

Welcome

ADVENT THREE
14 December 2025

*St Paul's Ipswich &
St Thomas' Ipswich North*

Today—St Paul's

7:00am Holy Communion

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

8:30am Holy Communion by Extension

Fionn Griegg

11:30am South Sudanese Dinka Service

Rev'd Simon Arok, Rev'd Elizabeth Chol,
Rev'd Rachael Adut

—St Thomas'

8:30am All Age Service

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Events for this week -

Sunday:

4:00pm Ipswich Anglican Food Ministry

6:00pm Parish Christmas Dinner—St Thomas' Hall

Tuesday: 10:30am Holy Communion—St Paul's

Wednesday:

10:30am Holy Communion—Brassall Village

3:00pm Little Church Garden—Basin Pocket

6:00pm Beginner's New Testament Greek Class

Thursday:

7:00pm Bible Study: Text for Next Sunday—Via Zoom

Friday:

7:00am Holy Communion—St Paul's

Saturday:

1:00pm Set Up for Food Ministry Christmas Dinner—St Paul's Hall

4:00pm Church Gardening Group—St Paul's



Contact information

Parish Office Hours:

Monday—Friday: 9:00am—2:00pm

Parish Office phone: (07) 3812 0377

Postal address:

PO Box 168, Ipswich Qld 4305

Email: ipswich@anglicanchurchsq.org.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ipswichanglicans

Website: www.ipswichanglicans.org

St Paul's Church

Address:

124 Brisbane Street, Ipswich Qld 4305

St Paul's Op Shop:

Monday—Friday: 9:00am—2:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am—12:00pm

St Thomas' Church

Address:

15 Lawrence Street, North Ipswich Qld 4305

Clergy Contact Information

Rev'd Mpole Masemola 0416 073 519

Email: mpole.masemola@anglicanchurchsq.org.au

Rev'd Allana Wales

Email: allana.wales@anglicanchurchsq.org.au

Parish Prayer

God of new beginnings, bless our Ipswich Anglican Community with a fresh vision for the future, with generous hearts to love one another, and with courage for the changes we now embrace. Draw us more deeply into the mystery of Christ, so that we draw closer to you and to each other. Make us a blessing to the city of Ipswich as we walk together into the future you have prepared for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Acknowledgment of Country

The Ipswich Anglican Parish Community respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners as custodians of the land and waters we share. We pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging, as the keepers of the traditions, customs, cultures and stories of proud peoples.

Next Week in the Parish

Sunday (21 December) Advent 4 —St Paul's

7:00am Holy Communion

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

8:30am Holy Communion

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

11:30am South Sudanese Dinka Service

Rev'd Simon Arok, Rev'd Elizabeth Chol,
Rev'd Rachael Adut

5:30pm Nine Lessons & Carols

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

—St Thomas'

8:30am Holy Communion by Extension

Chris Raymont

Next Sunday Readings:

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7;
Matthew 1:18-25

Events for Next Week (from Sunday 21 Dec)

Sunday:

4:00pm Ipswich Anglican Food Ministry Christmas
Dinner

Monday: 6:30pm New Testament Bible Study

Wednesday:

5:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service—St Paul's
Rev'd Brenda Davis

6:30pm Christmas Eve Family Service—St Thomas
Rev'd Mpole Masemola

11:30pm Midnight Mass—St Paul's

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

Thursday:

8:30am Christmas Day Service—St Paul's church
(Joint Service)

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

Saturday:

4:00pm Church Gardening Group—St Paul's

Please be advised any attendees at a service or anyone entering the church grounds may be recorded on video and, in the case of a church service, may be included in the livestream broadcast online.

Message from Rev'd Mpole Masemola

As we gather on this joyful Gaudete Sunday, we celebrate our progress in Advent, lighting the rose candle to signify our “turning the corner” towards Christmas. Today, we embrace the spirit of joy that fills our hearts as we anticipate the coming of our Saviour. The refrain of our recessional hymn imploring us to “Rejoice! Rejoice!” (from “O come, O come Emmanuel”) drift through the church, they invite us into the profound beauty of the Incarnation.

Last week, we had the privilege of welcoming Archbishop Jeremy Greaves, who led our service in exemplary fashion. His sermon reminded us of the significance of the Incarnation, referring to it as Christianity's “religious language.” It was a challenging yet inspiring call to deepen our understanding of our faith as we move through this sacred season.

In looking forward to the second half of Advent, we encourage you to check our calendar for upcoming events. Mark your calendars for our Advent Carols service, which resonated with heartfelt worship last Sunday evening. Don't miss the Carols on the Lawn, organised by the dedicated talents of Annabelle Cleeland and Rebecca McMahon. It promises to be a delightful evening for the whole family. We also look forward to our Nine Lessons and Carols and the special Family Services that will enrich our Advent experience.

Please note that the parish office will close on 24 December and will reopen on 12 January. We hope you find this time restorative.

As we embrace the joy of this season, we invite you to contribute towards the Christmas Bowl, an ecumenical initiative that embodies a simple yet profound Christian act of giving. Our parish's contributions stood at AU\$872 (at the time of writing this article), reflecting our commitment to helping those in need. You can easily donate via the QR code found in our bulletin, service booklets, and on our Facebook page.

Let this Advent season be a time of reflection, joy, and generous giving as we await the birth of our Lord. Together, let us rejoice in the promise of his coming and the hope that shines brightly in our lives.

May your hearts be lifted high in anticipation and joy this Gaudete Sunday! Yours in Christ's service, Mpole





Parish Council would like to thank our branch of Mother's Union for providing the prizes presented to the Kids time with God participants at last Sunday's Services.

Jacob Fowler, Ross Windsor and the choir deserve our sincere appreciation for the wonderful Advent Carols Service presented last Sunday night. While the service was postponed from the previous Sunday, it was well and truly worth the wait. A special night of worship.

The working bee to clean and tidy St Paul's Church prior to Christmas will commence at 9am on **Saturday December 20th**. All are most welcome to come along, do some cleaning and enjoy refreshments when the job is done. Please bring your bucket and cleaning cloth.



A working bee will be held at the Little Church Garden, 82 Blackall Street Basin Pocket on **Saturday the 20th December**. Please see Annette or Foley for more details .

St Paul's Proms Concert

The 2025 St Paul's Proms Concert is now available on compact disc courtesy of Phil Smith. If you would like a copy, please advise Grantley Chaplin at grchaplin@gmail.com or 0419 678 125. Any small contribution you would like to make to make would be appreciated. In the event that you don't have equipment to play CD's, we can also provide the Proms Concert on a USB at at cost of \$10 each.

Food Ministry will be holding their **Annual Christmas Meal** on Sunday 21st December from 3pm. Set-up will be on Saturday afternoon from 1pm. This meal normally feeds 60-70 patrons. If you are able to assist with set-up or make a donation of a food item (e.g. salad) or raffle prize could you please contact Christine Taylor on 0418 787 089 or e-mail: parish2@anglicanchurchsq.org.au. Your donation will be greatly appreciated.



Electricity Expenditure—124 Brisbane Street

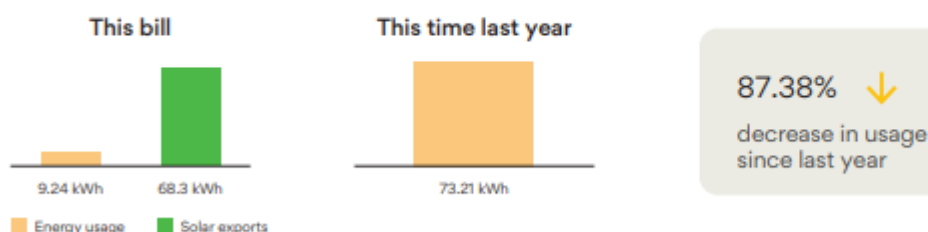
The below bar graph shows our electricity consumption on this site for the past 12 months. Because we were spending nearly \$1,000 per month here, Parish Council agreed to install solar panels in March.

The impact of those panels can be seen in the graph from March onwards. Following the Federal Government decision to give a rebate on the installation of batteries, these were installed in late August and their full impact can be seen from September onwards.

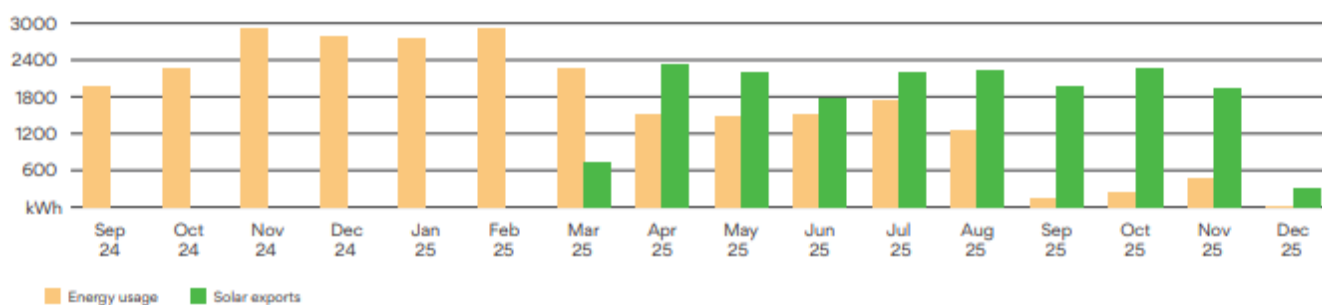
We now anticipate that our annual expenditure on electricity will be between \$1,200 and \$1,500. To achieve this reduction we have spent nearly \$48,000. So it will take about 5 years for us to get our money back, but these assets have a life of around 15 years, meaning we should finish up well in front.

This week increased solar cells and batteries were installed at the rectory. At a later date there will be an update on this project.

Average daily usage and exports



Compare your usage over time



In preparation for the 2026 Op Shop reopening, there will be an Op Shop Cleaning Day on **Friday 11 January**. If you are available to give some time to help it would be appreciated.

Annual Reports for 2025

Can all reports from Parish groups be emailed to the Parish Office by **Friday 30 January 2025**, so report booklets can be prepared for distribution before the AGM. Thank you!

ipswich@anglicanchurchsq.org.au



Naming a child

'and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us")' *Matthew 1:21*

It is not always easy for parents to find the right name for a new-born. There are many mistakes made, where a strange name difficult to spell is given, or a name with the same initial as a close sibling, to take two examples. As we know, names also have meanings, and sometimes such a meaning is unwelcome. Jesus received the name 'Immanuel', following the prophecy in the book of Isaiah. But the name seems not to have been used. It was recorded so that we would remember from the meaning of the name who he is, namely 'God with us'. For that is the truly astonishing and wonderful thing about Christmas – it reminds us that we are not alone, but that God himself has entered human history by becoming one of us. And from then on, Immanuel will never leave us.

Question for thought: What comfort do you draw from the name Immanuel applied to Jesus?

Father of All, we pray for the Diocese of Banks and Torres in Vanuatu where they face many challenges to family life including adultery, family breakdown, widespread drug and alcohol abuse and gender-based violence. As members seek to care for those suffering may they share the hope which you alone can give. We also pray for members in the Diocese of The Murray, for the Families Equip program and for the way members in Mt Barker record Mia Mia for the visually impaired. Amen.

Pray Daily

<https://anglicanfocus.org.au/2025/11/19/pray-daily-december-2025/>

The Anglican Communion

- Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- Ministry with the Torres Strait Island People of Australia – Rose Elu
- The Parish of Carindale: Lynda Crossley, Allan Paulsen, John Magee, Ron Paschke
- Mission to Seafarers – Steven Briggs & Ian McGilvray – Hon Chaplains
- St Margaret's Anglican Girls School, Ascot: Principal – Roslyn Curtis; Chaplain – Jasmine Dow; Chair of School Council – Lisa Worner; School Council members; staff & students



If you or anyone you know would like to receive
Pastoral Care please contact:
Parish Office (3812 0377)



Prayers for Healing

Marion Corry
Janet Shailer
Margaret Murphy
Kade Johnson
Jan Mundt
Barbara Hayward
Heather James
Angela Lawrence
Nicole Woodward
Barry Blake
Tina Moore
Louise Gardner
Jackie Cornish
Kathy Chevalier
Cheryl Marsh
Don Rossiter
Hellen Bongomin
Jan Grieve
Sue Porche
Lesley Briggs
Rebecca Parry
Gary Seymour
Nerida Lord
Chris Ingham

Year's mind

Richard Palmer
Phyllis Dean
Glenys Mengel
Federick Holdway
Matthew Luxton
Ray Schealler



For Direct Parish Offerings
please scan the above
QR Code

December Mission Giving: Our giving to mission work outside the Parish via the Planned Giving envelopes will go to help support the work of **Anglican Aid Abroad**



**SOUTH BRISBANE
FEDERAL BAND**

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

& FAVOURITE BRASS BAND PIECES

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 2025
6:00PM – 7:00PM

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
BRISBANE ST, IPSWICH

Book your tickets here:
<https://trybooking.com/DGUPS>

\$10 ADULTS
\$7 STUDENTS
& CONCESSION
CARD HOLDERS

Celebrate Advent and Christmas
at St Paul's Church, Ipswich & St Thomas' Church, North Ipswich



NINE LESSONS & CAROLS – ST PAUL'S CHURCH
Sunday, 21 December @ 5.30pm

FAMILY SERVICE – ST PAUL'S CHURCH
Christmas Eve @ 5.30pm

FAMILY SERVICE – ST THOMAS' CHURCH
Christmas Eve @ 6.30pm

MIDNIGHT SERVICE – ST PAUL'S CHURCH
Christmas Eve @ 11.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY – ST PAUL'S CHURCH
Thursday, 25 December @ 8.30am



CHRISTMAS @ HOME
Visit our faith@HOME page for ideas for celebrating Advent and Christmas within your home.



CHRISTMAS BOWL
Make a difference in someone's life with your gift to the annual Christmas Bowl Appeal.

www.ipswichanglicans.org/christmas-worship





**Christmas
Bowl**

**A SHARED BOWL
A SACRED TRADITION**

This Christmas, add
your gift to the Bowl.
Continue the legacy.
Act for peace.

PLEASE GIVE TODAY
Call 1800 025 101.
visit christmasbowl.actforpeace.org.au
or simply scan this QR code.

ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE ACT OF PEACE

 **National Council of
Churches in Australia**

The Christmas Bowl is the Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188

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Christmas Closures

Parish Office closes – Tuesday 24 December 2025
Reopens Monday 12 January 2026

The Annexe closes – Tuesday 9 December 2025
Reopens Tuesday 20 January 2026

OP Shop closes – Friday 19 December 2025
Reopens Monday 12 January 2026

**Wishing you a very Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!**