



Community News

4 February 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

*But Those Who Hope In The Lord
Will Renew Their Strength.
They Will Soar On The Wings Like Eagles;*



*They Will Run And Not Grow Weary,
They Will Walk And Not Be Faint.
Isaiah 40:31*

Douglas

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:

Isaiah 40:21-31 (Page 582)

Psalms 147:1-11 (Page 507)

Mark 1:29-39 (Page 813)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 132:7-11; Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday: Psalm 84:1-4; Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday: Psalm 37:35-40; Mark 7:14-23

Thursday: Psalm 106:32-39; Mark 7:24-30

Friday: Psalm 81:10-16; Mark 7:31-37

Saturday: Psalm 106:20-24; Mark 8:1-10

Sunday: Psalm 30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27;

Mark 1:40-45

Saving God, whose Son, Jesus Christ, healed the sick and brought them wholeness of body and mind: inspire us, his disciples, so that we may constantly proclaim his gospel by our words and by the dedication and integrity of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

EMAIL: anglicanbbay@gmail.com

PHONE: 44725822 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 Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9am-1pm and Fridays 9am-3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

RECTOR: Doug Newman 0428 907200 dnewman1956@gmail.com

CHAIR: Dennis Hughes 0410915409

WARDENS: John Ulph 0411242588 Liz Maidla 44781128 Tony Henderson 0422099889

OFFICE: Gayleane Overy 0411091125

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

BBECET: Annual meeting on Monday 5 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

LENT: The Ash Wednesday Holy Communion service will be at 10am on Wednesday 14 February.

LENTEN STUDY:

The study will commence the week of 19 February with training for group leaders on 9 February. If you would like to do this study please put your name on the clipboard in the office or email anglicanbbay@gmail.com. Places are available on:

Day	Time & Place	Leader
Monday	7pm, Church Hall	Dennis Hughes/ Rev Tom Slockee
Tuesday	4.30pm, Church Hall	Ian and Jill Lambert
Wednesday	6.30pm, Church Hall	Dennis Hughes/ Doug Newman
Thursday	11.30am, Church Hall	Doug and Julie Newman
Thursday	6.30pm John and Yvonne Hoggans Surfside	Doug and Julie Newman

WORLD PRAYER DAY: "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love" Ephesians 4:1-3. 1st March at the Uniting Church at 10am.

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, Jane & Amanda Lloyd.

Bible Study: Read Mark 1: 14 -45. 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 Mark's focus on the start of Jesus ministry? Where does Jesus commence his ministry and what is Jesus initial pattern of ministry? This long passage covering several weeks of gospel readings looks at the period at the start of Jesus ministry between his calling of the first disciples and his calling of Levi (better known as Matthew) in the second group of disciples called. In these passages Mark gives important insight into Jesus call and his ministry to inaugurate the Kingdom of God on earth. This initial activity occurs in the Galilee region and involves Jesus teaching – with greater authority than the scribes and Pharisees, healing many sick people and casting out demons – demons that give verbal witness to Jesus divine nature. The passage

can be summarized as: Jesus teaches in the Synagogue, he teaches with authority, he casts out demons/unclean spirits, the spirits declare him to be the Holy one of God, He heals Simon's mother-in-law of a fever, she immediately serves, he can distinguish between the sick and the demon-possessed, Jesus needs to pray and seeks solitude to do so, Jesus cleanses the leper, and his fame begins to grow. The Kingdom of God grows and expands when – the gospel is taught with conviction and authority and when it is accompanied by physical and spiritual healing. Prayer is necessary in this activity.

Is all sickness caused by demon activity? Does Mark distinguish between illness and demonic activity? No, clearly Mark and the people of his time can distinguish between what are natural illnesses and what are manifestations of spiritual malaise. We cannot say they were talking about mental health issues and calling them demons out of ignorance. This means that we must consider the issues of spiritual as well as emotional and physical healing today.

Why might Jesus command the demons he casts out to be quiet? What is the impact on his ministry of this deliverance activity? Mark uses the first demon to be cast out to proclaim Jesus true identity and nature. Jesus commands their silence because he does not want focus on the healings but on his call and message, however, the very powerful witness of this deliverance activity shows the people that he has power to heal that is beyond the usual human experience. It draws the crowds to him and very soon he will have gathered them in such numbers that he can begin to teach about the Kingdom as well as demonstrating it.

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. To our modern understanding this is a most unimpressive healing for the first healing in Mark's gospel that specifically identifies the person being healed. It is important to Mark and his readers and therefore we should dig deeper. It could just be important that this is Simon's mother-in-law and Mark might be showing that Jesus looked after his disciples and their families first – that would defy all the evidence of reading the whole of Mark's gospel as the opposite is true – disciples are called to give to willingly be the least. The Leviticus reading is perhaps easiest to understand but the essence is that the Old Testament Jewish teaching about fevers (when the body feels hot as though something else is also in it and the fever drains away energy and life) that say that fevers are in fact a curse/punishment from God for disobedience and failure to accept his redemption from slavery and to follow God. This by how Mark has ordered his account is the most significant issue that people need healing from - and when they are set free of this they will gladly want to serve God.

What is the role and importance of prayer in this passage? As Jesus ministers he needs solitude and prayer to recharge and to stay focused on what God is calling him to do. He seeks a quiet place and he receives direction as to when and where to go to minister.

Sunday 1 February – A Healing Kingdom!

Traditional: Dear Lord [Dear Lord and Father of Mankind \(Tune: Repton - 5vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

Contemporary: You Never Let Go [You Never Let Go - Matt Redman \(with lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

Reading: Mark 1: 29-39. ²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue (in Capernaum), they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. ³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. ³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" ³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and driving out demons.

Thoughts. The Kingdom of God breaks forth in the midst of the people and is revealed as those who come to Jesus are healed and set free. True healing starts with restoration of relationship with God through Jesus ministry and healing of the physical body and release from bondage to evil follows/ is concurrent with and consequential of salvation. Jesus need regular solitude and deep prayer to sustain his ministry and relationships – we also need to make space to pray.

Prayers: Almighty God, we praise you for the many blessings you have given to those who worship you in this house of prayer: and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you, and, being filled with the Holy Spirit, may be infectious ambassadors of your Kingdom. God, you have shown us in Christ that your love is never ending, enable us to love you with all our heart and to love one another as Christ loved us.

We pray for the churches in the Bay, their ministry and their leaders as they look to 2024. We especially pray for Captain Karen Harrison as she assumes leadership at the local Salvation Army Corps. Welcome Karen and may God bless and empower your ministry amongst us.

We pray for God to call and raise up people and new ministries in our church and community.

Pray that God will lead us into a new season of worship and give us a deeper understanding of what it is to praise God in all things and worship him alone.

We pray for all teachers, students and families returning to school, for the SRE program this year and for the BBECET AGM this coming Monday. We pray for God's provision for BBECET and this significant ministry for 2024.

We continue to pray for all those who are battling illness in our congregation and those known to us, especially Alan and Elizabeth Dean. Healing God, keep us under the shadow of your wings, in times of uncertainty and stress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low: that together we may rejoice in your mercy and comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from Christ's love.

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: I Have Carried You [Eagle's Wings by Frank Andersen \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Contemporary: Eagles Wings [Hillsong - Eagles Wings with lyrics \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

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 1 Corinthians 9: 8 - 27. What does Paul see his commission and responsibility as? What is the most significant barrier to sharing the good news that Paul is talking about (19 -23)? What is his strategy for overcoming these barriers?

What does Paul say is the churches responsibility with respect to his ministry to them? These are his rights under Jewish/ Old Testament teaching but what does Paul choose to do with respect to these rights?

How does Paul say disciples should live that they might receive an imperishable wreath?