



Community News
26 February 2023
First Sunday in Lent



"But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Matthew 4:4 (KJV)

Church Services

Sunday:

8am Holy Communion

9.25am 2EARFM

10am Holy Communion

6.30pm Prayer and Praise

Readings:

Psalm 32

Colossians 1:1-14

Matthew 4:1-11

Readings

Monday: Psalm 19:7-14; Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday: Psalm 34:11-18; Matthew 6:7-15

Wednesday: Psalm 51:6-19; Luke 11:29-32

Thursday: Psalm 138:1-3; Matthew 7:7-12

Friday: Psalm 130; Matthew 5:20-26

Saturday: Psalm 119:1-8; Matthew 5:43-48

Sunday: Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-17;

John 3:1-17

O Lord, who for our sake fasted forty days and forty nights: give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the spirit, we may ever obey your godly will in righteousness and true holiness; to your honour and glory, who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

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PHONE: 44725822 (Thursday and Friday) or contact Doug on 0428 907200.

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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WEBSITE: <https://www.anglicanchurchbbay.org.au/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/batemansbayanglican/>

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.

OUTREACH SEMINAR. On Saturday 11 March 10am – 2.30pm in the church hall. This is a Combined Churches free event led by Roy Barton, the Director of Mission for the Christian Missionary Alliance church in Australia. It will help us to start conversations that lead to faith questions and answers. Lunch is provided, please register with the office to facilitate catering.

LENT STUDIES. Bishop George - Wednesday 1 March at 10am in the church.

Doug - Thursday 2 March at 6.30pm in the church.

Maundy Thursday 6 April there will be a shared meal and foot washing service in the Hall at 6.30pm.

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

INKY INSPIRATIONS GARDEN WORKSHOP: With Ruth Halverson (from 10am service), on the 4th of March, 12pm to 3pm, at the Eurobodalla Botanical Gardens. An afternoon of creating your own unique artwork in a lovely garden setting, everything will be included with afternoon tea as well. Cost: \$95. You can book through ruthsworldofcolours.com.au Contact Ruth on 0437390933 if you want more information.

PRAYERS AND PRAISE:

- Congratulations to Ian Overy on turning 55 this week.
- Congratulations to Ian and Gayleane Overy on their 10th wedding anniversary this week.
- Continue to pray for Turkey, Syria, and New Zealand as they clean up and face aftershocks.
- 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.

Bible Study Answers: Colossians 1: 1-14. Growing in Christian life is about understanding and being reliant on what God has done for us in Christ. **When you pray what are the things that you give thanks for or pray for the most commonly?** For God to take away pain, suffering and fear or physically heal a friend or someone asking for prayer. Mostly I pray for the obvious immediate needs of the people around me. I also often pray for individuals to receive God's blessing. Sometimes I pray with people to help them forgive others and find freedom in Christ. Nothing wrong with this but mostly these are safe and very limited prayers. They seek a very specific and well bounded answer from God – they do not invite him to paint at will on a broad vista. Where is Paul's prayer focused?

What does Paul give thanks for and then what does he pray for? Paul gives thanks to God for the faith of the people in the church and the fruit that springs from their hearing the gospel. He prays that the church might grow a deeper and more active faith and witness to God; specifically that God would fill them with all spiritual knowledge and wisdom (applied knowledge). Note – they do not attain this by diligent study and application (as important as this is) but by seeking after God and receiving this from him.

Why are these things he prays for important? The church at Colossae faced theological challenges as to what was required of members to be truly Christian. We are not told explicitly what this false extra teaching is but from Paul's teaching we can deduce that they were religious spirits requiring strict observance of rites and ceremonies (2: 11-17) and ascetic (non-joyful obedience) practices (2: 21- 23). Paul is praying that the church listen to God and derive all that it needs for authentic worship from Christ at not human traditions and practices, whether they come from the Jewish roots or prevailing Greek (Hellenist) culture that the Colossians lived amongst. We to face similar pressures to comply with culture and tradition. Our call is to seek God and let him do a new work in us – growing us in wisdom and knowledge.

How has God qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints? Through Christ and his death on the Cross and his resurrection. God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the son he loves; the son in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins.

Sunday 26 February – Fill us!

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter – that time of deep reflection on what God in Jesus has done for us. As we move towards that time let us reflect this year on the supremacy of Christ in all things, to gain a deeper knowledge and spiritual wisdom, and to think on what it is to live our lives solely committed to Jesus. We cannot truly love until we know we are loved by Jesus.

Traditional: Pentecost Prayer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dcBXtPI_dc

Contemporary: On That Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pF4qFdxD4kM>

Read. Colossians 1: 3-14. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. ⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Thoughts: What do we most often pray for? Often it is for the comparatively little things that are personal concerns of the moment or in response to big events and crises in the news. These are good things to pray for and God hears these prayers and he answers them blessing us as we look and see that God is indeed good and all loving. But could we pray big, bold, even frightening prayers; would God answer those and what might happen if he did? Some people have learnt to do this - asking God what they should pray and then praying for it with power, persistence and faithful expectation. Many have indeed prayed for God to move in our church and in our community in a big and visible way and I stand with them and say yes Lord, Maranatha, Come Lord Jesus, come and make us whole again. **Will you pray that the Anglican (and all other denominations) people are truly filled with the spiritual knowledge and wisdom of God and the manifest presence of his glory?** When God answers this prayer our job will be to set aside our agendas, our expectations that limit what God might do, to step back out of the way and let God do as God needs for us and this generation. Fill us, fill us again Lord.

Reflection: Almost Home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHwF5a9MSe4>

Prayers: God fill us with all spiritual wisdom and understanding that we may live a life worthy of the Lord, bear fruit and continually grow in the knowledge of God. Strengthen us with your Spirit that we may have great endurance, patience and know the joyful laughter of God. Let us laugh Lord.

Father; we lament the war in Ukraine now more than one year old. Send weather that will prevent a major seasonal escalation and thaw the relationships between nations that peace might come. Peace without you is not possible so raise up your people in prayer and love.

We ask Lord that you come to Batemans Bay and by your love redeem, revive and restore us again. Come Holy Spirit, come oh come and fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us a consuming fire of your great love. Flow forth from here like a mighty river flooding across this nation and bring it to new life in Christ.

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: Here is Love Vast as the Ocean <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZJmTVdDyLY>

Contemporary: How Deep the Father's Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLDGVI8D5UU>

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: Watch: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/colossians/>

Read Colossians 1: 15-23. We can be confident in Jesus because of who he is: the full and final Word who reveals God's character, authority and purpose in this world and who has saved us and reconciled us to God through the cross. **In what ways have you seen God bless you and answer your prayers recently?**

What images and roles (functions) does Paul attribute to Jesus in this passage?

What does Paul teach in this passage is happening through the cross.

What will a confident Christian look like according to Paul?

Share: What have you sensed God speak to you through your prayer and bible reading this week?

List the churches/ congregation meetings (hint – 10) in Batemans Bay, Nelligen and Mogo and pray as the Spirit leads you for each one of them.