

# What's on at St Margaret's

## ***DECEMBER Diary Dates***

SUNDAY	10 <sup>th</sup>	9.25am	Quiet time – candle lit
		9.30am	Sunday Service
			TEAR useful gift shop
MONDAY	11 <sup>th</sup>		
TUESDAY	12 <sup>th</sup>		
WEDNESDAY	13 <sup>th</sup>		
THURSDAY	14 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am–10.45am	Music Together (last one for 2017)
		10.30am	Baradine AC Communion
		10.30am- 12 noon	Church Office Open
		7.30pm	Band Practice
SUNDAY	17 <sup>th</sup>	9.25am	Quiet time – candle lit
		9.30am	Sunday Service

**INFORMATION: : RELIEVING MINISTER:** Sarah Tomilson  
**Phone 0433 508 315 Email: [sorch100@hotmail.com](mailto:sorch100@hotmail.com)**  
**CONTACTS - CHURCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE:**  
Chairperson: Marj Hookey 9726 7286 Secretary: Robert O' Shea 9735 2393

**17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

<u>Reader:</u>	Pat Hamilton	<u>Ushers:</u>	Nancy & Carolyn
<u>Tea Station</u>	June & Denise	<u>Sound Desk</u>	Clive Hamilton
<u>Power Point:</u>	Alan Norris	<u>Chapel Cleaning</u>	Robert O'Shea

The Church Office is open on Thursday mornings 10.30am – 12 Noon telephone number 9723 7323 Notices can be emailed to [stmargarets@netspace.net.au](mailto:stmargarets@netspace.net.au) by 10.30a.m. each Thursday

## CHRISTMAS BOWL – SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

In a world where too many people are facing pain, suffering and injustice, supporting the Christmas Bowl appeal is still an essential act of compassion, just as it has been since its humble beginnings in 1949.

The story of the Christmas Bowl has now become a key part of the history of Christian compassion in Australia. On Christmas Day 1949 the Reverend Frank Byatt of Victoria placed an empty bowl on the dinner table and asked his guests to give a gift to bring relief and hope to refugees who had fled the horrors of World War II.

Rev Byatt could never have known that his simple act would grow into the incredible outpouring of love and compassion it's become today. Last year alone, people like you helped to raise a record-breaking \$2.5 million for those around the world who are suffering hardship and hunger.

As well as being a much-loved ecumenical tradition, the Christmas Bowl appeal is a demonstration of unity for Christians in Australia. **“Making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”** (Ephesians 4:3), the Christmas Bowl brought together 1,800 churches from 19 denominations last year to help those in need.

Sadly, the Christmas Bowl is needed now more than ever, with unprecedented numbers of people displaced around the world and millions more suffering from severe hunger. Supporting the Christmas Bowl is a powerful act of faith and love as well as a tangible act of solidarity. By taking part, we're affirming that every displaced or hungry person is an individual worthy of empathy and compassion.

This year, we're helping hard working farming families in Zimbabwe who are struggling to feed their children after suffering the worst drought in 35 years. We've already taught hundreds of farmers new techniques that can save lives, but so many more are in need of help.

By supporting the Christmas Bowl this year, your act of compassion will help make a life-changing difference to the people who need it most.

**FOOD FOR WESLEY & HELPING HAND.** Please continue to remember those in our community who, because of personal circumstance, must seek support. The food items we collect for them to give to those in need are greatly appreciated.

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (Advance Notice)**

25th February 2018 is the date of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Annual Reports are requested by 24th January 2018 and can be emailed to [jimoshea@bigpond.com](mailto:jimoshea@bigpond.com) or handed in at the office.

Elections for Elders and Church Councilors will be held at the Annual Meeting. Nominations will open on Sunday 21st January and close at 9:30a.m. on Sunday 11th February.2018.

Yvonne Spicer, Ngun Liam and Robert O'Shea (Church Council) and Karen White (Elder) have completed their term but are eligible for nomination together with any member or member in association of the congregation.

Please give this important matter your prayerful consideration.

Robert O'Shea Secretary

### **RYDA Christmas Certificates**

The 2017 Gift Certificates to support RYDA are now available.

Look for a display at morning tea, or

Visit the web page: <http://www.blackdouglas.com.au/ryda/chrsgift.htm>, or

Ring Doug: 0401 177 775

An information sheet is also available to include with the gift to provide the receiver with background about RYDA.

If you have a mobile phone or computer capable of emails, you or someone you know might like to receive our **Weekly Reflection and Notice Sheet** to stay in the loop. Speak to Franklyn or ring 0405802797.

### **Christmas Services.**

This year Christmas services are complicated by Christmas Eve being on a Sunday. The Chin community have the church for their regular services both in the afternoon and evening which means that we will not be able to have our usual Christmas Eve evening service.

Come and join us for Messy Church from 4pm to 6pm on Saturday 23rd December – Christmas craft activities for children and parents , followed by a simple service then a sausage sizzle for our evening meal.

Christmas Eve Service 9.30 am Christmas Day service 9.30 am.

### **TEAR Australia Useful Gift shop here TODAY**

The TEAR Useful Gift shop will be open again at morning tea today Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December – instead of being at the Alternative Christmas Market as originally planned. Catalogues will be available at the market.

Each card from the TEAR gift catalogue represents a gift – e.g. the Chickens Card for \$5 helps people learn to raise chickens to earn an income. Or the Adult Literacy Card for \$25 helps adults to learn to read and write, which can transform people's lives.

TEAR Australia is a movement of Christians in Australia responding to the needs of poor communities around the world. See [tear.org.au](http://tear.org.au) for more information. If you missed hearing Deborah Storie speak about the work of TEAR, you can find her TEAR talk as well as her sermon at <http://wordpress.stmargaretsuca.org>

If you would like to take part in the Helping Hand Christmas gifts, for the following two weeks, unwrapped toys, books gifts for any age, or Christmas food would be welcome and shared out among the folk struggling this Christmas. Just leave under the tree ready for delivery. Thank you so much. Merle

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR** there will be a choir to sing on Sunday 17th Dec. Sunday 24th Dec. and Christmas Day Monday 25th December. Choir practice commenced on Thursday Dec.6th and will meet then on 13th and 20th December in the church at 7.30 pm. All those who would like to help with our Christmas music would be most welcome. Conductor Ken Davies 9726 5952 for details.

**NOTICES** If you have an item of interest for the notices please WRITE THE DETAILS ON PAPER & give to either Robert or Marj who will be sharing the notices in the next few weeks. (ILLNESS, SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES , ETC.