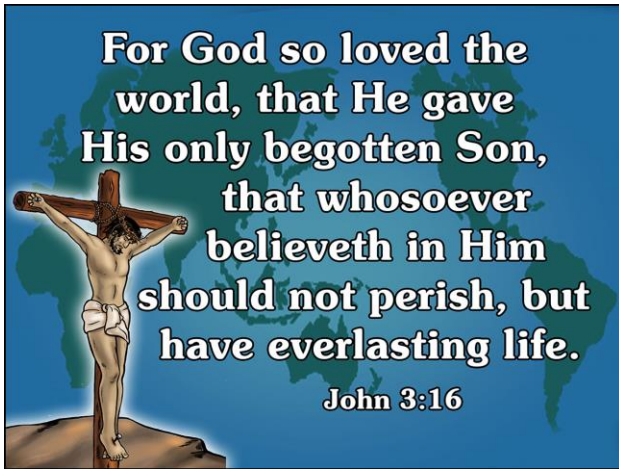




**Batemans Bay
Anglican**

**Community News
05 March 2023
Second Sunday in Lent**



**For God so loved the
world, that He gave
His only begotten Son,
that whosoever
believeth in Him
should not perish, but
have everlasting life.**

John 3:16

Church Services

Sunday:

8am Holy Communion

9.25am No Radio today.

10am Holy Communion

6.30pm Worship

Readings:

Psalm 121

Colossians 1:15-29

John 3:1-17

Readings

Monday: Psalm 79:8-13; Luke 6:36-38

Tuesday: Psalm 50:16-22; Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday: Psalm 31:1-5; Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday: Psalm 1; Luke 16:19-31

Friday: Psalm 105:16-22; Matthew 21:33-46

Saturday: Psalm 103:1-5; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11;

John 4:5-42

Remember, O Lord, what you have wrought in us and not what we deserve, and, as you have called us to your service, make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

EMAIL: anglicanbbay@gmail.com

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

CHAIR: Dennis Hughes 0410 915409

WARDENS: John Ulph 0411 242588 Liz Maidla 44781128 Tony Henderson 0422 099889

OFFICE: Gayleane Overy 0411 091125

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.

BBECET PRAYER MEETING: This Monday 6th March at 5pm in the Church Hall.

GLEAN: Will be meeting in The Bubble at the Soldiers Club on Wednesday 8th March at 1.30 as the church is being sprayed for pests on this day.

BCA BOXES: Please bring in your BCA boxes to the office for Robin.

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.

NELLIGEN COFFEE, BRING AND BUY: On 18 March 10 -12pm at Nelligen Church. Bring an item or cake/slice to donate and buy what takes your fancy. Funds support the maintenance of the Nelligen church. It is also a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the consecration of the church.

AGM: Notice is given that the Parish AGM will be held at 12pm in the hall after church on Sunday 19 March

NEW FRIDGE: The parish kitchen has a new fridge/freezer provided by a grant from SHASA to improve our capacity to be a disaster/ crisis support site. The old fridge has moved to the back corner of the hall as our second fridge and the fridge it replaced has gone to Hope House.

LENT STUDIES: Bishop George - Wednesday 1 March at 10am at the Botanic Gardens.

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

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

WELFARE CUPBOARD: Thank you to all who have donated to our welfare cupboard. Our cupboard has been used well over the past few weeks so if possible when shopping could you grab a few extra goods for the cupboard.

CREATIVE SOUL CONFERENCE: Southland Church – 14th and 15th April. Starting on 14th at 7pm and will finish on the 15th at 7pm. It is a weekend of Christian Artisans from around the region to honour and celebrate their creativity.

For more information and to register: <http://www.theolivetree.org.au/>

PRAYERS AND PRAISE:

- Continuing prayers for those going through tough times and illnesses.
- Congratulations Stephanie on becoming a Volunteer with Eurobodalla Palliative Care. We are sure she will be a blessing to those she visits.

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: 15-23. In what ways have you seen God bless you and answer your prayers recently? Parish Council on last Tuesday agreed we needed a Sound Bar to improve the sound from the TV in the hall for study groups using it. I was tasked with determining what sound system we would need. I have been praying that God would encourage us to trust him for our provision. This would be a significant Eighteen months ago I helped two young men travelling through town and needing car repairs to continue. One continued and one has stayed and got work here. Yesterday, young man who stayed but who is now leaving town saw me and he has donated a Sound Bar for the church. I was encouraged by a visible sign of how God moves.

What images and roles (functions) does Paul attribute to Jesus in this passage? Jesus reveals God to us, in Jesus the invisible becomes visible and the very nature of God is revealed to us. Jesus is God and was present and participated in the very act of creation. Jesus then came and entered into our world taking on flesh as one of us. Jesus is the bridge that connects the old creation order and the Law to the new creation initiated through his death and resurrection. Jesus is the prototype for the full authentic Christian life – his life shows us how to live and behave. He sets the model and way that we are to emulate and follow. Jesus is the first born from the dead and the head of the church.

What does Paul teach in this passage is happening through the cross. Jesus is the supreme ruler and king. At the cross all things (on earth and in heaven including all kings, rulers, spiritual powers and authorities) are subjugated to God and reconciled to God and the new creation is initiated. Our human rebellion against God is repaired and restored to order and we can again have full peace and friendship with God through Jesus.

What will a confident Christian look like according to Paul? A Christian confident in Christ will keep their faith and will live according to it. They will be steadfast and prepared to contend for what they believe is good and true of the gospel. They will require nothing to add to Jesus to have hope in God. They are confident that they are fully accepted by God and loved by him forever in eternity with Christ. They place Jesus at the centre of their lives and find their peace in his continuous presence.

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. Anglican in Batemans Bay and Nelligen; Roman Catholic; Uniting; Baptist; Presbyterian; Cross Central; City Church; Southland (Olive Tree); Salvation Army; Greek Orthodox; Boomerang Meeting Place (Yarning at 3pm on Sundays).

Sunday 5 March – Jesus is the centre!

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter and a deep reflection on the cross, the death and resurrection of Jesus and what it means for us to place Jesus at the centre of our lives. 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. Our gospel reading for today is the story of Nicodemus (John 3: 1 -17) which reminds us that to find true life we must be born again into Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Traditional: To God Be the Glory <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vbGFupxwu0>

Contemporary: God So Loved <https://youtu.be/SiyZEELi5QE>

Read. Colossians 1: 15-23. ¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. ²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

Thoughts: Paul encourages the church in Colossae to withstand the cultural pressures of living in a world filled with visible rulers (like corrupt religious leaders) and invisible powers (like deceptive spiritual beings). The church can withstand these pressures because it has been rescued to live in a new world, God's new creation. King Jesus rules this new creation by bringing God's invisible world to our tangible world. He rules with forgiveness, honour, and generosity. Jesus' new creation does not end in death. Jesus promises that those who trust in him survive the grave through resurrection with him. When we believe this, when we place Jesus at the very centre of our

experience and life then we need no longer fear the raging storm and changes of life; we no longer need to fight to win or survive—we can truly live to love others instead. Living this way with Jesus allows his new creation to become a visible and experienced reality on Earth as it is in Heaven, even in the midst of life's daily pressures and suffering.

Reflection: Christ the True and Better <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jcl6WSNVcHM>
Jesus Be the Centre <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pw6rlwmkV6E>

Prayers: Father, help us to place and keep Jesus at the very centre of our lives and all our decisions. Help us to pray first and then in response to God's prompting to act with love and compassion. Let us not be overwhelmed by the suffering and brokenness that you reveal to us in this world but rather let us pray with conviction and offer hope to all whom we see in need. We give thanks for miraculous healings in our community and restoration of health. We commend those who are dying in faith and their families to your peace and palpable presence in this hour of passing.

Almighty God; intervene in the hearts of those who make for war and still their internal fears, confront their naked ambition; narcissism and self-interest and heal them of broken humanity. May the war in Ukraine now more than one year old, move into to a season of resolution and restitution. Peace without you is not possible so raise up your people to prayer.

Generous and gracious giver to your people watch over your family in Batemans Bay; the Anglican church Batemans Bay and Nelligen; Roman Catholic; Uniting; Baptist; Presbyterian; Cross Central; City Church; Southland (Olive Tree); Salvation Army; Greek Orthodox; and Boomerang Meeting Place (Yarning at 3pm on Sundays). Provide for their needs and give them manna and living water for this year.

We pray also for those active in the mission of God; for Bush Church Aid and the Owen family serving in Cloncurry and for Mission Aviation Fellowship serving in northern Australia, PNG and the Pacific Islands.

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: Have Faith in God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBbrwRImEBk&ab_channel=PaulColeman

Contemporary: In Christ Alone <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZYpjBeM0To>

Blessing: The peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord, and may the blessing of God the father, God the son and God the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and forever. **Shalom**

An Autumn Blessing: As we change from Summer to Autumn we are changing too. I value everyone of you and send blessings and prayers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8loa1gVVeA>

Bible Study: These questions are taken from our parish Lenten Study. Booklets are available from the office if they would help your study. **Read Colossians 2: 1-7. Jesus is fully God and his victory on the cross is complete. Our calling is to grow deeper roots in Christ., to become more like him. What things might shake our confidence in Christ?**

What enables Paul to persevere, and even rejoice, in his suffering? What helps you persevere, or not?

Read: Colossians 2: 8-23. If we feel the need to add anything other than belief in Jesus death and resurrection to being fully Christian we compromise our faith. What dangers does Paul list? What other things might we be tempted to add today?

What three things are destroyed by Jesus on the cross?

What would you say to someone who says it is arrogant for a Christian to be confident that they are right with God?

What was the purpose of circumcision to the Jews and why is compliance to this not required (and neither are the food laws) by Christians ?

Go deeper - for your Consideration and Prayer.

O Lord, do not pass us by; let us in please! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0DgaQunmIU>

The mark of Christian love is humility. Any authentic move of God comes from and exhibits unity. Press in and be consistent and passionate in seeking God in prayer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvkpeJ-Xd1U>