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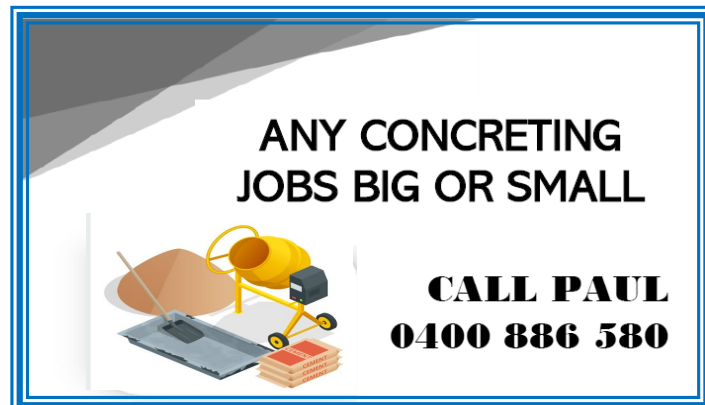


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*St Anthony's Parish Picton*

Bargo – Balmoral – Buxton – Couridjah –  
Douglas Park – Lakesland – Menangle –  
Picton – Pheasants Nest – Tahmoor –  
Thirlmere – Wilton – Yanderra

**Parish Priest: Fr Peter Tien**  
**Married Deacon: Rodney Mackrill, jnr**



*Parish Bulletin*

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT—YEAR B

24th December 2023

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**FIRST READING:** Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12,14,16

A reading from the second book of Samuel  
*The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

**SECOND READING:** Romans 16:25-27

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans  
*The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
Alleluia

**GOSPEL:** Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
*You will conceive and bear a son.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son:  
and his name will be Emmanuel.

**Next week's readings:**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year B**  
Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3, Heb 11:8, 11-12,17-19 Lk 2:22-40

**ST ANTHONY'S CHURCH—TAHMOOR**

**Saturday Vigil—6.00 pm**

**Sunday—8.30am**

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES:**

Tuesday - **NO DEVOTIONS OR MASS**  
Wednesday - **NO MASS**  
Thursday - 8.30 am — Tahmoor  
The Holy Innocents, martyrs  
Friday— 8.30 am - Tahmoor  
5th Day in the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord

Arabic Mass 6pm, every 2nd Friday—  
January dates: 5th and 19th

**Reconciliation (Confession)**

Saturday 5.00—5.30pm

**Baptism and Marriage**

Please contact the parish office.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Tuesday & Thursday 9am—3pm  
Wednesday 9am—1pm

**Parish Phone** 4683 2230

**Fr Peter** 0406 001 540

20 Stratford Road, Tahmoor 2573

**Email:** picton@dow.org.au

**Website:** www.stanthonypicton.org.au



**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** Sunday 24 December

5.30pm – St Patrick's Menangle

6.00pm – Tahmoor

7.00pm – St Mary's Towers Douglas Park

**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Monday 25 December

8.30am – Tahmoor

9.00am – St Mary's Towers Douglas Park

**NEW YEARS DAY:** Monday 1 January



**PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED:**

Lord grant them eternal peace & joy and to their families and friends strength and comfort

**ANNIVERSARY:**

**RECENTLY DECEASED :**

**PRAY FOR THE SICK** Archie McGregor, Eva Bastac, Debbie James, Jean Le Roux, Marie Darlington, Christine Jupe, Graeme Menser, Ross Spirou, Mauro Mariano, Melony Cox, Joanne McMahon, Daniel Clarke, James McNeil, Stephanie Macnamara, Elizabeth Linsell

**ACOLYTES** THIS WEEK NEXT WEEK  
VIGIL JOHN RYAN  
8.30AM STAN CICHOCKI

**READERS**  
VIGIL: GAIL HANGER TBA  
8.30AM MARG FOLDES TERESA CICHOCKI

**CLEANERS:** THERESE NEILSON COLIN DUNN  
CHRIS NEILSON

**FLOWERS:** SUE SPITERI

**SACRISTY:** MARY GILBERT

**MORNING TEA:**  
CHRISTMAS EVE NEW YEARS EVE

**CHRISTMAS MASS READERS:**

VIGIL: TRISH LINDNER  
8.30AM: MAREE GALEA



*May this Christmas Season be one that deepens your faith, hope and love in Emmanuel, the God who is with us.*



**PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Parish is in need of a qualified **Electrician** to undertake periodic inspections of Church property. Also we are in need of someone with the experience to help build/create a new **parish website**. If you would like to volunteer some time for these valuable activities, please contact the church office.

**COME & SEE, GO & MAKE - a vision for Parishes in the Diocese of Wollongong by Bishop Brian Mascord** The beating heart of the parish is the person of Jesus, made present in Word, Sacrament, and the living community of believers. This heart beats with the words “come and see”, and “go and make”. Come and see! Encounter the person of Jesus, be transformed and renewed, and become disciples. Go and make! Share the joyous Good News with a world that does not know, or has forgotten Christ—our Lord Jesus is King, not by violence, force, or coercion, but by an invitation of love, mercy and grace! The following are available from the foyer of the church.

- *Come & See, Go & Make: A Vision for Parishes*—the vision I have developed which I now invite you to prayerfully read.
- *Principles and Foundations*—a short explanation of key principles described in the vision document.
- *Go Deeper*—a short compendium of additional reading on key concepts discussed in the vision.

**POSITIONS VACANT—DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG**  
**CCD Administration and Support Officer**

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for This position. Appropriate skills and a passion for the work of SRE Catechists in State schools is essential. Applications close on Wednesday, 10 January 2024. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: <https://dow/sh/ccdadminpv> For enquiries contact [helen.bennett@dow.org.au](mailto:helen.bennett@dow.org.au)

**Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader**

Suitably experienced and qualified persons are encouraged to apply for the role of Youth Ministry Leader in the Diocese of Wollongong. Applications close on Friday, 12 January 2024. For more information and a detailed role description, please go to: [dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/enquiries](https://dow.org.au/position-vacant-diocesan-youth-ministry-leader/enquiries) contact Helen Bennett as above.



**BISHOP BRIAN MASCORD'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023**

My sisters and brothers in Christ and to all people of goodwill in the Diocese of Wollongong,

I recently had the joy of leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land—a wonderful time of prayer, reflection, and connection with God. In pondering the Christmas mystery of Emmanuel, God with us, I am drawn back to my experience in the land that was truly the cradle of our faith. In an unremarkable little town, far from the centres of power, a child was born whose life, death, and resurrection would change the course of history.

As I stepped into the cave that, as tradition holds, was the place where Jesus was born, I was overcome by the humility of our Saviour King. This cave would not have been adorned by the smell of incense or the shimmering of gold. Instead, on that first Christmas day, the incense was the fragrance of a flock of sheep, and the gold was the adoring gaze of a mother and father who had fled their home for fear of losing their lives. Standing in the cave where a feeding box for animals held God himself, I was overwhelmed.

This celebration of the coming of Jesus should remind us that, in a certain sense, every day is Christmas and an opportunity to welcome Emmanuel—God with us—into our lives. We do not need to be afraid nor concerned that we are not “fitting” for him, for surely, “A God who became so small could only be mercy and love” (St Thérèse of Lisieux).

Therefore, with St Ambrose of Milan, I invite you to, “Open wide your door to the One who comes. Open your soul, throw open the depths of your heart to see the riches of simplicity, the treasures of peace, the sweetness of grace. Open your heart and run to meet the Sun of eternal light that illuminates all people.”

And let us join together in prayer for those places in our world, particularly the Holy Land, mired by hatred and violence.

May the one we call Prince of Peace bring peace to our world and the heart of all humanity.

Happy Christmas and the blessings of Christ's love.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev Brian G Mascord, Bishop Of Wollongong

**EXCITING NEWS! - “IT'S WHO WE ARE” VIDEO**

Our newest “It's Who We Are” video has been launched. Narrated by our beloved Bishop Brian, this uplifting sub-three-minute clip illuminates the remarkable people and everyday works within our diocese.

It celebrates all that is “Good News” in our diocese and features many of our Clergy, Seminarians, Parishes, Schools, CatholicCare programs and more!

To view, please visit our website:

<https://www.dow.org.au/about-us/> and/or our FB page <https://fb.watch/oOktvOG8-6>

Many thanks to all who participated in its production, and to those parishes who have already liked it and shared it on their Facebook page, played it at their Masses, or have included it on their website.

**SUMMER BIBLE CAMP-19-20 January 2024**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Varroville, through the Children's Ministry Team, will conduct a Summer Bible Camp. It is an overnight event for children ages 8 to 14. This is an opportunity to grow in the knowledge of God, to deepen their love of Him and to serve Jesus through others, by Learning the Bible in their own way. Through fun activities, they will also learn values in life and skills they need as they grow up in the society, witnessing the Christian way of living. Come along and join with us. Parents, please encourage and support your children to join this BIBLE CAMP. Last day of Registration will be on 31 December 2023. Fee by donation.

For more information, please contact Sr Jill through email: [asolmcp parish@gmail.com](mailto:asolmcp parish@gmail.com)

**CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE)**

**400 Hour Foundational Unit**

Are you interested in:

- Growing in knowledge, understanding, and developing skills that will enable you to offer effective pastoral and spiritual care.
- Deepening your awareness of God's presence in your life and of people's needs, hopes, and concerns during times of illness.
- Becoming more aware of your own values, attitudes, and assumptions.

CPE Foundational Unit will be offered at Carrington Aged Care with face to face sessions conducted one day a week, Thursday from 8 February to 27 June 2024.

Please contact Carmen Karauda at [ckarauda@gmail.com](mailto:ckarauda@gmail.com) or phone 0419 430 676 for more information and/or application form. Applications close 25 January 2024

**THE JOURNEY, 24 DECEMBER 2023**

**Your Diocesan Weekly Podcast**

On The Journey This Week: Fr Joshua Whitehead says Salvation history continues into the here and the now because we too can say yes to God's plan. Mother Hilda's encouragement for those who face a difficult Christmas. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Fr Sean Cullen, and Sr Mary Helen Hill.

The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au)

**2024 ROSTERS FOR READERS & CLEANERS**

New rosters have been prepared for 2024. If you are on the parish email list, the relevant roster will be emailed to you, if not, a copy will be available for you to collect from the church kitchen. Thank you for your commitment to the parish, your time and talent is greatly appreciated.

**OFFICE CLOSURE**

The Parish Office will be closed on the following days:

- Tuesday 26 December 2023
- Wednesday 27 December 2023
- Tuesday 2 January 2024