



## THE ANGLE

Week Beginning

Sunday 21 December 2025

ANGLICAN PARISH OF  
MT MAUNGANUI

***Working in partnership with Jesus - Serving Christ and the community***

Anglican Parish of Mt Maunganui  
St Peter's 15 Victoria Rd - St Mary's Cnr of Girven Rd & Marlin St



**The 4th Sunday of Advent**

**St Peter's 9.30am**

Please join us for morning tea after the service



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## *Dear friends*

It is Christmas week again. A few years ago one December I was listening to music while driving and I almost had an accident. It was a line from a Christmas carol which was new to me and it struck me so powerfully I think I pulled the car over to the side of the road. This was the carol.

### **Mary, Did You Know?**

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy  
Has come to make you new?  
This Child that you delivered  
Will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy  
Will give sight to the blind man?  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy  
Would calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod?  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God?

Mary, did you know?  
The blind will see  
The deaf will hear;  
The dead will live again!  
The lame will leap  
The dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy  
Is the Lord of all creation?  
Mary, did you know  
That your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know  
That your baby boy  
Was heaven's perfect Lamb?  
And the sleeping Child you're holding  
Is the Great I Am!

For me it was the line “And when you kiss your little baby, you’ve kissed the face of God” - I tear up when I read or hear it. It so powerfully evokes how completely human and divine Jesus was in the incarnation. This poem looks at the baby in Mary’s arms and anticipates his whole earthly life and significance. It inspires awe and hope.

Another NZ carol by Shirley Murray brings us back down to earth as we hold in tension the messages of hope, peace, joy and love of Christmas with the brokenness of the world we inhabit.

Star-Child, earth-Child,  
go-between of God,  
love Child, Christ Child,  
heaven's lightning rod,  
*This year, this year,*  
*let the day arrive*  
*when Christmas comes for*  
*everyone,*  
*everyone alive!*

Street child, beat child,  
no place left to go,  
hurt child, used child  
no one wants to know,  
*This year, this year...*

Grown child, old child,  
mem'ry full of years,  
sad child, lost child,  
story told in tears,  
*This year, this year...*

Spared child, spoiled child,  
having, wanting more,  
wise child, faith child,  
knowing joy in store,  
*This year, this year...*

Hope-for-peace Child,  
God's stupendous sign,  
down-to-earth Child,  
Star of stars that shine,  
*This year, this year...*

Jesus, the star-child, the peace-child grew up embodying hope, peace, joy and love and he commissioned us - sending us out into the world to live and proclaim him and the hope, peace, joy and love he brought, so that the world might be transformed. It's still a work in progress. May you have a blessed Christmas and may the transforming Christ child touch you in a new way this season.

Arohanui  
*Sue +*



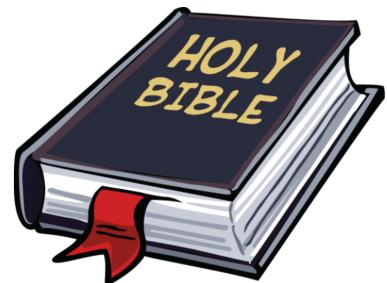
#### **BE SURE NOT TO MISS IT TONIGHT!!!!**

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is one of the most highly anticipated services of the year. The festival is sung by our choir-in-residence, The Scholars Baroque Aotearoa, and is offered to the Mount Maunganui community we serve. This year's service will feature new choral works by John Rutter, John Tavener and others, and will also include many of your favourite Christmas carols. Be sure to arrive early to secure a good seat!

**Sunday, 21st December at 7:30PM**

## Readings for today

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<i>Isaiah 7:10-16</i>
Reader	Chalium Poppy
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	<i>Romans 1:1-7</i>
Reader	Jill Ussher
Gospel Reading	<i>Matt 1: 18-25</i>
Reader	John Hebenton
Liturgist	Regan McFarlane
Intercessions	Regan McFarlane
Chalice	Nicola McMahon
Greeter	Nicola McMahon



**1 in 4 children are writing to Santa asking for food - not even asking for toys - just food because they don't want to be hungry at Christmas! We are collecting donations for food bank each Sunday.**

**There will be a box at the back of the church. Please think of adding something for food bank to your grocery list when shopping. Over advent maybe include some Christmas treats. Non-perishables please.**

**Office Hours:**

The church office will be closed from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December to Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. It will reopen on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January but with limited hours.  
Amanda is away until January 27th



Sue is on holiday from December 26<sup>th</sup> until January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please contact the wardens if you have any concerns during this time. There will be a Service of the Word on December 28<sup>th</sup> and Holy Eucharist will resume on January 4th

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS NEW EVENT!**

**The Festival of Lessons & Carols on Epiphany.** It will be sung on Sunday, 11 January, 2026. In the Christian church, our twelve-day celebration of Christmas is followed immediately by the more ancient feast of Epiphany. The early Church highlighted three manifestations (or “epiphanies”) of God in Jesus Christ at the Feast of the Epiphany: the recognition of the Christ Child by the Magi, the revealing of Jesus in the Spirit as God’s beloved child at his baptism in the Jordan, and the first of his signs at the wedding feast of Cana. As the procession enters, we recall the movement of the heavenly Word into our world to be manifested as its everlasting Light, and begin to ponder the three themes of Epiphany in Scripture, prayer and music.

It's lovely to have Rev John Hebenton back with us today. We look forward to what he brings.



At our Eucharist bread and wine will be offered from the altar rail. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS INTINCTION (DIPPING) OF BREAD INTO WINE PERMITTED.** If this occurs, then a fresh chalice of wine has to be prepared for the remainder of the congregation.

### **SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS TIPS:**

#### **Christmas food and feasting**

Consciously consider the food we're serving - how to be celebratory without being polarising. Incorporate storytelling and thanksgiving as part of feasting within community to make it meaningful, and different from over-consumption, over-indulgence, over-spending and excess.

Take only what you will eat. Model this and teach this to children too! Consider plant-based feasts. Eat leftovers! Freeze leftovers! Compost food scraps.

Don't use disposable wares. Borrow if more is needed. Maybe even BYO wares.



This is the last Angle for the year. We will resume publishing the Angle in the last week of January. The January Roster will be sent out shortly.

**Please check your rosters!** Intercessions and readings will be emailed and printed as per usual.

“So a Christian Christmas – a good Christmas – ought to be a very surprising time: a time when we look at our stale pictures and thoughts about God and about humanity and let them be refreshed by the newness of what comes into the world in Bethlehem. There is another carol, not popularly sung but often included in rather high-class carol concerts, that begins with the words ‘A new work is come on hand’. A new work is come on hand, something becomes possible in our imagining of God and our imagining of humanity and of our own lives. As we sing and celebrate, the thing we ought most earnestly to pray for, this and every Christmas, is that we shan’t lose the sense of surprise. The surprise that prevents us from thinking of God as a distant autocrat, the surprise that will prevent us from thinking of human beings as a sad lost cause or else as an absolutely successful and self-sufficient enterprise. God overflows in love and has trusted humanity to reveal the depth of divine life. That’s not obvious and the surprising nature of it needs to be reaffirmed again and again.”

The Rt Revd Rowan Williams, from the book “A Good Year”



## Parish Diary This Week

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>VENUE</u>
Sunday	21 Dec	9:30 am	Holy Eucharist	St Peter's
Sunday	21 Dec	7:30pm	9 Lessons & Carols	St Peters
Wednesday	24 Dec	4:00 pm	All-age interactive Christmas Eve Service	St Mary's
Wednesday	24 Dec	9:00 pm	Christmas Eve Eucharist	St Peter's
Thursday	25 Dec	9:30 am	Christmas day Eucharist	St Peter's
Sunday	28 Dec	9:30 am	Service of the word	St Peter's

**May you have a safe, joyful,  
blessed & holy Christmas  
and a happy new year**

Priest-in-Charge: Rev'd Sue Genner  
Anglican Parish of Mount Maunganui

Email: [sue.genner@waiapu.com](mailto:sue.genner@waiapu.com)

Ph: 021 235 5051

Barbara Magee - People's Warden

Ph: 0272 747 440

Parish Office: Ph 07 575 9945

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