



## Why the 25<sup>th</sup> of December?

Often about this time of year, children mention that Jesus' birthday is coming up at Christmas time.

At this, certain adults will say that December 25<sup>th</sup> was chosen as a replacement for pagan festivals prior to Christianity, with Mithras being born on that day. Mithraism, was a Roman cult inspired by the Zoroastrian sun deity Mithra, practised by Roman soldiers from the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century AD. As Mithras was pictured with sun god Sol, some scholars have popularised that he was celebrated during a winter solstice festival on December 25<sup>th</sup>, which was taken over by Christians. Additionally, some say that Mithras was born of a virgin. However, Roman Mithraism was a secretive cult with no public ceremonies, and all ancient sources actually describe Mithras as being born from a rock.

The intended effect of such comments is to undermine the reality of Jesus' birth and its Christian celebration. However:

(1) The Bible doesn't actually give a date for Jesus' birth. Some calculate from Zachariah's duty as a priest of Abijah, adding Elizabeth and Mary's pregnancies. However, such speculation involves multiple choices and possibilities.

(2) Early Christian writings propose multiple dates for Jesus' birth. That of December 25<sup>th</sup> was likely calculated 9 months out from March 25<sup>th</sup>, due to a tradition that his annunciation/conception was aligned with the date of his death, during Passover. Our earliest record of a Christ Mass was on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 336AD in Rome. Earlier records may have existed and been destroyed by barbarian army attacks on Rome in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. The Eastern church celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup>, both combining to December 25<sup>th</sup> in about 375AD.

Ultimately though, the main issue is that Jesus is a historical person who was born, lived, died and rose again. The actual date of his birth was not important enough for God to record it in the Scriptures, but its reality and significance is world-changing. How we celebrate it, is a matter of freedom. Every day can be one for reflection on Jesus' incarnation, and December 25 is a good day to collectively celebrate his birth.

- Sam Pursell

**WELCOME TO CHURCH • SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

# Church News

## 5pm Service Dinner

Join us for our monthly dinner after our 5pm service today. Cost is \$5 per person.

## Ladies' Christmas Dinner

**6.30pm** this **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December** at church for the final Ladies Dinner for the year, with Evelyn Meek as guest speaker.

Sign up at church by seeing Coralie or register online at [bit.ly/ofladies](http://bit.ly/ofladies).

## UoW Mission Team

We will be joined by students from UoW for a mission, **8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December**.

- **Can you help provide food** - Please contact the office if you can help: **lunch** (Thu/Fri); **morning tea** (Thu/Fri) or **afternoon tea** (Thu/Sat). The students will help themselves (no need to serve). Or perhaps you can host some students for dinner on Thursday night.
- **Evangelism Training** will be held on Thursday from 2-3pm at church.

## Birthdays

5<sup>th</sup> Joy Evans  
10<sup>th</sup> Kevin Eton

- A **Car Wash** will be held from 2pm to 3pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Dessert Night** - Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 7:30pm to 9pm.  
Guest speaker speaking on the topic '**Where do you find your identity?**'. RSVP at [bit.ly/ofadessert](http://bit.ly/ofadessert).

## Christmas Celebrations

- **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December** - Kids *Christmas Craft* at **10am to 12pm**.  
Booking is essential. A BBQ lunch will be held afterwards.
- **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - *annual Community Carols* at **5pm** on the grass.
- **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Day service at **9am**.

## Christmas & Pantry letterbox drop

Can you grab a pile of brochures for our Christmas Celebrations and Pantry flyers and deliver them to our neighbourhood?

Grab a pile, mark down your name, and hit the streets this week!

## Anniversaries

4<sup>th</sup> Roger & Amanda Kyngdon  
(Mission Partners)  
10<sup>th</sup> John & Mia Klasson

## Financial Update

(YTD 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022)

**Income** \$158,122

**Expenses** \$165,485

**Difference** **-\$7,363**

### The people who are serving us

9.30am	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>
<b>Welcomer:</b>	G Kyngdon/ J Mills	K & R Eton
<b>Bible Reader:</b>	J Orange	G Taylor
<b>Prayer Leader:</b>	V O'Regan	R Hannam
<b>Kids Church:</b>	B Firley/ M Klasson	D & R Slocombe
<b>Morning Tea:</b>	R Eton/ R Slocombe	C Bonnici/ R Hannam
<b>MT Clean Up:</b>	C Bonnici	P Pratt

5pm	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>
<b>Welcomer:</b>	D Slocombe	E Stokes
<b>Bible Reader:</b>	D Rainey	P Evans
<b>Prayer Leader:</b>	M Peters	V O'Regan
<b>Afternoon Tea:</b>	S Stanojevic	M Peters
<b>Dinner:</b>	J Evans	N/A
<b>Meal Clean Up:</b>	V O'Regan	A Peters

**Saturday Cleaning:** D & R Slocombe

**Saturday Mowing:** J Klasson/A Peters

# ***Advent: Joy***

**Isaiah 61:1-7**

**Sam Pursell • 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

1. The anointed one

2. The people of joy

***Next Sunday...***

***'Advent: Peace'* • Sam Pursell • Readings: 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6 & Isaiah 11:1-9**

# Information about our Church

## Your kids are welcome

Children are welcome to stay with you during church. Kids church starts roughly 15 mins into the 9:30am service (during school terms).

You may also take your child to the Cry Room at the rear of the church to watch us live on a TV.

## Check out our bookstall

View our quality selection of Christian books for sale at the bookstall located at the rear of the church.

## Join a Bible study group

Our midweek Bible study groups are great for connecting with others. To join a group, contact the office.

## We are filming church

(9:30am service only)

For those unable to attend, we are streaming and recording video at [live.oakflatsanglican.com](http://live.oakflatsanglican.com).

You may be filmed.

## Kids and Youth programs

In school terms, we offer a range of midweek programs for toddlers, children and youth.

## Weekly prayer meeting

Saturday, 7:30am (online via Zoom)

A time to share, to encourage, and to pray for one another. Come join us and experience and power of prayer!

Contact Geoff Kyngdon for details.

Scan for the online 'Contact Us' form



35 Fisher Street (PO Box 68) Oak Flats NSW 2529

**Phone:** 4256 6464 **Email:** [office@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:office@oakflatsanglican.com) **SMS:** 0477 764 988

**Website:** [oakflatsanglican.com](http://oakflatsanglican.com) **Livestream:** [live.oakflatsanglican.com](http://live.oakflatsanglican.com)

**Elvanto member website:** [oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au](http://oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au)

**Minister:** Rev Sam Pursell - 0417 711 314 - [sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Miss Valerie O'Regan - 0408 271 189 - [val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Office Hours:** Mon & Fri: 9am-5pm

**Wardens:** Dave Crook - 0404 337 502; Andy Peters - 0414 799 001; Peter Taylor - 0448 190 946

**Pastoral Care:** Rhonda Slocombe - 0400 679 703 - [rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Prayer Coordinator:** Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565 - [geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Safe Ministry Representative:** Harley Mills - 0409 562 932 - [harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com)

## GIVE ELECTRONICALLY - BANK DETAILS

**Name:** Oak Flats Anglican **BSB:** 633 000 **Account:** 164 385 841

# Prayers

## CURRENT PRAYERS

### The World

The distress that is Ukraine.

Deepening food and energy security issues, not restricted to Europe.

Famine in parts of the 3rd world especially in Africa.

World leaders especially US, UK, France and Germany.

### Our World

The many lost in our communities - may they seek Christ.

Our leaders at most levels for wisdom justice and honesty.

Federal industrial relations changes, now under debate.

Encroaching gender issues we cannot avoid.

### Our Ministries

Completion of SRE for 2022.

Upcoming events including Ladies Dinner, Dessert Night and Kids Christmas Craft.

Christmas Preparations - Carols on the 18th and Christmas Day Service.

All ministries finishing up for the year.

### Our People

The many with special needs.

Tiredness after a pressured year.

Pastoral care issues on the ground.

Christmas preparation - spiritually and practically.

### People in need

Olga & John Covetz, Dave & Jan Crook, Auriel & Barrie Hadley, Robert & Raija Hannam, Pauline Kirby, Joy Meyer, Allan Quinn, Merv & Nola Sercombe, Mary Straughan, Chris & John Wilson.

## REGULAR PRAYERS (CYCLE 4 OF 4)

### Government

The Premier and NSW politicians.

### World Focus

The continent of Asia.

### Mission Partners

Stewart Continuing Ministries - training leaders of the persecuted church in ministry.

### Organisations We Support

Youthworks and the Bible Society.

### Word Ministry Training

Ministry Training and Development (MT&D) and the Ministry Training Strategy (MTS).

### Staff and Senior Leadership

Wardens and Parish Councillors.

### Children and Youth Ministry

Kids' Church.

### Adult Ministry

Seniors (Time Out).

### Local Evangelism

Outreach to emergency services and community groups.

### Members unable to attend church

Those house-bound or living in nursing homes including Bob & Margaret Abrahams, Olga Covetz, Audrey Ford and Lily Lyddiard.

### Local Public Schools

Oak Flats Public, Balarang Public and Oak Flats High.

Contact our Prayer Coordinator, Geoff Kyngdon with any prayer requests or if you wish to be part of the prayer chain. He can be contacted on either 0417 044 565 or [geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com).