

# Our Weekly Prayers

Sunday Church Diocese The World Our Ministry Unit Those in need Anniversary	12th January <b>The First Sunday after Epiphany - Baptism of the Lord</b> Pray for the Church of the Province of West Africa, Abp Cyril Kobina Ben-Smith Pray for the Priests-in-Charge of the Ministry Units of the Diocese For peace in the world For those who are preparing for Baptism or Marriage For those who live in fear of their lives Theresa Masters (2009)
Monday Church Diocese The World Our Ministry Unit Those in need Anniversary	13th January Hilary of Poitiers, bishop and teacher (d.367) Pray for the Diocese of Lango, Bp Alfred Olwa (Uganda) Pray for the Deacons of the Ministry Units of the Diocese For the peoples and rulers of the countries of Africa For the congregation at the Cathedral For all those in hospital
Tuesday Church Diocese The World Our Ministry Unit Those in need Anniversary	14th January Sava, first Archbishop of the Serbian Church (d.1235) Pray for the Diocese of West Lango, Bp Julius Ceasar Nina (Uganda) Pray for the work of Anglicare North Queensland For all those who rely on the land for their income For the congregation at St Mark's Give thanks for the work of the doctors and nurses of our towns Walter Williams (1993)
Wednesday Church Diocese The World Our Ministry Unit Those in need Anniversary	15th January Pray for the Diocese of Langtang, Bp Stanley D. Fube (Nigeria) Pray for all Synod Representatives For all countries involved in warfare and violence with each other For the congregation at St Margaret's For those who support the sick through their prayers
Thursday Church Diocese The World Our Ministry Unit Those in need Anniversary	16th January Pray for the Diocese of Lebombo, Bp Dean Augusto (Mozambique) Pray for all who serve on Ministry Unit Councils For the monarchs and presidents of the countries of the world For those who serve as welcoming or provide our morning teas For all children who are in hospital William Marsh (2006), Nita O'Neill (2015), John Coker (2020)
Friday Church Diocese The World Our Ministry Unit Those in need Anniversary	17th January Antony of Egypt, abbot (d.356) Pray for the Diocese of Leeds, Bp Nicholas Baines (England) Pray for all Hospital Chaplains For those who work to improve our standard of living and lifestyle For those who provide music for our services For those suffering from types of dementia
Saturday Church Diocese The World Our Ministry Unit Those in need Anniversary	18th January <b>The Confession of Peter</b> Pray for the Diocese of Leicester, Bp Martyn James Snow (England) Pray for the Principals, Staff and Students of the Diocesan Schools Give thanks for the work of the United Nations For new members of our Ministry Unit family For those without enough food to survive

## TOWNSVILLE ANGLICAN MINISTRY UNIT Diocese of North Queensland

St James Cathedral  
36 Cleveland Terrace  
Townsville

St Mark's  
70 Bundock Street  
Belgian Gardens

St Margaret's  
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## The First Sunday after Epiphany 12 January, 2025



### REGULAR SERVICE TIMES

#### Sunday Eucharists:

5.00pm (Sat) St Margaret's, Magnetic Island  
7.15am St Mark's, Belgian Gardens  
9.00am St James' Cathedral

#### Monday to Friday:

8.30am Morning Prayer/Eucharist  
St James Cathedral

#### Wednesday Eucharists:

12 noon St James' Cathedral  
5.30pm St James' Cathedral



### Welcome to our worship this weekend.

We hope that you enjoy worshipping with us, and we invite you to stay behind and join us before the service at St Margaret's or after the services at St Mark's or St James for a cuppa.

We are a warm and welcoming church, accepting of all God's people; a diverse congregation in age and backgrounds; a place where everyone is valued for who they are now and not just what they might become; a place where everyone is encouraged to grow in faith, hope and love.

For more information about us, or about weekday services, Baptisms, Weddings, and other activities in the Ministry Unit, please speak with someone over morning tea or contact Fr Kenneth directly on 0422 148 952.

As a congregation we acknowledge the Bindal and Wulgurukaba peoples, as Traditional Owners of the land on which our churches are built. We pay respect to Elders past, present and future. We value the traditions, cultures and aspirations of the First Australians of this land and hold in great significance the valuable contribution that Traditional Owners have made and continue to make within the Townsville Community.

## MINISTRY UNIT DIRECTORY

**Dean:** Fr Kenneth Lay 0422 148 952  
**Clergy:** Rev'd Canon Vic Hall  
 Fr Kevin Bourke  
 Fr Mitchell Porter  
 Rev'd Christine Reedman  
 Rev'd Shirley Thomson

**Wardens:** Leigh Kennedy 0473 974 282  
 Philip Allnutt 0499 451 231  
**Hospital Chaplain:** Bevan Lobley 0417 602 868

## THANKSGIVING

Please consider direct deposit for your freewill offering to God's work in the Ministry Unit,  
**Account Name: Church Wardens of St James Cathedral General Account**  
**BSB: 034 222 Account Number: 250713**  
 ANFIN also offers a direct giving option. There are brochures on the back table to complete. It is also possible to complete and lodge the application online. If you wish to do this, please email Fr Kenneth (kenneth700@gmail.com) and he will send you the link.

# WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Sunday	12th	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>
	7.15am	Eucharist at St Mark's
	9.00am	Eucharist at St James
Monday	13th	8.30am Morning Prayer/Eucharist
	1.30pm	Eucharist at Bolton Clarke
Tuesday	14th	8.30am Morning Prayer/Eucharist
Wednesday	15th	8.30am Morning Prayer
	12.00pm	Eucharist at St James
	5.30pm	Eucharist at St James
Thursday	16th	8.30am Morning Prayer/Eucharist
	9.00am	Ministry Unit Council Meeting, Bowen
Friday	17th	8.30am Morning Prayer/Eucharist
Saturday	18th	8.30am Morning Prayer/Eucharist
	10.00am	Baptism at St James
	5.00pm	Service at St Margaret's
Sunday	19th	<b>The Second Sunday after Epiphany</b>
	7.15am	Eucharist at St Mark's
	9.00am	Eucharist at St James

# More than a church - We are a family

D.E.A.P.

*(as close to midday each day as you can)*  
 Loving God, we lay before you the future of our Diocese with all its uncertainties and all its possibilities. Open our hearts and minds to the prompting of your Spirit, and guide all those who are charged with making the decisions which affect our future so they are aware of the plans that you have already made for us. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

JUST ONE TRIP AWAY THIS WEEK

Fr Kenneth is off to Bowen on Thursday afternoon for a Ministry Unit Council Meeting commencing at 4.00pm. He will be back later that evening. Please pray for safe travel

PLEASE USE THE GIVING CARDS

Thank you to all those people who regularly use electronic means to manage their giving to the church. Could those who do this, please collect a small laminated card from the container at the back table and place this on the plate when it comes past. Thank you.

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

During Advent, Fr Kenneth preached a series of sermons on "Authority" based largely on a similar series preached by Archbishop Keith Rayner, when he was Archbishop of Adelaide. A booklet containing all of the four sermons is available for you to collect at the back of the Cathedral.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED:

Tracey, Annabel (baby), Betty Daly, Colleen Malcolm, Bronwyn & Stephen Wilson, Diane Main, Matthew Latimer, Denise Rougier, Dean Pointing, Millianna Davey, Kloudya Pollard, Anne Ryan, Betty McDonald, Gladys Bourne and the residents of our nursing homes.



To add someone's name to this list, you must first get their permission, then let Fr Kenneth or Rev Shirley know.

WE CONTINUE AN EASY MONTH

We are using January to have a well-earned rest. During the month, the Cathedral will not regularly be opened in the mornings, though the 8.30am service of Morning Prayer and Communion continues on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday this week. The two Eucharists on Wednesday at midday and 5.30pm also happen.

IT'S TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE AGM

The AGM for our Ministry Unit will be after the 9am service on Sunday 30 March. Please mark that date in your diary and plan to attend. Prior to the meeting we will be calling for nominations for the positions of Wardens (2) and Ministry Unit Councillors (9). As some people have left the district during the year, we will need to find some new people.

JANUARY'S MISSION OF THE MONTH

Starting next week, the January Mission of the Month will be supporting the ABM Appeal for the church in Vanuatu. See page 5 for more information.

ARE YOU VISITING?

Thank you for sharing this worship with us this morning. If you would like to contribute to the funds of the Cathedral, you can use the QR code here, or place your offering on the offertory plate during the hymn.

Your contribution supports the ministry of our churches.



WHERE TO FIND US . . .

We are on the web, Instagram and Facebook. To keep up to date, visit us often in all these places:  
 Web: www.stjamescathedral.com.au  
 Facebook: St James' Cathedral, Townsville  
 Instagram: @cathedral.tsv

**Sexual Abuse contact line: 1800 242 544**

## FIND THE WORD

All the words in the following grid are taken from some of this week's readings. Once you have found them in the grid, find them in the reading sheet and underline them there.

E	Z	I	T	P	A	B	W	U	F	I	L	L	E	D	I	K	G	U	F
S	Y	C	W	H	E	A	T	N	Q	B	U	R	N	H	D	A	N	K	L
A	W	L	F	L	T	X	D	T	F	F	A	H	C	T	H	G	I	M	D
D	E	I	O	E	T	E	P	I	R	E	B	U	K	E	D	O	N	G	E
D	R	V	R	H	R	L	L	E	X	H	O	R	T	A	T	I	O	N	S
E	E	E	O	E	C	O	W	P	C	J	H	H	A	N	D	D	I	I	A
D	I	N	W	R	F	O	R	M	O	T	R	F	I	T	E	D	T	W	E
R	G	S	U	O	P	A	J	H	I	E	A	S	G	D	E	T	S	O	L
S	N	T	V	D	Y	S	N	W	S	H	P	T	N	M	H	U	E	N	P
A	L	G	N	I	T	T	U	H	S	E	E	E	I	I	W	H	U	N	A
Y	B	O	N	A	M	N	I	C	C	R	C	A	N	O	F	I	Q	I	D
I	D	G	Y	S	O	N	B	I	E	S	L	G	R	M	N	Y	F	W	O
N	E	J	L	S	G	E	O	H	E	C	S	E	E	T	R	U	L	E	R
G	N	L	I	P	G	V	T	D	O	W	H	S	C	A	S	Z	F	L	E
Q	E	R	D	I	T	A	J	R	E	T	S	A	N	D	A	L	S	L	H
X	P	O	O	R	G	E	P	N	E	I	L	A	O	F	O	R	K	L	Y
S	O	N	B	I	A	H	J	H	A	L	R	V	C	O	M	I	N	G	X
G	K	Y	H	T	R	O	W	H	M	G	E	V	R	A	E	L	C	K	J

ADDED	ALL	ANSWERED	BAPTIZE
BELOVED	BODILY	BURN	CHAFF
CLEAR	COMING	CONCERNING	DESCENDED
DOVE	EVIL	EXHORTATIONS	EXPECTATION
FILLED	FIRE	FLOOR	FORK
FORM	GATHER	GOOD	GRANARY
HAND	HEARTS	HEAVEN	HEROD
HERODIAS	HOLY	INTO	JOHN
MESSIAH	MIGHT	NEWS	OPENED
PEOPLE	PLEASED	POWERFUL	PRAYING
PRISON	PROCLAIMED	QUESTIONING	REBUKED
RULER	SANDALS	SAYING	SHUTTING
SON	SPIRIT	THINGS	THONG
THRESHING	UNTIE	VOICE	WATER
WELL	WERE	WHEAT	WHETHER
WIFE	WINNOWING	WITH	WORTHY

## A GOSPEL REFLECTION

Read: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22



### Gospel Summary

Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. At first John objected and said that it was he, John, who should be baptized by Jesus. Jesus indicated a future baptism when he responded to John saying that it was fitting for John to baptize Jesus. John acquiesced and at the conclusion of the baptism, the Spirit came down from heaven in the form of a dove and clearly announced Jesus as his son. God was pleased with His son.

### Reflection for Families

Most parents know what it means to be pleased with our children. Even when they do things that annoy, challenge, or disappoint us, we love our children. Although we experience some notion of unconditional love with our own children, it is difficult for us to grasp the magnitude of God's love for us, even when we annoy, challenge, or disappoint Him. Through our Baptism, we are members of God's family and will know the unconditional love of a parent.

### Bringing the Gospel into Your Family

Bring out pictures and memoirs of each person's Baptism—even the parents'. Recall each baptism and share memories of the day with one another. Continue by sharing ways you have each continued to grow as members of God's family.

### Discussion Starters

1. As a child of God, I know God is pleased with me because . . .
2. My own Baptism is important to me because . . .
3. One time I can recall that our family lived out our baptismal promises was when . . .



# CHILDREN'S SERMON



Selling cheap, fake designer purses, sunglasses, and watches has become a multi-million dollar business. Whether it be on the street corner or an online store, lots of people make money selling deceptive products.

Do any of you know what a Rolex is? A Rolex is a fancy watch brand that is very expensive. At first glance, a fake Rolex watch might seem like a good deal. After all, a real Rolex would cost thousands of dollars, and a fake one would cost just a few dollars. What's the big deal? Who will know the difference?

Well, after a few weeks, the imitation Rolex no longer keeps time. Oh well, it still looks good, you can wear it as a bracelet. But soon the finish begins to rub off and it isn't very pretty. Suddenly, what seemed like a good deal no longer seems like such a good deal after all!

Have you ever seen a fake brand or object that looked like the real thing? How could you tell the difference between the fake version and the real version of the item you mentioned?

Buying an imitation watch might not be a great loss. After all, it only costs a few dollars. But when it comes to your relationship with God, it is important to put your faith in the only real Savior, Jesus. There is much more at stake than money. Many people have claimed to be God or the Messiah, and there are false teachers who claim to know the way to heaven. But Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)

In the Bible, many wondered if John the Baptist was God's Son, but John was quick to correct people, saying there was One who would come who was more powerful than him, and whose sandal straps he wasn't worthy to untie.

John the Baptist later baptized Jesus, and the Holy Spirit came to Jesus in the form of a dove, as a loud voice said, "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Jesus is God's one-and-only Son, so we must put our faith in Him alone and watch out for fake teachers.

*Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus as Your one-and-only Son to save us. Please help us to look out for people trying to imitate Him and deceive us. We put our faith in Jesus alone. In Jesus' name, amen.*

## Thought of the week from Mothers Union Australia

Sunday 12th January 2025

Unity

'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit though the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4:2-3).

How many times do we hear of local churches divided and torn by disputes and disagreements! Too often. The Evil One loves to cause turmoil in the churches. He loves it when gossip turns to slander and untruths. Division reflects so badly on what Christ has done for us and how he cares for us. The unity of the Church begins with you and how you act in your church. It is the responsibility of every Christian. The Bible tells us that we are all one in Christ Jesus, and that all who belong to Jesus have been gifted with the Holy Spirit, the very presence of God within our hearts. Our path is the path of humble, gentle and patient love. It is the love which forgives and keeps the unity of the Spirit.

Question for thought: Do I work towards the unity of my church, or do I cause division?

*Heavenly Father, we pray for MU members in the Seychelles as they endeavour to work with families many of whom are coping with challenges of a rising crime rate, gender violence and drug and alcohol abuse. May they offer the comfort of the love of God to those in need. Amen.*

## 2025 ROSTERS

Thank you to those people who have added their names to the January roster. The idea in January is to allow people who have not been rostered in 2024 to "have a go"

This morning the 2025 monthly roster is ready to start being filled in. To allow everyone who wishes to have a role in our worship, please only fill in **ONE SPACE**. Towards the end of January there will be the possibility of taking on more than one place in the month.

An important person each week is the "Standby". This person has to make sure the rostered people are present, and if not, to take on their role in the service. If we are able to get someone in this role each week, there is no need to "arrange" for someone to take your place if you are away for any reason.

Sunday Roster - St James Cathedral, Townsville					
	1st Sunday	2nd Sunday	3rd Sunday	4th Sunday	5th Sunday
Business					
1st Reading & Psalm					
2nd Reading					
Gospel					
Prayers					
Music					
Worship Assistant					
Ushers					
Prayer Book					
Prayer					
Prayer					
Prayer					

## THERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

### Althea's Community Hub

Althea's Community Hub is a day centre for people who are homeless or vulnerable and at risk of homelessness or are socially isolated to come and meet with others and be supported and valued as members of our community.

Althea's Community Hub is the Cream building, located 46-48 Morehead Street South Townsville and is open Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays 8:30am – 4 pm (closes at 2pm on a Tuesday).

The centre provides a free breakfast at 8:30am which consists of toast, spreads and cereal and at 12:30pm a hot meal is provided for a gold coin donation.

Althea's Community Hub has free washing machines (staff can provide you with washing detergent), showers – soap provided onsite; toilets and an internet café + daily visits from other services.

There is free tea, coffee and soup all day.

Our ongoing food hampers at the back of St James and St Mark's are an easy way to support this wonderful work

### Mothers' Union Hygiene Packs

Mothers' Union runs an ongoing project to provide hygiene products to those in need, and particularly those who need emergency support as they flee from domestic abuse. Soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoos, deodorants, as well as shaving products and feminine items are all freely given to those who need them.

Any products you can donate can be added to the food hampers at the back of the churches and they will be sorted out before delivery.

### Used stamps

For decades now, the Australian Board of Mission (ABM) has been collecting used stamps to raise money to support the work they do both in Australia and overseas. With more people using electronic means of communication this does not raise the same amount of funds it did in the days when we all used letters. But every little bit helps.

Just out them in an envelope and place them on the back table in the churches.

### Mission of the Month

Finally, there is always the "Mission of the Month". Each month we focus on a particular mission, some local and others from wider afield. The Ministry Unit Council drew up a "roster" at their last meeting, though sometimes these are changed due to unexpected circumstances, such as this month's mission: ABM's Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal.



## Vanuatu Earthquake Appeal

Earthquakes continue to rock Vanuatu, with the death toll rising to 16. The first earthquake was the strongest (magnitude 7.3), striking Vanuatu's capital city, Port Vila, on 17 December. Further earthquakes have followed almost every day, including another strong earthquake (magnitude 6.1) on 22 December. Communities and government authorities are working to restore water supplies, electricity services, bridges and communications systems on the worst hit Island, Efate, while also treating the injured and searching for missing people.

Here in the Diocese of North Queensland, we have a close connection with Vanuatu as some of the Melanesian Brothers who work with us in the Diocese are from Vanuatu.

You can donate online at [www.abmission.org](http://www.abmission.org) and follow the "Appeals" tab. You can place your donation on the plate at any service during the month, by marking your envelope "Vanuatu Appeal" or by using the provided envelopes at the back of the churches.

### Prayer

Gracious and merciful God,  
we ask you to look with compassion on the people of Vanuatu  
as they deal with the aftermath of the recent earthquake.  
Receive into your loving arms those who have died,  
among them Crimson Lilip, Priest Assistant of the Church of the  
Resurrection, Tagabe Parish in Port Vila.  
Comfort and guide all who mourn,  
that they may know you to be their unchanging rock  
when the earth around them moves and shakes.  
We pray for your Spirit to heal all those who have been injured,  
whether in body or in mind, so that they may be returned to full health.  
Help those whose property has been affected by the quake,  
the aftershocks and the resulting landslides,  
that buildings may be promptly repaired or replaced,  
and that land may be quickly remediated.  
Hear our prayers of thanks for all those who acted as rescuers,  
those who found people in darkness,  
and brought them back into the light.  
We make our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the rock of our salvation. Amen

## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY - THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD (Year C)

### Sentence

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased.'

Luke 3:22

### Collect

Spirit of energy and change, in whose power Jesus was anointed to be the hope of the nations: be poured out also upon us without reserve or distinction, that we may have confidence and strength to implant your justice on the earth; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### A reading from the prophet Isaiah

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do

not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth -- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God**

The response to the verses of Psalm 29 is:

The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters. The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendour.

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The voice of the Lord splits the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, 'Glory!'

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

**The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.**

### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (NRSV)

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God**

### Alleluia, Alleluia

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

### Alleluia

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 3,

beginning at the 15th verse.

### Glorify to you, Lord Jesus Christ

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

This is the gospel of the Lord

### Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

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