



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Advent First Sunday



30 November 2025

Notes from Yukiko's Desk

Dear AGAC friends,



Welcome to a new liturgical year (Year A).

As we step into a new lectionary year, we're invited to see the world through Matthew's eyes. Matthew has his own heartbeat, his own anxieties, his own hopes, his own vision of what it looks like for God to break into the world. Matthew is writing for a mixed community, Jewish followers of Jesus who fear losing the tradition that shaped them, and Gentile believers who are being grafted into that very story. The tension is real. In the light of what is currently happening in the world, we would be able to identify with that kind of tension.

Advent is ultimately a season of **hope**. In a world often darkened by despair, Advent reminds us that the light of Christ has already overcome the darkness. Having said that, it should be reminded that the word "**hope**" has a rich and important theological meaning. It is more than just saying, for example, "I hope I can get a pay raise," or "I hope it will be a fine day tomorrow." Christian hope is centred on God, on God's kingdom, and on God's promises even when all evidence points to the contrary.

And we begin the Advent journey with the theme of **Hope**. Let's reflect on the unfailing promises of God. Despite the darkness we may face, we carry the light of Christ within us, a hope that will never fade. This week, I am inviting you to consider how we can live out this hope and share it with others, offering the light of Christ to those who are weary and in need of encouragement. Hope in Christ,

Yukiko

News and Upcoming Events



This week, we made a trip to Long Bay beach! It was a lovely day and we all enjoyed!

Morning Tea @ Settler's



Next meeting: **17th December** Wednesday at **10 am** at Settler's Lounge. This will be last morning tea for the year. Beginning again 10am Wednesday 18th February 2026.

Christmas Carol Service at Fairview Rest home On 12th December 11 am.



Please join us for our friends in Fairview Rest home. If you can do that, please let Yukiko know.

Christmas gifts for ATWC

This year ATWC are doing family care packages. So have suggested for our giving, boardgames for kiddies 5-10yrs plus bags of sweet 'treats' e.g. chocs, jellybeans marshmallows etc. Collection days at Holy Cross will be Sunday **30th November and 7th December.**

There will be a basket in church on Sunday for any Christmas gift donations for ATWC.

Annual General Meeting will be held straight after the service **this Sunday.** at Holy Cross.

If you cannot attend the AGM and would like to submit your apology to the meeting, please let Roger know.

Advent Reflection @ Holy Cross on 9th December at 10 am

As we look ahead to Advent, ***if there is enough interest***, I am thinking of offering a half day devotion time together. It will be time to pause, prepare, and ponder. We can have a sharing time with refreshment afterwards. Please let Yukiko know if you would like to attend it.

The annual confirmation service for the Auckland Diocese will be held 7th December at 5 pm at Holy Trinity Cathedral

Amanda, Angela and Bob are getting confirmed at this service (Jonathan and Dorothy will be confirmed at Holy Cross next year). It would be wonderful if some of us can be there for the celebration and support. If you would like to come, please let Yukiko know. We can arrange the transport to get there.

ADVENT 2025

The diocesan Ministry Formation Team has updated the calendar for 2025. [CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE CALENDAR](#) or go to the [diocesan Facebook page](#).

If you want to have a printed version, please let Yukiko know.

ADVENT STUDY: AN ADVENT JOURNEY WITH JOHN THE BAPTIST

This year's Advent Study from the Diocese of Waiapu's Ministry Educator is now available. [DOWNLOAD IT](#) (If you would like to have a printed version, please let Yukiko know).

We pray for:

- Amanda, Angela and Bob who are preparing for their confirmation
- The 800+ people on the margins ahead of the proposed ban on homelessness in the CBD.
- St Matthew in the City, dealing with the stresses of their immediate environment.
- The recent development in Ukraine's peace deal
- Our Advent journey



This Week's Bible Question

According to Matthew, what did Jesus compare the days of His coming to?

- A) The days of Solomon B) The days of Noah
- C) The days of Moses D) The days of David
- E) The days of Elijah

Christmas Services at AGAC



This Week's Service Songs at Holy Cross

- Opening: Once in Royal David's City
- Gospel: O Little town of Bethlehem
- Offertory: Silent Night
- Recession: He came singing love
- Music: Stephanie and Trish

Readings

	<u>30th November</u>	<u>7th December</u>
1 st Reading:	Isaiah 2:1-5	Isa 11:1-10
Psalm	Psalm 122	Ps 72:1-7,19-20
2 nd Reading:	Romans 13:11-14	Rom 15:4-13
Gospel:	Matthew 24:36-44	Matt 3:1-12

Summary of the Scripture

- 1st Reading: This reading from the first of the Isaiah prophets is also found in Micah. The threat of an invasion from Assyria from the north is countered by a strong call to peace between nations.
- 2nd Reading: This is a call for believers to live with urgency, shed sinful habits, and embrace a new life of righteousness through Christ, as their salvation is drawing nearer
- Gospel: Christians are called to live in a state of constant readiness, being alert and prepared for Jesus' coming at any unexpected moment

Collect for the Day

Praise and honour to you living God;
your coming will be like a thief in the night,
like lightning flashing across the sky.

Grant that we may be ready,
and our hearts answer, Come Lord Jesus.

Hear this prayer for your love's sake.

Amen.

This Week's Bible Question Answer

B - The days of Noah

Sentence for the day

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. *Isaiah 2:3a*

Liturgical Colour

VIOLET

Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>30th November</u>	<u>7th December</u>
Sacristan	Dorothy S	Val Deas
Welcomer	Trish Duncan	Ria Gormley
1 Readings	John Churchill	Trish Duncan
2 Readings	Valerie Churchill	Alison Thompsin
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko
Prayers	Beatrix Jones	Yukiko
TV Setup & Slides	Patrick Harris	Graham Wood
Morning Tea	Valerie & June	Karenne & Trish
Flowers	Diana Harris	Ria
Music	Yukiko & Stephanie	

St Michaels

	<u>30th November</u>	<u>7th December</u>
Prayers	Bruce Goertz	Bruce Goertz
Readings	Brian Simpson	Bruce Goertz
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko

Contacts

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Feedback welcome:

If you have feedback on any aspect of our church activities, please contact the wardens, Dorothy & Trish – contacts as above – or via the office at the email above.

Albany Greenhithe Anglican Parish

Bank details: ASB – 12-3136-0041622-00

www.agac.org.nz