



Community News
28 APRIL 2024
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Dear God, We give thanks and remember those that fought for us, we remember those that died for us, and we give thanks for those that continue to fight for us. This we ask in Your Son's glorious name. Amen

Weekly Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

2.30pm 2EARFM Broadcast

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Psalm 22:26-32 (Page 435)

1John 4:7-21 (Page 991)

John 15:1-8 (Page 878)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 115:1-7; John 14:21-26

Tuesday: Psalm 145:10-13; John 14:27-31

Wednesday: Psalm 122; John 15:1-8

Thursday: Psalm 96:1-6; John 15:8-11

Friday: Psalm 57:8-12; John 15:12-17

Saturday: Psalm 100; John 15:18-21

Sunday: Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-12;

John 15:9-17

O God, form the minds of your faithful people, that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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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 dnewman1956@gmail.com

CHAIR: Dennis Hughes 0410915409

WARDENS: John Ulph 0411242588 Liz Maidla 44781128

Tony Henderson 0422099889

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WEBSITE: <https://www.anglicanchurchbbay.org.au/>

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/batemansbayangican/>

ANGLICAN NEWS: <http://anglicancg.org.au/news-and-events/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.

UPDATES:

- **REV MARY CLARKE** – Mary had a pacemaker put in this week. Please keep her in prayer.
- **HELEN BURROWS** – Spoke to Helen and everything went to plan, she hopes to be home on Tuesday. She thanks everyone for your prayers.
- **ANNE COUTTS** – Her dental surgery went to plan though she was in pain afterwards. Please continue prayers for her.
- **LESLEY AUSTIN** – Lesley had a fall, she is a little bruised but nothing broken.
- **HELEN BARBIC** – Helen had a fall, she too is bruised but nothing broken.
- **DENNIS HUGHES** – Dennis had a fall, he is bruised and scraped but nothing broken.
- **JUDY CHARMAN** – Judy thanks everyone for your prayers, and God's provision. She still hasn't found a place yet and is thankful for your thoughts and care.
- **SAFE TRAVELS:** We pray for John and Fay Ulph and Glen Hancock as they travel overseas for the next few months.

BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS: To Veronica Newson who celebrated her 85th birthday on ANZAC Day.

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**. Members can attend by Zoom at Topic: **Community Life AGM** Time: Apr 28, 2024 at 12:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://adcg.zoom.us/j/83408347768?pwd=yQRuGvHRsOgW7cmKbVnmjv9h1rUVb5.1>

Meeting ID: 834 0834 7768 **Passcode:** 589873

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.

BCA BOXES: \$914.95 was raised, thank you for all those who sent in boxes. Robin Hay.

GLEAN NOTICE: Wednesday 1st May GLEAN will be in the hall from 1.30pm to 3.00pm.

MOTHERS DAY LUNCH: Sunday 12 May. We have booked a table for 15 at the Cat Club at 12pm. The table is booked under Gayleane Overy. Let Gayleane know if you would like to attend.

SPORTS CHAPLAINCY AUSTRALIA (SCA). Saturday 11 May; 11am to 12 noon Anglican Church hall. SCA is offering an information presentation to introduce chaplaincy as a way of serving God in the community and beyond. You may be interested, then please come along. Bruce Gorton 0418435630

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: John 15: 1-10 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? We are the branches and the leaves, growing out from the root and showing the world our foliage and fruit, that which we have learnt and drawn from

Jesus. Jesus is the root and main stem of the vine - that from which all branches bud and grow and from which they draw their purpose. God is the gardener – he planted the vine and he prunes it of dead and unproductive branches, causing it to grow in the way that he trains it and so that it can produce good, sweet fruit. In this metaphor the Holy Spirit is not specifically mentioned but my logic would be that the Holy Spirit is the sap in the vine – the spirit that flows from the root (Jesus) drawing up the nutrients and bringing them out to nourish and connect even the newest buds, leaves and branches.

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? God calls us to live in complete and life sustaining connection with Jesus – to draw our life from him. God grafts us into the vine when we accept Jesus by faith, God loves us and feeds us but he also allows us to experience times of trial and challenge that will shape us to grow in faith and to have fruit to share that give testimony to the goodness and glory of God in our lives.

What happens if we detach ourselves from the vine? We die, spiritually we wither away and loose connection with God and his call. Kingdom purpose goes and self-interest grows consuming our lives and resetting our priorities. This path leads to a life disconnected from God now and for eternity.

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? If we abide in God and God’s word abides in us (we are in tune with God’s will and purpose for our lives) then God promises to answer our prayers. Firstly this is a conditional promise - it is not saying we can have whatever we want at God’s obligation – no, it is dependent on the depth of our abiding in Jesus, we pray for what we understand/ believe it is that God wants to come to pass in our community and this we see come to pass. God rarely rescues us from times of trial but instead takes us through such times teaching us to draw more deeply into him and to grow in active trust in the goodness of God in the midst of the vagaries of life.

Sunday 28 April – Children of the Vine

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

Traditional: My Worth is Not What I Own

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z63faLdn2Ts&ab_channel=BaptistUniversityofFlorida

Contemporary: Goodness of God https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4MUUMWMV4&ab_channel=musicmeetsheaven

Reading: John 15: 1-10. “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

Thoughts. This image is about who Jesus and his disciples are and what is to happen to them as a result of remaining in him. The vine is an Old Testament image / metaphor for Israel, psalm 80 tells us that God bought the vine out of Egypt and planted it in the promised land, but the prophets also tell us that the vine had become corrupted and was bearing wild grapes, not good ones (Isaiah 5). Here Jesus tells us that he is the true vine - he is showing himself as the one who will redeem and restore the vine (Israel) back to following God. There is a word play in the text that we do not see in English, the word for prune in verse 2 is grammatically analogous to the words for pure and cleansed in verse 3 – the disciples have already been pruned and borne fruit (think the two missions Jesus sent them on) and they have been made clean. As they remain (abide) in Christ then God will prune them more so that they will be even more productive. The greatest promises in prayer (verse 7) come with a condition and follow harsh warning (verse 7) – said

elsewhere by Jesus as “apart from me you can do nothing”. This passage challenges us – what does it mean in our faith practice to remain in God? It reminds us that we must retain and maintain our direct relationship with Jesus. The image also reminds us that we cannot do this in a solitary and private way – we are part of a plant, a living organism and to survive and to thrive we must remain in a community that knows, loves and celebrates Jesus – Christians cannot be solitary but must remain grafted in and bound together, our corporate worship matters as does our private and personal prayers that prepare us to gather as Gods people.

Prayers. Jesus said: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the father but through me. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we can stand against all that comes for us and declare the praises of God in all places. May the glory of God be revealed in our witness to him who loves us. Jesus, root of the vine, strengthen us so that we abide in you and grant us grace to give freely and to reflect your generosity in our lives and our hearts. Let us trust that when we are generous, you will ensure that our needs are met. Help us to both serve our community and speak tenderly to them of Christs call to follow him. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we give ourselves to the service of God and others, that our communities may flourish. O God, form our minds that we may love what you command and desire what you promise, so that, amid the many changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is to be found.

We pray for all those in our community returning to school and especially those doing Year 12. May your peace be present and may they all run the race with focus until the end. Protect them from any spirit that seeks to distract and discourage them, remind each one of your love for them and that you are present with them in this momentary time of challenge. 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.

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: Here Is Love, Vast as the Ocean

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YOPj5TnUM&ab_channel=citrail

Contemporary: Good and Gracious King

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtfUnQDAug8&ab_channel=LightoftheWorld

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**

Reflection: Diggers Legacy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eaiA16liQsA&ab_channel=KarenQueenslander

Bible Study: Read 1 John 5: 1-12. How does John portray love and belonging in Christian community in this passage? Who conquers the world?

What specific belief in Jesus does John point to with the water and the blood? What amplifies/ enables this belief and testimony? Why does John add the Spirit as a witness and why is this important?

What is the testimony that God has given? What consequences arise from this testimony? How do you understand this passage in relation to your Christian belief, what challenges might it bring?

Why has John written this particular passage? Hint – read on a bit.