

ANGLICAN PARISH OF KINGSCLIFF  
BULLETIN

# Higher

“as it is in heaven”

VOL 50 JANUARY 18 2026

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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.

## Australian Values

# Letter from Jason

Dear friends,

In his absence, Constantine has asked me to write this weeks letter. Next week Ximena will be enjoying a week off, so this edition of HIGHER will be it for this week and next. After that – back to normal, with all hands back on deck.

What's been on my mind of late are events in the Middle East, especially the uprising against the Islamic Regime in Iran, as the Persian people have taken to the streets in protest. Initially, a complaint about the deteriorating economic conditions in that country, the protests have broadened into a critique of oppressive Islamism and an expression of a popular desire for a return of the freedoms Iranians enjoyed before the Revolution turned the country into a theocracy all those years ago.

Pictures of Iran before 1979 show a modern progressive nation where people enjoyed life, and did so, wearing fashionable clothes similar to those worn in other countries. The prescriptive dress code we see today is not Iranian culture, it is Islamic dogma.

As Christians in a modern democracy we enjoy a freedom from religious laws that we take for granted. Thankfully, here in Australia we suffer no oppression by a religious Morality Police in our lives! [Admittedly, there used to be an Office of the Inquisition that burnt and tortured heretics, but the Reformation put paid to that centuries ago]. Let us give thanks at this time for the gift of grace in Christ that frees us from the onerous demands of the Law, which merely binds us to sin.

We Christians have the free will God granted us and rely on the ministry of the Holy Spirit to our hearts. Lets pray that the Iranians will succeed in escaping the grip that theocratic Islam has upon them, and that many will come to know the truth in Christ that sees us free (John 8 : 32).

The year 2026 is already well underway with lots happening and plenty more planned. As you'll read in these pages, Huck, Phil, Geoff and the Working Group have installed the new air-conditioning units at St James.

In other news, St Marks is welcoming a new food van for its popular Community Garden and Soup Kitchen will host an Australia Day BBQ on Mon Jan 26.

Parish Council next meets on Feb 10, but there will be a Planning Day on Sat Jan 31.

And the AGM is coming up on Sat Feb 28.

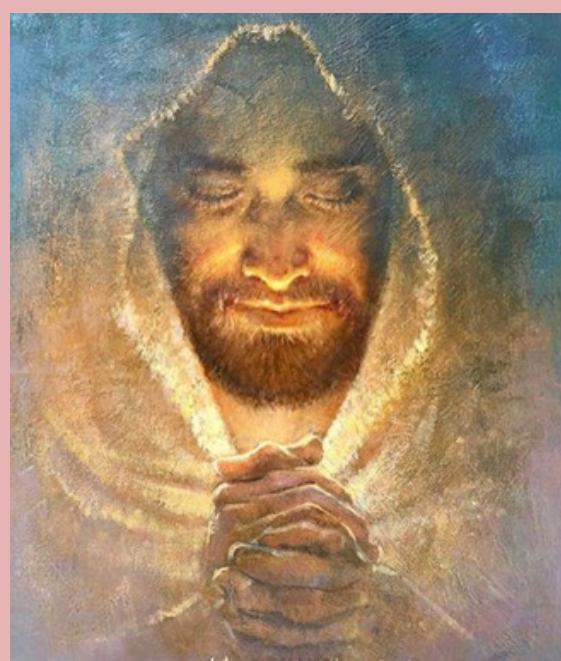
God bless,

Jason Saltearn  
Rectors' Warden

### Morning Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

Lord, help me to live this day, quietly, easily;  
to lean on your great strength, trustfully, restfully;  
to wait for the unfolding of your will, patiently, serenely;  
to meet others, peacefully, joyfully;  
to face tomorrow, confidently, courageously.

—St. Francis of Assisi



# Reflections on Australia Day

Australia Day long weekend will soon be upon us, so it behoves us to reflect a little on the state of the nation. The editors of Higher can confirm that Australia continues to be **The Best Country in the World** (despite competition from glamour destinations like France and Italy and Happiness Index leaderboard champions Denmark, Finland, Bhutan). Whether we “grew here” or “flew here” we are all incredibly blessed to live here.

Whilst certain people in the US are trying to “Make America Great Again”, it’s comforting to know that what makes Australia great, is not our political, or military, attributes, but our values. Australia is simply a great place to be because we are open, friendly, welcoming and multicultural, extending a “fair go” to all. Oh, and did I mention our love of sunshine, beaches and seafood?

No-one claims that things are perfect here, as the recent events in Bondi demonstrate, and we have our share of social problems (drugs, poverty, etc). But whilst other countries struggle with war, invasions, revolutions, insurrections, poorly managed mass migration, failure to integrate and other crises, we Australians generally live together in peace.

If the Bondi event is to be an exception its important that we recognise and uphold what it means to be Australian, namely our national values: we welcome strangers and celebrate diversity, accepting people as they are - English, Irish, Italian, Greek, Vietnamese, Chinese, Indigenous, Nigerian, Indian, Chilean - giving them a “fair go”, without imposing strict religious norms or codes of conduct upon them. All that is expected in return, is that people contribute positively to society and treat others with the respect that’s been extended to them. What happened in Bondi was as “un-Australian” as things get, so this Australia Day let’s affirm the true values of the country we know and love.

They are, in essence, Christian values.

# ‘El Bandolero’ Italian Food Van for St Marks

More good news from, and for, St Marks. Indefatigable Councillor Wyver has signed up another gourmet food van for the Church’s popular community garden. Run by locally-famous pizza chef Valter Arenzani, ‘El Bandolero’ will serve outstanding Italian food – a commodity of which Pottsville is in urgent need - on Friday and Saturday evenings. Once again, St Marks community garden looks set to become the vibrant gastronomic hub of Pottsville! As the locals say : Ciao and buona fortuna!



## Anatomy of a Soup Kitchen Meal

Mike Sainsbury provided a meal to a gathering of battlers and parish volunteers on Monday night. For less than \$50 Mike was able to serve 12 plates of succulent roast pork, potatoes, carrots, cauliflower and peas. Followed by a dessert of peaches, pears, ice-cream and trifle (courtesy of Charlotte Curtin), it was gourmet dining on a budget.

At this rate, the funds raised by last year’s Christmas Market will go a long way to keeping Kingscliff’s hungriest well-fed!

# Reaching Out

The signs went out on campus and posters were posted online six weeks ago and the Monday Soup Kitchen now welcomes a few familiar faces, sporadic drop-ins, and a rotating crew of enthusiastic volunteers, each week. With Christmas over, and our operation in place, we are now working to promote the weekly meals more widely, with our poster being displayed at various Churches, charity op shops, and community venues around town.

Guest numbers are still quite small, but our aim is to be consistent in providing a nutritious meal on Monday nights, being welcoming and respectful of those who attend, and helpful to those seeking help. To this end we are developing community partnerships with organisations specialising in providing various forms of assistance to vulnerable people experiencing homelessness and other disadvantages

## New Art Group for St Marks

A new Art Group has started meeting on Fridays at St Marks. All are welcome so just turn up at 10 am if you'd like to join, or call Lorinda ('Rin) Lane on 0448 832 988 if you have any questions.



## The Case of the Missing Keyboard Cover

We've searched high and low but can't find the cover for the keyboard at St James! Anyone who borrowed it and forgot to return it, or knows anything of its whereabouts please get in touch with the Wardens, Jason or Steve. Thanks

# Monday Soup Kitchen

On the Menu - January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026



## Lasagna

Free Community Meal Served with LOVE

**St James Anglican Church** 122 Marine Pde/ Pearl St

Dining Room Opens, 6 pm.

All Welcome!

**CURSILLO**

# Cathedral Ultreya 2026

Saturday, 7th February



**GRAFTON CATHEDRAL**

**Theme:**

**“Seeking God’s Guidance”**

**9.30 am coffee/tea on arrival.**

**10.00 am Eucharist in the Cathedral.**

*Please bring your own lunch.  
Coffee/tea/slices provided*

*Finish 3pm.*



## Prayer of the Week

Almighty God,  
by whose grace alone we are  
accepted  
and called to your service:  
strengthen us by your Holy  
Spirit  
and make us worthy of our  
calling;  
through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.  
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.



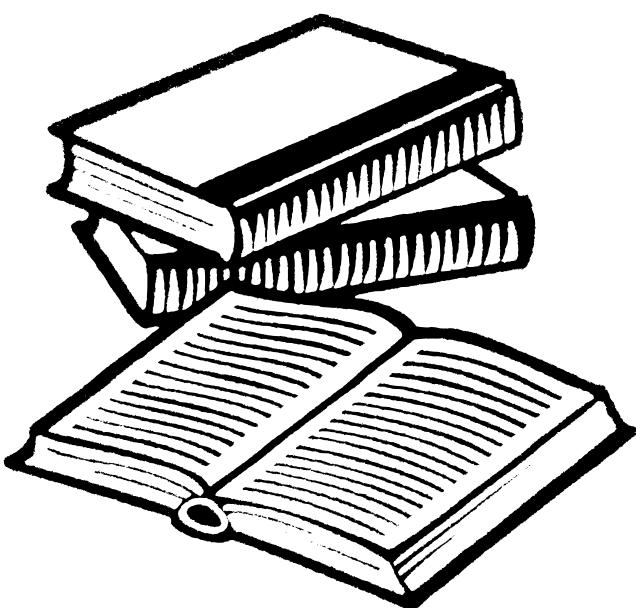
# Parish Food Ministry

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 - 75 meals

St Marks - 12 meals

Praise be to God!



## Sunday Worship Readings

### **Sunday 18 January 2026**

Isaiah 49 v 1-7  
Psalm 40 v 1-14  
1 Corinthians 1 v 1-9  
John 1 v 29-42

### **Sunday 25 January 2026**

Isaiah 9 v 1-4  
Psalm 27 v 1-10  
1 Corinthians 1 v 10-18  
Matthew 4 v 12-25

# Service Schedule

**St James @ 8.30am**

**Sunday 18 January 2026**

**Officiant & Preacher:**

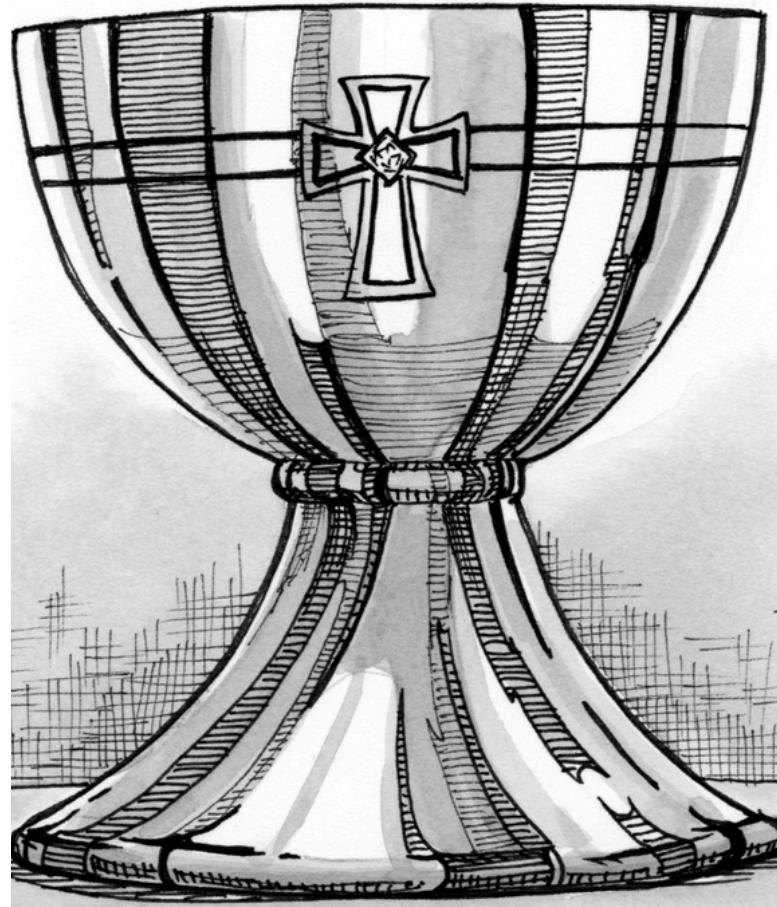
Rev. Graeme Hodgkinson

**St Marks @ 10.30am**

**Sunday 18 January 2026**

**Officiant & Preacher:**

Rev. Graeme Hodgkinson



## Contacts

### **Parish Office**

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### **Rector**

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0435 750 155  
rector@apok.org.au

### **Wardens**

Stephen Elworthy  
0408 757 876  
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 January 2026

## ● Mondays

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

## ● Tuesdays

- Meal Handout – St Mark's Pottsville 11:00am–1:00pm
- 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

## ● Fridays

- **Activities resume in Feb 2026**

## ● 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, 5pm

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

## 📌 Upcoming Events: