

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Art: Kissell, Mackenzie

21th December 2025

Notes from Yukiko's Desk



Dear friends of Christ,

A summer beach buzzing with excitement ahead of Christmas and holiday season turned into a worst nightmare in our neighbouring country, Australia. Targeted attack on Jewish community in Bondi beach killed at least 15 people including children. My dear friend, Naomi, who is a council for the Jewish community in NZ, wrote to me after the incident.

"It is just tragic. Now it has scared us all here. For the rest of Hanukkah there will be armed police outside our synagogues in NZ- I drove past the Jewish Community Centre today; there were a number of armed police. Living in fear is not good..."

Christmas is supposed to be a time of hope, peace, joy and love. I feel so helpless. But at least I would like to stand in solidarity with the Jewish community. This Sunday at Holy Cross, I will set a table (with candles) near the water font for those who would like to pause in prayer to remember the dead, their families and friends, the injured, and the suffering, and for peace in the world. You are welcome to pray before or after the service.

In this season of joy, let's remember to keep turning our thoughts to those struggling this Christmas and let their need shape our prayer and our perspective as we celebrate.

Yukiko's leave

I will be on leave from 28th Dec to 2nd Jan. Les will be kindly taking a service on 28th Dec at Holy Cross. I will be on leave again from

20th Jan to 5 Feb as I am going to Japan. During my absence, Denise is taking a service at Holy Cross on 25 Jan and Colleen on 1 of Feb. Until I come back from the holiday, our newsletter is going to be a shorter version.

Finally...

Travel safe if you're heading away and may the blessings of this Christmas be with you and your loved ones! (Remember, Christmas isn't just a day; it's an entire season!) The wildness and the warmth of God, and the Shalom of God, be yours now and always,

Ngā manaakitanga.

Yukiko

From Amanda to AGAC parish

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15 verse 13"

I pray that God the source of hope, will fill you completely with Joy and Peace because you trust in him.

Then you will overflow with the Power of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

I look forward to the coming Confirmation in our Parish and as Bishop Bay spoke of Welcomeness

I truly say to you all the Confirmation is a welcome From God.

A blessing through Jesus, and a divine meeting with the Power of the Holy Spirit.

I warmly welcome you to receive Confirmation in 2026.

News and Upcoming Events



This Sunday: The festival of 9 Lessons and Carols

At Holy Cross, we will have a service with traditional readings and carols, with congregational singing.

Anne Mullen will play the organ and piano for us for the service. We will have no Eucharist. Come and enjoy!

Christmas Services: On **Christmas eve**, we join **Albany Presbyterian Church** in carol service at **9 pm**. Some of us will be a part of the service. The offering collected on that service will help CWS (Christian World Service). **On Christmas Day**, Les and I will take services at both Churches (**9 am in Greenhithe and 10:30 in Albany**). There are some activities for children available. Please feel free to invite people to these special times of worship.

We are also collecting food items for Auckland City Mission this Sunday.

Donated items should be non-perishable items such as canned food, spread, and pasta. Also, it would be nice for the food parcels to include treat food such as Christmas mince pies, biscuits, and nuts. I will take whatever we have collected to the City Mission office this coming week before Christmas!

Morning Tea @ Settler's

Thank you for Dot, Roger and Ria who organised an amazing Christmas morning tea! We had a wonderful gathering. We will be beginning again 10am Wednesday 18th February 2026.

Bishop's recent Video news: [Click here](#)

We pray for:

- Those affected by the shooting at Bondi beach in Sydney and the broader Jewish community; May God be close to them, restore them and heal them.
- The whole world; May God's peace and joy fill all hearts those who had a lonely or difficult Christmas; may God's presence be with them

This Week's Bible Question (from Christmas Day readings)

What does Paul say believers become through justification?

A. Servants B. Strangers C. Heirs D. Enemies

Christmas Day Service Songs at AGAC

Opening: Hark the herald angels sing
Gospel: Away in manger
Offertory: What a child is this
Recession: Christ be our light
Music: Yukiko at St. M; Trish G at Holy Cross

Sentence for the day (Christmas Day)

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

(Luke 2: 10-11)

Readings for Christmas Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm Ps. 97
2nd Reading: Titus 3:4-7
Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Summary of the Scripture

- 1st Reading: In the late 6th century BC the exiled Jews are about to return to their homeland. They must prepare for the journey and declare God's saving grace to all people.
- 2nd Reading: Paul reaffirms the renewal of the Holy Spirit freely given, and of, grace given and hope of eternal life.
- Gospel: This is Luke's account of the birth of Jesus, and the angelic visitation to the shepherds telling of the birth of the Messiah.

Collect for the Day(Christmas Day)

Son of God,
light that shines in the dark,
child of joy and peace,
help us to come to you
and be born anew this holy night.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. **Amen**

Liturgical Colour 21st: Violet; 25th White

This Week's Bible Question Answer C.



Rosters

Holy Cross

	<u>21st December</u>	<u>Christmas day</u>
Sacristan	-----	Yukiko
Welcomer	Garry Gosper	TBA
1 Readings	-----	TBA
2 Readings	-----	TBA
Presiding	Yukiko	Yukiko
Prayers	-----	Yukiko
TV Setup & Slides	Christian	Christian
Morning Tea	Dorothy& Ria	-----
Flowers	Ria	Diana
Music	Anne	Trish G

St Michaels

	<u>21st</u>	<u>Christmas Day</u>
Prayers	Bruce	Yukiko
Readings	Bruce	Brian
Presiding	Bruce	Les
Music and reflection	-----	Yukiko



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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