



ANGLICAN PARISH OF BALLINA

*“An inclusive Christ-centred community,
growing in our relationship with God
and the wider community”*

*We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the
Bundjalung nation, and pay respects to their elders past and
present.*

SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER 2023

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

O powerful Father, you are all-forgiving despite our many faults and failings. As we await the coming of your Son our Saviour, let us reflect deeply on your eternal promise of salvation. Amen.

Parish Prayer

PARISH PRAYER POINTS

We pray for those who have asked for healing prayer: Joy Swinbourne, Ros Rowe, Alex & Myra Arrighi, Gerri White's granddaughter, Phil and Felicity Ross, Ramin Nairyzi, Mavis McDonald, Betty Missingham, Damien Bourke, Josh Stanley and Margaret Saul.

My Favourite Bible Verse Our book has been published! You can buy the book direct from us for \$15. This is a special book and will make a great Christmas gift. It's a wonderful way to share our faith with our friends and loved ones.

Are You Interested in Reading at Our Services, but struggle to get up to the lectern? We have 'roving' microphones which enable you to read the Scriptures and intercessions from your seat. So if this is you and you'd like to go on the reading roster, speak to Kerry Johnston (Ballina) or Vicki Goulding (Lennox Head).

Advent Booklet: 'Today I choose' Advent begins today, Sunday 3 December. Don't forget to take a copy of our booklet of daily reflections for Advent, available at both centres.



Being COVID Safe: Another wave of COVID has arrived in our region. To protect our most vulnerable people, our welcomers and hospitality teams will return to wearing masks. The clergy will also wear masks during communion.

FIAT LUX - Concert postponed to February

It is with great sadness we convey the sad news that a very close family member of one of our Syrix Singers passed away in a tragic accident. She has travelled overseas to be with her family and for the funeral.

As we are all affected by her loss and share in her grief, we've decided not to go ahead with the concert this Sunday. Our thoughts are with her and her family at this difficult time.

The new date for the concert will be Sunday, 11 February, 2024 and it will be the new season opening concert of The Music Estuary.

We thank you for all your support and understanding.

Organ Music and a Poem

Advent can be a busy time towards the end of a year and preparing for Christmas. We invite you to a 30 minute musical reflection every Tuesday 5.30 - 6.00pm during Advent. Step aside, take a moment to breathe and reflect or just listen to some beautiful music.

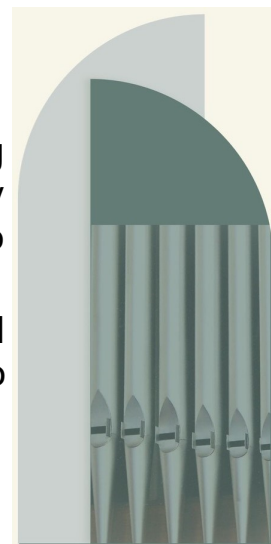
Organist Hamsa Arnold plays Organ music on Advent and Christmas themes and a poem read by Rev'd Cathy Ridd invites us to reflect on light & dark.

Tuesday 5 December, 12 December, 19 December.

Christmas Choral Concert, Sunday, 10 December, 3pm

Step into the captivating realm of Vox Caldera an extraordinary chamber choir resident at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium in Lismore under direction of Nicholas Routley. Passionate about sharing the joy of singing, they present a broad program of beautiful songs, showing different aspects of the 'Magnum Mysterium' of the Christmas story.

Tickets \$25/\$20 concession at the door.



Prayer Labyrinth

Blessing of the Labyrinth - Saturday 9 December at 9.30 am

Our labyrinth at St Mary's has been in place for a while, but now that the mural is completed we will be blessing the labyrinth and celebrating its place in our prayer life. Music by the Threshold Choir. Refreshments available from the Coffee Cart. Bring a hat/umbrella/sunscreen, and a picnic rug or chair to sit on. Bring your kids and grandkids too!

Mission of the Month for December - ABM Advent & Christmas Appeal 2023

Nungalinya and Wontulp-Bi-Buya colleges are facing increasing demand. They need your support to train their students to build stronger communities and churches together. To make a donation, or read more about this appeal you can go to www.abmission.org/Christmas2023. There are also envelopes in the foyers of both churches.

St Mary's, Ballina
Cnr Norton and Burnet Streets



19 December (Tuesday) 6.30pm
Blue Christmas

A quiet, reflective service for anyone who is grieving, sad
or not feeling very merry .

22 December (Friday) 7.00pm
Nine Lessons & Carols

24 December (Sunday) 6.00pm
Family Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day (Monday)
9am **Christmas Holy Communion**
12-2pm **Community Christmas Lunch**



Ross Park, Lennox Head

Christmas Day (Monday) 7.30am
Beachside Christmas

A Poem for the First Week of Advent

Rev Cathy uses this poem in today's sermon. You might like to read it again and reflect on it.

O West Bank town of Bethlehem
how still thy victims lie;
the grieving weep, deprived of sleep;
militiamen roam by;
for through thy dark streets rageth
the never - ending fight:
such hopes and fears, such bitter tears,
are met in thee tonight.

How violently, how violently
the hope of peace is riven;
can God impart to these torn hearts
the blessings of his heaven?
Who now recalls his coming
to this dark world of sin?
Where harsh words still promote ill-will,
can Christ now enter in?

O Child once born in Bethehem,
draw near again we pray;
you died to win this world from sin - yet
sin persists today.

May we, like Christmas angels,
announce Emmanuel,
till all are given a glimpse of heaven
and not a taste of hell.

Martin Leckebusch
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THIS FORTNIGHT TOGETHER

Monday - Friday		9.00am - 3.30pm	Op Shop-OPEN
Saturday		9.00am - 1.00pm	Op Shop-OPEN
Sunday	3 December	8.00am	Holy Communion-St John the Baptist
First Sunday of Advent		10.00am	Holy Communion-St Mary's
Monday	4 December	2.00pm	Isaiah 61 Project Outreach-St Mary's
Tuesday	5 December	9.30am	Craft Group-Admin Building
		5.30pm	Advent Music Reflection-St Mary's
Wednesday	6 December	10.00am	Holy Communion-St Mary's
Thursday	7 December	10.30am	Coffee 'n' Chat-Gallery Café, Cherry St Ballina
		2.00pm	Singing Group-St Mary's
Saturday	9 December	9.30am	Labyrinth Blessing-St Mary's
Sunday	10 December	8.00am	Holy Communion-St John the Baptist
Second Sunday of Advent		10.00am	Holy Communion-St Mary's
		3.00pm	Christmas Concert-St Mary's
Monday	11 December	2.00pm	Isaiah 61 Project Outreach-St Mary's
Tuesday	12 December	5.30pm	Advent Music Reflection-St Mary's
Wednesday	13 December	10.00am	Holy Communion-St Mary's
		11.30am	Holy Communion-Palm Lake Resort
Thursday	14 December	10.30am	Coffee 'n' Chat-Gallery Café, Cherry St Ballina
		2.00pm	Singing Group-St Mary's
Sunday	17 December	8.00am	Holy Communion-St John the Baptist
Third Sunday of Advent		10.00am	Holy Communion-St Mary's

Christmas Closures

Craft Group's final day for 2023 is 5 December, returning 30 January 2024.

Coffee 'n' Chat finishes 21 December, resuming 1 February 2024.

Coffee & Conversation will resume 22 February 2024.

Labyrinth image from: [prayer labyrinth clipart - Clip Art Library \(clipart-library.com\)](https://clipart-library.com/prayer-labyrinth-clipart)

Incumbent	The Rev'd Cathy Ridd	Parish Office Administrator	Cathie Guest
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EFTPOS is available for any payments in the Parish Office.			

The Anglican Parish of Ballina in the Diocese of Grafton is committed to protecting your privacy.