

Welcome to worship at Holy Trinity, Terrigal
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
14th December 2025



8.00am – **Sung Eucharist** *Presiding and Preaching – Fr Mark Watson*

Organist – Chris Sillince

Hymns: TIS 272, 269, NEH 10, 265

9.30am – **Holy Eucharist** - *Presiding and Preaching – Fr Mark Watson*

Trinity Band and Singers

Hymns: TIS 268, 287, 281, 276

[All hymns are from Together in Song unless otherwise specified.]

Prayer and anointing for healing are available at each Eucharist. If you would like prayer and anointing, please move in front of the step, at the left side of the altar, after receiving communion and a priest will come and minister to you.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is sometimes known as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* is the Latin word for "rejoice." The name comes from the introit or entrance hymn in the old liturgy. It comes from St Paul's letter to the Philippians: *Gaudete in Domino semper* or "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Phil. 4:4). The focus of Advent is the coming of Jesus in his incarnation in the womb of his Blessed Mother; his coming to his Church in the Holy Spirit made present to us by faith and repentance, the ministry of word, prayer and sacrament; and his final Advent at the end of time.

The late Dutch priest and writer, Henri Nouwen, said there is a difference between joy and happiness: happiness depends on external circumstances, our health, our wealth, our relationships and so on. Joy is not finally dependant on those externals, but on knowing that God loves us without condition and that even adversity and sickness, stress, injustice, violence and even death itself, can never take it away from us. In his letter to the Romans, Paul says, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rm 8:28). It is possible to know joy even in our sadness. This Sunday of joy can remind us not to fret and fuss over all the things we've not yet done to prepare for Christmas, but to think of all the good things we have in life, especially the unconditional love of God for us as shown in his Son.

On this Sunday the third candle on the Advent wreath is rose-coloured to remind us of the joyful approach of Christmas. In some parishes, the vestments on this day are rose instead of the usual Advent colour of violet (or blue in some churches). "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!"

Fr Mark

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

THE BLIND SEE AGAIN. Many of the Jewish people did not expect a Messiah like Jesus. Many wondered: 'Are you the one who is to come?' Jesus came not to exercise sovereignty and power over the people but to bring blessing to the poor and needy. Let us celebrate his birth this Christmas by being good news for the poor.

We have lit the candles of *hope* and *peace*. Today we light the candle of *joy*. In today's Epistle St Paul exhorts the Philippians to "rejoice always". The Latin for "rejoice" is *Gaudete*, so the Third Sunday in Advent has been called Gaudete Sunday. We rejoice not because things are always going well, but because the Lord has come, the Lord is coming, and the Lord will come. Knowing that the Lord is near eliminates worry and fear.

Joy is like a light shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle, we celebrate the joy we find in Jesus Christ.

The third candle is lit.

Thank you, God, for the joy you give us. As we await the fulfillment of your promise, keep our joy alive. Help us today and every day, to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sentence

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Matthew 11.11

Prayer of the Day

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love
on our journey to meet the One who is coming:
strengthen our weak hands,
make firm our feeble knees,
and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom,
so that our hearts may rejoice
as we behold the majesty of our God.
We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from Isaiah Chapter 35, verses 1 – 10

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus
² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Song of Mary (Magnificat, Luke 1.47–55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord:
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

**Who has looked with favour on his lowly servant:
from this day all generations will call me blessed.**

The Almighty has done great things for me:
and holy is his name.

**God has mercy on those who fear him:
from generation to generation.**

The Lord has shown strength with his arm:
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**Casting down the mighty from their thrones:
and lifting up the lowly.**

God has filled the hungry with good things:
and sent the rich away empty.

**He has come to the aid of his servant Israel:
to remember the promise of mercy,**

The promise made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**A Reading from James
Chapter 5 verses 7 – 10**

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Hear the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, **alleluia!**

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

**The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew, Chapter 11, verses 2 – 11**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'

⁴ Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see:

⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to

the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?' ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

For the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Kevin Thomas, Angarad O'Malley, Gloria Townsend, Janice Clark, Jackie Davidson, Malcolm Sandstrom, Lynette Brennan, Robert, David Lamb, Jean Carden, Charlotte Christie, George, Ben & family, Elsa & Peter Sorensen, Maureen Alais, Richard Gosling, Roberta Henderson, Lorraine Fisher, Robyn Morgan, Jessica, Judy, George, Carmen McGee, Jessica Robert, Wendy and Alan Eades and Ken, Peter Hancock, Sue James, Peter Bosley, Neil Ewer, Scott, Kate Ross (Holt), Elizabeth Lindquist, Pat A and Cal.

From Elsa Sorensen: I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who prayed for me and supported me with cards, texts, and phone calls during my recent surgery and recovery. Your kindness and encouragement meant more to me than words can express. I am truly grateful for this loving church family.

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God,
you have made us and all things to serve you:
come quickly to save us,
so that wars and violence shall end
and your children may live in peace,
honouring one another with justice and love;
through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord,
who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Offertories via Direct Debit

Offering via direct debit. Direct debit details of account:
ASDF Account: Parish of Terrigal, BSB:705-077
Account Number: 00040934
Terry Rowe - Treasurer.

CHRISTMAS BOWL – ADVENT 3 – JOY

This week we focus on Indonesia, the theme being “Joy through resilience: preventing displacement by building climate adaption in vulnerable communities”.

In Central Sulawesi, Indonesia, Eko and his family have lived through multiple floods that devastated their rice fields and community. Through the Christmas Bowl, they’ve joined the DREAM programme, learning farming techniques that improve crop quality and help them adapt to climate change.

The DREAM programme, led by Church World Service (CWS), equips farming families like Eko’s to withstand floods and natural disasters. Eko has gained knowledge and tools that strengthen crops, reduce expenses and improve family resilience. Across Indonesia, CWS is helping communities prepare for disasters and adapt to changing climate.

YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS THESE FAMILIES TO THRIVE.

Please place your gifts in the bowls provided.

Libby Harvey - Missions Secretary.

WHISPERS OF LOVE – A MEDITATION

The Whispers of Love Meditation community is in recess and will resume with our first meeting in the new year on **Monday 2nd February 2026 at 10.00am.**

Blessings, Reverend Ann Watson.

GARDEN BEE

**The first Garden Bee for 2026 will be on
Saturday 7th February.**

We look forward to seeing you there.

With gratitude, *Suzanne George – Garden Captain*

MARKET DAY THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped set up and clean up market day yesterday. Your help is always very much appreciated.

Please also note there will be no Market Day in January 2026. Our next Market Day will be on **Saturday 21st February 2026**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you.

Ian Wolstenholme – Market Day Co-Ordinator.

OP SHOP

Market Day will not be held in January but the

Op Shop is having a **SUPER SALE** on

Saturday 17th January starting at 8am.

A sausage sizzle and cold drinks will also be available.

Please join us — we've got amazing sale specials waiting!

Also, please visit and follow our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/TerrigalOpShop/>

Blessings, The Op Shop Team

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP THANK YOU

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Women's Fellowship for their generous contribution toward our new office computer. Your kindness, support, and faithful service are a true blessing to our church family. Thank you for all you do—you are all deeply appreciated.

WYOMING EMERGENCY RELIEF CENTRE

Please note that the Centre will be closed from 19 December 2025 to 5 January 2026.

We kindly ask that donations resume on Sunday, 4 January 2026.

Thank you for your generous support throughout 2025—your kindness has truly made a difference to those in our community who need it most.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Terrigal Parish is known for the beautiful flowers at all times but especially at Christmas.

If you are able to help with gifts of Christmas bush, agapanthus, other red flowers please let the office know or Libby Harvey or Rev. Ann.

They will not be needed until Tuesday 23rd December.

With thanks, The Flower Team.

Rosters for Next Week

FRIDAY 19th December – 10.30am

Readers
Colleen Cronin

SUNDAY 21st December - 8.00am

Readers	Servers	Flowers
1 st – Jocelyn Mulcahy 2 nd – Lorraine Zahra	- and Ronda	THE TEAM

SUNDAY 21st December - 9.30am

Readers	Servers	Morning Tea
1 st – Anna Holt 2 nd – John Holt	- and Ronda	Joann Lilly

Next Sunday – 21st December 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8.00am – Sung Eucharist – *Presiding & Preaching – Fr Mark Watson*

Organist – Chris Sillince

9.30am – Holy Eucharist – *Presiding & Preaching –*

Fr Mark Watson

Organist – Sharon Sandstrom

Readings: Isaiah 7.10-16, Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19, Romans 1.1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1.18-25

This Week

Monday 15th December

3.30pm – Eucharist at Tarragal Manor – *Reverend Ann Watson*

Tuesday 16th December

7.00pm – Trinity Band and Singers Rehearsal

Wednesday 17th December

Thursday 18th December

Friday 19th December

10.30am – Holy Eucharist - *Fr Mark Watson*

Readings: Judges 13.2-7, 24-25, Psalm 71.17-22

Gospel: Luke 1.5-25

Saturday 20th December



2025 CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH, TERRIGAL

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 14th December

4.00pm **Nine Lessons and Carols – followed by
Afternoon Tea.**

Join us for an afternoon of seasonal music with our organists, Chris Sillince and Sharon Sandstrom, and The Trinity Band and Singers. Thoughtful readings will be shared throughout the program, creating a meaningful start to the Christmas season. All are welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS EVE Wednesday 24th December

5.00pm Eucharist for Families and Children

9.45pm Midnight Mass (Incense will be used)

CHRISTMAS DAY Thursday 25th December

9.00am Christmas Eucharist

The Anglican Diocese of Newcastle
Parish of Terrigal – The Church of the Holy Trinity
92 Serpentine Rd, Terrigal, 2260
Parish Postal Address – P.O. Box 167, Terrigal, 2260
Office Phone: 4365 1115 (Office open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am – 2.30pm)

Parish Email – admin@terrigalanglican.org.au

or admin.terrigan@newcastle.org.au

Website – www.terrigalanglican.org.au

Facebook – <https://www.facebook.com/TerriganAnglican>

Rector

The Reverend Canon Mark Watson – 4365 1374 or 0434 431 400

Email – cyprian7@bigpond.com

Associate Priests

The Reverend Ann Watson – 0427 135 771

The Reverend Dr Richard Harvey – 0422 109 262

The Reverend Bruce McAteer – 0417 229 296

Parish Executive

Rector's Warden – Ronda Kiss 0419 989 526

People's Warden – Terry Rowe 0427 788 308

People's Warden – Neil Ewer 0412 640 477

Parish Treasurer – Terry Rowe 0427 788 308

Parish Ministries

Parish Organist – Chris Sillince 0422 225 849

Sacristan – C. Taylor

Office Administration – Cal Priest 4365 1115

Pastoral Care - Contact 4365 1115

Trinity Band & Cursillo – Libby Harvey 0431 315 085

Safety Officer - Mike Keaney 0412 370 716

Copyright Compliance Officer – Terry Rowe 0427 788 308

Parish Bookshop – Ronda Kiss 0419 989 526

Women's Fellowship – June Timms 4384 2280

Market Day Co-ordinator – Ian Wolstenholme 0424 135 214

Parish Opportunity Shop – Julie Laird 4365 1280