville, 12.30pm -1,00pm*
- Bible Study – St Mark's Pottsville Hall, 4:00pm
- AA Meeting – St James Kingscliff, 7:30pm
- Pottsville Community Association – Last Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm

## ● Wednesdays

- *Holy Communion/Eucharist – St James Kingscliff, 10:00am*
- *'Lectio Divina' (Holy Reading of the Bible) – St James Kingscliff, 11:30am*
- Bible Study (fortnightly) -St Mark's Pottsville, 10.00am
- Meditation (in person) – St James Kingscliff, 4:00pm & Via Zoom

### Zoom link

Meeting ID: 891 8478 4092 | Passcode: 516345

## ● Thursdays

- Ladies Craft Group – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–12:00pm
- Meal Handout – St James Kingscliff, 11:00am–1:00pm
- AA Meeting – St Mark's Pottsville, 6:00pm
- *Evening Prayer – St James Kingscliff, 5:15pm–5:30pm*

## ● Friday

- Sing to Connect Choir – St James Kingscliff, 9:30–10:45am
- Making Marks Art Group – St James Kingscliff, 1:00pm–4:00pm

## ● Saturdays

- Community Garden Club – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–11:00am
  - Seven-Day Adventist Church at St Mark's, 9.00am -1.00pm
  - *BCP Healing Service at St James Kingscliff, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month at 5pm*

## ● Sundays

- *Holy Communion/Eucharist*
  - St James Kingscliff, 8:30am
  - St Mark's Pottsville, 10:30am
  - *KICK Service, 1st Sundays of the Month at St James at 8.30am*
  - *Contemporary Service, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the Month at St James at 5pm.*

## 📌 Upcoming Events:

- ***Contemporary Worship Service, 14 December 2025 at 5pm.***
- ***Parish Social Gathering on New Year's Eve, 31 December at 4pm at St James.***