



THE RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

The Quarterly Musings of the Rector
of the Anglican Parish of Mossman/Port Douglas

DECEMBER, 2017

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Christmas without angels? NOT POSSIBLE!

It was the angel who came to Mary, It was angels who met the shepherds, It was an angel who told Joseph to flee to Egypt. All in all, the angels are pretty important in every part of the Christmas story.

I wonder if you ever thought what might have happened if the angels were not there? I guess that Christmas would not have been the same as it is.

Angels are a vital part of the way God communicates with us, not just at Christmas, but at all times. And they are always around us. An angel is someone who raises your spirits! A TRUE FRIEND. An angel is someone you feel like you've known forever, even though you've just met. An angel is someone you're always happy to bump into.



May angels rest beside your door,
May you hear their voices sing.
May you feel their loving care for you,
May you hear their peace bells ring.

May angels always care for you,
And not let you trip and fall,
May they bear you up on angel's wings,
May they keep you standing tall.

May they whisper wisdom in your ear,
May they touch you when you need,
May they remove from you each trace of fear,
May they keep you from feeling greed.

May they fill you with their presence,
May they show you love untold,
May they always stand beside you
And make you ever bold.

May they teach you what you need to know
About life here and here-after.
May they fill you always with their love
And give you the gift of laughter.

May we all be an angel to those we meet
this Christmas and at all times.

ST ANDREW'S DAY

November 30 saw a dozen parishioners from both St Andrew's and St David's enjoy a special service and a wonderful dinner to celebrate the patron saint of the church at Port Douglas. In his sermon, rather than base the content on the little known facts of Andrew's life, Fr Kenneth spoke about the purpose of patron saints and their role in our lives.



In this Issue:

Regular Features:

Fr Kenneth writes	page 2
From the Registers	page 2
Just for kids	page 3
Bits and Pieces	page 4

Special Features:

Christmas without angels	page 1
St Andrew's Day 2017	page 1
Community Service Recognition ..	page 2
What is ministry?	page 2
Christmas Services	page 3
White Ribbon Day 2017	page 3
Success	page 4
Advice from a tree	page 4



Fr Kenneth writes:

Our world has many people who use their wealth to support others. Bill Gate's philanthropy is well know. Last week we heard of a \$2 for \$1 donation by Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest, as he supported Jacob Trzecinski's walk to raise money for brain cancer. Both of these people, as well as many others are certainly wealthy beyond the dreams of most of us. But one of the aspects of their lives which makes them so extraordinary is the great example of philanthropy with which they show us. The way they use their wealth so that others' lives would be better is a wonderful legacy.

Giving to others is something that we as Christians are called to do all throughout our lives. And most, if not all, of us do so. But here at this time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we all make an extra special effort in terms of our giving. Presents, food, wine and a great variety of other gifts have been part of our build up to 25th December for as long as we can remember. The shops lure us in and we spend, buying for others (and perhaps for ourselves).

Yet each of us knows that there are those around us who will not celebrate Christmas the way we will be doing. Whether through illness, poverty, grief or whatever other reason, Christmas for them will not be a great celebration.

But there are many ways we are able to assist. It is always a great joy for me to take donations to the Cape York Girl Academy on behalf of the AMUA group here. The thanks that they show, not just with words but also in their faces, gives me a lot of pleasure.

You may not know, but as part of our parish tithes, we support a struggling parish with assistance towards their Diocesan assessment. This year we were able to give more than \$5000 to our support parish. We have been doing this for 3 years, and this year we got a thank you letter.

We do this all throughout the year, but at Christmas time there is a special focus about giving in which we all participate.

Last year, I challenged every one of us to undertake a special giving, and I would like to repeat it in 2017. When Christmas is over, look at all the gifts you have been given, and then, as best as you can, try and work out how much money people have spent on you this Christmas. I think that many of us will be quite embarrassed by the figure. But once you have done that, give just 1% of that amount to a charity which helps people in need. If your total gifts add up to \$5000, then donate \$50. It could be to Christmas Bowl, or Anglicare, or the Smith Family, or any other you might choose.

You know, if each of us did that, the total amount that we give, although only 1% of what others have spent on us, will add up to a sizeable amount. How about it? Please join with me in this act of support to the groups around us to look after those in need.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

Let the children come to me

- Oct 8 Tyler James Morley
- Nov 17 Mischa Deme Kachel
- Nov 25 Hudson John Neilson Schyff
- Charlotte Jennifer Mary Schyff

Weddings

Those whom God has joined

- Sept 16 James Alexander Maguire/ Lisa Kate Jolliffe
- Nov 6 Nicholas James Dennis Fussell / Sarah Elizabeth Knight
- Nov 24 Benjamin Michael Stephens / Charlotte Grace Binns

Funerals

Rest eternal grant to them O Lord

- d.Sep 14 Tanya Kristin Kulka
- d.Oct 7 David Warren Oui
- d.Oct 21 Ben James Spider

"When ministry becomes performance, then the sanctuary becomes a theater, the congregation becomes an audience, worship becomes entertainment, and man's applause and approval become the measure of success. But when ministry is for the glory of God, his presence moves into the sanctuary. Even the unsaved visitor will fall down on his face, worship God, and confess that God is among us."



Community Service

It is a sign of a vibrant Christian congregation that so much of what we do is outside the church, and supporting the community in which we live.

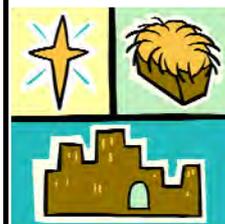
It's also great when the work we do is recognised by others. We have just heard that our Market was runner up in our category at the Port Douglas Business and Tourism Awards. As part of his community involvement, Fr Kenneth sits on the Boards of four different community groups.

At the opening of the Mossman Justice Centre in November, the traditional elders who work with the Elders Justice Group were honoured and presented with Certificates of Appreciation. Amongst those thanked was our own Cissy Ross-Kelly.

We give thanks to God for the wonderful ministry we all share in the community, and especially for those who work to support those in need in any way.



We wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas



Fr Kenneth, the Wardens, and members of the Ministry Unit Council wish you and

all your family a happy and holy Christmas.

We and hope that you might take the opportunity to join us at one of the services this year.



Christmas Services. 2017

Carols by Candlelight

9th December Mossman Show Grounds 6.00pm
 10th December St Andrew's Church 7.00pm

Lessons and Carols Service

17th December St David's Church 6.30pm

Christmas Eve

24th December St David's, Mossman 5.00pm
 St Andrew's, Port Douglas 11.30pm

Christmas Day

25th December St David's, Mossman 7.30am
 St Andrew's, Port Douglas 9.30am



WHITE RIBBON DAY 2017

For the third year in a row, St David's hosted the White Ribbon Day event under the Raintrees following the Twilight Walk from the Council Offices.

Many parishioners took part in the walk with a variety of groups, and Fr Barry, Janine and Shirley were joined by Maureen Mossman, the Regional Vice President walking behind our new mini-AMUA banner.



Want to keep Christ in Christmas?

Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.



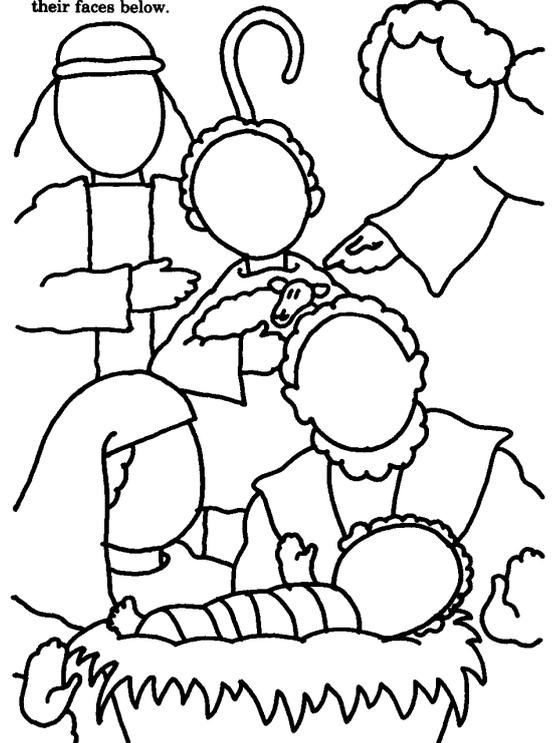
This section is for Kids

THE ANGELS TELL THE SHEPHERDS



SOMETHING TO DRAW

Imagine how everyone felt that first Christmas! Draw in their faces below.



Bits and Pieces

SUCCESS (as defined by others)

I honestly think it is better to be a failure at something you love than to be a success at something you hate. (George Burns)

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value (Albert Einstein)

Success is liking yourself, liking what you do and liking how you do it. (Maya Angelou)

A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and gets to bed at night, and in between he does what he wants to do. (Bob Dylan)

Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get (Dale Carnegie)

Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it (Dalai Lama)

Success does not consist in never making mistakes, but in never making the same one a second time (George Bernard Shaw)

You live longer once you realize that any time spent being unhappy is wasted. (Ruth E Renkl)



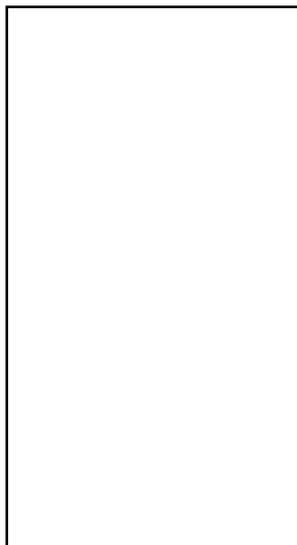
Advice from a Tree

1. Stand tall and proud
2. Go out on a limb
3. Remember your roots
4. Drink plenty of water
5. Be content with your natural beauty
6. Enjoy the view



IF UNDELIVERABLE, please return to

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