

*The real meaning of Christmas - from the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham...*

In the midst of all upheaval, crisis, difficulty, problems, and fear comes the true message of Christmas with all of its hope, goodwill, and cheer. The message of Christmas has been terribly misapplied and misunderstood for many years. Some think of business profits, shopping, gifts, tinsel, toys, and celebration. Others think only of Bethlehem, of the star in the sky, shepherds in the field, and angels singing. Still others cynically ask, "Where is this Prince of Peace in a world filled with so much trouble?"

The real Christmas message goes far deeper. It heralds the entrance of God into human history. It is Heaven descending to Earth. It is as though a trumpeter had taken his stand upon the turrets of time and announced to a despairing, hopeless, and frustrated world the coming of the Prince of Peace. It answers all the great questions that plague the human race at this hour. The Christmas message is relevant, revolutionary, and reassuring to us today. I believe it can be summed up in three words: a cradle, a cross, and a crown.

On that first Christmas night, the Bible tells us about the angel coming to those fearful shepherds and saying, "Fear not, I bring you good news" (Luke 2). This is the true meaning of Christmas—the Good News—that God sent His only Son to Earth to save people from their sins. Christmas is not a myth, not a tradition, not a dream—it is a glorious reality.



*Our National Vision*

Wherever there is hardship or injustice

Salvos will live, love and fight

Alongside others

To transform Australia one life at time

With the love of Jesus



Welcome!!! We're so happy to have you here. Here at BCT is a place to stay connected, be encouraged, and grow in faith together. Whether you're new or a longtime member, you belong here. Let's keep shining God's love in our lives and community. Blessings to you!

Following our meeting, please come and join us for morning tea for the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month



## Christmas Outreach

During December there are several outreach events involving the band and songsters.

One of the most significant is the band playing at central station from 7am-9am, 15-19 December. If you would like help greet and collect then please contact Ashley or Bronwyn



Join us **CHRISTMAS DAY** as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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**CHRISTMAS DAY: NO ORDINARY DAY**  
Key Scripture: Colossians 1:15-20

December 25th - 10:00am




## A well deserved break

Our sections and regular programs will be on a break over January and will be returning in February 2026. Thank you all who participate, lead and contribute to our mission of bringing Jesus to our community



## Sunday teaching Bible readings

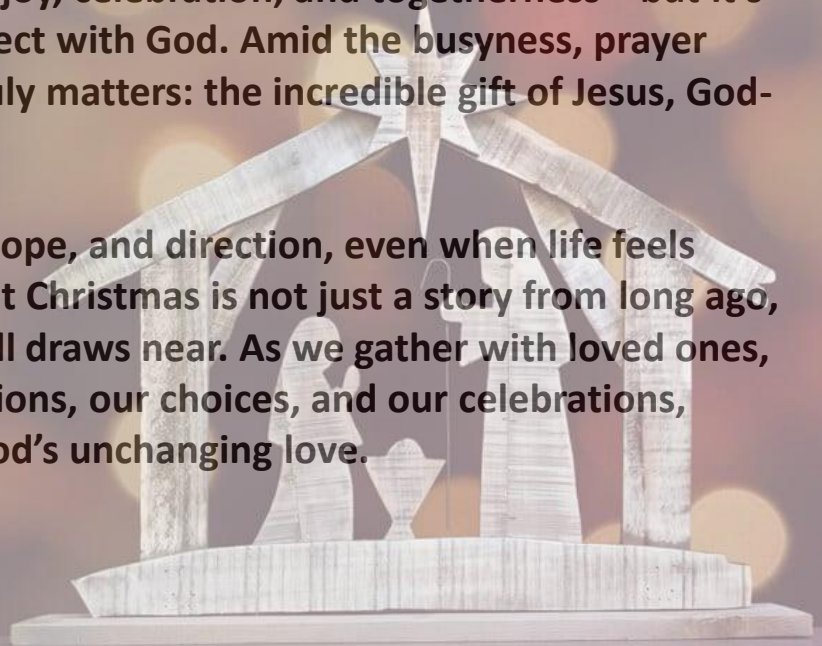
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Matt 1:18-25
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Mic 5:2-5 & Eze 37:24-27
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup> Matt 2:1-12
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Col 1:15-20

## PRAYER

*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you Jeremiah 29:12*

Christmas is a season filled with joy, celebration, and togetherness—but it's also a time to pause and reconnect with God. Amid the busyness, prayer recentres our hearts on what truly matters: the incredible gift of Jesus, God-with-us.

Through prayer we find peace, hope, and direction, even when life feels overwhelming. It reminds us that Christmas is not just a story from long ago, but a living promise that God still draws near. As we gather with loved ones, may prayer shape our conversations, our choices, and our celebrations, grounding us in gratitude and God's unchanging love.



### Praying for others

It is encouraging to know people are praying for you. During this month you are encouraged to bring the following people before God in your regular time of prayer

#### 1 – 7 Dec

Stephen & Judith Wemyss, Maj Jill Whitehouse, Rendle & Karen Williams, Greg, Mikayla, Reuben & Nathaniel Wilson, Col Don & Bernice Woodland, David & Anne York



#### 8 - 14 Dec

Rebecca & Patrick Adams                      Maj Kingsley Alley, Eric & Sue Bailey, Tim & Bev Bale, Margaret Ball, Maj Ashley & Bronwyn Barkmeyer, Kerry Bond

#### 15 – 21 Dec

Anne Brooks, Matt, Elizabeth & Josh Brown, Graeme & Barbara Brown, Marlene Burns, Ken Carkeet, Nicole Collins, Doug & Sue Cooke, Sam & Hayley Fillery

#### 22 - 31 Dec

Michael, Rebekah, Thomas & Charlotte Cooper, Jacqui Croker, Estelle Cullinane, Lyndon Dawkins, Alan Drury, Dirk Duyzer, Rodney & Robyne Everitt



Well November was a busy month preparing for the upcoming Christmas Season. A lot of Corporations around the City are eagerly collecting donations for the Christmas Appeal. Some of it will be delivered here and others to Street Level where the Hampers will be distributed from. It is an exciting time with Majors Ashley and Bronwyn also attending different functions to give talks about the Salvation Army and accepting gifts for the Appeal. We are blessed to be able to Bless those less fortunate than ourselves.



Moonyah is once again grateful for the donations of Body Wash and Wrapping paper. Keep them coming if you haven't already done so. The Young Adults will be helping out with the Moonyah Christmas BBQ on Tuesday the 9th of December. Go team!!

If you have any further questions, please contact Nicole.

Email: [Nicole.Collins@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:Nicole.Collins@salvationarmy.org.au)

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Gods Sports Arena Breaking News!!

GSA came to BCT approximately 10 years ago when Maj. Dean & Vicki Clark was the officers here. There are seasons in life and our season at BCT has come to an end. The 7<sup>th</sup> of December will see our last service here and we will then move on to Street Level in the New Year. We have loved being able to hold our services here and appreciate your acceptance. It is just time to grow a bit more and move on to the next chapter. The Salvation Army's motto is to "Live, Love and Fight" ours is to "Love, Encourage and Don't Judge". Thankyou from all of us for being a part of this journey.



As always if you would like to volunteer at anything that occurs at Brisbane City Temple please contact Major Ashley, Major Bronwyn or Nicole. You may have some ideas in other areas we may be able to connect with and we would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

If you have any further questions, please contact Nicole.

Email: [Nicole.Collins@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:Nicole.Collins@salvationarmy.org.au)

# DID YOU KNOW?



## 1. The First Christmas Kettle (1891)

Captain Joseph McFee placed a pot at a ferry landing to raise money for a Christmas meal. This became the global Red Kettle tradition.

## 2. Escort Wagons

Early kettles were often tampered with, so officers used escort wagons to protect donations and ensure Christmas meals could be funded.

## 3. Christmas Parcels (1880s)

In London, Salvationists delivered food, blankets, toys, and Bibles to poor families—starting the tradition of Christmas assistance.

## 4. Gang Members Become Helpers (NYC)

Gangs who once harassed kettle workers began protecting them, and some later came to faith.

## 5. WWI “Doughnut Girls”

Salvation Army women on the front lines provided carols, letters, prayer, and small Christmas treats to soldiers.

## 6. Great Depression Toy Giving

The Army expanded toy drives so no child would go without a gift at Christmas.

## 7. Christmas Brass Bands

Carolling bands raised funds and became a familiar sound of Christmas charity worldwide.

## 8. WWII “Sunshine Boxes”

Salvationists sent Christmas care parcels with treats, Scriptures, and socks to troops overseas.

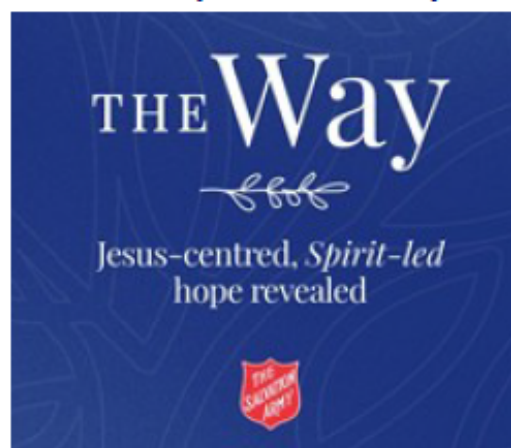
## 9. Christmas Disaster Relief

During crises near Christmas, the Army provided meals, toys, and comfort, reinforcing its “first in, last out” reputation.

## 10. Caring for the “Forgotten”

The movement prioritised the lonely, homeless, prisoners, and others often overlooked during Christmas.

## The Salvation Army's national spiritual focus



commences February 2026.

We're excited to announce the corps hosting *The Way* launch events from 13–14 February 2026. These gatherings will bring Salvos together as we begin our year-long journey of being Jesus-centred, Spirit-led and hope revealed. In Queensland Division you'll be able to join in the launch weekend at the following sites:

Bayside	Bundaberg	Bundamba
Cairns	Caloundra	Gladstone
Mackay	Mount Isa	North Brisbane
Toowoomba	Townsville	Tweed Heads

**Register** for one of these locations [here](#).

Let's begin 2026 with courage, clarity and shared commitment - walking *The Way* together.

[Read more >>](#)

**The Way 5-week Sermon Series:** A resource suite centred around a 5-week sermon series will be provided to help Faith Communities continue to explore *The Way*, throughout the year. It will be **released at the end of January** and available for you to run the series at a time during the year that works best for your context.

The series will be packed with versatile resources to equip and inspire your Faith Community to live out the five aspects of *The Way*: discipleship, evangelism, prayer, spiritual warfare and mission.

# Brisbane City Temple Corps



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 Majors Ashley & Bronwyn Barkmeyer  
 0402 781 705 - Ashley  
 0402 781 693 - Bronwyn  
 P: 07 3221 3461  
 GPO Box 379 Brisbane 4001

## What Happens

SUNDAY	
9:00am	Prayer meeting
9:30am	Coffee
10am	Morning Worship
10:30am	Primary, Kids Connection & Junior Soldiers
4pm	God's Sports Arena

TUESDAY	
10am	English Conversation classes
6pm	Young Adults Connect Group Bible Study

WEDNESDAY	
10am-12pm	Emergency relief
6pm	Worship Team Rehearsal
7.30pm	Band Rehearsal

THURSDAY	
10am	mainly music

### Please note

- Office open Tuesday to Thursday.
- Corps Officers are contactable on Monday
- Office closed on Friday (Corps Officers day off)

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*  
 2 Corinthians 9:7

## Online Giving - Tithes and Offerings

You can make a direct deposit into the corps account.



**Biller Code:** 439935

**Ref:** 1 000 9

Mobile & Internet Banking - BPAY®

Make this payment from your cheque, savings, debit, credit card or transaction account



[Brisbanecitytemple.corps@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:Brisbanecitytemple.corps@salvationarmy.org.au)



Find us on [Facebook](#)



[salvos.org.au/brisbanecitytemple](http://salvos.org.au/brisbanecitytemple)

## Weekday Parking

If you require a parking space during the week please ring the office, Ashley 0402781705 or Bronwyn 0402781693 to check availability.

There are various events or people requesting parking on different days and we need to know in advance available parking spots.

## Sunday Parking Options

### STREET PARKING

Pay by phone app (Cellopark AU)

### KING GEORGE SQUARE CAR PARK

Vehicle entry is via Roma or Adelaide streets and exit is via Roma street.  
 Cost is \$10 for 3 hours on a Sunday

### WICKHAM TERRACE CAR PARK

Located between Wickham Terrace and Turbot street, Spring Hill  
 Cost \$6 for four hours on a Sunday