



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM ALL SOULS'
A WARM WELCOME TO VISITORS; PARISHIONERS
LONGSTANDING AND NEW.



DECEMBER 29TH - 5TH SUNDAY ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 9.00AM

THERE WILL BE NO WEDNESDAY SERVICES IN JANUARY

Parish Prayers Jill, Julie, Carol, Judith and Caroline, Nola and Brenton, Malcolm and Mary, Tony and Margie, Mark, Fiona, Jac, Keith, Cathy, Vernon.

Diary Dates:

Christmas Services 24th Dec 6.00pm & 25th Dec 9.00am

We acknowledge the Kaurua people, their Elders and their spiritual relationship with Country.

A Christmas Message from David...

In his book *The Secret of Staying in Love*, John Powell wrote, 'Love is not a feeling, Love is a decision'. This simple, but profound phrase goes to the heart of true love. If you are married, if you are in any meaningful kind of relationship, practice these words in your life and you will not be sorry: Love is not a feeling, love is a decision. Feelings are wonderful; we usually have plenty of them buzzing around inside of us when we fall in love and that is how it should be. But feelings alone will not sustain us for the long haul of love, because true love demands commitment, perseverance, sacrifice; it needs to hang in when the other goofs up. Feelings alone will never win another back because they can often get hurt, but a decision will. And true repentance is always a response to wounded, decisive love, it can never earn love; it can just receive it in humble gratitude.

God so loved this world that he didn't just get all mushy and throw an in-house party for the angels, hoping that the feeling would at least last for a few short light years. God loved this world so much that he made an incredibly risky and vulnerable decision. God sent his only Son in the form of a fragile baby, born in a lowly stable near a pub in Bethlehem with a no-vacancy sign; born to an insignificant young woman, Mary and her betrothed husband, Joseph, who wasn't even the biological father. Now that's a pretty shaky way to make a divine decision, I'm sure you'll agree.

In the womb of Mary, decisive love was implanted. Love which would heal, forgive, restore, transform, disciple, millions of people. Innocent love yet crucified for us and our salvation. Love made Flesh: Jesus, the Christ. So, I suggest this to you: The Word of God made a fragile decision in Love for you and me. Christmas invites each one of us to make a decision in love about the Word of God and the force that Jesus has to transform our lives into a Living Sacrifice of Love. The real Christmas calls each of us to decide to do something very creative with our lives which will make a vital difference to this world, racked by war, violence, and innocent suffering. It can make a vital difference to our own lifestyles. We could begin by spreading some peace and forgiveness around. Peace on earth begins with a decision – your decision, my decision, the decision of nations – in love for this world.

Christ was born for this.

May you have a blessed, holy and happy Christmastide, and may 2025 bring some real peace and healing on angels' wings to humankind.

David

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Tuesday 24th December – Christmas Eve

6.00 pm

Family Eucharist Service and Carols with the Brass
Ensemble

Wednesday 25th December – Christmas Day

9.00 am

Family Sung Eucharist with Carols

Locum Tenens: The Ven David Thornton - Wakeford

Fr. David can be contacted on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays**, he will also be available outside of his usual working hours in the case of emergencies

Email - daviddtw76@gmail.com Phone 08 7112 4945.

Priest's Warden - Pauline Parfitt 0421 382 358

People's Warden - Emma Robinson 0412 002 123

can be contacted for information concerning worship or parish activities.

Bank account details:

Parish of All Souls St Peters - BSB: 105 169: Account: 759 24

EPIPHANY BARBECUE RECTORY

David and Deborah warmly invite you to an Epiphany Sunday Barbecue at 6pm Sunday 5 January 2025 at the Rectory 51 Fourth Ave St Peters.

BYO meat and drinks only (folding chairs if possible).

We will supply salads, bread rolls, condiments, crockery, cutlery and tables.

PLEASE SIGN THE LIST AT THE BACK OF CHURCH OR RSVP TO

daviddtw76@gmail.com



*Welcome
and Thank You
for being here today*

We would love you to be part of this community and would appreciate a few details.

**WELCOME
TO ALL SOULS' ANGLICAN CHURCH
ST PETERS**

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Our Parish Priest (Ven. David Thornton-Wakeford) will be in contact soon.