



Community News
12 February 2023
Epiphany 6

Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD.

- Psalm 119:1 -



Church Services

Sunday:

8am

Nelligen

Holy Communion

Batemans Bay

Holy Communion

9.25am

2EAR 107.5 FM radio

10am

Holy Communion

6.30pm

Soaking

Readings:

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Readings

Monday: Psalm 50:20-24; Mark 8:11-13

Tuesday: Psalm 29:5-10; Mark 8:14-21

Wednesday: Psalm 116:11-18; Mark 8:22-26

Thursday: Psalm 102:18-22; Mark 8:27-33

Friday: Psalm 33:8-17; Mark 8:34-9:1

Saturday: Psalm 145:8-13; Mark 9:2-13

Sunday: Psalm 2; 2Peter 1:16-21;

Matthew 17:1-9

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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DIRECT DEPOSIT: Anglican Investment & Development Fund. BSB: 702 389 Account: 05202562 Ref: AnglicanBBay2562

CHURCH: The church office is open Thursday mornings and Fridays 9-3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Doug Newman 0428 907200 dnewman1956@gmail.com

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ANGLICAN NEWS:

2023: A year to Stand! Please extend this newsletter to someone to encourage them.

HOUSEKEEPING: Books are available for worship – to avoid multiple people handling them they will remain in the back of the pews. The Common Cup is available for our Communion Worship. **Intinction is not allowed** and we continue to offer individual cups for those who do not wish to use the Common Cup.

Masks: There is no requirement to wear a mask to attend church but you are invited to wear a mask to reduce community risk.

Hand Sanitizing: COVID and Flu remain active – please sanitize your hands and be mindful of each other's space.

BBECET PRAYER MEETING: Monday 13 February in the Anglican Hall at 5pm. All welcome to come and pray for our schools ministry.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Friday 3 March from 10am at the Salvation Army.

LEAVE: Doug and Julie will be on leave 19 -25 February, Bishop Ian is taking the 19 February Sunday service.

CHURCH BUS: Our 2023 budget will forecast a deficit based on our income and expenses from 2022. As part of our 2023 budget to reduce costs this week we have transferred the church bus to City Church Batemans Bay and it will continue in life serving their growing group youth. The bus is 17 years old and the cost of ownership had become significant for an asset that we were no longer using.

NEW BADGE DESIGN: Our name badges have had a change in font size and size in general, plus it has the Church logo that is on the newsletter. You may upgrade if you wish, by going to BB Trophies, but you don't have to. Though if you need a replacement it will be the new one.



LENT STUDIES: Lent commences with Ash Wednesday on 22 February. As usual I encourage us all to participate in some intentional bible study for Lent. One option will be the Anglican Board of Mission Study "The Imaginary Doorway." Bishop George has kindly offered to facilitate this study, please let the office know if you would like to participate in it a taste of what it offers can be seen at: <https://www.abmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/The-Imaginary-Doorway-Sample-studies-36-pdf.pdf>

Doug will also provide a parish Lent study meeting together at church on Thursday evenings from 28 February – 30 March and it will also be available via the newsletter for groups that use that as a study aid. On Maundy Thursday 6 April there will be a shared meal and foot washing service in the Hall at 6.30pm.

ASH WEDNESDAY: A service of Holy Communion with imposition of ashes will be held at 10am on Wednesday 2nd April.

PRAYERS AND PRAISE:

- Birthday blessings and wishes to Dennis Burt who turned 75 this week.
- BBECET Prayer points:
 - Pray for the four schools that we are involved with through SRE and lunchtime groups. They are: Bay Primary Sunshine Bay Primary Mogo Primary Bay High
 - Scripture resumes this week, pray for the students, teachers and families.
 - We pray a blessing on each of the schools, students, teachers and families as students have returned for Term 1. Pray for a loving outreach to each student and teacher. Praise God for the faithful group of volunteers doing SRE work in the Bay Primary schools. Give thanks that we are providing SRE in these schools.
 - Pray for Cassia as she coordinates the Primary SRE ministry and negotiates with schools and supports the team. Pray for Cassia, Michele, Paula, Cameron, Gayleane, Ian, Chris, Glen, Jo, Ruth and Mick. Pray for more volunteers to step forward so we can cover more classes and have more backups.
 - Pray for Cassia as she provides SRE for children who are doing home schooling. Pray that this vital ministry will develop.
 - Continue to pray for SRE in Bay High in 2023. Give thanks to God that Cameron is working on Wednesday on the school timetable. Pray for the new year 7 students as they begin high school. Pray also for his involvement in a breakfast club at the school and that good relationships can be forged. Pray also that a lunchtime group can start this year.
 - Pray for the BBECET Board as they support and encourage the SRE work in the Bay. Give thanks for the wonderful prayer and financial support of churches and individuals so that this important SRE work can

continue and expand in our schools. Pray for the BBECET Lunch that will be held on 29th April to promote and understand the work of SRE and Chaplains.

- The Hope Project is all about Good News for young people. At the heart of Hope Project is our desire for every Year 12 student and all young people to know they are loved, valued and given a hope-filled future by Jesus! Become a prayer partner with an HSC student as they navigate exams and what lies beyond.
- Praise that ACTIVE Youth meets weekly on Thursday afternoons at Hanging Rock Function Centre Please pray for Mogo SUPA Club to keep reaching children in the Mogo community.
- Praise for the great work done during Summer Beach Missions on the South Coast at Huskisson, Conjola, Lake Tabourie, Bawley Point and Kioloa.
- Thank God for the ONE Music Festival that was held last November and the impact on those who attended.
- Continuing prayers for those going through tough times and illnesses.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER: For support ring Elizabeth Dean 44724330.

LONG TERM PRAYER REQUESTS: Please take time to read our prayer list and ask God for one or two people on it to pray for, not necessarily people you know: Phillipa Shepherd, Veronica Newson, Judy Charman, Dora Coma, Michael Kovacs, Harry Lewis, Ian Oliver, Wendy and Chris Berger, Jay Stewart, Helen Plumb, Marina Vander-Burgh, Keith Sutherland, Iain Ritchie, Rodney Hay, Susan Dean, Robin Hay, Noreen Ralston-Birchall, Ian Overy, Rebecca Coughran, Bob Day, Rachel Harding, Tony Hughes, Jason King, Annette Stewart, Jess Hughes, Judy Stewart, Tommy King, Debbie.

Bible Study Answers: Matthew 5: 21-30. Jesus equates anger to murder (the word for murder is the same as used in Exodus 20:13). **How does Jesus describe anger and its impact on our relationships with each other and with God (our worship) ?** Exodus 20 is the 10 Commandments and Jesus is using those commandments as examples to clarify how he sees the Kingdom of God and our experience of being in that Kingdom changing his disciples. Being in the Kingdom is to bring forth in them the attitudes expressed in the Beatitudes which they, like salt and light are to exhibit as change agents in their communities. Jesus is saying it is not enough that we refrain from physical acts of sin e.g. actual murder but that instead we need to deal with and eliminate the internal attitudes that lead to the physical act i.e. anger leads to murder, lust leads to adultery, and eye for an eye, known as the law of proportional retaliation, leads to violence begetting violence but meekness and loving service disarm violence. Anger separates us from each other and breaks our relationship and when it results in shed blood (think Cain and Abel and the ground crying out (Exodus 4: 8 -16)). Such tit for tat episodes of violence can escalate and become entrenched as a generational curse (think Kosovo). When we cannot love our neighbours as ourselves our capacity to genuinely love God, worship him and receive all that his love offers is impoverished.

How can we act to facilitate reconciliation? True efforts for reconciliation require us to act first. We act from the nature of God; I have salvation because God first loved me and first called me... Reconciliation requires our initiation and often this needs us to forgive the other before we can start the conversation about repairing what is broken between us. Forgiveness does not mean that we condone the offence or forget it but rather that with compassion, mercy and self-giving love we choose to place the value of the relationship above the cost and the pain that it has caused. We trust God to carry our pain and disappointment and to heal us. Reconciliation protects us from growing a root of bitterness towards the other person and from the brokenness between us infecting and impacting our other relationships or even the following generations that fight with each other long after the original cause of the argument is forgotten (think the famous feud between the Hatfield's and McCoy's).

If you have unreconciled relationships, pause and commit them again to God's care in prayer.

What is lust and what does the metaphorical discussion of the eye have to do with Jesus teaching on lust and the sin of adultery? Lust is our strong desire to possess something that we do not own for the purpose of self-gratification. When the object of our lust is another person, lust sees them as just an object and not a person and what we desire is a fantasy not a reality. Exercising out lust does not satisfy but can cause great pain and loss in our relationships especially when it violates the bonds of marriage. It not only objectifies the person we lust after but devalues the person we have committed to cherish, honour and love leading to adultery and divorce. Again Jesus is pointing out, using a very graphic metaphor, that the physical act has its beginnings in an undisciplined and self-indulgent attitude. It is not wrong for the eye to see a beautiful person and the mind to acknowledge that they are attractive -we are all designed for this to happen. Where the eye fails (in this text) is when it returns, stares and then contemplates the consumption of our object of lust - this is what Jesus is talking about when he says it is better not to see, he understands how powerful our attitudes for self-service are.

To finish off our time in Matthew 5; please read Matthew 5: 43 -48 - this is key to internal attitudes, Jesus is not just declaring the two great commandments on love but challenging us to extend them as God does for us – love your enemies as well.

Sunday 12 February – Love your enemies!

The season of Epiphany draws to a close this week and we finish our time in the Sermon on the Mount. We will celebrate the Feast of Transfiguration on next Sunday, 19 February before Lent commences with Ash Wednesday on 22 February .

Traditional: O Let the Son <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cc0QVWzCv9k>

Contemporary: Love Has A Name https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgfVCAPFdfY&ab_channel=PraiseAndWorship777

Read. Matthew 5:21- 24, 43- 48 . ²¹“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ ²²But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell. ²³“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Thoughts: Jesus continues his sermon on the mount by indicating that he has come to fulfill the law, not set it aside. His disciples are to live by the law but not as a set of external observable rules but obeying and demonstrating the intent of the law out of transformed hearts and attitudes – and internal and spiritual change that witnesses to God and the presence of God’s Kingdom. The first example looks at the commandment Thou shall not murder and extends it to address the underlying heart attitude of anger that leads to violence. Last week’s sermon spoke a lot about anger and lack of hope leading to wanton violence and that we cannot resolve the violence with more and stronger violence but only in the longer term by addressing the issue of hope. With real hope for the future, anger dissipates and violence should no longer manifest as a primary means of communication. The current circumstances in our nation and community are genuinely dangerous with real people at risk that need immediate safety and security responses but if no action is taken to give real hope circumstances will not change and indeed are likely to continue to degenerate. Jesus extends the Two Great Commandments – here he says Love your Enemies!! This is not intuitive but it is what God has done for each one of us, God’s love and God’s presence casts out fear and enables us to love and love raises hope.

Reflection: I Stand Amazed https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCJ_wn37PtY

Prayers: Living God, giver of life to all people: hear our prayer for peace amongst the nations and especially for ending of conflict in Ukraine. Grant peace in the midst of war and bring harmony to the nations. We ask that you pour out your Holy Spirit and inspire in us hope that peace will be renewed. Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer. We pray for the earthquake situation in Turkey and Syria with more than 5,000 deaths so far. We ask for strength and resilience for the rescue workers and comfort for all who mourn.

Father of us all; we continue to pray for the dire circumstances visible to us in Alice Springs, but also manifest in our own communities. The intercessors in Alice Springs ask that we pray for:

- For God to give the young people a purpose and a hope in life.
- For wisdom for all those making decisions.
- For consultations to include local Indigenous People and Organisations.
- That what has been happening will not result in the hardening of hearts.
- For Christians to commit to long-term praying and to be sensitive to the prompting of the Spirit as to what He wants them to do and to pray.
- For a spirit of peace to reign in the towns at night and for a spirit of hope to be restored in the community.
- Giving thanks for the community gatherings seeking local solutions to local problems

Please continue to pray for safety, wisdom and a desire for learning for the staff, teachers and students of our local schools as they settle into 2023. May our schools become communities of hope.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Traditional: Food for the Journey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwbXgOkWvKO>

Contemporary: 10000 Reasons https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRIOE&ab_channel=GloryToFatherGod

Blessing: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His peace and may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Savior: and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon us, and remain with you always. **Shalom**

Bible Study: Read Matthew 17: 1 -13. This gives us an amazing vision of Jesus in all his glory. However, to place it in the context of how the disciples experienced it, how does this passage address the confession and objection raised by Peter in Matthew 16: 13 -28?

What might be the significance of the appearance of Moses and Elijah in this event?

Why does Jesus tell the disciples not to talk about this experience?

A Valentine Message

God's Valentine gift for us wasn't chocolates or flowers.

It wasn't a restaurant date, to show love for years or hours.

His gift was His only Son, who would die for our Sin!

The ultimate sacrificial gift, so our life could be reborn again.

He gave us salvation and good true instruction,

Told us to love our friends and enemies, thus avoiding our own spiritual destruction.

So as we celebrate Valentine's Day, lets thank God who made the way!

The reason we have love to give, is that He gave everything for us to live.

By His love and grace, we will run a much better race.

Love one another, always and true. Just like God does with you.

