

ANGLICAN PARISH OF KINGSCLIFF
BULLETIN

Higher

“as it is in heaven”

VOL 47 DECEMBER 21 2025

A detailed illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary, wearing a blue veil and a red dress, is seated on the right, cradling the infant Jesus who is lying in a manger filled with straw. Joseph, with a beard and wearing a white robe and head covering, stands behind the manger. To the left, a man in a dark robe is kneeling and holding a white lamb. In the background, another man stands watching. The scene is set in a stable with a thatched roof, and the lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the figures and the manger.

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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.

Christmas

Letter from Constantine

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ

Friendship, Acts of Love and Inner Peace -The Proper Response to the Bondi Heinous Terrorist Attack on Sunday, 14 December 2025.

Pastor Martin Niemöller, once wrote in post-war Europe in 1946:

*First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
to speak out for me.*

In the aftermath of last Sunday's heinous terrorist attack against our Jewish brothers and sisters in Bondi, Sydney, this is not a time for many words, but for silence, prayer, gestures, and resolve.

Firstly, our response begins with friendship—reaching across pain and grief with compassion and unity, and firmly rejecting antisemitism, racism, fundamentalism, religious extremism, and every form of “othering” that divides the human family.

Secondly, we look for the helpers, not blamers. We honour the courage of those who ran toward danger to save others—Ahmed Al Ahmed, Boris Gurman and his wife Sofia; police and security personnel; paramedics and healthcare professionals; and ordinary Australians who tended the wounded and comforted the fearful.

They are the true heroes among us. May we strive to be people of such courage and love in our increasingly fragmented and troubled world.

Thirdly, we are also called to turn inward and tend our own hearts. As Etty Hillesum wrote during the Holocaust as a young Dutch Jewish girl: “We have one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace within ourselves and transmit it to others. For the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will be in our troubled world.”

We must root out the seeds of hatred and violence wherever they may lie within us, and teach our children and grandchildren to love generously and to honour the dignity and humanity of every person.

As Dr Martin Luther King Jr. reminded us:

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

To our Jewish brothers and sisters: **you are not alone**. We stand with you. We hold in prayer all who have lost loved ones, and we pray for healing and recovery for those who were injured.

Friendship, acts of love, and inner peace are our answer to the hatred and violence we have witnessed. Let us hold one another close and commit ourselves anew to being people of light, enlightening the nights of history with Christian love.

Finally, these words of St. Paul are particularly apt as we process the shock and pain of these days. Even as we prepare our hearts and souls for the annual celebration of the Incarnation, we are reminded that God is always with us – in our joys and hopes, as well as in our fears, sadness, and anxieties.

“...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (see Romans 8:31-39).

Advent blessings to you and your families,
Constantine

Christmas by Frederick Buechner...

In the darkness of a church, the candles burn. They hold the darkness back, just barely hold it back.

In the darkness of that Judean night, in the midst of nowhere, to parents who were nobody, the child was born, and whoever it was that delivered him slapped his bare backside to start the breath going, and he cried out, as each one of us cried out, at the shock and strangeness of being born into the darkness of the world.

Then, as the Gospels picture it, all heaven broke loose.

~Frederick Buechner, The Hungering Dark, p. 51.

I will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

From "The Mood of Christmas" by Howard Thurman



St James Christmas Calendar

Christmas is nearly upon us, with a range of events about to take place at St James over the next few days.

The Christmas Play and Carols event is on at St James on Sunday 21st at 5.30 – 6.30 pm

A special Christmas meal for the community will be served at Soup Kitchen at 6 pm on Monday 22 Dec. All welcome!

The Christmas Play and Carols event is on again at St James on Christmas Eve at 5.30, ahead of the Family and Children's service at 6.15 pm.

A special late night Christmas Eve Carols service starts at 11 pm. The Christmas Day service is at 8.30 pm

Weather Warning for Christmas Play/Carols Night

The actors, costumiers, audio team and stage crew, of the Christmas Play are busily preparing for their performances at St James on Sunday 21st and Wednesday 24th. The short entertaining show telling the true story of Christmas, promises to be a joyful event for all the family, so bring your children, grandchildren, friends, neighbours and anyone else along with you.

In the event that there is an electrical storm on Christmas Eve (as forecast) the decision as to whether to proceed will be made on the day. That means to see the event at its best, parishioners may want to attend the performance this Sunday at 5.30 pm, when the weather promises to be fine.

Promotion for Archdeacon Tiffany

Bishop Murray has written to inform us of his decision to promote Archdeacon Tiffany to the position of Asst Bishop of the Diocese, in recognition of her contribution. He writes :

Archdeacon Tiffany is an outstanding example of women in leadership in the church. Her consecration as a bishop will be an encouragement to women in ministry in this diocese as well as in the wider church.

Her current role as Diocesan Archdeacon has similar duties to that of Assistant Bishops in other dioceses. It is my discernment that Archdeacon Tiffany is called to and ready for this ministry. I have every confidence that she will undertake this ministry with great care, Godly wisdom and grace and that this appointment will greatly enhance the ministry and mission of the Diocese.

Congratulations Archdeacon Tiffany!

Rev. Constantine On Leave

Rev. Constantine will be returning to Nigeria for three weeks from the 4th of Jan and in his absence, services will be led by Rev. Sue Woodcock, and Rev. Graeme Hodgkinson.

Parish Council Planning Day

Traditionally, Parish Council doesn't meet in January and this year is no exception – with the exception of a special Planning scheduled for Jan 31st.

Anglican Parish of Kingscliff
& Pottsville
**Christmas Services
2025**

CHRISTMAS EVE

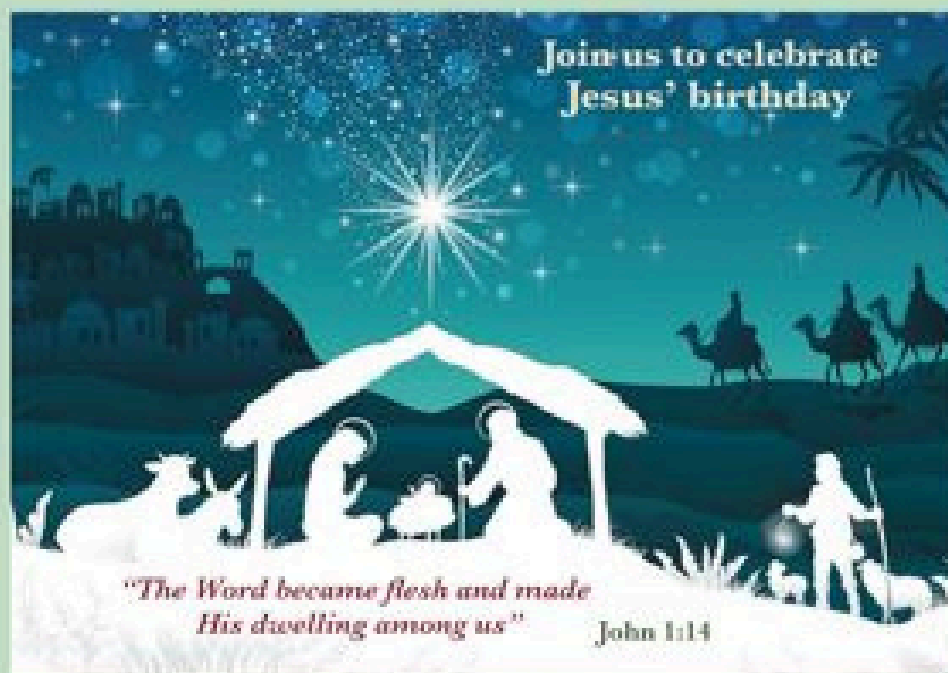
Wednesday 24th December

- 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 25th December

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



St James Church: 122 Marine Pde, Kingscliff
St Marks Church: 15a Coronation Ave, Pottsville
Parish Priest: Rev Constantine - 0435750155



Tweed Coast Christian Education Association Inc.

Newsletter December 2025

End of year wrap! from our president, Michael Boyd

This year introduced a new model of teaching and ministry in Banora Point and Tweed River. The team from Pais is now well established and finding many opportunities to share the Gospel both in the classroom and informally in the playground. We praise God for serious conversations and the spiritual growth of many students. Please pray for the potential to continue SRE into Year 9 next year at Banora Point, and for the drop-in time Pais have instituted at Tweed Salvos (just near the school).

We mark another milestone at the end of this year as Kirsten Strong, our teacher at Kingscliff, will not be continuing next year. Kirsten has had a fantastic ministry since April 2022. The Association is deeply grateful for her hard work in timetabling and negotiating classes, for her clear Gospel presentation, and for the way she was a clear ambassador for Jesus. She leaves the work in a strong position, with students actively enrolling for SRE.

The Board is currently in discussions with Pais about the possibility for a team to continue the work in Kingscliff next year.

The vision of the Association is to see all local churches actively partnering together through prayer and giving so the work can continue and grow. Please encourage your church to set aside **Sunday 22 March as SRE Sunday** as a focus for prayer and giving. Currently the work is supported by a small number of individuals in a small number of local churches. While God keeps the door open in State schools, it would be a travesty to see the work fold due to lack of support from the Tweed Christian community. Please pray.

Make your tax-deductible donation today, by

- A) Direct deposit (EFT) into the TCCEA bank account, or
- B) Paid into TCCEA bank account over the counter at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank, or
- C) Handed to your Church TCCEA representative who will forward it onto the TCCEA treasurer, or
- D) Donations made by cheque can be posted to TCCEA PO Box 8954 Tweed Heads South NSW 2488

TCCEA Bank Details as follows

Bank Commonwealth Bank

BSB 082-811

Account no: 10359407

For any further information about TCCEA please email: tcceainc@yahoo.com
or visit our website at tccea.org.au

Kirsten Strong - SRE teacher at Kingscliff High School

As 2025 draws to a close, a particular verse comes to mind:

"There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place" - Deuteronomy 1:31.

During my time teaching SRE at Kingscliff High School, I have experienced firsthand how God both makes a way and holds us close to his heart – *all the way*. Through the SRE program, the good news of the freedom we have in Jesus has been shared with young people, some of whom had never heard of God's love for them.

This truth is communicated so powerfully through the story of Christmas, the gospels' recount of which we have been exploring together in recent weeks. We've explored the Bible's answer to the question: *What is Christmas all about?* along with other meaningful discussions the students have initiated about prayer, eternity and ...do you believe in Santa, Miss?

As our Year 8 students finish their SRE program, I invite you to pray that they would continue to grow in their faith and be encouraged in their walk with God through connection with local youth groups and churches. Please also pray for our Year 7 students as they continue in the SRE program next year, and for the Year 6 students who will begin at Kingscliff High in 2026. May they have the power to understand, together with all God's people, "how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge." - Ephesians 3:18, 19a Finally, to each of you who support this ministry in so many ways - through giving, prayer and practical support – thankyou. Your grace, generosity and compassion shine irrepressibly, a city on a hill that cannot be hidden.

PAIS Team – SRE teachers Tweed River High School

We've been teaching Jonah this term, exploring what it means to live authentically and how God calls us to follow Him. Students are reflecting on their own choices and how to live faithfully in daily life. Overall, engagement is high. Students are happy to participate, answer questions, and read Scripture aloud when prompted. Many are expressing gratitude for our presence and genuinely enjoying Scripture class. In the playground, students are more open to conversations about faith, asking questions, and building relationships with the team.

PAIS Team – SRE teachers Banora Point High School

This term, we too have been exploring the story of Jonah and what it teaches us about living authentically in relationship with God. We're also starting to focus more intentionally on Bible study skills, helping students read Scripture and reflect on it through guided questions.

Connections with students are continuing to grow, particularly with Year 7s. Many students are engaging dynamically in discussions about faith, asking thoughtful questions, and showing genuine curiosity about God. Breakthrough moments continue to happen during recess and lunch breaks, with students approaching team members to chat about faith or ask deeper questions. Facilitating Bible study in small groups has been fruitful, and students are increasingly excited about Scripture class. A few students occasionally choose PE over Scripture, which lowers attendance. Encouragement around prioritising Scripture, particularly for these classes, would be helpful.

Christmas Nativity
Play & Carols **Evening**

The Christ Child



Starring Baby Jesus, Charlotte, Huck, Kim, Phil, Graeme, Paige, Brooklyn, Sophie and Obed

5.30 - 6.15 pm Sunday 21 Dec & Christmas Eve
St James Church Garden Marine Pde



Soup Kitchen Christmas Dinner

St. James Parish Hall, Pearl St.

6 pm Monday Dec 22

Serve Free with Love

All Welcome!

Prayer of the Week

O Lord, raise up your power and come among us, and with great might succour us, that, whereas through our sins and wickedness we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen.



Bank Account Details

If you would like to contribute financially to the life and mission of both churches in the Parish of Kingscliff by electronic means, our bank account details are:

BSB: 062-673

Account: 1001 5155

Account Name: Anglican Parish of Kingscliff

Thank you for your support, we appreciate your generosity.

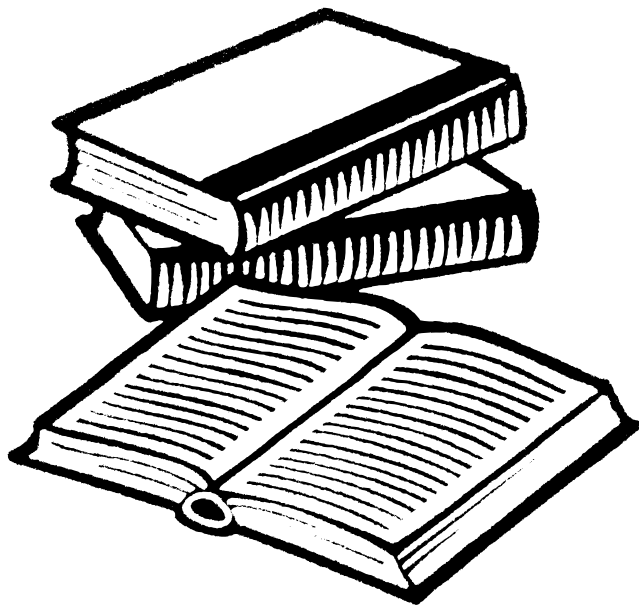
Parish Food Ministry

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 - 55 meals

St Marks - 65 meals

Praise be to God!



Sunday Worship Readings

Sunday 21 December 2025

Isaiah 7 v 10-16
Psalm 80 v 1-7,17-19
Romans 1 v 1-7
Matthew 1 v 18-25

Sunday 28 December 2025

Isaiah 63v 7-9
Psalm 148
Hebrews 2v 10-18
Matthew 2 v 13-23

Service Schedule

St James @ 8.30am

Sunday 21 December 2025

Officiant & Preacher:

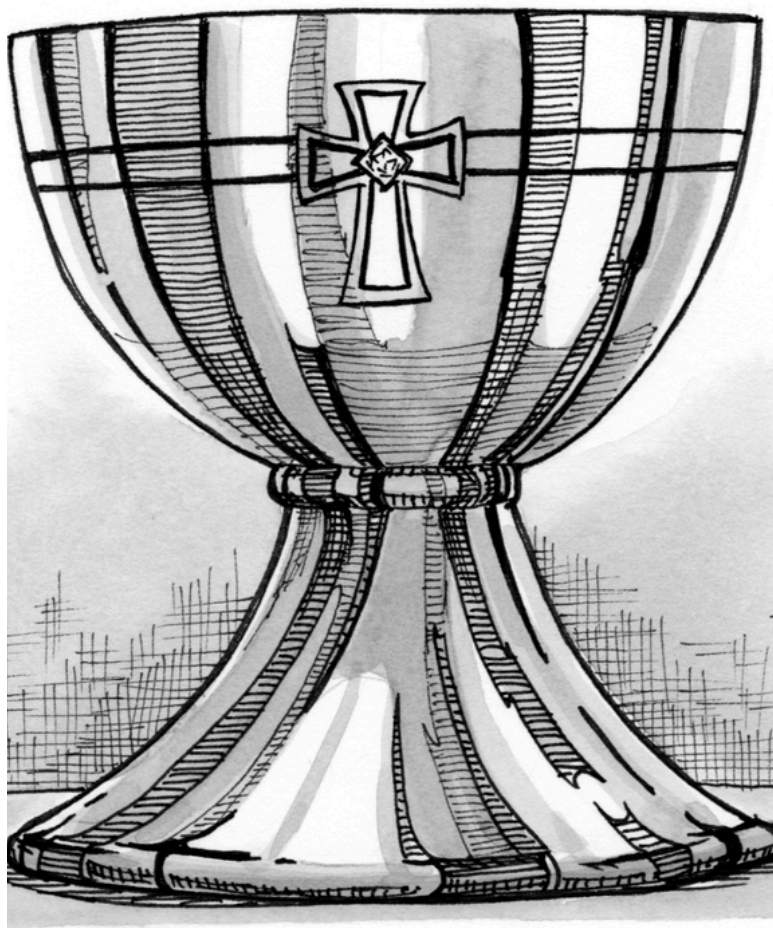
Rev. Constantine Osuchukwu

St Marks @ 10.30am

Sunday 21 December 2025

Officiant & Preacher:

Rev. Constantine Osuchukwu



Contacts

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Jason Saltearn

0406 450 056

jsaltearn@gmail.com

Peter Pine

0407 732 440

Grievance Officers

Graeme Hodgkinson

0407 209 819

Marg Dephoff

0437 400 429

Parish Calendar for Dec 2025 /Jan 2026

● 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

- **No Mid-week Services** for the rest of December and all of January 2026.

● 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

● Friday

● Saturdays

- Community Garden Club – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–11:00am
 - Seven-Day Adventist Church at St Mark's, 9.00am -1.00pm

● Sundays

- *Holy Communion/Eucharist*
 - St James Kingscliff, 8:30am
 - St Mark's Pottsville, 10:30am

---*Contemporary Service, 2nd Sundays of the Month at St James at 5pm.*

📌 Upcoming Events:

- ***Parish Social Gathering on New Year's Eve, 31 December at 4pm at St James.***
- *Next Contemporary Service is on Sunday, 11 January at 5pm at St James.*