

Sunday, 24 December

Reading: Matthew 3:1-6

- Pray for the leaders of the Christian Church around the world to be faithful shepherds of their flocks; that they would hold fast to the truth of the Scriptures in the face of opposition from society.
- Pray for our country; for our leaders; *Give them your mind, and surround them with godly counsellors who will exercise integrity and work for justice, morality, and freedom. Help them to esteem you, not dismiss you. Send revival, Lord.*

**My prayer points/God's answers:**

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**Please pray for:**

Praise Point—Mel Spurrier's scan results show that the tumour in her liver has decreased by 1cm and does not look healthy—please continue to pray that it will die completely, leaving her kidney healthy.

- Please pray for Vicki Lowden as she supports her parents—her father has been diagnosed with inoperable metastatic cancer; ask God in His mercy to open his heart to the truth of the gospel.
- Catherine's mum who is recovering following spinal surgery.
- For a Coffee Break lady whose 12 year old granddaughter is facing serious illness.
- For Antwanet Jamous (Nashua's mum) who joined us last week for the service and lunch; she is being treated for cancer.
- Heather Welsh's brother, Ian; he has commenced chemotherapy treatment as the first step, to be followed by surgery; a recent scan revealed more lesions on his liver; ask God to undertake for him at this time; for his wife Debbie, who is suffering from leukaemia, as well as facing significant other family issues; pray their faith remains firmly grounded on Him who can do all things.
- Megan Oliver who is suffering from painful rheumatoid arthritis.
- Jacki's daughter, Sarah, is 5 months pregnant; she has had serious issues in the past; pray for God's protection on her and her baby and for peace and trust in God for Jacqui.
- Congratulations to Sandra and Steve Talbot on the birth of their grandson, Tom Alexander Jackson. The Joynes family are still in waiting!
- Dianne Morphett as she has more chemo treatment.
- Pray for Julia Kingsley and her need for a back operation.
- Those with chronic health issues, including Elise Isaacs; Geoff and Heather Welsh; Willow; Eleanor Wood (there has been an improvement in her scoliosis with the brace she has to wear!)—that each will know God's comfort and peace in their situation.
- Those grieving loss of loved ones.
- Pray for those who are looking for work—Tim Haynes.



St Marys Anglican Church

Prayer Matters

18—24 December 2017

Monday, 18 December

Reading: Matthew 1:1-17

*"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life."* -Corrie Ten Boom

- As we approach Christmas Day, ask God to help us be thankful each day for Jesus, our Saviour; that He set aside His glory and took on human flesh - He continued to be God—able to live a perfect, sinless life and perform mighty miracles. He is our God and He is with us—mighty to save! May we rejoice in His tender nearness and His majestic Power.
- Pray for each other—that we might enjoy time with our God each day, before the hectic call of life begins; that we will be conscious of our Lord walking with us throughout the day and at the end of it we will look back and be thankful.
- Pray for students who have received their HSC results; some will be ecstatic and others disappointed; ask God to give parents wisdom in encouraging their children and helping them move forward and see the possibilities that await them, particularly as they trust God in their circumstances.

**My prayer points/God's answers:**

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Tuesday, 19 December

Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

- Pray for Trent; give thanks for the way God uses him in ministry at St Marys; for the solid, truthful teaching he brings us; pray particularly as he prepares the Christmas messages; that the Holy Spirit would give Trent powerful, clear words that will touch and challenge every person who attends; pray he will prioritise his time well; that his quiet times with God are regular and a blessing to him; pray for him and Catherine during the schools holidays; that they will enjoy positive family times.
- Pray for Pete and Liz at Ropes Crossing and Mark and Rachael at Marsden Park; that their Christmas celebrations will be encouraging and joyous and that January will bring a time of rest and preparation for the coming year of ministry.
- Pray for Richard Ide in his role of pastoral care, giving thanks for his commitment to this work and for the many visits he has been able to make over the year; ask God to refresh him and Sue; that they will enjoy time with family and friends and know God's leading for the coming year.

**My prayer points/God's answers:**

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**Wednesday, 20 December**      **Reading: Matthew 2:1-6**

- Pray for our link missionaries serving with CMS—Lovells in Spain; Nick and Kysha in Bolivia and the Haddons currently on home leave from Chile. As they celebrate Christmas, ask God to soften the loneliness of being far from family and friends; that He will provide people with whom they can share the Christmas joy; pray that church services will be full and many will hear the gospel.
- Pray for our world; in many places people will not have Christmas trees, turkey, ham or plum pudding; there will be no presents; pray for the gospel to make an ever-increasing impact on all nations; that where there is no worldly peace, people will have the Peace of Christ, which passes all understanding....that people will rejoice in being reconciled to God the Father and know that eternal life awaits them and the horrors of this life will be forgotten. Pray for aid workers.
- Pray for Anglicare and other Christian agencies which provide for people in need, including our own Mel Spurrier and her charity Our Community Cares; Mel and her helpers are busy organising gifts to distribute to the elderly and needy in the Penrith Council area; she also contributes to our Christmas Day Community Lunch. Mel and helpers will be wrapping gifts outside Target all this week—gold coin donation.

**My prayer points/God's answers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, 21 December**      **Reading: Matthew 2:7-12**

- Parish Council meeting this evening; pray for Trent, our wardens, Robert and Stephen, and council members, Faye, Greg, Ian, Mark, Matt, Stephen Talbot; give thanks for their willingness to serve and pray that as they look at issues this evening, they will have unity and make wise and godly decisions. Give thanks also for Ken Williams and his continuing work to complete the Small Hall; for Adele Babbage who works on the accounts; for Dawn Hale who pays invoices, etc.
- Pray for those known to us in our church family who are facing difficult times, whose hearts are filled with chaos and confusion; who may feel like they are drowning in their circumstances and are fearful; Ask God to help them know He is always there; that they will find strength in Him and choose to rest in the peace of Jesus. Ask God to help us be faithful in our prayers for each other; to have eyes that see the need in people's lives and ears that listen with a heart of love and compassion.
- Give thanks for the opportunities God gives us to serve Him and our brothers and sisters in Christ; as we take a break from our usual activities, be praying about what ministry might be opening up for you in 2018 and ask Him to give you the faith and obedience to step out in faith.

**My prayer points/God's answers:** \_\_\_\_\_

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For inclusion of prayer requests, please contact Sabrina Mellor—9625 8764 or email: mellors2766@gmail.com. If you are submitting a request for someone else, please remember to ask for their permission.

**Friday, 22 December**      **Reading: Matthew 2: 13-18**

- Pray for our families; as school holidays stretch out over a possibly hot few months, ask God to help parents be patient; that they will enjoy positive relationships with their children and enjoy their company; pray for children to be respectful of parents and siblings; to not have unrealistic expectations that place financial pressures on families; to enjoy simple things with family and friends. Pray for those travelling; that they will be wise and rest frequently; ask God to help Christian parents make it a routine to spend a short time with children praying and reading the Bible.
- As the Royal Commission into Child Abuse gave its findings last week, pray for those who have been victims; that they may find peace and healing; for those who suffered abuse by church leaders, ask God to help them see beyond the person who hurt them and look upon Jesus who died for them. Pray for all organisations and church groups to put such protection in place that we will not see this behaviour ignored and go unreported; ask God to help us as a church make sure every person, in every group, of any age, is safe.
- Pray for Peter Ray as he prepares for ministry in 2018; he will have an increased workload, taking on the organising and leading of BLAST and Kactus as well as PUMP on Fridays; ask God to help him train and equip junior leaders well so they can step up and serve; pray for more leaders to make themselves available in the coming year. Pray for Pete and Olivia—still fairly new to married life; that they will spend time together in prayer and reading God's Word, as well as having time individually; that they will grow strong and confident in their relationship and be a witness and blessing to other young couples.

**My prayer points/God's answers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, 22 December**      **Reading: Matthew 2: 19-23**

- Pray for our services tomorrow and on Christmas Day; for those who will visit our church, ask that God's Word would pierce hardened hearts and they will hear clearly the message of Christmas and know it demands a response that they cannot continue to ignore.
- Pray for those around us who find this time of year difficult; for those without family to share Christmas with; those grieving the loss of loved ones for the first Christmas or after many Christmases and still feeling the sense of loss and sadness. Ask God to help us be sensitive to others, even as we might be feeling sad ourselves.
- Christmas Day Community Lunch; pray there will be many hands to prepare tomorrow after the 9.30 service, as well as the right number of helpers for Christmas Day; ask God to bring many people along to share this time with those who give up their family time to serve in this way. Give thanks for those who donate gifts and money.

**My prayer points/God's answers:** \_\_\_\_\_

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