St Michaels & All Angels Church , Parish of Spearwood Western Australia

Saint Michael's Monthly Message December 2024



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY 22nd December 10.30 am

CHRISTMAS EVE 24th December 6pm

CHRISTMAS DAY 25th December 9.30am



Merry Christmas to you all

From Revd Debbie

Baptisms

Congratulations to Emma Branch and Hugo Grant who were both baptised this last month.

Church Garden

Thank you to those who have been pulling weeds in the Church Gardens and preparing the garden for the summer months.

As we are fast approaching Christmas and time is running out to hold a busy Bee, Church council invites anyone who is able, to pull a few weeds each time they pass the garden. Eventually we should be able to get on top of them and have the church looking good for Christmas.

Karaoke

Thank you to all who purchased tickets and supported the Karaoke on 22nd November. Special thanks to those who set up the church, arranged the songs, made the platters and worked the bar and raffle. We had a wonderful evening, it was especially good to see so many people enjoying the singalongs. We certainly have some up and coming stars among our congregation.

Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings

A great result from our fundraising Sausage Sizzle. Approx \$1700 was raised towards our Debt. Well done!

Christmas Services

24th December Christmas Eve we will be having a special family nativity service at 6pm. Please come dressed as your favourite nativity character if you would like to.

25th December Christmas Day at 9.30am- Family Communion

Revd Debbie and Wayne wish you all a very happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Christmas Geese

The story is told of a farmer who didn't believe in Jesus. One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a service at their local church. He refused to come saying: 'Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!' So, they left him at home.

During the evening the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned to a blizzard. He heard a series of loud thumps on the window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. They had been migrating south when they got caught in the snowstorm. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter.

The man wanted to help the geese and so he opened the doors of the barn, hoping they would go inside for shelter. But the geese didn't do anything, despite the man's efforts to move them. He made a breadcrumb trail leading to the barn and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn: 'Why don't they follow me?!' Then he realised: 'If only I were a goose and become one of them, then I could save them.' Finally, he understood the heart of the Christmas message. God has become one of us in Jesus. The eternal creator God has entered time and space as a baby, to show us who God is and how we can know Him.

This Christmas, let's celebrate again this amazing truth that we have a God who knows and can meet our needs in Jesus. 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel, which means 'God with us''. Matthew 1:23.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 32 Languages

- 1. Croatian Sretan Bozic
- 2. Danish Glædelig Jul og godt nytår
- 3. Farsi Sal-e no mubarak
- 4. French Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année!
- 5. German Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein glückliches Neues Jahr!
- 6. Greek Kala Christougenna Ki'eftihismenos O Kenourios

- 7. Chronos Hawaiian Mele Kalikimaka & Hauoli Makahiki Hou
- 8. Hebrew Mo'adim Lesimkha. Shanah Tova
- 9. Hindi Shubh Naya Baras
- 10. Iraqi Idah Saidan Wa Sanah Jadidah
- 11. Irish Nollaig Shona Dhuit
- 12. Italian Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo
- 13. Japanese Shinnen omedeto. Kurisumasu Omedeto
- 14. Korean Sung Tan Chuk Ha
- 15. Latin Pax hominibus bonae voluntatis
- 16. Maori Kia orana e kia manuia rava i teia Kiritimeti e te Mataiti Ou
- 17. Mongolian Zul saryn bolon shine ony mend devshuulye
- 18. Nepali krist Yesu Ko Shuva Janma Utsav Ko Upalaxhma Hardik Shuva & Naya Barsa Ko harkik Shuvakamana
- 19. Norwegian/Nynorsk Eg ynskjer hermed Dykk alle ein God Jul og Godt Nyttår
- 20. Polish Wesolych Swiat i Szczesliwego Nowego Roku.
- 21. Portuguese Boas Festas e um feliz Ano Novo Romanian Craciun fericit si un An Nou fericit!
- 22. Russian Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva i s Novim Godom
- 23. Samoan Ia manuia le Kilisimasi ma le tausaga fou
- 24. Somali ciid wanaagsan iyo sanad cusub oo fiican.
- 25. Spanish Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo
- 26. Sudanese Wilujeng Natal Sareng Warsa Enggal
- 27. Swedish God Jul och Gott Nytt År
- 28. Tahitian Ia ora i te Noere e ia ora na i te matahiti 'api
- 29. Thai Suksan Wan Christmas lae Sawadee Pee Mai
- 30. Ukrainian Veseloho Vam Rizdva i Shchastlyvoho Novoho Roku!
- 31. Vietnamese Chuc Mung Giang
- 32. Welsh Nadolig Llawen a Blwydden Newydd dda

Quiz on John's Gospel

Why was John the Baptist sent from God?

To perform miracles and signs

To bear witness of the light

To explain the writings of the prophets

What did John the Baptist say when he saw Jesus? Behold the Saviour of the world! You are the true Son of God Behold the Lamb of God!

Where did Jesus see Nathanael? Under the fig tree Under the almond branch Within the house

What happened at the marriage of Cana? Jesus healed a crippled man Jesus turned water into wine Jesus forgave the couple's sins

To whom did Jesus say, "Ye must be born again"? Nicodemus Simon of Cyrene Joseph of Arimathea

What did Jesus say He could give the woman of Samaria? Bread of life Living water Eternal life

How long had the infirm man lain at the pool of Bethesda? 1 year 25 years 38 years

Which of these is not declared as a witness of Jesus? Nature and creation John the Baptist The work God gave Jesus

What teaching of Jesus did the Jews not understand? The kingdom of God is nigh at hand I am the bread which came down from heaven He who is not for me, is against me

What did Jesus say to those who accused the adulteress?

He that is without sin, let him first cast a stone Take her and stone her What has she to do with me?

Which two signs, or miracles, are also recorded in other gospel records? Feeding of the 5,000, raising of Lazarus Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus walks on water Raising of Lazarus, the catch of fishes

How did Jesus heal the blind man? He touched his eyes and scales fell off them He anointed his eyes with oil He anointed his eyes with clay and told him to wash

Which profession does Jesus compare Himself to spiritually? Shepherd Fisherman Carpenter

What are the names of Lazarus' sisters? Martha and Ruth Salome and Mary Mary and Martha

What did Jesus do to the disciples before the Last Supper? Exhorted them to believe Washed their feet Anointed their heads

What did Jesus say He would leave with the disciples? Humility Love Peace

What relation was Annas to Caiaphas? Father-in-law Son Nephew Where was Peter standing when he denied Jesus for the second time? In the streets outside the high priest's yard Warming himself at the fire In the garden of Gethsemane

What colour robe did Pilate's soldiers put on Jesus? Blue Brown Purple

How many fish were caught in the miracle of the draught of fishes?

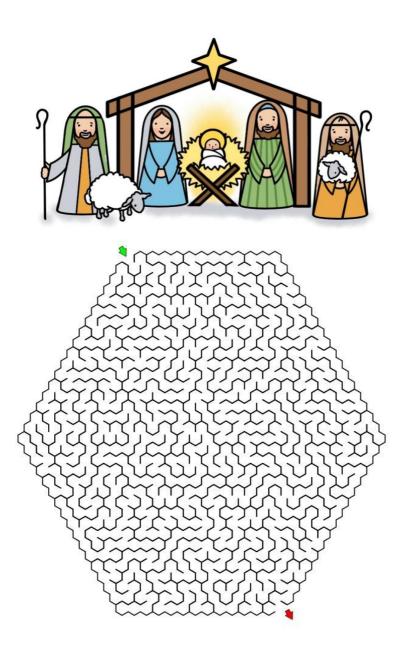
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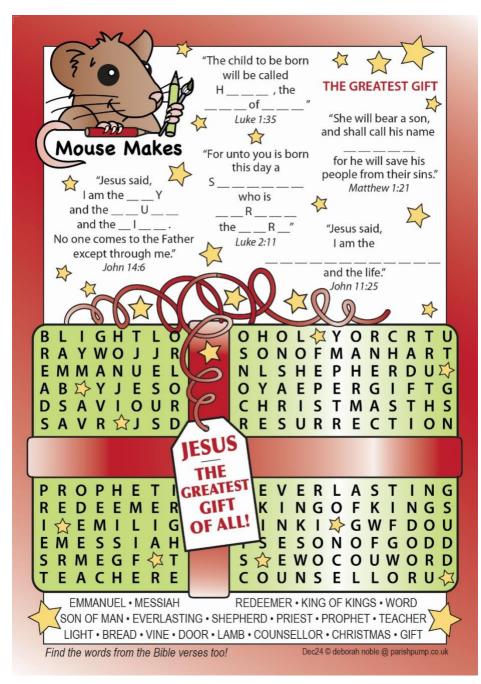
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Answers to Quiz on John's Gospel

- To bear witness of the light (John 1:6-7)
- Behold the Lamb of God (John 1:36)
- Under the fig tree (John 1:48)
- Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-10)
- Nicodemus (John 3:1)
- Living water (John 4:9-10)
- 38 years (John 5:5)
- Nature and creation (John 5:31-47)
- I am the bread which came down from heaven (John 6:41)
- *He that is without sin, let him first cast a stone (John 8:7)*
- Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus walks on water (John 6)
- *He anointed his eyes with clay and told him to wash (John 9:6-7)*
- Carpenter (John 10:11)
- Martha and Mary (John 11:19)
- Washed their feet (John 13:5)
- Peace (John 14:27)
- Father-in-law (John 18:13)
- Warming himself at the fire (John 18:18,25)
- Purple (John 19:2)
- 153 (John 21:11)





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Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)

14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)

15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)

17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)

20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)

21 Rite (anag.) (4)

22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you" (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

Down

1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)

2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)

4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner" (Luke 18:13) (6)

- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)

12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)

13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)

16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)

18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)

19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Lame. 3, Obtained. 8, Omit. 9, Merchant. 11, Burdensome. 14, Crafty. 15, Please. 17, Blacksmith. 20, Splendid. 21, Tier. 22, Singeing. 23, Hand. DOWN: 1, Look back. 2, Main road. 4, Breast. 5, Accomplish. 6, Near. 7, Date. 10, Pestilence. 12, Basilica. 13, Tethered. 16, Action. 18, Asa's. 19, Clan.



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everyone home visitors Augustus space Joseph Empire guest born David room Jesus manger Syria taxes stable





Quotes

- The Son came out from the Father to help us to come out from the world; He descended to us to enable us to ascend to Him. *Anthony of Padua*
- Christ became what we are that He might make us what He is. *Athanasius*
- I hope your Christmas has had a little touch of Eternity in among the rush and pitter and all. It always seems such a mixture of this world and the next but that after all is the idea! *Evelyn Underhill*
- God became man to turn creatures into sons; not simply to produce better men of the old kind but to produce a new kind of man. *CS Lewis*
- My brother heard a woman on the bus say, as the bus passed a church with a Crib outside it, Oh Lor'! They bring religion into everything. Look they're dragging it even into Christmas now!' *CS Lewis*
- Surely royalty in rags, angels in cells, is not descent compared to Deity in flesh! *H Law*
- The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable. *Ralph Sockman*
- An hour with your grandchildren can make you feel young again. Anything longer than that, and you start to age quickly. - *Gene Perret*
- The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. *Anon*
- When we are out of sympathy with the young, then I think our work in this world is over. *George MacDonald*
- Age doesn't always bring wisdom. Sometimes age comes alone. *Anon*
- Nothing is often a good thing to say. Will Durant
- Our children await Christmas presents like a politician getting election returns. *Marceline Cox*
- The best baby-sitters, of course, are the baby's grandparents. You feel completely comfortable entrusting your baby to them for long periods, which is why most grandparents flee to the south coast. *Dave Barry*
- Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. *Anon*

- Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first grandchild. *Welsh proverb*
- Let us give according to our incomes lest God make our incomes to match our gifts. *Anon*
- The world provides enough for every man's need but not for every man's greed. *Gandhi*
- If we have God in all things while they are ours, we shall have all things in God when they are taken away. *Anon*
- It is easier to renounce worldly possessions than it is to renounce the love of them. *Walter Hilton*
- Nothing influences a man so much as that which he calls his own. C H Spurgeon
- How does the chap who drives the snow-plough get to work?
- Why are there flotation devices in the seats of planes instead of parachutes?
- A camel is a horse designed by a committee.
- To some people, religious freedom means a choice of churches to stay home from. *Anon*
- The best way to succeed in this world is to act on the advice you give to others. *Mother Teresa*
- The great thing is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. *Anon*
- Although we leave Your house, we don't leave Your Presence. Anon
- Advertising: The science of arresting the human intelligence long enough to get money from it. *Stephen Leacock*
- Suffering with truth decay? Brush up on your Bible. Anon



Parishpump

Jokes

What would you like for Christmas?

A little girl visited Father Christmas in the local garden centre grotto. He welcomed her with a smile and asked what she would like for Christmas. She gasped, and stared at him in horror. "Didn't you get my email?!"

What do you get Dad?

December is the month when the family begins to discuss what to get Dad for Christmas. Some argue for a shirt; others hold out for a pair of socks. But the argument usually ends in a tie.

Church rules

Six year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel sat together for the Christmas concert in church. Joel kept giggling and whispering until his big sister had had enough. "Be quiet in church!"

"Why?" Joel demanded. "Who is going to make me?"

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said: "See those two big men standing at the door? They're hushers."

Christmas gifts

Grandfather was talking to his grand-daughter, "When I was a child all we got for Christmas was an apple." The little girl clapped her hands in joy.

"Brilliant! I'd love a new computer and mobile phone!"

Christmas shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?" "Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

Christmas carols

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard. One caroller ventured: "I understand - our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases."

The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"

Father Christmas

Of course, I had expected that by the age of seven it was inevitable that my son would begin to have serious thoughts about Father Christmas. Sure enough, one day near Christmas he suddenly said: "Mum, I know something about Father Christmas, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy." Taking a deep breath, I asked him what that might be. "Easy," he said, "They are all nocturnal."

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas my true love said to me I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree. On the second day of Christmas much laughter could be heard As we tucked into our turkey – a most delicious bird. On the third day of Christmas people came from just next door, The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before. On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold. On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried, But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried. On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died. The children fought and bickered – we had the turkey rissoles fried. On the seventh day of Christmas my true love he did wince When he sat down at table - and was offered turkey mince. On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter, For he'd seen our turkey pancakes and the glass of alka-seltzer. On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime dad was blotto, He knew that bird was back again, this time as a risotto. On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew, Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew. On the eleventh day of Christmas our lovely tree was moulting, And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce, the turkey was revolting. On the twelfth day of Christmas we had smiles back on our lips, The guests had gone, the turkey too – WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS. **Christmas** play

The Sunday School Christmas play was in full swing when the teacher prompted: "And what was it that guided the Wise Men from the East?" Right on cue, the pre-schoolers turned their large white letters to face the audience. However, the last four children in the lineup had somehow reversed their sequence, and so the answer was: C H R I S T M A S R A T S.

Nativity scene

"Here's a king!" announced the five-year-old as he unwrapped a figurine from the Christmas decorations box. "Here's a donkey!" he added a moment later. Then he removed the tissue from another figure, finding the infant Jesus moulded permanently into the little manger. The child exclaimed, "And here's Baby Jesus in his car seat!"

Snow

One snowman said sadly to the other, "All our friends are flakes."

Fragile Nativity

A couple visited their son and his family for Christmas, and admired their beautiful nativity set in the hallway. The grandfather asked his young granddaughter if she knew what it was. "Oh yes," she said immediately. "Of course I do. It's breakable."

Holly

Knock, knock! Who's there? Holly. Holly who? Holly-days are here again! Sign for Christmas

An old country preacher wanted a sign that told people driving on the nearby dual carriageway about the miracle of Christmas. So he sent a short message to the general store in the village.

This story picks up at the sign-making company and the astonished clerk who received the message. The message that she read was: "Unto us a child is born, 6 ft long and 3 ft wide."

Santa's Sleigh

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh? Nothing. It was on the house.

You can tell

You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights.

Rosters									
	Welcome	Reading	Prayer	LPM/LA	Morning Tea	Flowers			
1/12/24		Eugene	Sara Davis	Maxine	Penny	Taryn			
8/12/24		Zoe	Tony Jones	Sara Dryden	Dena	Colleen			
15/12/24		Dena	Maxine	Colleen		Colleen			
22/12/24		Eugene	Diana	Philip	Penny				
25/12/24		Diana	Sara Dacis	Colleen		Colleen			
29/12/24		Zoe	Philip	Maxine	Dena	Colleen			
5/1/25		Sara Davis	Dena	Sara Dryden	Maxine	Tongan			

Church Information

For all church enquires contact Rev. Debbie May 0473 368 268 Church Wardens; Maxine Smith 0417-992-798 and Sara Dryden 0467 861 700....

Meetings; Holy Communion Sundays, 10.30 am Morning Prayer; Tuesdays 10 am, Coffee & Chat, Thursdays 10 am Bible study – every other Wednesday at 7.30pm (See Wayne) Church Address; 15 Mell Rd, Spearwood, 6163

Donations may be made to; BSB 706-001, Account No. 30003095 Or via our web site at www.spearwoodchurch.org

To contribute articles and ideas for this newsletter, please contact Phil Spurling or email to <u>MMMEditor@outlook.com</u>