



Community News
12 March 2023
Third Sunday in Lent

But whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

John 4:14



Church Services

Sunday:

8am Nelligen Holy Communion

8am Batemans Bay Holy Communion

9.25am 2EarFM.

10am Holy Communion

6.30pm Soaking

Readings:

Psalm 95 (Page 479)

Colossians 2:1-23 (Page 957)

John 4:5-42 (Page 864)

Readings

Monday: Psalm 43; Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday: Psalm 25:3-9; Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday: Psalm 147:12-20; Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday: Psalm 95:6-11; Luke 11:14-23

Friday: Psalm 81:13-16; Mark 12:28-34

Saturday: Psalm 51:10-17; Luke 18:9-14

Sunday: Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14;

John 9:1-41

Lord God, our Redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land; 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

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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.

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

SEMINAR TOMORROW. The seminar with Roy Barton tomorrow is in the Hall starting at 10am and finishing at 2.30pm. Lunch is provided.

NELLIGEN COFFEE, BRING AND BUY: On Saturday 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. We require additional and alternative members to represent the parish at Synod. These extra representatives will be elected at the AGM. If you would like to represent the Parish at Synod nomination forms are available in the office or contact Doug for more information or to nominate.

EASTER SERVICES:

Sunday 2 April Palm Sunday 8am Holy Communion; 10am March and Combined Church service in Korner's Park; 6.30pm Communion and Worship.

Maundy Thursday 6 April 6.30pm there will be a bring and share meal and hand or foot washing service in the Hall.

Good Friday 7 April 9am Service of prayer and reflection.

Sunday 9 April Easter: Batemans Bay 8am Holy Communion; 10am Holy Communion; 6.30pm Reflective Worship; Nelligen 8am Holy Communion; Mogo 3pm Yarning at Boomerang Meeting Place.

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.
- Give thanks for answered prayers and healing.
- Prayers for Rob and Joy Williams please as Rob has a 90% blockage in an artery and will be transferred to Sydney on Sunday for treatment next week.

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, Jonathon and Leticia.

Bible Study Answers: 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? Disappointment in leaders or the church e.g. after the Royal Commission into Child Abuse. Unrelieved or long term suffering. Unanswered prayer. Hard bible passages difficult to reconcile with cultural expectations. Modern heresies and attempts to see Jesus as only a good man e.g. Historical Jesus movement.

What enables Paul to persevere, and even rejoice, in his suffering? What helps you persevere, or not? Paul did not enjoy his suffering experiences but he trusted God in them and understood them as a part of his fully entering into Christ by sharing in Christ's earthly human experiences - his persecution and suffering gave him deeper insight into what Christ had done for him and at what cost.

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? Paul lists deceptive and hollow philosophies – a reference to the Greek way of rational thinking; human traditions – a reference to Jewish and Greek religious practices such as circumcision, food laws and festivals; and to worshipping elemental spirits other than God or in company with God e.g. Greek polytheism. The Colossians appeared to have tended to add these as extra conditions to faith and Christian behaviour.

Today we still face these basic areas of temptation to add to the simple gospel. Indeed our world is so enamoured of Greek thinking processes that through Modernism we have come to see human derived philosophies which are self-referential in authority as viable alternatives to God's authority which is an external reference authority for human life. Under Post Modernism this human ideology is manifesting as a new quasi-religion demanding unreflective obedience from all. We still see required adherence to human traditions in church life, it is somehow not okay to wear sandals or have bare feet in church although Jesus would have had bare feet at the last supper.

What three things are destroyed by Jesus on the cross? The cross defeats the power of Death (through the resurrection), the Law (Jesus fulfills it and takes away any role keeping religiously had in salvation) and all the spiritual powers and authorities that opposed God.

What would you say to someone who says it is arrogant for a Christian to be confident that they are right with God? Only those who have won a victory with their own strength and effort are arrogant. I know that I could not have attained salvation through my own efforts because I know who I am and therefore I am humble and thankful that God has saved me. I know that God is to be trusted and is capable of saving me and I have complete confidence Christ's ability to save. When Christians forget that it is through God's grace that they are saved and that it is God that provides for them they can start to believe that they have earned their rewards and are at risk of becoming arrogant and then behaving in a self-entitled and self-indulgent way. When such ministers crash they do enormous damage to the reputation of the church e.g. Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker and many others since.

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 ? Circumcision was an outward physical sign that the Jews had been set aside (marked out as to be different) by God from all the tribes they lived amongst. It was a sign that they followed God and by implication that the others did not. To become a Jewish follower of God required circumcision; it also required obedience to the Torah Law which set cultural and behavioural standards for the Jews intended to point them towards the worship of God. The Law cannot save it simply pointed to the need for a saviour, a messiah. Jesus has fulfilled the Law and has replaced circumcision as the sign of belonging with baptism in water and the spirit. Christians do not need to adhere to the Law to be Christian, however, the Law as God's word remains useful in providing guidance on how to live godly lives and avoid the sensual indulgences of the flesh that Paul leaves us pondering in verse 2:23.

Sunday 12 March – Set Free!

Through the cross Christ has set you free from bondage to sin and death and he calls you to live a full and free life. These are to be lives of continual change and growth in the knowledge and faith to follow Jesus wherever he calls you. You are made alive in Christ.

Traditional: I Sing the Almighty Power <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1oCJEPUZlk>

Contemporary: Goodness of God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-f4MUUMWVMV4>

Read. Colossians 2: 6 -15. ⁶ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self, ruled by the flesh, was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Thoughts: God in Christ has set us free, we are no longer slaves to this world. God invites you into the fulness of himself in Christ and requires nothing more of you than that you come to him with an open and contrite heart. You are a new creation so put off your old self and old ways, do not grumble about the world or your circumstances for that opens your heart to other spiritual authorities but remembering that Christ has exposed and disarmed those powers and authorities pray for God to change the environment and the circumstances you face. Remember that Christ is both the head and cornerstone of the church in whom all things come together.

Traditional: Come Thou Fount <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdT-Gr9hb2E>

Contemporary: Cornerstone <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvLxZEU02uI>

I am Who You Say I Am <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKw6uqtGFfo>

Prayers: Father, we thank you for the beauty of the Bay and the joys of living in this place. Keep our hearts open and conscious of all you are doing in our midst, that which is seen and that which is not yet revealed. May your kingdom come and grow in our midst. We give you thanks for your presence in our schools and ask that they increasingly become places of peace and sanctuary. Thank you for all who work in them to make this so. Thank you Lord for those who carry the gospel with shoes of peace into our community, who seek to be a blessing and to make your name known to others. We pray for Roy Barton as he teaches and encourages us to engage out neighbours and families with god focused conversations. We continue to ask that you restore hope and provide accommodation and health support for the men who are our guests at Hope House, in particular Lord help them to find the best way forward in their lives. We thank you for Simon and Angela Owen serving Cloncurry and pray that you will bless them and their children and all the families that have joined the church in Cloncurry. May the new families grow in their faith and those still seeking come to know Christ as Lord. Bless their Mums and Bub's and Mainly Music programs and also the work of Christian Education in their schools. We continue to cry out to you O Lord for those caught up in the war in Ukraine. Protect them from the intentional physical destruction of their land and infrastructure and awaken a deep hope in God to focus their prayers on finding an enduring peace.

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: Come Now Everlasting Spirit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jX0ipnoqVpE>

Contemporary: No Longer Slaves <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8TkUMJtK5k>

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**

Bible Study: These questions are taken from our parish Lenten Study. **Read Colossians 3: 1-17. Being in Christ is to change every aspect of our personal and communal lives and relationships. What does it mean to give up an old way of life; what images does Paul use?**

How are we to respond to the new life?

Who is the head of the church? How does passage envisage a church will look and behave? What are two key characteristics of the church?

What three ingredients of the healthy Christian life does Paul give? Why is gratitude important?

What is one of your favourite hymns or worship songs? Why does it resonate with you?

Cleaning House

I seen a post on Facebook of a friend cleaning/sorting out a cupboard, and it got me thinking (yes dangerous) that as we have just changed into another season maybe it is time for a spiritual cleaning! Pray to God to remove anything that isn't of Him and replace it with the Good of the Holy Spirit. Put on the Armour of God every morning before setting out and whatever comes your way Keep The Faith. Blessings and prayers to all.

