



The end of a year...



With Advent just around the corner and beginning on Sunday 27th November, the Christian calendar year draws to an end this fortnight. The final Sunday of the Christian calendar year is recognised as Christ the King Sunday. I wonder what it means for you to recognise this? Kingship, monarchy and kingdom are words that hold such different meaning for so many people. This year following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, the Commonwealth now has a new king, King Charles III and so these ideas may have

become more present in our thinking in recent months. This may continue into 2024 with another large royal occasion, the coronation, occurring. In our country it is obvious that there are a range of opinions that people hold about the monarchy and Australia's connection with it historically and into the future. For some, especially the indigenous people of our country, the ideas of kingship, kingdom and sovereignty are problematic and painful and for good reason, based on the results of this in history through dispossession, invasion and other effects of colonisation.

Yet in our Scriptures and on occasions like this, we acknowledge Christ as King and in so doing seek to explore what this might mean in our current context. In one sense it is a fitting way to end the Christian calendar year, by considering the kingship and lordship of Christ over all things. The opening chapter of Colossians has some wonderful things to say about this:

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:15-20)

What a powerful passage about the nature of Jesus! I believe it is also helpful for us to remember that Jesus Christ is a king like no other. Jesus is the servant King, whose kingship is also marked by a humility that is modelled for us to seek after, as we choose to follow him.

So as this Christian year draws to a close and we move into a new one at the beginning of Advent, may we reflect upon what Christ as King means for us and in so doing prepare our hearts and minds for the journey of Advent, which culminates in the humble birth of this King, in a manger in Bethlehem.

Grace & peace, Rev Phil

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Please contact us to find out more about any of our programs and activities.

Every Week...

Open Church: Tuesday 9:30am-11:30am Byron Bay UCA

Scripture: Thursday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay PS during the School Term (Rev Phil)

Byron Bay Free Feed (YWAM): Wednesday 12pm-2pm @ Byron Bay UCA

Now Operating...

Byron Bay Uniting Church Op Shop:

Open Monday-Friday from 9am-1pm

Uniting Sewing and Social Group @ Byron: 9am-3pm and 6-9pm, Mondays

Growing Young Group: every fortnight (details below)

Upcoming events...

Minister's Annual Leave (Rev Phil): Monday November 7th - Sunday November 20th

Growing Young: Monday 21st November, 3pm @ Bangalow UCA

Church Council Quarterly Meeting: Tuesday 22nd November, 10am @ The Manse

Red Frogs @ Byron Bay: 25th November-3rd December @ Byron Bay UCA

Family Gathering "Advent": Sunday 27th November, 5pm @ Bangalow UCA

Advent Small Group: Tuesday 29th November, 10am @ Byron Bay UCA

Fair Trade Fair: Saturday 3rd December @ Bangalow UCA

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday 4th December (after combined morning gathering at Byron Bay)

Banking Details:

Giving your offering or tithe by Direct Debit or EFTPOS is a helpful way of engaging in this important act of worship.

If you would like to do this the banking details for our church are:

BSB:634-634

Account Number: 100 018 564

Speak to our Treasurer George Graham for more details on offering, gifts or bequests.

Bangalow Byron Bay Uniting Church: 6601 2010

<https://byronshireunitingchurches.uca.org.au>

 <https://www.facebook.com/BangalowByronBayUnitingChurch>

Minister: Rev. Phil Dokmanovic

Phil: 0425 291 955 // phild@nswact.uca.org.au

(Minister's Day Off: Friday)

Church Council Secretary: Corinne Nash 6629 1692
email: allthenashes@gmail.com



Combined Gathering & AGM

On Sunday 4th December we will be combining for one gathering at the Byron Bay Church at 9:30am. Following this will be our Annual Congregational Meeting. Please do your best to be there as we have important things concerning the future of our congregation to discuss and an opportunity to hear about the ministry of our church. If you would like to nominate someone for Church Council and/or Eldership, this needs to occur before this meeting. Please contact Corinne Nash our Church Council Secretary for information about this. If you lead a ministry can you please complete an annual report and send it to Corinne by the 25th November.

Advent Small Group Study

Advent this year begins on Sunday November 27th. During this time we will be considering the theme "**From Generation To Generation.**" Rev Phil will be running an Advent study that also considers this theme. The study will run for 4 consecutive Tuesdays during Advent, beginning on Tuesday 29th November. The group will meet at 10am at the Byron Bay Church during this season.



Family Gathering "From Generation To Generation: *There's Room For Every Story*"

Bangalow UCA, 5pm, November 27th

Our next family gathering is on Sunday November 27th at 5pm at Bangalow. These gatherings are an opportunity to invite family and friends of all ages to join us in a time of interactive and creative worship. This is one way we are seeking to engage and support families and young people in our community. The theme for this gathering is "**From Generation To Generation: *There's Room For Every Story***" and we will be exploring Advent and the story that leads us towards Christmas. The evening will also include a meal.

The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival

We are now well into planning for a new event called **The Bangalow Christmas Tree Festival**. Approved by the Church Council, this event will run in an exhibition style in the Bangalow Church from 18th-23rd

December. We have invited a range of community groups in the Bangalow community to participate by designing and creating a Christmas Tree that reflects their group. These trees will be displayed in the Bangalow Church for this period and the church will be open each evening for people to come and enjoy. We are also finalising musical groups and choirs who will be singing and playing Christmas Carols to add to the festivities. At this stage we have received a fantastic response from a range of groups who have accepted the invitation, including the CWA, Police Station, Bangalow Public School, Bangalow Men's Shed, Red Cross, Bangalow Koalas, Bangalow Anglican, Feros Bangalow, Bangalow Medical Centre and Mirabelle Preschool. We see this as a great opportunity to serve our neighbours, through providing an opportunity to join together as community and celebrate at Christmas time. Our own Christmas tree is already being designed and planned. To help with this we would like to take a photo of each person that we will use to decorate the tree. Please see Rev Phil after a gathering in the next few weeks as he is organising these photos.



Lectionary Readings

13 November	Isaiah 65:17-25	Isaiah 12	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Luke 21:5-19
20 November	Jeremiah 23:1-6	Luke 1:68-79	Colossians 1:11-20	Luke 23:33-43
27 November	Isaiah 2:1-5	Psalm 122	Romans 13:11-14	Matthew 24:36-44
4 December	Isaiah 11:1-10	Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19	Romans 15:4-13	Matthew 3:1-12

Gathered Worship

Sunday 13th November	5pm Bangalow - (one gathering only)	- Rev Pablo Nunez
Sunday 20th November	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow	- Mr George Graham
Sunday 27th November	9.30am Byron Bay 5pm Bangalow - Family Gathering "From Generation To Generation: There's Room For Every Story" & Meal	- Rev Phil
Sunday 4th December	9.30am Byron Bay - Combined Gathering, Communion & Congregational AGM	- Rev Phil

ECUMENICAL PRAYER CYCLE

Week of 13 November: Aotearoa-New Zealand, Australia

Week of 6 November: East Timor, (Timor-Leste)
Indonesia, Philippines



Prayer Points:

- The family, friends and community of Noongar boy Cassius Turvey, who tragically died after he was brutally bashed in Perth. Cassius is the nephew of Rev Mark Kickett, Interim National Chair of Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress. We pray for justice, for healing and for love to surround those who will miss him dearly.
- Our Intergenerational Church, called by God to share life and faith across generations, and those making space for these relationships to grow.
- Australian communities impacted by extreme weather and flooding. We pray for safety from danger, comfort and community in loss and recovery and those responding and caring on the ground.
- Our Advent theme **From Generation To Generation**. May our Advent journey with this theme continue to develop our growth in faith and encourage our discernment of future ministry and mission in our communities.

Newsletter Items: If you have an event or item for the newsletter, please email Phil the full details by the Tuesday before release, so that we can keep people informed and up to date.