

The Anglican Church of St Peter & Paul, Palm Beach
Sunday 3rd December 2023 – Advent I

Collect:

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Please pray for

John & Vicki Baddeley	Michelle Powell	Lyn Johnston
Chris Wade	Pam Squire	Betty & Brian Stewart
Judy Harding	Kevin Robson	Ray Wilkie
Ann Lucas	Von and David	Bev, Kevin & Leigh Munro
Ann Kahlert	Warren Lucas	Von Harris
Sandra Smith		Ray & Paulene Gibbons

Rest Eternal Grant unto them, O Lord

Arthur William Gray Jean Florence Affleck 2008

Holy Days

Today	S Birinus of Wessex
Wednesday	S Nicholas of Myra
Thursday	S Ambrose of Milan
Friday	The BVM
Saturday	S Budoc of Cornwall

Readings

	This Week 3rd December	Next Week 10th December
OT	Isaiah 63:16-17,64:13-8	Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Psalms	Psalms 80:1-7, 80:17-19	Psalms 85:1-2, 85:8-13
NT	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel	Mark 13:33-37	Mark 1:1-8

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of this Land, and pay our respect to the elders both past, present and future and acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional land of the Yugambah People.



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Parish Diary

Office Hours	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9.00am – noon
Craft Makers	9.00am 1 st 3 rd 5 th Tuesday
Palmy Play Group	9.30am Tuesday
Bible Study	9.00am Wednesday
Holy Communion	10.00am Wednesday
Meditation	9.00am Friday
Singing Group	10.00am Friday

Management Team

Locum Tenens:	Rev Dr Bryan Gadd	bryan.gadd@anglicanchurchsq.org.au 0424 745 838
Hon. Assistant	Fr. Arthur Savage	asavage22@bigpond.com 0499 336 946
Hon. Assistant	Fr. Gregory McGrory	gmcg@winshop.com.au 0403 769 283
Priest's Warden	Dr. Bruce Cook	drbrucecook@gmail.com 0408 744 609
Peoples Wardens	Claire Dean	clairedcan01@hotmail.com 0417 571 456
	Chris Alderson	alderscc@gmail.com 0458 042 747

Parish Notes/Events

For Pew Bulletin items, please contact Beautiful Kennedy at the office.

Christmas Hamper Raffle Tickets available, drawn on 6th December

Christmas Carols Service Wednesday 6th December @ 5.00pm.

DECEMBER 8th – last Meditation & Singing for 2023. Return date TBA

Fr Bryan's last mass with us will be 9:00am on Sunday 31st December. We will be having a special morning tea to farewell him after the mass.

If you would like to make a contribution towards a farewell gesture to him, please give it to one of the Wardens or make a gift through the Vision Fund marked 'Fr Bryan'.

Donations/Offertory BSB: 704901 Account number: 00012480

Anglican Parish of Gold Coast South.
Or scan the code to donate securely online
Thank you for your generosity!



The Real St Nicholas

You'd hardly expect to find Santa Claus in prison. But Father Christmas was flesh and blood – he is better known as St Nicholas. He was Bishop of the Mediterranean city of Myra and a prisoner for Christ. He is also the patron of children. Nicholas was born to wealthy parents around 270. He was still young when his mother and father died and left him a fortune. As a young man Nicholas heard about a family who was starving. The father had no money for food, much less the dowry needed to marry off his three daughters. Under the cover of night, Nicholas threw a bag of gold coins through the window of their poor home. In the morning the father discovered the gold. Sometime after, Nicholas secretly provided a dowry for the second daughter. When he later provided for the third, the girls' father stood waiting and he chased and caught the lad. The young Nicholas was mortified to be discovered in this act of charity. He made the father promise not to tell anyone who had helped his family. As a young adult Nicholas gave up his wealth to answer a call to become a priest.

When the old Bishop of Myra died, Nicholas went to Church very early. An elderly priest took him to the other clergy, "I had a vision that the first one to enter the church in the morning should be the new bishop of Myra. Here is that man." Nicholas was destined to lead his congregation through the worst tribulation in history. For in 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian



ordered a brutal persecution of all Christians. Those suspected of following the Jesus Christ were ordered to sacrifice to pagan gods or die. Nicholas and thousands of others refused. Many were dragged to prison. Savage tortures were unleashed on Christians all over the empire. Believers were fed to wild animals. Some were forced to fight gladiators for their lives while bloodthirsty crowds screamed for their death. Saints were beaten, others set aflame while still alive. Yet the persecution did not stamp out the faith. Rather it spread. As Tertullian was to observe, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church."

Beaten but not broken, after years of imprisonment, the iron doors swung open and Bishop Nicholas walked out, freed by decree of the new Emperor Constantine. As he entered his city once more, his people flocked about him. "Nicholas! Confessor!" they shouted. "Saint Nicholas has come home." He served Christ's people in Myra for another thirty years. Through the prayers of this tried and tested soldier of faith, many found salvation and healing. Nicholas participated in the famous Council of Nicea in 325. He died on December 6, about 343, a living legend, beloved by his whole city.

Father Christmas of yuletide fame still carries reminders of this man of God. The colour of his outfit recollects the red of bishop's robes. Gifts secretly brought on Christmas Eve recall his humble generosity to the three daughters. Yet if he were alive today, this saint would humbly deflect attention from himself. As he did in life centuries ago, Bishop Nicholas would point people to our Lord Jesus Christ. "I am Nicholas, a sinner," the saint would say. "Nicholas, servant of Christ Jesus."

Fr Bryan