

Dates to Remember	
Thursdays	7am-7.45am Prayer at the Church Office
TODAY	Combined MUP/Fiji Fellowship Christmas Family Service
Thu 21 st Dec	7.30pm 'Carols In The Community'
Mon 25 th Dec	9.30am Christmas Day Service



Church Office Hours: 9am - 12noon, Mon - Fri (excluding public holidays).

'Prayer Chain' – Any matters requiring confidential prayer support, can be referred to the Prayer Chain Group. Contact Val Judd or Elaine Oates.

Monday Bible Study – Meets Mondays at 1.30pm in the Church House. Last meeting for 2023 will be 18th December. For more info contact Elaine Oates.

Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study – Has finished for the year. Will commence again in 2024. For more info contact Maureen Wilson.

'Men's Fellowship Breakfast Group' – Meets at 7am on Tuesdays. Contact John Hawksworth for more info.

'Womens Lunch Group' – Has finished for the year. Will commence again end of January 2024. Contact Amanda Lewis for more info.

Women's 'Growth Group' – Has finished for the year. Will commence again in February 2024. Contact Elaine Oates or Diane McLean for more info.



Christmas Holiday Office Hours – The office will be closed from **23rd December** for two weeks over Christmas and New Year, and re-open again on **Monday 8th January 2024**.

Giving/Tithing - If you wish to tithe or make a donation to Mangapapa Church, our account number is: Mangapapa Church, 03-0638-0381084-00. Please make sure you say 'tithe' or 'donation' in the reference. If you would prefer to give using our 'Envelope' system, then see Jenny Phin who will set you up with envelopes allocated to you.

	Today	Next Sunday 24 th December
Greeters	J & L Hawksworth	J Dyas, L McAra
Creche	Parents	Parents
Ministry Team	M Freeman	E Oates
Cups of Tea	M Smith, N Aston	N Coffey, A Tyler
AV & Sound	D Russell / A Russell	D Russell / A Russell
Counters	G Stevenson	N Coffey



Our motivating vision is...
'To be His Love, Light and Life'



Sunday 17th December 2023

10am: "Christmas Family Service"

A Combined service with the Fijian Fellowship

Leading: Stewart & Marilyn, and Fiji Fellowship

Duty Elder: Stewart Patrick

Church Office: Dione Russell **06 867-9604** **9am – 12noon**
E-mail: office@mup.org.nz **Website:** www.mup.org.nz
 Mangapapa Church, P.O. Box 2146 Gisborne 4040

Elders Team

Stewart Patrick: 021 047 0795 Rodney Judd: 06 863-2400 Al Clement: 027 855 5949
 Paul Madsen: 027 511 4769

Children stay in for the service today.

If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home and don't share them.

‘JOY’ / ‘MEDA MARAU’ is the Advent theme for our combined Fiji Fellowship & MUP Church ‘Christmas Family Service’. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - *“Rejoice always”*. Luke 1:46b-47 - *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”* We will sing and praise Him together with joy this morning and learn from each other’s cultural stories of how this ‘Good News’ came to each land – Fiji & NZ, Aotearoa. We will share together in a BBQ morning tea and bless those travelling back home to loved family in Fiji.



Results of the MUP Church Congregation Ballot Vote – Shane Roche is called to the full-time ‘Church Leader’ position at MUP Church

Your MUP Elders & Leadership are delighted to announce that Shane Roche **received virtually 100% vote in favour from you, our MUP Church members**, after 7 email votes were added on Monday to the Sunday meeting count. Shane’s response is, *“Wow. That’s pretty amazing. And obviously very encouraging. I’m very humbled and very glad that there has been such a positive response...”* Your MUP Leadership thank you one and all for your support and encouragement through this process. We have much to do yet to aid their NZ Immigration process and MUP will be assisting Shane & Ali financially with the \$10,800 fees involved in the process, plus several other ancillary costs eg, medical tests etc. If you able and would like to help them financially, label your gift to ‘Shane & Ali’ and place in the offering or Bank Transfer to the MUP Bank Account. (Details on the back page of the Newsletter)



**9.30am
Christmas
Day
Service**

On Thursday the Te Hahi Awhi baskets that you all contributed so generously to, were packed at House of Breakthrough. 50 were picked up by the

Police Whangaia unit and taken to families who are victims of family harm. All the police who came to pick up the baskets were very grateful, one even came on her day off. The other 50 baskets were distributed by the different churches to those who have been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle, from Wairoa to Te Araroa. MUP’s baskets have gone to those in Vogel Street, to a single mum family who lives near Al & Sal, whose house was very impacted by the flooding.

Thank you for your generosity in giving to these. Please pray for the police, who are already dealing with an increase in problems and issues as we go into Christmas and New Year.

Our Christmas Advent Season Events:



1) Come down one night to have a look at our Church Christmas Lights. The Star, angels and entrance are lit up all through the day and night now, plus the solar Nativity Display lights on the lawn light up at dusk too.

2) ‘Carols in the Community’
7:30pm Thursday night, 21st

December. Taking Carols to the street corners of Mangapapa. We gather first at MUP at 7:30pm, and sing our first Carol in front of the Nativity Scene, then we head off in cars to selected Street Corners in Mangapapa to sing carols and give out Children’s Christmas Booklets and creative hand-made Nativity sets, as shown pictured.



Thank you Angela Paton and Nicola Hawkins who will be providing the accompaniment for us. **Please put you name down on the list on the table in the foyer and we will contact you to advise of a practice time.** Please join us, anyone can sing Carols and bring joy.

For Prayer this Week:



- 1) Give thanks for our Church acceptance of Shane Roche as our new ‘Church Leader’ –** Now we pray for the engaging of a NZ Immigration Advisor to act on their behalf, and pray for the letter required from Ali’s University where she trained.
- 2) Pray for our Advent witness with our outdoor Nativity displays, and our ‘Carols in the Community’ team this Thursday night.**
- 3) Consider this lovely interpretation of the tongues word shared on Sunday 3rd Dec, “Make way, make way for the coming King. Lay down your cloaks, lay down your crowns. Make way in your minds and your hearts for His love.”**

During the week the nurses at Gisborne Hospital took up a collection for our foodbank and dropped it off to us, along with this card:

*“To our friends at Mangapapa Union Parish,
Our team really appreciate your continued support in helping those whanau in need. You are a blessing.
We look forward to working alongside you in 2024.
With kind regards and best wishes for the joy that Christmas brings.
The Social Work Team at Te Whatu Ora (Gisborne Hospital)”*

