



# WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

## WHY JESUS CAME

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

Why did Jesus come to earth on the first Christmas? We sing a song that has a line: "You didn't want heaven without us, so Jesus, you brought heaven down." That lyric can give us the impression God (and Jesus and the Holy Spirit) were missing something, or were getting bored with each other.

God did not create us, or send Jesus to earth to get love from us, rather to share his love with us. The incarnation of God the Son is an incredible gift.

In Jesus, God has come near to us. Through Jesus, we can have access to the Father. By the Spirit of Christ, we are adopted as children of God, and can call God our Father.

To approach God as his children is no small thing. It gives us confidence that God is listening, inclined to hear and respond to our prayers.

Life this side of glory begets prayer. As we experience the frustrations of human frailty and short-comings, and contrast that with the coming glory of the kingdom, we groan and do not know how to pray. At this very moment, the Spirit intercedes for us – our groans become subsumed into his. And God hears those prayers, and responds for the good of those who believe in him (Rom 8:23-28).

Find confidence this Christmas that God loves you, and in Jesus desires to share his unbounded love with you. Find assurance this Christmas that God sees and cares for his children. Find hope this Christmas that, despite the frustrations of your life, and the human state at large, in Jesus' life, God dignifies the human condition. Find courage this Christmas that in Jesus, God has overcome sin and death and invites you to participate in a resurrection life. Anticipate this Christmas that Jesus will come again, and complete the good work he has begun.

OFFICE PHONE - 4261 1001  
WWW.DAPTO.CHURCH  
OFFICE@DAPTOANGLICAN.ORG.AU  
PO BOX 25, DAPTO NSW 2530



Join us for our  
**Christmas Services**



# **Christmas Eve**

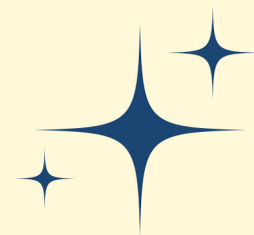
Sunday 24th December

## **At the Ministry Centre**

**9am Service**  
Communion Service

**4pm Service**  
Family Service

**St Luke's**  
**11pm Service**  
Communion Service

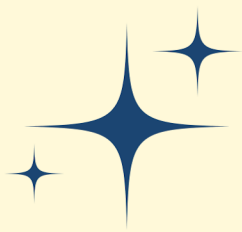


# **Christmas Day**

Monday 25th December

## **At the Ministry Centre**

**9am Service**  
Family Service



# Parish Council Update

- Budget for 2024 has been adopted
- Congratulations to the St Luke's Preschool on achieving an 'Exceeding' in the NSW Department of Education Assessment & Review process
- Op Shop new shelving and storage
- Thank you to all those involved in making the recent Christmas Experience such a success

## Weekly News - Thank You

We want to extend a heartfelt thanks to all of those who have contributed to our weekly newsletter over the past year. We love seeing the newsletter come together and be enjoyed by many!

For the next two weeks, you will not receive a Weekly News, as we will be giving our volunteers and staff some time to rest. Instead, we will be sending you our **2024 Calendar** so that you can keep up to date with all our upcoming events and important dates. Keep an eye on your email for this exciting calendar!



# Holiday Office Hours

**CLOSED**

Monday 25th December  
till Monday 8th January

Phone: 42 611 001



# PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

This Christmas time, may we and all those we love, make room in our hearts for the Son who has been born for us. As he lives in us, may the wisdom of the Mighty Counsellor guide us, the power of the Mighty God protect us, the love of the Everlasting Father surround us, the peace of the Prince of peace guard our hearts in all circumstances. Amen.

## PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### EXPECTANT PARENTS

Tara and Nathan O; Lisa and Matt G.

### HOSPITAL

Please continue to pray for Ivy E (8am), who is still in St. George Hospital following her surgery, she is still unwell with Pneumonia and an infection.

### VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please continue to pray for our people in Residential Care Homes: Jean W, Kath H, Phyllis D, Audrey & Alan R, Gae & Allen Q, Elsie N, Barbara L, Pamela B, Gordon M Beth W, Betty B (Piper House, Dapto); Robyn K (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H, Trevor W (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Wendy C, Helen K (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S (The Links, Wollongong).

### 10AM

Please pray for Barbara H recovering at home following surgery; Please pray for mobility and pain control for Ruby D who has Osteoporosis; Please continue to pray for Andrew W and Phillip P who have health issues.

### CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Please continue to pray for Lynne N and her family with health problems.

## Safe Ministry

Dapto Anglican Church is committed to Safe Ministry Practices. If you have a question or concern, we are here to help.

Please contact:

- Julie Houghton, Parish Safe Ministry Representative, by confidential email [safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au](mailto:safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au) or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945

