



Community News

28th January 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



Weekly Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

9.25am 2 EAR FM

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Deuteronomy 18:14-22 (Page 153)

Psalm 111 (Page 490)

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (Page 930)

Mark 1:21-28 (Page 812)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 89:19-27; Mark 3:22-30

Tuesday: Psalm 24:7-10; Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday: Psalm 89:19-27; Mark 4:1-20

Thursday: Psalm 132:13-18; Mark 4:21-25

Friday: Psalm 51:15-19; Mark 4:26-34

Saturday: Psalm 51:10-14; Mark 4:35-41

Sunday: Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13;

Mark 1:21-28

God of compassion, you have shown us in Christ that your love is never ending: enable us both to love you with all our heart and to love one another as Christ loved us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

CHURCH: The church office is open Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9am-1pm and Fridays 9am-3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Doug Newman 0428 907200 drnewman1956@gmail.com

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

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

ANGLICAN NEWS:

2024: Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

HOUSEKEEPING: Books are available for worship –they remain in the back of the pews. The Common Cup is available for our Communion Worship. We offer individual cups for those who do not wish to use the Common Cup.

HAND SANITISING: COVID and Flu– please sanitize your hands and be mindful of each other's space.

BBECET: Annual meeting on Monday 5th February 5pm in the Church Hall. Come and hear about 2023 and plans for 2024.

GLEAN: with the Lenten Study happening during February and March, Glean will be in recess until April.

KOLN CHAMBER PHILHARMONIE: A musical group from the Koln Philharmonic will perform concertos from Vivaldi, Mozart and Paganini at the church on Friday 9 February from 8pm. Bookings will be required. You can book here: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1153314> or come into the office and I can purchase tickets for you (credit card for this). You can pay on the night, but we are expecting to sell out and suggest getting in earlier rather than later. Tickets cost: General: \$45; Seniors, Pensioners, Handicapped: \$40; Children (4 to 16)/Students (16 to 25): \$35

LENTEN STUDY: Bishop Ian has identified a Lenten Study that the parish will undertake this year. It is hoped that all parish small groups will do the study and Bishop Ian and Doug will offer extra groups as well. The 5 session Study: Unanswered Prayer is an opportunity to prayerfully process some life's most painful questions, with 24-7 Prayer founder Pete Greig and co-host Gemma Hunt. Each session includes a video, a guide for small group discussion and practical ideas for prayer.

<https://unanswered.prayercourse.org/sessions/> The study is based on Pete Greig's book *God on Mute*, which explores the topics in the course in more detail. The study will commence the week of 19 February with training for group leaders on 9 February. If you are not in a small group but would like to do this study please put your name on the clipboard in the office.

Day	Time & Place	Leader	Comments
Monday		Rev K Foster	<i>Full</i>
Monday	7pm, Church Hall	Dennis Hughes/ Rev Tom Slockee	
Tuesday	11.30am	Jill Lambert	<i>Full</i>
Tuesday	4.30pm, Church Hall	Ian and Jill Lambert	
Wednesday	10.00am, Long Beach	Joan Dolstra	
Wednesday	6.30pm, Church Hall	Dennis Hughes/ Doug Newman	
Thursday	11.30am, Church Hall	Doug and Julie Newman	
Thursday			

CONGRATULATIONS:

- Glen Hancock turned 75 this week.
- Rev Ann and Dennis Burt on their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday 28th.

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

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, Dora Coma, Harry Lewis, Wendy and Chris Berger, Jay Stewart, Helen Plumb, Marina Vander-Burgh, Keith Sutherland, Iain Ritchie, Rodney Hay, Susan Dean, Robin Hay, Rebecca Coughran, Bob Day, Annette Stewart, Judy Stewart, Tommy King, Jonathon and Leticia, Lisa Brookes, Chris Black, Ruby Brown, Jane Wilkinson, Susan Bateman, Richard Austin, Eric Strachan, John Wilkinson, Marjorie Duns, Ken Ormston, Katrina Nicolls, Kerry-Lee Smith, Judy Charman and Jane, Amanda Lloyd.

Bible Study: Read 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13. In Paul's time what were idols and why was this an important issue in Corinth, anywhere with a Greek culture? The Greeks worshipped a pantheon of gods, all with their own temples and represented by idols. There was a "god" for all aspects of life and one had to be careful not to offend them by forgetting to worship the correct god for the issue.

Verse 4 – 8 seems to imply that idols represent little "gods" that do not exist or have no real power.

What do you think? As Paul teaches there is in reality only one God – the little gods are all representations of that true God's created order. There are no other gods in the cosmic order - but there are other supernatural entities responsive to Satan that we refer to as demons. The idols as inanimate objects have no actual power, but they can be used by demons as places of residence – the demons love the worship and will manifest themselves amongst the vulnerable (weak) people who worship at the idols.

Read 1 Corinthians 10: 14 -22. How does Paul's comparison of eating food offered to idols and participating in the Lord's supper change or validate your thoughts above? Do those who eat food sacrificed to idols vicariously participate in the idol worship? What does Paul say gives power to the idols? Paul points to the Jewish participation in the Temple sacrifice and worship of God, to the Christian participation of worship of Christ in the Lord's Supper and concludes that those who knowingly eat food offered to idols and who have a weak or immature faith are at risk of encountering the demonic power often behind the idol or attached to it.

So what ? In Australia we do not often find food sacrificed to idols so why bother with this passage? Consider, as Paul was, what the relevance was for new converts from an alien Greek culture and think perhaps on those who come to faith here who came from other countries and cultures. Consider what issues there might be for us as we travel to India and Asia in particular on holidays? In the face of this teaching what gives us ultimate hope in what Paul teaches? Our multicultural society will increasingly bring issues like this to life again and we will need to consider carefully how we respond as leaders with a strong faith and what that says to others of less mature faith. Our hope is in the certitude that Christ has conquered death and the kingdom of the Demonic and as Paul says there is only one God!

Sunday 28 January – Avoiding idols!

Traditional: Give Thanks https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2inhx3kytGQ&list=PL-Wo7lu6CksuTKdkFbx68JxCo0xmTG81A&index=58&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches

Contemporary: Great Southland [The Great Southland \(with lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2inhx3kytGQ&list=PL-Wo7lu6CksuTKdkFbx68JxCo0xmTG81A&index=58&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches)

Reading: 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13. Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ² Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³ But whoever loves God is known by God. ⁴ So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. ⁷ But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸ But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. ⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

Thoughts. Paul lectures the Corinthians on holy living and worship, teaching them specifically about the challenges of idols in the culture that they lived in. See also his observations in 1 Corinthians 10: 20 about pagan worship as this will help you reflect on the passage for today. In the first passage (above verse 4 & 5) Paul attributes no real power to the actual idol because his intent here is to focus on the behaviour of those stronger in their faith and to show them that they should not use their strength and rights to cause issues for those who are weaker in the faith and who might be defiled by the experience of eating food offered to

idols. In chapter 10 Paul specifically reminds the Corinthians that idol worship has been a historical weakness and sin of the Jewish people. He reminds the Corinthians that there is spiritual power in all worship - he points to the Lord's supper as a form of powerful worship and he reminds them that while the physical idols have no intrinsic power the power that they represent, and what is actually being worshipped through them, is demonic in nature. He suggests they not participate in or acquiesce to the worship of other "gods" by knowingly eating the food offered to idols. So what, we don't have any idols in Australia do we? Well we do. At a spiritual gathering that I convened in Canberra Ken Fish the primary speaker related the impact of teaching on this subject in a recent visit he had made to Asia – we ended up praying for several people present who had a similar cultural background and who had been bought up with a strong tradition of ancestor worship and we saw them powerfully set free.

Paul recognised that all worship takes place in a cultural context. We have been used for many centuries to that cultural context (in Western civilizations) being friendly and supportive, or at least benign, in respect to our faith and worship. Such a position is no longer true and not only does the emerging culture of the 21st century disparage our faith but it actively seeks to deconstruct the culture that was built from generations of praxis of the faith in Christ. This emergent culture behaves almost as a new and fundamentalist "faith" and is raising up idols just as Nebuchadnezzar did. Idols that reflect this new "faiths" understanding of how the world should be re-ordered. This is an issue that is coming around again in modern garb. But remember as Jesus said in John 16: 33 be at peace and have courage for I have overcome the world. The great and powerful love of God as expressed in his son has overcome the idols of this world, no matter how many times they seem to resurrect themselves and seek to divide and dismember God's church and scatter his people.

Traditional: Here is Love [Here is Love Welsh & English Original Lyric Video HD by Worship 4 You \(youtube.com\)](#)

Prayers: Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may we, your people, led by your word and sustained by your sacraments, shine with Christ's glory in this world; that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed in this community and to the ends of the earth. We thank you for our freedom to worship and sing your praises in this land. We ask that you heal and restore the brokenness of our land and remind us of your call to us to be a holy people. Grant it that unity which only your Spirit can give, keep us in the bond of peace, renew in us your spirit and fill us with compassion, one for another. Gracious God, we thank you for this land and this community, in which you have called us to live; for its great contrasts of landscape and climate, for its fires, droughts and flooding rains that build our national character, and for its abundance of wealth and opportunity. We thank you that you have promised that this is the land of your great Spirit. We bless you for our shared history, with all its struggles in adversity, with its courage and hope and we acknowledge that we have not always treated each other with the generosity, compassion and love that you call each one of us to. We pray that your Holy Spirit would move afresh across this land from ocean to ocean, from East to West and back again bringing revival and reconciling us to you and to one another as we ask for forgiveness and redemption through Christ our saviour. In Christ alone can we be one. Please forgive Australia for our greed, our worship of money, possessions, comfort and happiness, and our worship of cultural and material idols to the neglect of you, your Son, and your salvation. Please reform and revive your churches, that we may be a shining light for our nation, may serve your will for this country, and may bring many to saving faith in Christ. We thank you for our indigenous Christian brothers and sisters, and pray that they would continue to be raised up in faith, love and hope. Please raise up a new generation of Christian leaders for all our communities and churches, and prosper their work and ministry.

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

Contemporary: Blessing Australia [THE BLESSING AUSTRALIA - Churches UNITE to sing The Blessing over Australia \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THE_BLESSING_AUSTRALIA)

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: Read Mark 1: 14 -45. The Kingdom of God is near! This passage introduces Jesus earthly ministry and the idea of the Kingdom of God. Summarize the passage in about 10 dot points – what strikes you about Marks focus on the start of Jesus ministry? Where does Jesus commence his ministry and what is Jesus initial pattern of ministry? Discuss. For extra depth look also for similarities in Luke 5: 1-27 and Matthew 4: 18 -25.

Is all sickness caused by demon activity? Does Mark distinguish between illness and demonic activity?

Why might Jesus command the demons he casts out to be quiet? What is the impact on his ministry of this deliverance activity?

Jesus healing of Simon's mother-in-law seems to us unimpressive in comparison to the other healings in the passage. What might the significance of this act be such that Mark chooses to include it here? Hint – see also Deuteronomy 28:22 and Leviticus 26:16 for Old Testament perspective on fevers.

What is the role and importance of prayer in this passage?



We are a united nation, living by the grace of God.