



Community News

25 February 2024

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

Mark 8:34

Weekly Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Prayer and Praise

9.25am 2 EAR FM

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Psalm 22:24-32 (Page 434)

Romans 4:13-25 (Page 916)

Luke 18:9-14 (Page 853)

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 19; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22

God of all times and places, in Jesus Christ, who was lifted up on the cross, you opened for us the path to eternal life: grant that we, being born again of water and the Spirit, may joyfully serve you in newness of life and faithfully walk in your holy ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of 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 drnewman1956@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/batemansbayangican/>

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.

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

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

BCA BOXES: Please bring in your boxes for Robin in March, by Friday the 22nd please.

BBECET: Prayer meeting will be held on Monday 4th March at 5pm in the hall. A word of thanks, from our recent financial appeal callout we exceeded our needs, thanks to individual and church donations. We appreciate the \$2000 given by the Anglican Church. John Hoggan.

PASTORAL CARE & PRAYER: Many people contribute to Pastoral Care and Prayer throughout the parish, including our Nursing Home visiting and importantly our Church E-Prayers (email list). People also assist with praying for people after the 10am service. Elizabeth Dean graciously allows people to phone her with prayer requests which can then be passed on as necessary. If you would like to know more about this important ministry or to join with us in it, please let Gayleane know or speak to Doug.

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: Luke 18: 9-14 Which of the Tax Collector and the Pharisee do you relate to? Is it harsh how Jesus portrays the Pharisee? Why is the Tax collector's prayer considered righteous? At times I can be either of them. I am not immune from feeling self-righteous and thinking if others just changed their habits and practices they would get a better outcome. It is not hard to put on your uniform and adopt a game face and say all the right words and do all the right actions for a particular event, some funerals come easily to mind as does preaching as a student at St Marks. The Pharisees in this story are treated harshly not for their prayers that were probably very articulate and correctly formed but for their superior attitude to others and lack of understanding of the worth of the Tax Collector to God. They condemn themselves, they do not believe that they need God. The Tax Collector acknowledges his absolute incapacity to save himself and his dire need of God – and God responds! God hears all prayers and I believe that God responds to all – it just feels to us from our human understanding that sometimes God is not responding in the timeframe we want or in the way that we expect or desire – it is mystery.

'Grace grows best in winter' (Samuel Rutherford) - Harsh winters are often the seasons in which we mature and become more fruitful. **When have you experienced a 'winter season' in your relationship with God? How did it affect your faith?** The Unanswered Prayer course invited us to an immediate deep dive into winter experiences – but remember not everyone will be comfortable with sharing deeply on emotional and personal events – and no one has to, except the pastor -we are permission givers. I have several winter seasons but the one that best addresses this question is the story of our third son James. James was born on 2 March 1987 with severe Cerebral Palsy and died on 26 February 2006 having shown no physical or mental improvement in human terms in his life. James suffered all his life with epilepsy – so it is not hard to empathise with Peter as he shares in the course. At first it was just a devastating winter of lost expectations and constant exhaustion but no prayer - but then two years in I met God in a powerful way and came to faith and was baptised into the church - I saw others getting their prayers answered – some in very specific and powerful ways - were my prayers not worthy of God's

attention. I knew how the tax collector felt and felt much the same much of the time - was I such a sinner that my prayers were not worthy of God's attention? That is an absolute heresy that many immature Christians experience – God hears all prayer and God responds to prayers; it is just that we often lack the perspective to see what God is really doing. At the end of James life Julie as God the question we both wanted an answer to – Why didn't you fix James? And God replied very clearly to her – I never saw James as broken! Through that Winter season I came to faith and eventually had the opportunity to start to minister – Julies faith was quickened and she also began to lead and minister. Through the grace that I experienced I was made stronger and had a hope for future and I have a story to share.

"Faith says, 'Even though I don't understand you right now, God, I love you. I believe your heart for me is good.'" (Bob Sorge) **What, practically, do you think is needed for persevering in faith and prayer through the 'winter seasons' of life?** The first thing we need to do in a winter season is make a conscious decision in faith that our trust and hope is in Jesus – no matter what we see or feel we will hold to the goodness and grace of God until we see that manifest in our lives or we can understand what God is allowing to happen. The trust and the hope that we have is writ large in the word of God - so we should read that with hunger and pray it (e.g. using the psalms) with confidence that God is good and that God's love for us will fail. Anchor yourself in God. Pray what you can and seek others to pray with you. Put on praise and worship hymns and songs and worship as you can - it might be just one song over and over again but if it helps bring that sense of God's presence do it – this was my song way back when <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELZ4QouVNFc>

Sunday 25 February – Lent 2

Traditional: As the Deer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBppKZ0eJlQ&ab_channel=citrail

Contemporary: Here for you <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtj-G1gKnD8>

Reading: Luke 18: 9-14 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Thoughts. The church, like all big institutions, is good at process and ritual and setting rules for expected behaviour. We need to be seen to worship correctly and in the approved manner – and the underlying sub-text is that if we conform and behave as others do then we will belong and God will have to bless us. Well. God is going to bless you anyway if you come before with a genuinely hungry and contrite heart – if you seek after Jesus with all your mind, spirit and soul - our righteousness and God's approval is not related to our religious performance it is solely dependent on Jesus and our relationship with. Just as I am without one plea but that This is how we are to come, much as the tax collector came.

Prayers: Lord in this Lent take us deep, deeper into you and your mystery of faith. Lead us into uncomfortable places, through the silence to the cross, and on into the light of your risen son. Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things. I invite you to surrender your journey this Lent to Jesus: Lord, I yield myself to You. May Your will be my delight today.

May Your love be the pattern of my living. I surrender to You my hopes, my dreams, my ambitions. Do with them what You will, when You will, as You will. I place into Your loving care my family, my friends, my future. Care for them with a care that I can never give. I release into Your hands my need to control, my craving for status, my fear of obscurity. In this world Lord, eradicate the evil, purify the good, and establish Your kingdom on earth.

Amen

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: Guide me <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5j48TLIRb4Q>

Contemporary: Just as I am https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0XjqRZ9W_8

Blessing: Jesus Christ our Saviour draw you to himself, that you may find in him crucified a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Shalom**

Bible Study: Read **Mark 14: 32-40** and watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLEHhc1zNTI>

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus shares with his friends that “[His] soul is overwhelmed to the point of death” – what are the barriers or obstacles you face when sharing honestly or openly with friends? Would anyone be willing to share about a time in which their soul felt ‘overwhelmed’?

What happens to your prayer life when you are feeling overwhelmed or upset? What do you notice that you do differently? What is it to pray but not my will but yours be done?

How might we as a group do more to invest in one another during struggles and trials? Are there practical steps that need to be taken to support one another more?

Lord, help me to stand today. Temptations and trials abound. When life hurts, I get confused, dishonest, suspicious, and critical. I put on the belt of truth. When life hurts, my relationships suffer—especially my relationship with You. I put on the breastplate of righteousness. When life hurts, I either get really lazy or I make myself really busy. I put on the shoes of the gospel. When life hurts, I let down my guard and leave myself exposed. I take up the shield of faith. When life hurts, my thinking gets negative and I question everything. I put on the helmet of salvation. When life hurts, I’m a coward. I take hold of the sword of the Word. Lord, it doesn’t feel very “finished” down here. I don’t feel very “finished”. See me kneeling. Help me stand.

Hurtful Words by Gayleane

It is very easy to post a comment on social media or text messages without putting much thought into it. It only takes a few seconds to send a text message. It is easy to make a sarcastic remark or make fun of someone. It is very easy to hurt someone with words. It is not necessarily physical blows that are the most harmful. Words can reduce a person’s self-esteem to next to nothing in an instant.

The damage can last for years. Maybe they were actually meant as a joke. We’re not just talking about words that take the form of death threats, we’re not just talking about bullying, we’re talking about harsh, judgmental words that you and I can easily let slip out without thinking. Words that can hurt, harm, make someone feel insecure or excluded. That is never right. Words do not disappear. They continue to exist from the moment you say them or send that message. They exist in the thoughts and mind of the recipient, and also in God’s memory. But if we do say words we regret, the best thing we can do is make it right. Ask for forgiveness! We also need to make it right with those we have hurt.

Choose to bless instead:

What is the opposite of hurting someone? Blessing. What is the opposite of criticizing? Encouraging.

This ought to be reflected in our words. Be an example in these things instead of being someone who tears people down with negative words. We are called to build up people, to be kind to each other; to bless others. We can use messages and social media for this purpose as well. These are words we will never regret, either now or in eternity! We need to guard so that our words don’t bring darkness to anyone, but instead bring light. In this we must always be alert and aware. **HANDLE YOUR WORDS WITH CARE – THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK/TYPE.**