



### **Weekly Church Services**

#### **Nelligen**

**8.00am** Holy Communion

#### **Batemans Bay**

**8.00am** Holy Communion

**10.00am** Holy Communion

**9.25am** 2 Ear FM Broadcast

**6.30pm** Soaking

**Thursday: 10am** Holy Communion

#### **Readings:**

Genesis 17:15-22 (Page 11)

Psalms 107:17-22 (Page 487)

Ephesians 6:10-20 (Page 952)

Mark 15:25-37 (Page 828)

#### **Readings:**

**Monday:** Psalm 30:8-12; John 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Psalm 46:1-7; John 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Psalm 145:8-13; John 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Psalm 106:20-24; John 5:31-47

**Friday:** Psalm 34:15-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday:** Psalm 7:7-12; John 7:40-52

**Sunday:** Psalm 22; Hebrews 5:5-14;  
John 12:20-36

Everlasting God in whom we live and move and have our being, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you: give us purity of heart and strength of purpose, that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will, no weakness prevent us from doing it; that in your light may we see light, and in your service find perfect freedom; 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](mailto: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](mailto:drnewman1956@gmail.com)

**CHAIR:** Dennis Hughes 0410915409

**WARDENS:** John Ulph 0411242588 Liz Maidla 44781128 Tony Henderson 0422099889

**OFFICE:** Gavleane Overv 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.

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

**BCA BOXES:** Please bring in your boxes for Robin in March, by Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> please.

**LEAVE:** Gayleane will be on leave from Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March until Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

**BAPTISM:** Welcome to Nellie Consoli and her family.

**PARISH COUNCIL AGM:** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm in the church hall.

**OCC LAUNCH:** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at both services.

**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 and Jane Chapman, and Amanda Lloyd.

**Bible Study: Mark 15: 33-37. If you could ask God one “Why?” question, what would it be? On the cross Jesus asks God “Why have you forsaken me?” How does Jesus cry affect you? Have you ever felt abandoned or deserted by God when you needed him most?** The question Why? Implies an urgency to understand and understanding often has connotations of being in control. I am not sure that I have a meaningful Why question that would survive a personal encounter with Jesus. I expect that I would be moved to thanksgiving instead. I can clearly recall the time when I had no expectation of Jesus and therefore the silence / absence of God felt completely natural but since I met God - since then I have never felt forsaken or abandoned by God no matter how deep and dark the moments of suffering might have been. This song which I heard when young in faith expresses it well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eHrwQB5Yf0>

God has been very present in the darkness and most challenging moments of life - he has not always spoken but his silence does not indicate absence - the sense of the Spirit being present is often amplified by the moments of silence. The move and provision of the Spirit is often best seen in retrospective but the visible evidence of God’s presence is there to be seen. Did I get everything I cried out for – no, not even most of it – but presence has a way of bringing peace the answers and understanding doesn’t. God gave me a song to sing as a prayer as my son lay near death, beyond human hope – and I sung it as a gift and his fever broke.

**Is it possible for a tragedy not to be God’s ‘fault’? Do we tend to blame God for things that are Satan’s doing?** Unexplained accidents and the tragedies of life are sometimes referred to as “Acts of God” as though God is enacting judgement upon a hapless human race but this is not how God is. The tragedies, suffering, illness and disasters of this world usually arise as a consequence of the inherent brokenness of creation – a brokenness caused by the sinfulness of humanity. Earthquakes and tsunamis arise because the earth groans and tectonic plates in tension suddenly shift – a thousand can die. The Black Death reduced the known world population by about 75% in less than 10 years. All creatures die, cancer and dementia

where rare in our great grandparents generation because they died much younger than us. We have an expectation of immortality, of good health until we reach advanced old age, and for this we should give thanks, but this has never been the normal of the human experience – and truthfully is not even now the experience for many around the world. God's world is a broken creation and we live within it. It is unreasonable to blame God for the consequences of life, and especially for the consequences of our individual and collective choices. Not all tragedy is natural a small amount can be attributed to God's war - to the presence of evil in this world and Satan's nature that seeks to kill and destroy. Evil tends to manifest in outbursts of violence that seek to deny the goodness and love of God nascent in humanity and works to destroy worth and hope. Evil can be cold, efficient and ruthless such as the Holocaust or the Holodomor in Ukraine in the 1930's or it can be explosive like the Rwandan genocide. Evil willingly sacrifices its own children to prevent reconciliation, peace, and love because evil cannot live in the presence of sacrificial love.

#### **Sunday 10 March – Lent 4**

**Traditional** When I Survey [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9eCUgz\\_x5A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9eCUgz_x5A)

**Contemporary:** It Was Finished <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUGQNYm44hk>

**Reading: Mark 15: 33-37** <sup>33</sup>At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup>And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). <sup>35</sup>When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah." <sup>36</sup>Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said. <sup>37</sup>With a loud cry, Jesus said it is finished and breathed his last.

**Thoughts.** Jesus words here quote from psalm 22 – he uses the word of God to declare his pain, suffering and feelings – at this moment he is feeling the absolute totality of humanity upon his shoulders – God with us. His closing words (added from John's gospel) echo the closing words of psalm 22. Jesus passion and death embodies both the pain of human suffering, the consequence of living broken lives in a broken, fallen world but also the hope of God given to us through the defeat of death and redemption of sin upon the cross. In this first cry Jesus expresses absolute understanding and empathy with the worst and deepest grief of humanity – and I draw great comfort from this God not only hears my cry but understands my hurt – but with the last cry he gives me hope and a promise – the pain that I suffer will not consume me – I will come through it and even death cannot separate me from God or from those I love who have chosen Jesus as Lord.

**Prayers:** 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. This month we focus on the mission of Bush Church Aid and particularly of Simon and Angela Owen and their family in Cloncurry. Thanks God and praise him that the year has started well, that Esther has had a positive start to school, and for some encouraging church services and encouraging ministry opportunities already with many people so far this year. We give thanks for the people of Cloncurry and Julia Creek and the cooperation between the Anglican and Uniting church in that area. Keep the church growing and we pray that people are drawn by the Holy Spirit to the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services.

Afresh I seek you, lead me I pray— even should it be against my will, lead me your way. Let me not feel you absent in any hour. Through doubt, through faith, through bliss, through stark dismay, through sunshine, wind, or snow, or fog, or shower, draw me to you who are my only way.

**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:** Here is Love <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YOPj5TnUM>

**Contemporary:** Lord I Lift Your Name On High

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COQ6cni\\_TG8&ab\\_channel=pastorloran](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COQ6cni_TG8&ab_channel=pastorloran)

**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 **Psalm 22** and watch [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fY9IJ\\_JTXQk&t=45s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fY9IJ_JTXQk&t=45s)

Note the interplay of lament and hope in the psalm. **How does the psalmist feel and what is his main complaint about God?**

**Where is God? Why do we find the silence of God difficult and what does the psalmist suggest to counter the apparent absence of God? How does the video testimony help you to understand living in the apparent silence?**

**What does the psalmist say that he will do in faith regardless of his feelings?**

**What image does the last verses of the psalm give us of Jesus?**

Prayer: Hear our prayer for a world still living an Easter Saturday existence, oppressed and lonely, guilty of godlessness and convinced of godforsakenness. Be still tomorrow the God you are today, and yesterday already were: God with us in the grave, but pulling thus the sting of death and promising in your final kingdom an even greater victory of abundant grace and life over the magnitude of sin and death. And for your blessed burial, into which we were baptized, may you be glorified for evermore. Amen.

**International Women's Day:** God made woman from man's rib, thus we are strong, protective, and curved. Yes we may break, but we go on every day. God made us for a purpose. Continue to serve and soar in whatever path He takes you, while always protecting and loving those people who God puts in your path. Stay strong in and by God's word to help with any challenges that will come your way. You are first a daughter of God, always remember that! Follow Him, His Son Jesus, and carry The Holy Spirit in your heart and all will be well. Amen.

