

for December 2024 and January 2025

### Sunday 1 December, 2024 – *Advent 1*

9.30am Five Dock

*Preacher:* Rev Wattson Pualilo

*Reading:* 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

*Theme:* "Something's missing in my life"

*We are glad to have you with us today in worship.*

*It is our hope that you will not only learn more about God, but that you will encounter Him and experience His presence, love and grace for you.*

### Diary Dates



**Monday 2 December** at 3pm

**Monday Bible Study** meets in the Church.

*Reading:* Matthew 1: 16-25

*Theme:* 'Getting ready for Jesus'

(last meeting for 2024 – resumes February 2025)

### Christmas Activities

Our usual Christmas activities will take place: a tree will be set up in the foyer, candles will be lit during advent services; a nativity scene will be set up on the communion table; a Christmas flyer will be available for general use and for Kitty Doyle; a nativity scene will be set up on the church lawn.

**Sunday 8 December** (*Advent 2*)

**Church Council** meets after Service

Written reports covering the period from 1 July 2024 to the current day will be received from the Minister, Treasurer, PAC, Congregation and Pastoral Carers Group.

**Sunday 15 December** (*Advent 3*) at 9:30am

**Lessons & Carols** Service

**Sunday 22 December** (*Advent 4*)

The Congregation is invited to share a **Christmas Morning Tea** following Service.

Two volunteers are needed to **open the Church** on **Monday 23** and **Tuesday 24 December** from 10am to 12noon. If you can help, please contact the Church office.

**Wednesday 25 December**

**Christmas Day** Service at 9:00am

### Giving at Christmas

The Christmas Day offering will be received for Wesley Mission, Christmas Bowl and Exodus Foundation. Envelopes are available. Gifts may be returned on Christmas day or any Sunday.



**Sunday 5 January** – New Year Service

**Sunday 12 January** – 'Flynn of the Inland'

**Sunday 19 January** – Day of Mourning

Wesley Hymnfest – Richard Peck

**Sunday 26 January** – Australia Day Service

*Minutes* of the recent **Worship Committee**, **PAC** and **Church Council** meetings are on the notice board at the rear of the Church.



### Advent

As Christians, we have been either taught or informed in our faith, that every year in the month of December, while the world is preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ, the reason for the season, it is also the beginning of Advent in the Christian calendar.

But what exactly is Advent?

Well, Advent heralds the arrival of God into the world. It signifies the time when God came into the world to live as we live. That God came into the world, the Word became flesh, through his son Jesus.

So, Advent prepares us for the arrival of God and by God coming into the world through his son Jesus. He will teach us and show us how we should be living our lives by following his example. To reveal his love for us all, to share his love between us and God and how to share that great love of God with each other.

Advent gives us four weeks to ponder where we are in God's creation of things. A time of reflection, where we as individuals and as members of God's people get to turn the mirror on ourselves and ponder on our place within this large and wonderful family of God. Emmanuel – 'God with us'.

A time when we should balance our business with times of stillness and reflection.

Advent should cause us to do 2 things.

Watch and Wait.

Staying awake and being alert are two Advent behaviours that Jesus calls us to do.

We need a time of stillness and reflection so that we may hear God's voice, as speaks to us through his Word and the Holy Spirit.

We need a time of stillness and reflection so that we may be able to put things together in perspective to appraise where we are in God's calling and purpose for his people and his Church.

I pray for God's blessing upon you all this Advent season.

**Wattson**