



Community News
17 March 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



Weekly Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

9.25am 2 EAR FM Broadcast

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Page 642)

Psalms 22 (Page 434)

Hebrews 5:5-14 (Page 973)

John 12:20-36 (Page 875)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 23; John 8:1-11

Tuesday: Psalm 102:18-22; John 8:21-30

Wednesday: Psalm 48; John 8:31-42

Thursday: Psalm 105:7-11; John 8:51-59

Friday: Psalm 18:1-7; John 10:31-42

Saturday: Psalm 85:8-13; John 11:45-57

Sunday: Psalm 31:9-18; Isaiah 50:4-9;

Mark 15:1-39

PARISH AGM: Sunday 17 March at
12pm in the church hall.

PALM SUNDAY: Sunday 24 March
One service at 9am.

Bridge walk – 10.30am at Boat
Ramp.

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

CHURCH: The church office is open Monday, 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/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.

PALM SUNDAY: **Sunday 24 March One service at 9am.**

This will include a parish farewell or Bob and Pauline Brook.

Bridge walk – meet 10.30am at Boat Ramp with service in Korner's Park from 11am with sausage sizzle.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: This week for Stephanie Pidcock turning 80!

LEAVE: **Gayleane will be on leave from Saturday 9 March until Saturday 23 March.**

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

PARISH AGM: In the hall Sunday 17 March at 12.

OCC LAUNCH: Sunday 17 March at both services. See: <https://occ.samaritanspurse.org.au/2023-special-report/#destinations> . Welcome to Evelyn Bennett who is taking over local coordination from Pauline Brook.

EASTER SERVICES: **All at Batemans Bay.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 10am Traditional Holy Communion with Good Friday readings

GOOD FRIDAY: 9am Prayer and Reflection

EASTER SUNDAY: 8am Traditional Holy Communion

10am Contemporary Holy Communion

6.30pm Worship and Prayer with Communion

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: Read **Psalm 22. How does the psalmist feel and what is his main complaint about God?**

The psalmist is feeling forsaken by God, and absence of God and as though God is not hearing his prayers. His main complaint is that his enemies and evil surround him and beset him and cries out for God to rescue him.

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? God is always present but our feelings ebb and flow and we can feel him as distant if we do not sense his immediate response to us and this can cause us distress especially in the face of overwhelming evil or personal suffering. The testimony calls us to lean into God and navigate our way through such experiences by drawing strength from the support and faith of other Christians, drawing strength from God's word and intentionally praising and worshipping God with our gifts and talents e.g. singing. We hold fast to the faith and hope that we have and we do not get off the train in the middle of a dark tunnel – we keep going knowing that a good God will get us through or bring us home.

What does the psalmist say that he will do in faith regardless of his feelings? Praise God, declare his name in the congregation and fulfill his vows.

What image does the last verses of the psalm give us of Jesus? Of God triumphant and all the nations of earth bowing before him. God has done it – it is finished.

Traditional: How sweet the name

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXyHMMY4YyY&ab_channel=ChetValleyChurches

Contemporary: Christ is mine <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roQovDZeAWE>

Reading: Psalm 22. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? ²My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. ³Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. ⁴In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. ⁵To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. ⁶But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. ⁷All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. ⁸“He trusts in the LORD,” they say, “let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” ⁹Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother’s breast. ¹⁰From birth I was cast on you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. ¹¹Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. ¹⁶Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. ¹⁷All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. ¹⁸They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. ¹⁹But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. ²⁷All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, ²⁸for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. ²⁹All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him— those who cannot keep themselves alive. ³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. ³¹They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: **He has done it!**

Thoughts. Psalm 22 is a powerful and prophetic psalm depicting the Messiah but also echoing the cries and heart of humanity. We feel the presence and affliction of evil, it is as if we are innocents in a war zone and targeted by strong and evil opponents. We cry out to God in our fear, our pain, our brokenness and we do not always feel that God is listening – but he is. We want rescue – help I’m a celebrity [i.e. important] get me out of here? But instead of reaching down and lifting us out God comes down and enters our world and rescues us not by might, not by power, but by taking our place. On that cross he redeems us, he defeats death and conquers evil – step 1 in recreating the world. We still live in a broken world and even a defeated enemy is still dangerous and causes us pain but we hold to the promise that God is with us – he has breathed his Holy Spirit upon us and we will, one day, see every knee bow before Jesus.

Prayers: O God, our Redeemer, in our weakness we have failed to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope: renew us by your Holy Spirit, that we may follow your commands and proclaim your reign of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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.

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: What a friend <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2skxuowcaY>

Contemporary: Because he lives <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPW9xYEyjiQ>

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 **John 20: 19 -25** and watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Fk7sl2VstA>

When will my prayers be answered? Think back on the last 4 weeks and reflect on the big prayers in life you have asked and how God has moved to answer them or if you are still waiting for an answer. **Has sharing your testimony in the group helped you to see these experiences of prayer in a larger Kingdom way or value? Have you found, or seen in the stories of others God bringing good out of our experiences? Where is your hope?**

What will convince Thomas that Jesus is actually risen from the dead? What is the power of scars? What is the gift of the risen Lord to his disciples, and to us?

Read 2 Corinthians 1: 3-11. It can sometimes take months, years or even decades for fruit to come out of our suffering. **Are there stories in our community's history of how challenges and trials have now produced fruit? Or are there opportunities for us to turn our current challenges into long-term fruit? How might our experiences encourage and comfort others?**

How does God see our brokenness and how might that change our prayers?

As we finish this Lenten course, we'll pray an ancient apostolic blessing over us from the book of Romans. It speaks about the power of the Holy Spirit as the one who renews us with hope, so you may like to open your hands now to receive afresh: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* – Romans 15:13