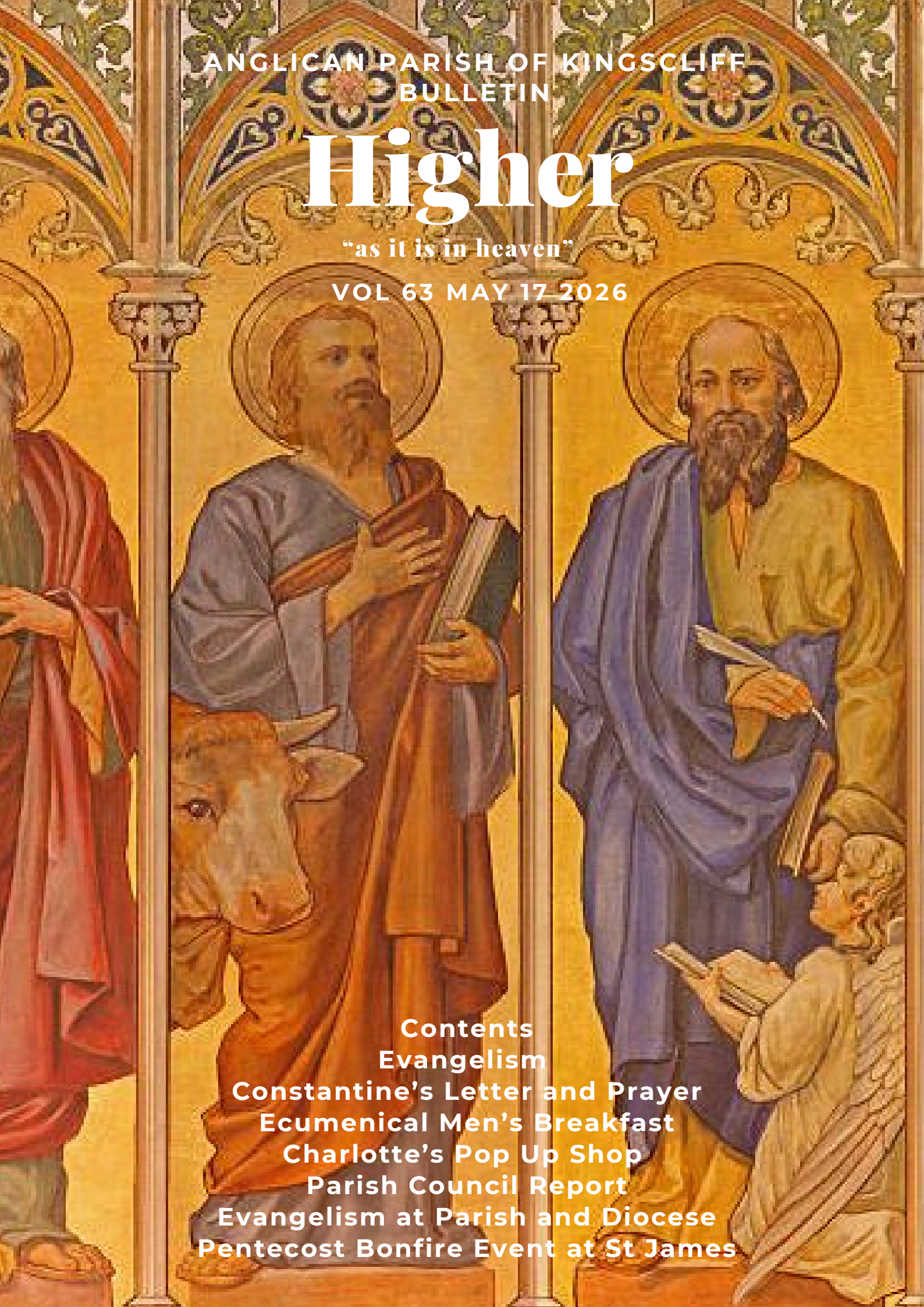


ANGLICAN PARISH OF KINGSCLIFF
BULLETIN

Higher

“as it is in heaven”

VOL 63 MAY 17 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.

Evangelism

Letter from Constantine

Blessing the Distance: Hope and Grace on Ascension Day

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Yesterday, 14 May, was Ascension Day -40 days after Jesus' resurrection. During our Sunday Services on May 17th we shall mark this important feast as we celebrate the glorious moment when our Lord Jesus Christ completed His earthly journey—not with an ending, but with a consummation. Having been crucified, risen, and now ascended, He is seated at the Father's right hand in heaven interceding for us (Romans 3:34). Because He has gone there as our forerunner, our destiny is secure. Where the Head (Jesus) is, there also shall the Body (the Church) be. In a profound and mystical way, we are already seated with Christ in the heavenly places. As St. Paul exhorts us, let us keep our eyes fixed on things above, not merely as an escape from the world, but as the true source of our power to live in it (cf Colossians 3:10).

Let us pray, then, that through the power of this crucified, risen, and ascended Christ, we may be enabled to make our world, our families, and our churches a little more like heaven. May Christ's victory work itself out in our patience, our kindness, our generosity and our courage.

And yet, as we reflect on the Ascension of our Lord, we cannot ignore the human ache of it. The disciples watched the One they loved leave. As Jan Richardson so beautifully observes, in Luke's account, Jesus does not depart with a lecture or a mere command. He departs with a blessing (see Acts 1). With this final gesture, He shows us that blessing and leaving are deeply bound together, and that love somehow endures within every aching distance. This is a wondrous and difficult grace. Jesus does not sugarcoat the grief of absence; rather, He shows us that the substance of grief is also the substance of love. If we can stay with both, the love will, in time, show us the way to go.

May her blessing below be our prayer for one another, and for all from whom we are separated, as we live in the joyful tension of the “already” and the “not yet” of God’s Kingdom.

BLESSING THE DISTANCE

It is a mystery to me
how as the distance
between us grows,
the larger this blessing
becomes,

as if the shape of it
depends on absence,
as if it finds its form
not by what
it can cling to
but by the space
that arcs
between us.

As this blessing
makes its way,
first it will cease
to measure itself
by time.

Then it will release
how attached it has become
to this place
where we have lived,
where we have learned
to know one another
in proximity and
presence.

Next this blessing
will abandon
the patterns
in which it moved,
the habits that helped it
recognize itself,
the familiar pathways
it traced.

Finally this blessing
will touch its fingers
to your brow,
your eyes,
your mouth;
it will hold
your beloved face
in both its hands,

and then
it will let you go;
it will loose you
into your life;
it will leave
each hindering thing

until all that breathes
between us
is blessing
and all that beats
between us
is grace.

—Jan Richardson, from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

In the name of the ascended and ever-blessed Lord, I wish you grace, peace, hope and heaven's richest blessings in every way.

Your brother in Christ

Constantine

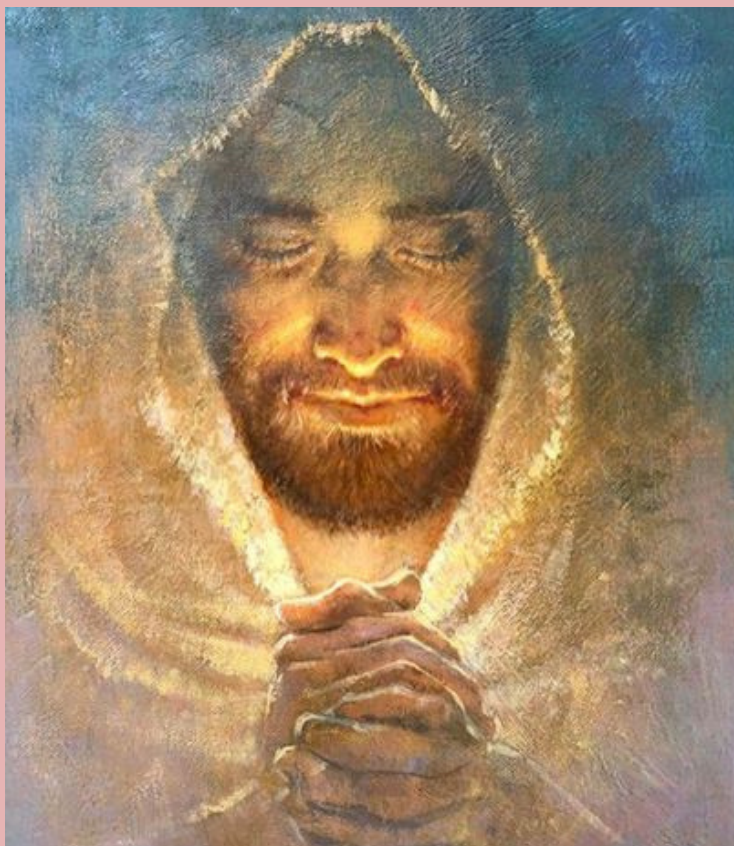
A Prayer for the Ephesians by St Paul

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Amen.

~Ephesians 3:14-20



Charlotte's Pop Up Shop

Charlotte's Pop Up Shop venture was a roaring success last Saturday. Hundreds of eager bargain hunters descended on Parish Hall enthusing about the hats and heels and handbags and haute couture on display in high style, as well as the handsome appearance of the Hall itself. Happy days: well done Charlotte, all your hard work paid off! Charlotte tells HIGHER that she's thinking about doing it again, so ladies with clothes to sell watch this space!



Outpouring of Generosity

The Parish is witnessing an outpouring of generosity from parishioners with many works of service, gifts and donations being contributed. In recent months we've seen a number of parishioners quietly come forward to anonymously pay for things the Parish needs, for which we are all truly grateful. Our thanks goes to those individuals and our praise goes to God, the Lord of abundance.

Mothers Day Morning Tea

Rev. Constantine organised a special Morning Tea for Mother's Day, a chance for the ladies to celebrate their lives as the mothers who raise us all. The day was a great success with wonderful catering by Kylie from the Wildflower Café across the road. Rev. Constantine sees the event as a chance for the ladies from across the whole Parish to get together and hopes that it will lead to more such events.



Ecumenical Men's Breakfast



The Bimonthly Ecumenical Men's Breakfast was held in the Parish Hall on Sat 2nd May with 17 gents in attendance to hear Pastor Adrian Itong talk about his life before, after and during ministry. Bacon and eggs never tasted so good! The good news is that Adrian will be back on the 5th Sunday this month to speak to the whole congregation.

Ascension and Pentecost Services

At this time of the year, in the weeks after Easter, the Church celebrates the Ascension of Christ and the birth of the Church at Pentecost. Rev. Constantine will teach about the significance of both in the Communion Services on May 17th and 24th. For the latter, he reminds everyone that there is a tradition of wearing green (symbolising life) and red (symbolism the flames of the Holy Spirit) at Pentecost. It would be wonderful to see a sea of red and green in Church on Pentecost Sunday.

Pentecost Bonfire Event at St James, a week from Saturday

Pentecost Bonfire Night at St James is coming soon – not this Saturday May 16th, but the next Saturday 23rd - that's Pentecost Eve! Highlights of the BYO event include music, toasting marshmallows, a free mug of hot soup, and a live performance by the APOKALYPSE theatre troupe. Best of all the Holy Spirit is sure to be there.

The night is open to the whole community and will be promoted as a community gathering so that more people, whether Christian or not, might join us for a fantastic evening celebrating the gift of holy fire.



Parish Council Report

Parish Council met in Parish Hall last Wednesday night to discuss all the issues big and small. Highlights of the meeting included a report from the SP1 (Strategic Project 1) Group on their work on the St James campus, both interim works and the final design recommendation they are working towards. The Parish Hall is complete and attracting new enquiries, with a ladies dance group now practicing there on Wednesday mornings. Rev. Constantine spoke about the upcoming Stewardship Drive and will elaborate when Council next meets. The Parish Synod reps – Steve Elworthy and Deb Clarke are preparing for the event to be held in Coffs Harbour from 26 – 28th June.

Evangelism at Parish and Diocese

The Wardens and members of the SP1 Master Planning Group met with the Diocesan Registrar, James Gale, on a Zoom call last Wednesday, with the aim of working together on our shared Christian mission. Those assembled were pleased to hear James speak of the changes underway at the Diocese: a new “twenty-first century approach” and a focus on growing the Kingdom. This puts our Parish’s focus on evangelism in 2026 in close alignment with the changes at Diocese, so expect more good news as the Kingdom of God grows!

Suicide Prevention Presentation Postponed

The workshop to train people in how to respond when people experience suicidal ideation originally planned for May 9th has been postponed. A new date will be announced when it comes to hand.

St James Annual

BONFIRE NIGHT

Community Gathering at St James, Sat May 23rd 5 – 8 pm

Toasting Marshmallows. Free mug of delicious hot soup. BYO



The whole community is invited to gather around the bonfire

Celebratory Atmosphere
Fun for the kids
Music and a live show
BYO Drinks

St James Church, 122 Marine Pde, Kingscliff

Prayer of the Week

O God, the King of glory,
you have exalted your only
Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your
kingdom in heaven:
we pray you, leave us not
comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to
strengthen us,
and exalt us to the same
place where our Saviour
Christ has gone before;
who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and 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.



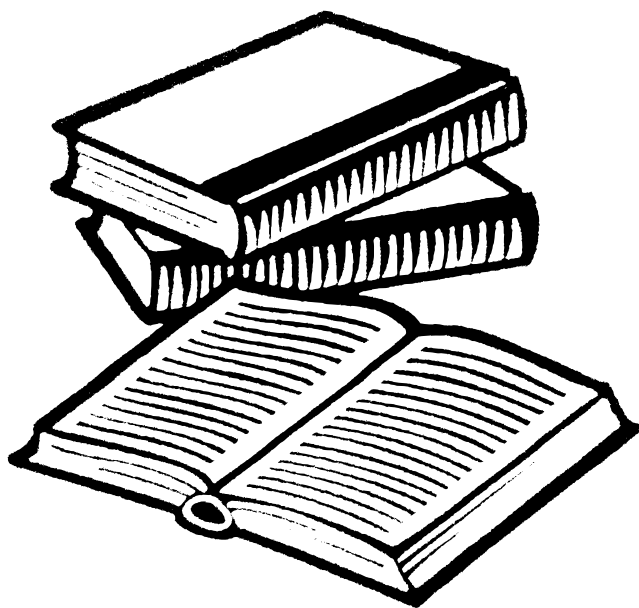
Parish Food Ministry

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 - 63 meals

St Marks - 47 meals

Praise be to God!



Sunday Worship Readings

Sunday 17 May 2026

Acts 1 v 1-11

Psalm 47

Ephesians 1 v 15-23

Matthew 28 v 16-20

Sunday 24 May 2026

Acts 2 v 1-21

Psalm 104 v 24-35

1 Corinthians 12 v 1-13

John 20 v 19-23

Service Schedule

St James @ 8.30am

Sunday 17th May 2026

Officiant & Preacher:

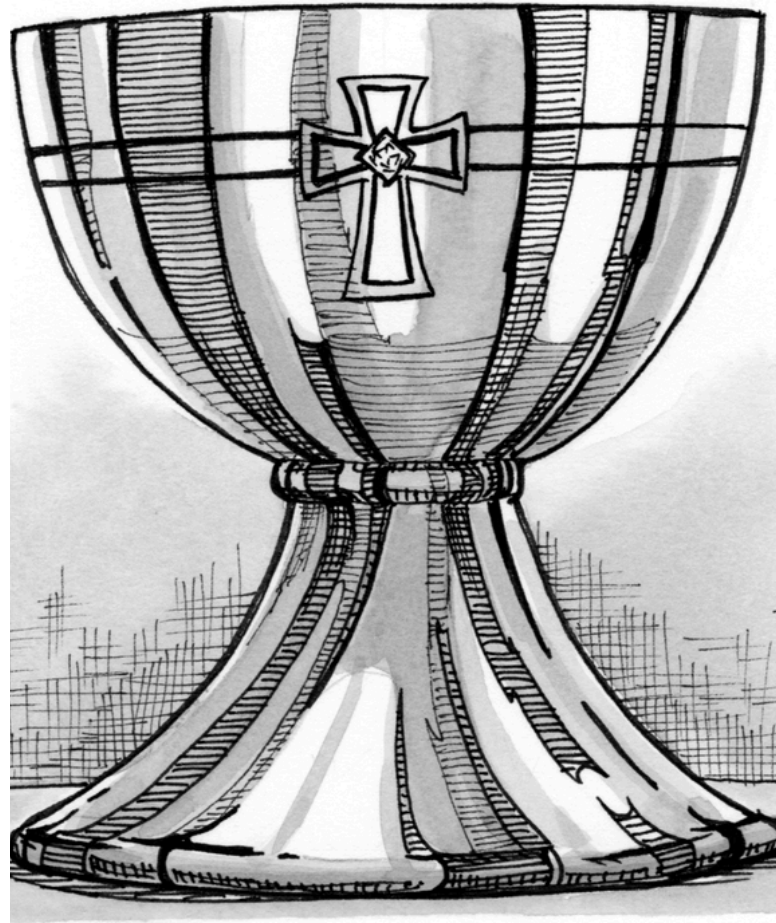
Rev. Constantine Osuchukwu

St Marks @ 10.30am

Sunday 17th May 2026

Officiant & Preacher:

Rev. Constantine Osuchukwu



Contacts

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Wardens

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0408 757 876

Jason Saltearn

0406 450 056

jsaltearn@gmail.com

Brian Wyver

0412 324 161

Grievance Officers

Graeme Hodgkinson

0407 209 819

Marg Dephoff

0437 400 429

Parish Calendar for May 2026

Mondays

- U3A Art Group – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–12:00pm
- Bible Study – 10 Guilfoyle Plc, Cudgen, 2:00pm–4:00pm
- Evening Prayer – St James Kingscliff, 5:15pm–5:30pm
- Soup Kitchen, St James Kingscliff from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Tuesdays

- Meals Handout – St Mark's Pottsville 11:00am–1:00pm
- Justice of the Peace -St Mark's Pottsville 9:00am -12:00pm
- AA Meeting – St James Kingscliff, 7:30pm
- Pottsville Community Association – Last Tuesday of the month, 6:00pm
- Eucharist service 12.30 at St Marks

Wednesdays

- Holy Communion/Eucharist by extension– St James Kingscliff, 10:00am
- Ecumenical Bible Study -St Mark's Pottsville 10:00am
- Christian Meditation -St James Kingscliff, 4pm, Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89184784092?pwd=TFI3eWc1UXM0b3VVZnR5bkMxUIM1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 891 8478 4092 Passcode: 516345

- ZOOM in to pray with fellow parishioners for peace and for the material and spiritual needs of all in our communities. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/84084825835?pwd=aPSm1tk4mn4GW9BiAHTkIIBNBfHFfaE.1>

Meeting ID: 840 8482 5835 **Passcode:** K9D1Z4

Thursdays

- Ladies Craft Group – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–12:00pm
- Meals Handout – St James Kingscliff, 11:00am–1:00pm
- AA Meeting – St Mark's Pottsville, 6:00pm

Fridays

- Making Art Group – St. Mark's, Pottsville, 10:00am to 2:00pm
- Making Art Group – St James, Kingscliff, 1:00pm to 4:00pm
- **Sing to Connect Choir** 9.30 - 10.45. In the church. All welcome. Wendy Hawkins 0421651524

Saturdays

- Community Garden Club – St Mark's Pottsville, 9:00am–11:00am
- Sister Suzie's Sewing Circle – 10 Guilfoyle Plc, Cudgen, 1:00pm–3:00pm
- Seven-Day Adventist Church at St Mark's, 9.00am -1.00pm
- Healing Service (Book of Common Prayer) -St James Kingscliff, 5pm (1st Saturday)

Sundays

- Holy Communion/Eucharist, St James Kingscliff, 8:30am
- Holy Communion/Eucharist, St Mark's Pottsville, 10:30am
- Contemporary Service, 5pm, St James Kingscliff, every second Sunday of the month

Upcoming Events:

- **Saturday May 23rd**, Holy Fire! Pentecost Bonfire Night see article above.
- **Thursday, 21 May**, at 6.30pm, Alpha Course in the Parish Hall.
- **Wednesday June 10**, Parish Council Meeting at St James Parish Hall.