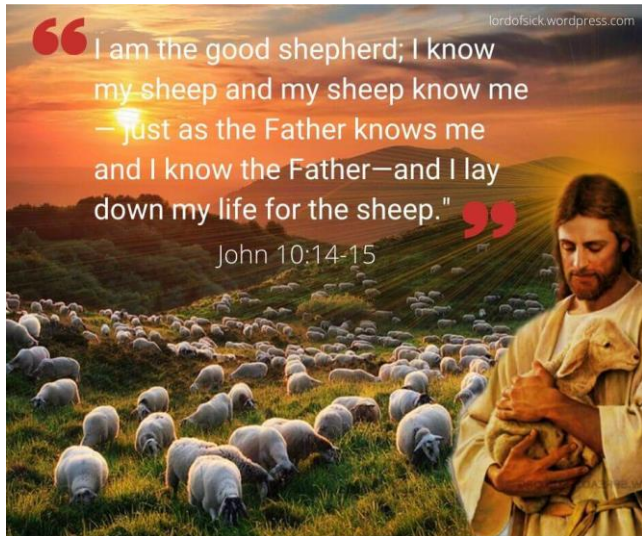




Community News

21 APRIL 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Weekly Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

NO RADIO SERVICE

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Morning Prayer

Readings:

Psalm 23 (Page 435)

1John 3:16-24 (Page 990)

John 10:11-18 (Page 872)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 42:1-5; John 10:1-10

Tuesday: Psalm 87; John 10:22-30

Wednesday: Psalm 67; John 12:44-50

Thursday: Psalm 89:1-9; Mark 16:1-20

Friday: Psalm 2:6-11; John 14:1-6

Saturday: Psalm 98:1-4; John 14:7-14

Sunday: Psalm 22:26-32; 1 John 4:7-21;
John 15:1-8

Gracious God,

you sent Jesus, the good shepherd, to gather us together: may we not wander from his flock, but follow wherever he leads us, listening for his voice and staying near him, until we are safely in your fold, to live with you for ever; 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 office is open Monday, 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.

ROSTER: Firstly thank you to Rhonda Whitehead for putting our roster together each month, it isn't an easy task. Thank you to those that are volunteering each month, we appreciate all you do. We do need more helpers please, once or twice a month would help us out so much. Rhonda needs to know availability in advance and sends out emails to people requesting this information, please do reply so she can put everything together smoothly and efficiently. We have all been given gifts from God to use and share with others, this is one way of using those gifts.

ANZAC DAY SERVICES THURSDAY 25 APRIL: The **weekly 10am service** at the Anglican Church will be **Morning Prayer** with an ANZAC theme led by the beautiful Helen Barbic. The Batemans Bay Dawn service commences at 5.45am. The march commences at the Soldiers Club at 10am. The Nelligen service commences at 10.50am at the Mechanics Institute. All welcome.

CLBB AGM: Community Life Batemans Bay Annual General Meeting in respect of financial year ended June 2023, will be held, at 12noon on Sunday 28 April 2024 in the church hall.

BBECET SUPPORTERS LUNCH: On May 4th at 12 noon at Cross Central Church Surfside. Tickets are \$25 and available from Gayleane in the office, need to know numbers by Sunday 28th April please.

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, Amanda Lloyd, Matais Harpley, Alisha & Jess.

Bible Study: Read Psalm 23. How important are familiar words (i.e. familiar translations) to us? What is the value of reading from several different translations and how might the change in wording jar us into closer listening? Unless we are an academic of antiquity all of us read a bible that is a translation. Some translations are a more literal rendering of the original language, while others seek to convey more faithfully what is understood to be the intended original meaning; some are written to use a simpler more readily understood form of English (e.g. The Good News Bible). All are seeking to convey God's self-revelation to us in a way that we can hear and inwardly digest it. The King James Bible was written in a poetic style that facilitated oral memory and response and it is often the language we remember of our favourite passages, especially Psalm 23 – "Yea though I walk..". Reading different translations reminds us that we need to think about the words we read and the ideas they convey. We need to hear them and think about the context they were written in and the original audience so that we can then consider how to apply the passages in our lives. Changing translations or reading multiple translations helps us to focus in what can be subtle differences in emphasis in the passage. Reading out aloud from different translations as a group allows an extra dimension of God quickening, drawing our attention, to specific words and phrases in the reading – God is able to give multiple people a nuanced message from a single passage – because what is drawn to our attention often resonates with our present circumstances e.g. in Psalm 23 one person may respond to the peace and calm of the still waters, one may feel and be in the valley of the shadow of death and yet a third may be looking longingly at the feast.

What does psalm 23 say to you, now and when life is a bit tough? Share. Psalm 23 gives me great comfort – I am reminded of my grandmother’s kitchen, a lovely, warm, safe place – both calm and peaceful but with the promise of a feast. Psalm 23 hung on a blue plate on her wall. Hence I remember the King James version of the psalm. I read and preach on it often for funerals, especially for older people and it gives great comfort and is familiar to many. I draw comfort and strength from the promises of the psalm when I am stressed and hard pressed. The image that it gives to me is of the good shepherd and there are times when it is good to be reminded that I am a sheep, a sheep of his flock. There is great encouragement in knowing that the psalm reflects a normal life experience of life challenges that we all go through, that we share, but which God promises to be in the midst of. Life has been very stressful this last month because all the balls in the air needed to be actioned at that same time – and it was also the busy time of Easter. We are largely through the stress (our house in Canberra went on the market this week after some intensive renovations) and we are going next week to a calm and peaceful valley with gentle streams for a week (with no mobile phone coverage!)

Sunday 21 April – Children of the Shepherd

Peace be with you,’ says the Lord. ‘As the Father has sent me, so I send you.

Traditional: [The Lord's My Shepherd \(Tune: Crimond - 5vv\) \[with lyrics for congregations\] \(youtube.com\)](#)

Contemporary: [The Lord's my Shepherd - Stuart Townend \[with lyrics\] \(youtube.com\)](#)

Reading: Psalm 23. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. ⁵Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies: thou anoints my head with oil; my cup runs over. ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Thoughts. The 23rd Psalm brings both familiarity and comfort. It builds on Jesus promise words declaring “Peace be with you”. I have just prayed the psalm with a family and anointed their loved one in God’s name as he travels the final short lap of the earthly journey. It reminds us that God is our shepherd and that he leads us through all our lives, if we listen to the shepherds voice and follow he helps us to navigate the hills and the valleys and the highs and lows of life. This Sunday is traditionally called Shepherd Sunday. With this reading we leave the stories of the resurrection appearances of Jesus and turn our attention to the call of Jesus to follow him and to go where he sends us. This psalm reminds us that Christ goes before us, and that God is with us through the whole journey – right up to and including the final banquet. We are reminded – last week that we are God the Fathers children and this week that we are the sheep of his flock – the great Shepherd. The Shepherd seeks us out and leads us, his love pursues us and seeks us when we are lost – God the shepherd is all we need. The Shepherd image also reminds us that Jesus understands what it is to be a sheep like us – he who knew no sin, he who is the Lamb of God – he leads us home.

Reflection: [Shepherd - CityAlight - YouTube](#)

Prayers. Our Father in Heaven, we bring our thanks this day for the peace and security we enjoy, which was won for us through the courage and devotion of those who gave their lives in time of war. We pray that their labour and sacrifice was not in vain, but that their spirit may live on in us and in generations to come. We pray for those in Ukraine and Russia, Israel and Gaza, Nigeria and Sudan may these conflicts soon come to an end, hostages and prisoners be returned and a long-term peace be instituted.

O God, our ruler and guide, in whose hands are the destinies of this and every nation, we give you thanks for the freedoms we enjoy in this land and for those who laid down their lives to defend them: we pray that we and all the people of Australia, gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice, may have the grace to live in a spirit of justice, of generosity, and of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever.

We commend to your care, merciful God, all who are in sorrow, sickness, discouragement or any other trouble. We particularly pray for those feeling isolated, anxious or depressed and those not confident to step out and back into our communities. Give them patience and a firm trust in your goodness. Help those who care for them, and bring us all into the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We conclude our Prayers saying: **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: Jesus Where'er Thy People Meet https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK1sN_v_jbw

Contemporary: Desert Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3l1z7bXY9Y>

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**

ANZAC Reflection

Song: Abide With Me [Abide with me - Susan Boyle - lyrics \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AK1sN_v_jbw)

As a nation we have failed each generation of returned veterans and we pray that we will find real answers and effective solutions to the care of those who have served for us. We reflect and give thanks that our veterans and their families can gather and we stand with them at this time. We acknowledge that the freedoms that we have in Australia have come at great personal cost to many and we pray for healing and peace for all who have been impacted by active service. Many who served live with pain and PTSD for the rest of their lives. We give thanks when God becomes present in broken lives giving some veterans the empathy and capacity to listen to, hear and give strength to many other troubled mates – often saving their lives with understanding words. **Lest we forget.**

No Mans Land – 16 Minute reflection by Eric Bogle - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCocS6HWrvQ>

Song: Eternal Father Strong to Save - [Eternal Father strong to save \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCocS6HWrvQ)

Bible Study: Read John 15: 1-10 This passage builds on the theme of the Good Shepherd and flock, the image is of the vine and the branches. **What part of the vine are we? What part is Jesus and what part does God play? Following the metaphor – what part/ role might the Holy Spirit take?**

What can we derive from this passage about our relationship with God? What does God do for us as we live as a part of the vine?

What happens if we detach ourselves from the vine?

What does God promise if we attach to and remain in the vine? Given our recent Lenten study what do you understand from verse 7?