

Welcome

ADVENT FOUR & CHRISTMAS
21 December 2025 to 11 January 2026

St Paul's Ipswich & St Thomas' Ipswich North

Today—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

Readings

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

Events for this week -

Sunday:

4:00pm Ipswich Anglican Food Ministry Christmas Dinner

Wednesday - Christmas Eve:

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—Christmas Day:

8:30am Christmas Day Service—St Paul's Church (Joint Service)
Rev'd Mpole Masemola

Please note: No Midweek Services during January.

10:30am Tuesday @ St Paul's resumes 3 February 2026.
9:30am Wednesday @ St Thomas' resumes 11 February 2026.
7:00am Friday @ St Paul's resumes 6 February 2026.
5:30am Sunday @ St Paul's resumes 4 January 2026



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.

7:00am Holy Communion

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

8:30am Holy Communion by Extension

Peter Taylor

11:30am South Sudanese Dinka Service

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

—St Thomas'

8:30am Holy Communion

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

Readings: Jer 31:15-20; Psalm 124; 1 John 1:5-22;

Matthew 2:13-18

Sunday 4 Jan 2026: The Epiphany of our Lord

7:00am Holy Communion

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

8:30am Holy Communion by Extension

Chris Montgomery

11:30am South Sudanese Dinka Service

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

5:30pm Holy Communion

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

—St Thomas'

8:30am Holy Communion

Rev'd Mpole Masemola

Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-14; Eph 3:1-12;

Matthew 2:1-12

Sunday 11 Jan 2026: The Baptism of our Lord

7:00am Holy Communion

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 Prayer & Praise

Keith Gibson

—St Thomas'

8:30am Holy Communion

Rev'd Brenda Davis

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43;

Matthew 3:13-17

Message from Rev'd Mpole Masemola

One of the joys of being a parish priest is listening to parishioners share their faith experiences. Over the past four and a half months, I have had the pleasure of hearing many similar stories here in Ipswich. I cannot share these stories in this article without the permission of those who entrusted them to me, but my hope is that a time will come when we can share these narratives with one another, as they have the potential to strengthen each other's faith.

There is a valuable lesson in this: The stories of Christmas and Epiphany seem to follow a common pattern. First, very personal news is delivered to Mary and then to Joseph by an angel. From there, the audience expands to the shepherds, and later to the Magi. All of these individuals are amazed—if not sometimes frightened—by what God is doing among them, except for one: Herod, who is deeply disturbed by the news. However, Herod is not my focus at present.

I write this as this will be the last bulletin of 2025; the next edition will be issued in the third week of 2026 when the office reopens. By that time, we will be in the middle of the Epiphany season. In other words, we will have journeyed from "Silent Night" to the exuberant proclamation of the Reign of God through the person of Jesus. The Good News of God's Reign arrived in a world rife with turmoil and violence, much like our own. Yet, the early signs of this reign were not overwhelmed by such challenges. If anything, it continues to confront the world with the message that God is at work—sometimes in subtle ways, and at other times more visibly. It is through witnessing God's actions in the world that we gradually come to realize that God is with us—Emmanuel.

I find encouragement in the stories of faith shared by parishioners in Ipswich. They represent the birth and rebirth of God's Reign in our personal lives. Each story is akin to an individual's daily Christmas—a reminder that God is with us and alive among us. May we recognize that as we celebrate Christmas and exchange gifts, God has never ceased to give of Himself to us—in both personal and public ways.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Mpole



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.

He came to save

'She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1:21)

In the Old Testament language of Hebrew, 'Jesus' was 'Joshua', a word meaning 'Saviour' and reminiscent, of course, of the great leader called Joshua and described in the book that bears his name. Thus, Jesus is the Lord who is the Saviour. But his task was even more important than that of leading the people into the Promised Land. It was 'to save his people from their sins'. We deserve nothing but condemnation and judgement on our sins. But in his mercy and grace, though Jesus and his death on the cross, the Lord brought about the forgiveness of our sins and eternal safety. We can never cease to be grateful for what he has done for us.

Question for thought: Is Jesus my Lord and my Saviour?

Almighty God, we pray for the Anglican Church worldwide and particularly the Archbishops, Bishops and Clergy that they will uphold your Word and lead with faithfulness, justice and mercy. We particularly pray for those nations where there is conflict and persecution of believers that you will give them courage and steadfastness. Amen.

Pray Daily

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

The Anglican Communion

- The Anglican Church of Burundi
- The Diocese of Rockhampton: †Peter Grice; Clergy and People
- The Parish of Coolum: Karen Allen, Richard Gowty, Jocelyn Pitt, Jim McPherson, Richard Bowie
- The Park – Centre for Mental Health, Wacol
- All Saints Anglican School, Merrimac: Headmaster – Matthew Corbett; Chaplain – Ann McGuinness; Chair of School Council – John Fradgley; members of School Council; staff & students



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

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
Barbara Hayward	Jan Mundt
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

Norman Whyte	Eveline Procter
Pamela (Ella) Brown	Joan Shkardoon
Sydney Gibbs	Sybil Morgan
Ada Ryan	Ken Fraser
Jean Rex	George Chant
Marjory Slocum	Cyril Suthers
Kay Guymer	Ernest Lock
Ernest Weatherhog	Hilda Stidston
Cyril Bellingham	Gladys Stephens
Thelma Mesger	Shirley Barnes
Grahame Stephens	Denise Hartwell
George Moody	George Bell
Emily Taylor	Lorna Edwards
Edgar Davis	Elsie Parish
Anthony Eden	Harry Oram
Arthur Brown	George Noble
Grace Brown	Del Foreman
Kevin Fleming	Janice Diehm



For Direct Parish Offerings
please scan the above
QR Code

Mission Giving: Our giving to mission work outside the Parish via the Planned Giving envelopes will go to help support the work of:
December— Anglican Aid Abroad
January— Hummingbird House (Hospice for Children)



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 actof alliance

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!

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



In preparation for the 2026 Op Shop reopening, there will be an Op Shop Cleaning Day on **Friday 9 January**. If you are available to give some time to help it would be appreciated.

Thank you to all who attended and helped with the Parish Christmas Dinner. A great night was had by all. The winners of the Christmas Raffle were:

1st—John Williams

2nd—Carole Shard

3rd—Barbara McDonald

4th—Chris Raymont

5th—Louise Fullerton

The **5.30pm Christmas Eve Family Service at St Paul's** will be a "Build the Crib" service. Children, of all ages, please come dressed as a character from the nativity, and bring your adults, (parents, carers, grandparents, etc.) with you.

