

# THE BUZZ

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF KEMPSEY

Summer 2022-2023



Welcome to this edition of The Buzz! We have all had a busy few months. We pray that you have had a happy, holy and safe Christmas season, and a gentle beginning to the New Year - a year full of possibilities!

We hope that this small snapshot of our lives here at All Saints' Church over this Summer will be interesting and illuminating!

Our mission here guides us in all that we do.  
Come to **see** Jesus.  
Come to **know** Jesus.  
Come to **serve** Jesus.

**We hope you will join us in worship on Sundays at 8.30 am.**

It was a great privilege for us all to welcome back to the Parish of Kempsey **The Reverend Camellia Flanagan tssf** to worship with us at All Saints' Church on the Third Sunday after Epiphany. She reflected powerfully with us on the importance of seeing the Kingdom of God here and now, and being the call to being 'fishers of men.'

She shared in morning tea with us before heading off with Father Jesse to share in worship and Holy Communion with our brothers and sisters at the Chapel of Macleay Valley House, before joining with those who gathered for the Parish Pub Lunch in Frederickton. *We look forward to having her with us again!*





# ALL SAINTS' DAY 2022

It was wonderful to welcome Bishop Murray Harvey to join with us in celebrating our Patronal Festival on October 30th 2022! We give thanks to God for the life and witness of all those Saints down the ages whose work and ministry continues to enliven our faith and understanding. Throughout the month of October we spent time in a Season of Saints, reflecting on the lives of well-known (and some lesser known!) Saints.

Our brother Stephen Liddelow was Confirmed in the faith, something he has been incredibly excited for. *"I have waited 28 years for this!"* he said. At the age of 66, Stephen's faith continues to grow and encouraged by regular reading of the scriptures, prayer, and attending public worship.

Our worship was made all the richer with the wonderful Macleay Music Ensemble and Mr Ross Newton on the Organ, as well as our All Saints' Singers! We gathered in the Parish Hall afterwards, and enjoyed a delicious bring and share morning tea. Bishop Murray was presented with a handcarved pectoral cross, made by our own Mrs Jane Lewis, as a gift celebrating his four year anniversary as our Bishop in Grafton.

Following morning tea, we joined with our brothers from the Roman Catholic Church. Bishop Greg Homeming O.C.D the Bishop of the Diocese of Lismore, and Father James Foster of Macleay Valley Catholic Parish met with Bishop Murray and Father Jesse for coffee and fellowship. In the evening, Bishop Murray joined with ministers of the Parishes of Kempsey, Wauchope and Lower Macleay for a meal overlooking the Macleay River.

On Monday, October 31st 2022, Bishop Murray joined with Bishop Peter Stuart of the Diocese of Newcastle to attend the Grand Opening of the new headspace, located on Smith Street. headspace Kempsey is a centre that operates on Dunghutti land. This service is funded by the Federal Government and managed by Healthy North Coast to provide mental health, physical health, alcohol and other drug, and vocational/educational supports to young people in the Kempsey and surrounding areas. This work is delivered by the Samaritans, the social justice mission arm of the Anglican Church in Newcastle.

*We give thanks to God for his ongoing outpouring of grace upon our Valley, and continue to pray that we may continue to be vessels of his love, light and peace.*

# ALL SOULS' DAY 2022

We came together in faith and love to pray for God's eternal rest in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. The names and photographs of our loved ones who have died were offered in prayer, with candles lit in Church at an All Souls' Requiem Mass. Fr Jesse prayed the Office of the Dead at West Kempsey, East Kempsey, Frederickton, Euroka, Tom's Gully and Bellbrook Cemeteries, and was joined with those whose loved ones find their resting place in those tranquil surrounds. They joined to gather to pray, sing hymns, and to reflect. *We pray that All Souls will continue to hear God's voice drawing them into his peace.*



Bellbrook Cemetery



Overlooking Tom's Gully



Requiem Mass at All Saints'

W. Kempsey Cemetery



Euroka Cemetery

*Rest eternal  
grant to them,  
O Lord,  
and let light  
shine upon them.*

*May they  
Rest In Peace,  
and Rise in Glory.  
Amen.*



It was a great afternoon on December 4th 2022, coming together in joyful song for **A Concert of Classics and Carols**, featuring talent from around the Macleay Valley. The programme included, the Cello Ensemble; the Macleay Choristers (lead by Mrs Christine Wells and accompanied by our own Churchwarden Mr Ross Newton); flute duet (Mrs Courtney Collins, Dr Vincent Lee, and accompanied by Mrs Olma Gan); a Vocal Solo by Mr Craig Wood (self-accompanied); a Piano Solo by Mr Ross Newton; and the Macleay Music Ensemble, conducted by Mr Craig Wood. The afternoon was concluded with a combined finale performance by the Macleay Ensemble and Macleay Choristers, and followed by a delicious afternoon tea! *Our thanks to everyone who came along and supported this unique community event!*



There was a very special spirit of peace as we gathered for this year's **Advent Mini-Retreat** on Saturday, December 17th 2022. We joined together with the Macleay Valley Catholic Parish and Kempsey Baptist Church at Our Lady Star of the Sea in South West Rocks to take some time out of the busy-ness in preparing for Christmas. Around 50 people came together to reflect together on this year's theme, the well known carol 'O Come All Ye Faithful.' At the time this carol was composed, England and Scotland were steadfastly Protestant. Catholics would often escape difficulties by fleeing to Europe for safety. They'd have been shocked to see us gathered in this way! *We'd love for you to join us for our **Lenten Mini-Retreat**, keep an eye out for more information.*



## Small Saints Christmas Celebrations



Members of the **Kempsey Branch of Mothers' Union** gathered for their annual Christmas morning tea! We are so grateful to have the loving support of the Mother's Union, whose mission it is to support family and married life here in Kempsey. With over four million members across 81 countries, there is so much work that has been undertaken by this wonderful organisation of faithful women. Here in Kempsey, the Mothers' Union actively support families through prayer, and in providing information and small gifts for children to be baptised, hampers and prayers for those that are sick and unwell, by praying for those to married in our church, and in playing an active role in providing activities, morning tea, and a motherly touch at Small Saints' Playgroup, which meets in the Youth Centre on Marsh Street every Monday from 9.30 am in school term time. ***This year the Kempsey branch of the Mothers' Union celebrates 80 years of Christian ministry!***





At the final Parish Pub Lunch for 2022 we came together to celebrate a "BIG 0"! **A very happy 30th birthday to Father Jesse!** He said, *"I am overwhelmed by the generosity of spirit and hospitality that has been shown by members of this Church community."*

**The Parish Pub Lunch is held on the 4th Sunday of each month at 12 noon at the Macleay Valley Hotel in Frederickton.** We would love for you and your friends to join us!

Was great to have our mate Steve drop in, one of just a few of the friendly faces supported by **Macleay Options**. He came down to the Parish Office to drop off donations of non-perishable goods to the **Parish Pantry**. *This simple ministry provides emergency food relief for those in need. We are so grateful for the support of the Kempsey community!*



*Happy Birthday*

A fantastic afternoon of talent was on show once again in the Parish Hall as we welcomed the **Country Music Showcase** for their final show of 2022. It has been wonderful to be able to have so many musicians throughout the year, and we look forward to more events in the future!



An amazing job by the **All Saints' Catering** team, serving delicious meals for those who sing and dance.



*Father Jesse was asked to write the Christmas message for The Macleay Argus, he wrote...*

There's something *soul-stirring* that happens as we come together with our family and friends to sing Christmas carols. I remember as a child we kept the tradition of decorating the Christmas tree - weaving colourful lights and tinsel around its branches, and placing glittering baubles. In the the warm glow of these memories humming in the background is a well-worn, oft-rewound VHS tape: *'Wiggly, Wiggly Christmas.'* (I recently turned 30 - figure now I qualify to mutter "*back in my day!*")

As my siblings and I "helped" decorate the tree, we danced in our brand new (!) Christmas pyjamas joyfully singing to The Wiggles' renditions of *'Away in a Manger'*, *'Silent Night'*, and *'Ding Dong Merrily On High'*. For so many people who, like me, did not grow up going to Church, these Carols expound upon one of the few Christian stories that we know. The Christmas story is so ingrained in our understanding that it shapes our experience as humans and as Australians. The values of love, joy, peace hope and forgiveness that we hold dear are *inspired* by the **Incarnation of Jesus.**

The heart of the Christmas gospel draws us into the love story of God and His people. The God who loved us so much that he gave his only Son, in order that we might be drawn nearer to His nature, mercy, peace, reconciliation and love. The magic of Christmas, therefore, is found not in presents, but in His presence. Whatever your family tradition might be, I encourage you to dance in your new pyjamas, singing the carols that for generations have inspired faith, hope, and joy.

*Why not join us to sing at your local Church this Christmas? **We'd love to welcome you.** The Churches of the Macleay give thanks to God for you this Christmas. We pray that you and your family will have a happy, holy and safe Christmas season. May God continue to pour out His blessings upon this Valley.*