



Weekly Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

2.30pm **No Radio Service this week**

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Acts 10:44-48 (Page 895)

Psalm 98 (Page 480)

1John 5:1-12 (Page 991)

John 15:1-8 (Page 878)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 149; John 15:26-16:4

Tuesday: Psalm 138; John 16:5-11

Wednesday: Psalm 148:7-15; John 16:12-15

Thursday: Psalm 93; Mark 16:15-20

Friday: Psalm 47; John 16:20-23

Saturday: Psalm 47; John 16:23-28

Sunday: Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13;

John 17:6-19

Loving God, your Son has chosen us and called us to be his friends: give us grace to keep his commandments, to love one another, and to bear fruit which will abide; through him who is the true vine, the source of all our life, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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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

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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.

SUNDAY SERVICES: Doug will be away on Sunday, Rev Ann Burt will be taking both services. Thank you Ann.

BECET PRAYER MEETING: Monday 6th May, Anglican Church Hall at 5pm. A prayer points flyer is available in the Narthex.

LADIES MORNING TEA: Monday 6th May at Maloney's Beach Café at 10.30am.

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.

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

BCA: OWEN FAMILY PRAYER POINTS

- Thanks for:
 - Fruitful Easter Services.
 - Simon being able to pray for the newly elected Cloncurry Mayor and Councillors.
 - The opportunity to share and pray at ANZAC Day services.
 - Recent memorial and funeral services went well.
- Pray for:
 - Upcoming Men's and Women's ministry events will encourage believers and work in the hearts of non-believers.
 - Pray for RI (Religious Instruction) and give thanks for a new RI teacher at Cloncurry.
 - Our Mainly Music kids ministry children and families will be engaged with Jesus' love and gospel message.
 - Building relationships in the community through school, community events, and soccer.
 - Simon and our State School Chaplain as they begin a monthly youth group in the school.
 - That Simon and Angela and their children will remain close with the Lord and one another.

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: Read 1 John 5: 1-12. How does John portray love and belonging in Christian community in this passage? Who conquers the world? Everyone who is born of God, i.e. every Christian who believes that Jesus is the son of God, is called to overcome the world – we all have the latent potential given to us by the Holy Spirit to be overcomers. John portrays Christian community here as a family, specifically the family of God with God as the Father and us as his children. As a father loves his children so are we - the children – to love one another and care for one another. In some way our collective witness of being a loving community is to John as important as our individual witness of faith in our lives – what our lips proclaim our lives must demonstrate.

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? The water and the blood point explicitly to the crucifixion – where Jesus is pierced by the spear and the water and blood flowing forth is a sign that he has died. We symbolize this in our communion service by adding a small amount of water to the wine in the communion chalice. This description follows immediately after the verse declaring the ones who overcome believe that Jesus is the son of God and directly links the son of God to the death on the cross. The water also links to Jesus baptism by John the Baptist where John declares (John 1: 32- 34) that the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus and declares that Jesus is the son of God. The Holy Spirit is important because the spirit is our tangible connection to Jesus and is what enables us to testify to our life in Jesus. John teaches that all of the three , the water, the blood and the Spirit are central to our profession of witness.

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? The testimony of God is that God has given us eternal life in his son, Jesus. It is the only way to have eternal life. I understand that my faith and therefore my access to eternal life is solely dependent on my belief that Jesus is the son of God, that died for me (in redemption of my sin) at Calvary and that God raised him to life again. I know this and am confirmed in my belief by the presence of the Holy Spirit living in me and as a witness to my living in Christ. This passage and the statement of belief that flows from it is challenging because it leaves no room for human agency (i.e. being good) or for cheap grace (God loves everyone so everyone gets an automatic salvation) in the process of our salvation – our faith and our salvation are in Christ alone and by Christ's actions alone.

Why has John written this particular passage? Hint – read on a bit. John writes this passage, indeed the verse refers to the whole of his letter, so that we may know that we have eternal life, i.e. hope and that we will be confident in prayer, approaching God and expecting him to hear us.

Sunday 5 May – Chosen Children

I have chosen you!

Traditional: A New Commandment <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DopHQzNWDZ4>

Contemporary: What Love My God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjXK9PdCpis&list=RDEmneBVV3ubqkrV1mzwMJs8vg&index=7>

Reading: John 15: 16-17. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. ¹⁷This is my command: Love each other.

Thoughts. You are chosen! God chose you! Pause, and think on that, we know ourselves so well that we often cannot grasp or even hope that we might be chosen – but we are. God has not only chosen you, but he has called you and appointed you to go for him and to bear fruit. To follow his direction and to use the gifts that he has uniquely endowed you with to bring increase in the Kingdom of God. This call and direction often evolves as we step out and grow into our gifts and call, the more we use our gifts and talents the more proficient we become, but we need to be aware of pride, the increase is not ours but Christ's. God calls, God chooses but he invites us to participate in the journey. The fruit we bear is shown in the life of others and it is nurtured by our love of them. The love that God calls us to give is the love that reflects him and his love – love that lays down its life so that the other may live. The daily news tells us that our social relationships in this country are in a mess – domestic/ family violence is widespread and apparently increasing, children are not engaging with education and youth violence and crime is also on the increase, while it does not make the news I suspect that there is also a silent but increased prevalence of elder violence and abuse as the elderly are pushed out of family spaces and into care. Part of this may arise from increased awareness and media focus but there is clearly an unhealthy trend emerging across the last 60 years. This has manifested as a spirit of lawlessness! The Age of Aquarius promised free love and freedom, but this has led to an intense self-focus and fragmentation of our culture – every person for themselves and lawlessness evolved. This is completely inimical to the call of God to love one another as he has loved us, and we are now seeing the fruit of Aquarius. God calls us to love one another in a way that bears different fruit – fruit that will last, fruit that obeys God's commandments, fruit that hopes with confidence for the redemption of this world. Fruit that says No! to all the forms of violence that are permeating in our community and opposes the spirit of lawlessness in Jesus name. The following reflection is about 10 minutes long, the song starts at the 5-minute mark, but you will find the introduction encouraging.

Reflection: I Have Chosen You <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQBifmdcsfE>

Prayers. Lord Jesus, we asks that you bind the spirit of lawlessness let loose in our communities by our rebellion and turning away from your commandments and our failure to love one another as you have loved us. Cut it free from its pagan roots that its fruit of disrespect and violence might wither on the vine and die within a generation. Raise up your spirit of redeeming love and strengthen all who you have chosen to proclaim that love and share it with confidence with family and neighbour. 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: O Jesus I Have Promised https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pjAnOf_Qd4&list=PL-Wo7lu6CksuTKdkFbx68JxCo0xmtG81A&index=197

Contemporary: I speak Jesus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4eFVo4p5Uk>

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**

Bible Study: Read John 15: 9-17. What does it mean to you to be chosen by God? Do you feel chosen by God? When did you first feel/ know that you were chosen by God and what did that lead you to do? Share.

How does our belief shape our actions? In what ways have you or do you lay down your life?

Noting that all we do in our life of faith should flow from God's love how do we remain in God's love? How do we know our masters business?

Read on in John: What are the worldly consequences of being chosen?

