

December 8th, 2019
2nd Sunday of Advent

**Our Mission Statement Is to share the love
of God with and for all people by word
and deed**

How Did Christmas Trees Start?

Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient peoples hung evergreen boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness. Germany is credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition as we now know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. It is a widely held belief that Martin Luther, the 16th-century Protestant reformer, first added lighted candles to a tree. Walking toward his home one winter evening, composing a sermon, he was awed by the brilliance of stars twinkling amidst evergreens. To recapture the scene for his family, he erected a tree in the main room and wired its branches with lighted candles.

This Week 08/12/19**9.00am Family Service**

1st Text: Isaiah 11: 1-10
 Reader: Eddy C
 Psalm: 72,1-7,18-21
 2nd Text: Romans 15: 4-13
 Reader: Cecilia S
 Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12
 Intercessor: Jean S
 P/Assist: Rosemary K

Next Week 15/12/19**9.00am Family Service**

1st Text: Isaiah 35: 1-10
 Reader: Jan M
 Psalm: 146
 2nd Text: James 5: 7-10
 Reader: Jean S
 Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11
 Intercessor: Pauline H
 P/Assist: Sue B

Wednesday 11/12/19**08:30am**

1st Text: Isaiah 40: 25-31 Eddy C
 2nd Text: Matthew 11: 228-30 Jill b

DIRECT DEBIT FOR OFFERINGS AND DONATIONS DETAILS ARE:**BSB 706 001 ACCOUNT NO: 30 00072**

Offerings Oct	3164.00	Op Shop	1396.40
Other Income	1535.59	Auction	1168.55
TOTAL	\$7264.54		

CONTACTS FOR THE PARISH**Priest's Warden**

Richard Baldwin
 9439 1926

People's Warden

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Church Office:

Email No: kwinanaparish@gmail.com

Locum Tenens

Reverend Terry Pickersgill

will be in the Parish from
 8:00am - 11:45am Tuesday and Wednesday
 8:00am - 3:45 pm Thursdays
 Mobile number: 0409 269 312
 Email No: temac@iprimus.com.au

To place a notice in the **News Sheet** or Website **please email**
allsaintskwinana@gmail.com By Friday each week

Craft W/shop...

Our next and last craft w/shop for the year will be on Thursday 19th Dec @ 10am, all welcome.
Info on Church notice board.

Kids Christmas W/shop.

Kids craft w/shop will be on Monday 23rd Dec @ 10am
...all kids/adults welcome.
Info on Church notice Board

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Ann Beaman 13th



CHURCH CLEANERS

Next Week: Christy & Jan Thankyou
If you could help with the cleaning, even once a month
please see Sue

OP SHOP

OPEN: 09.30am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday
ALL DONATIONS WELCOME
Except electrical items

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It is not surprising that, like many other festive Christmas customs, the tree was adopted so late in America and other countries. To the New England Puritans, Christmas was sacred. The pilgrims' second governor, William Bradford, wrote that he tried hard to stamp out “pagan mockery” of the observance, penalizing any frivolity. The influential Oliver Cromwell preached against “the heathen traditions” of Christmas carols, decorated trees, and any joyful expression

The influential Oliver Cromwell preached against “the heathen traditions” of Christmas carols, decorated trees, and any joyful expression that desecrated “that sacred event.” In 1659, the General Court of Massachusetts enacted a law making any observance of December 25 (other than a church service) a penal offense; people were fined for hanging decorations. That stern solemnity continued until the 19th century, when the influx of German and Irish immigrants undermined the Puritan legacy.

Though traditionally not all Christian cultures adorned their homes with evergreens and presents, the influence exerted by the West and rising consumerism has turned the Christmas tree into a ubiquitous symbol. In fact, many people of other faiths have adopted the Christmas tree (See Japan for instance).

The Christmas tree has come a long way from its humble, pagan origins, to the point that it's become too popular for its own good. Annually, 300 million Christmas trees are grown in farms around the world to sustain a two-billion-dollar industry, but because these are often not enough, sadly, many firs are cut down from forests.