



'I am the living bread that came down from heaven,' says the Lord. 'Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' *John 6:51*

Weekly Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

2.30pm 2 EARFM Broadcast

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Psalm 14 (Page 430)

Ephesians 3:14-21 (Page 950)

John 6:1-21 (Page 867)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 78:55-63; Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday: Psalm 79:8-13; Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday: Psalm 59:1-5; Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday: Psalm 146:1-7; Matthew 13:47-53

Friday: Psalm 69:4,6-14; Matthew 13:54:-58

Saturday: Psalm 69:32-38; Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday: Psalm 51:1-12; Ephesians 4:1-16;
John 6:24-35

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth: grant that, believing in the one whom you have sent, we may know him to be the true bread of heaven and the food of eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be glory and honour for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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DIRECT DEPOSIT:

Anglican Investment & Development Fund. BSB: 702389 Account: 05202562 Ref: AnglicanBBay2562

CHURCH: The office is open Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 1pm, and Friday 9am to 3pm.

PARISH CONTACTS:

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

ANGLICAN NEWS: <https://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.

GOOD MENTAL HEALTH ART CLASSES FOR WOMEN: Will resume Thursday 1st August, 12.30 to 2.30.

BSECET: prayer meeting will be held on Monday 5th August at 5 pm in the Anglican Church hall. Pray for the BSECET Board as they meet following the prayer meeting.

BOTTLE TOP COLLECTION: An update from Stephanie: could **ONLY MILK BOTTLE** tops be collected please.

CHURCH UPGRADES: We still anticipate some minor patching repair works in the church car park.

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, 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, Ken Griffiths, Lyn Hughes, Harold.

Bible Study: Ephesians 2: 11 – 22. What image does Paul provide of the church? How does Christ relate to the church? Paul sees the church as a body of people not a building. He sees that body as being built on the teaching and example of Christians (apostles, prophets and saints) that have gone before but with Christ as the central point of reference for all truth (a cornerstone gives true alignment for two directions and the whole structure derives its orientation and line from the cornerstone. Christ is the cornerstone of the church the body. Paul also stresses the unity of believers with each other that again derives from their personal unity with Christ.

We live in a time with an excessive emphasis on individualism and personal autonomy/identity – something that pulls us directly away from the ethos of this reading. What does it mean for you to live a life in Christ? For me it means that my focus should always be on Jesus and growing a deeper relationship with him through prayer and the reflection on his word, obedience to prayer and the word should shape my response to the world and changes in my circumstances and situations. I should see the shallow narcissism that the world values and the insistent cry it generates for identity and validation as the cries of the lost. They are like sheep without a shepherd and without eternal hope – Jesus would have compassion on them.

Reflect on your worship – is Jesus at the centre, the cornerstone?.

Our worship and praise are keyways we engage in the Kingdom of God. I trust you enjoyed the Getty’s dialogue and thoughts – remembering their context in Northern Ireland is very different from that even in England, North America or here in Australia. An important observation is that good hymns help us to understand God and his response to our frailty and they help us to praise and thank God. They remind us of what God has given us, of what is ahead of us, of what gifts we have, the centrality of Jesus to life and they build us up. They should be easy for a congregation to sing and therefore similarity with an active local music tradition helps to embed them into our daily life. Folk in Ireland, reggae in Jamaica, pop rock in USA.

Sunday 28 July

I am the living bread that came down from heaven says the Lord. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I give for the life of the world is my flesh.

Traditional: I am the Bread <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzCg1FqLvUM>

Contemporary: Living Hope <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>

Reading: John 6:1-13. Sometime after this, Jesus crossed to the far shore of the Sea of Galilee ² and a great crowd of people followed him because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick. ³ Then Jesus went up on a mountainside and sat down with his disciples. ⁴ The Jewish Passover Festival was near. ⁵ When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" ⁸ Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" ¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." ¹³ So they gathered and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten.

Thoughts: John places this miracle in the context of Passover, so one year before Jesus' death in Jerusalem, but also so that the miracle is understood in the context of Exodus 16. The Passover reference also links us back to Jesus' first ministry visit to the Temple at Passover (in John 2:13) when he cleansed the temple and began his ministry of restoring Israel. In today's reading, God is providing for his people a simple hurriedly eaten meal of flat bread and fish. John uses the dialogue with his disciples to show that they do not yet recognise who he fully is. They bring the boy to his attention, they do not know what Jesus will do but the starting point of any seemingly insurmountable challenge is to bring it to Jesus' attention; the second part is to have the expectation that Jesus will do something, often new and creative, to resolve the issue. Jesus come and feed us!!! Jesus feeds the people of Israel in the wilderness as God the Father fed them in the desert – and he feeds them with abundance (all are satisfied) and each disciple gathers up a basket of left over bread (note – no left-over fish!) – the emphasis here is on the bread. The Jews considered all bread a gift of God and John's gospel will go on from here leading us to the teaching that Jesus is the Bread of Life, the true bread of heaven. This miracle feeds those present once and satisfies their physical need – but Jesus will feed them once and satisfy their spiritual need for all time. We remember this each time we break bread and share communion together.

Reflection: Food for the Journey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SwbXgOkWvK0>

Prayers. Eternal God; You have placed within us a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth: grant that, believing in the one whom you have sent, we may know him to be the true bread of heaven and the food of eternal, Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be glory and honour for ever and ever. Grant your peace to your church and lead us into unity that we may with one heart and one voice bring our praise and thanksgiving before you, for the glory of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Heavenly Father, you show your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. We give thanks for Philippa's improved health, and we continue to pray for Susan, Joy and Eric and those on our long-term prayer list. Let us boldly proclaim your blessing to our families and our community.

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 [Here is love, vast as the ocean - Robin Mark \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peeqJ1bmT_w)

Contemporary: At the Table https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peeqJ1bmT_w

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 Ephesians 4: 1 – 16. What does Paul say are the characteristics of living a life worthy of the Lord? How does Paul describe the unity of the church? What baptism do you think Paul is referring to?

Each one of us is a rescued captive – see psalm 68:18, this looks at the ascending/ descending text. God has given us each gifts by grace – what do these gifts enable us to do and what is the ultimate purpose they serve?

Paul indicates that the church should be in unity within each congregation and across the breadth of the church. Reflect on verse 14 and the current state of the body of Christ in the world – what is required that the disparate parts of the body come together as one? Was this evident or even possible in Paul's time?