



Weekly Church Services

Batemans Bay

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Prayer and Praise

2.30pm 2 EARFM Broadcast

6.30pm Worship

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Joshua 24:14-18 (Page 188)

Psalms 84 (Page 472)

Ephesians 6:10-20 (Page 952)

John 6:56-69 (Page 868)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 96:1-6; Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday: Psalm 96:7-13; Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday: Psalm 128; Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday: Psalm 145:1-7; Matthew 24:42-51

Friday: Psalm 33:1-8; Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday: Psalm 33:13-21; Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday: Psalm 45:1-2,6-9; James 1:17-27;

Mark 7:1-8, 14-23

Everliving God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear the prayers we offer for all your faithful people, that in the ministry to which you have called them each may serve you in holiness and truth; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 0428907200

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:

RECTOR: Doug Newman 0428907200 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/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.

BCA: Time to bring your BCA boxes in, leave in Office for Robin to collect please.

STAMPS FOR SYNOD: Helen Barbic would like stamps to be bought in by Sunday September 01st please to go to Synod for the ABM Mission.

GOOD MENTAL HEALTH ART CLASSES FOR WOMEN: Thursday 29th August, 12.30 to 2.30. The final one will be Thursday 05th September.

WWW.GOD: Wednesday Weekly Worship each Wednesday in church from 5.00pm – 6.30pm. A time to innovate for our worship. Bring along your creativity, instruments, voice, art pads, flags and sit together in God's presence and see what the Father is saying to his children and what he might raise up in our midst as we seek to explore his call to worship. For more contact Belinda 0434102480.

MAF: Mission Aviation Fellowship provides light aircraft for transport and support of mission into remote areas in Northern Australia, PNG and other remote places. They have a Father’s Day (1 September) mission focus on funding their aviation fuel costs. If this catches your attention please pick up one of the “fuel can” cards in the foyer. Please pray for this important mission.

SCRIPTURE UNION: National Prayer Day – Wednesday 4th September. Please keep praying for SU and the SRE Teachers.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Invites you to Springtime Serenades on Saturday 7th September at 2pm at the Salvation Army. \$10 per person (pay at the door). This is a fundraiser to help with shipping costs of the Shoeboxes. Includes Afternoon Tea and Lucky Door Prize. For further information contact Evelyn Bennett on 0413044336 or see Gayleane. Anyone who would like to donate a plate of food for the afternoon tea would be appreciated. Also need a rough idea of numbers for catering so if attending please advise Evelyn or Gayleane. Thank you.

BBECET: A date for your diaries: Trivia Afternoon Saturday 19th October at Olive Tree Church (Southlands) at 2pm. Start studying now, we still have plenty of room for improvement. It is always a good fun afternoon (even if you come last), and supports a good cause.

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: Read Ephesians 6: 10 -20. Do you see your faith as involving you in a cosmic struggle? If not then how do you interpret verse 12? What is your struggle against, what is your struggle in support of? What is your perspective of the battle? Yes, I believe that we are involved in a cosmic struggle and that aspects of evil can be personified and have a capacity to be reactive to our prayer and Christian witness.

As a charismatic Christian this reflects my lived experience of the Christian life, it also aligns with my study of God's word and God's unchanging nature. What I read in Acts I still see in the life of the church, but this requires me to have an assumption of the reality of the supernatural dimensions of faith and life. Others, who do not accept a supernatural dimension to life, will sometimes see evil expressed in terms of injustice and social inequality arising from historical activities and entrenched by social institutions. For them evil is seen as an imbalance of power between different groups of people. I see this as a focus on the outcomes (evident fruit) rather than the cause of evil in this world – this approach fails to explain the human dynamics of events like the Holocaust. I see our struggle as against the powers and authorities working under the direction of the wicked spiritual elements in the heavens. This evil seeks to influence our hearts and minds – our motivations which in turn informs our actions. My perspective of the battle is limited, I stand and look to my front, and seek to see and understand what God is doing in Batemans Bay. I pray into these things that we might see and recognise the present darkness and that we can position ourselves to be a lighthouse, a presence of light in the place where God has placed us and the season in which we live.

What according to this passage is our primary “operational measure of success” in this conflict. What does God equip us with to achieve this success? How does each component of the armour contribute to our defence? Our operational success and task is to stand firm. To stand firm and reflect the light of lives lived by gospel principles. These principles are reflected in the metaphor of the armour: **Truth** – the message of Christ is true and because it is true it works; It is the objective truth of God that binds all aspects of our faith and life together like a belt. **Righteousness**, the one true God is also the one and only judge, he alone will bring justice and restore the world because he is good and loving – we experience this justice as righteousness, being put right with God and it is portrayed as a breast plate, an item that protects our heart, our very nature, from the frontal attack on our character. **Peace**, God gives us peace with himself, and because of him we can have peace in the midst of life's struggles, and we derive peace with one another through our shared peace in Christ. Peace allows us to stand firm in the face of difficult challenges because our hope is not in our strength but in God's strength and in his strength we stand and indeed push back the attacks that come against us. **Faith**, is like righteousness in that it derives from our belief in Jesus as our risen redeeming Lord but whereas righteousness is primarily protecting our identity, our new nature, faith is protecting our movement and lived witness – the shield can be moved to position faith (belief) between us and the direction of attack of the enemy – this may include not just us but our family, our community, our possessions, our church and even our pets! Anything that would distract us from worship and witness. **Salvation**, we know that we are saved and cannot be lost. The helmet protects our mind, our reasoning from the attacks on our self-understanding, these attacks do not deny our salvation but tell us that we are not worthy and not good enough to work for God, they seek to distract and dishearten us and have us compare our performance with other Christians – leading to disunity. Stand firm, be united as one in and through your salvation in Christ. **Word**, the word of God is one of the offensive weapons that we have. We traditionally understand this to be the whole Bible – and for us it is, but when Paul wrote the Bible was still being written so he is really pointing us back to Ephesians 5:26-27 where the word is Jesus, there are also allusions to Isaiah's prophetic descriptions of the Messiah (e.g. 11: 4-5, 49:2, 52:7). As John tells us the word (logos) is Jesus. The darkness will come against the church and individual believers and our first task is to recognise that an attack is coming/ happening, then to ensure that we have put on our whole armour (and that we are regularly maintaining and caring for our armour, so it is ready to use) and then lastly we are to stand firm and confident in Christ. **Prayer**, the last weapon we have is prayer. We are to pray in all circumstances and for each other confident that God hears and responds to our prayers = prayer accomplishes what we cannot do ourselves by skill, effort or organisation.

Note most of the armour is defensive – what elements are offensive and how are we to employ them? Why are they important and effective? The Word and prayer are our offensive weapons. The word informs our understanding of God's will, purpose and Kingdom – of how to live and why we can live – of what is possible and probable. The prayer marshals our wisdom, emotion, our heart and our mind and directs our thoughts and desires to the work of God's kingdom and to the praise and worship of God. We give thanks for what God does and reveals to us.

What limits of authority do you have when engaging in spiritual warfare? This is not apparent directly from the text. However, we are reminded that our battle is not against flesh and blood and by implication

spiritual powers, leaders and authorities that rule the world have the capacity to attack and hurt us if we are unwise in how we do spiritual warfare and battle. Our authority is vested in us by Christ and is bounded by his word – we are to defend the place where he has placed us – to stand firm, we are to defend each other in prayer and to encourage each other by God’s word. We are not to seek out and attack the enemy, especially in places where he has a legal authority to be through unrepented sin and unhealed trauma. Some Christians are called to do this, and gifted by God with his authority and call to this work, but most of us are called to local defensive duty.

Sunday 25 August

Traditional: The Battle Belongs [The Battle Belongs To The Lord - Maranatha! Music \[with lyrics\] \(youtube.com\)](#)

Contemporary: Raise a Hallelujah [Raise a Hallelujah \(Live\) \[Lyric Video\] | Bethel Music \(youtube.com\)](#)

Reading Ephesians 6: 10 -20. Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Thoughts: The battle belongs to the Lord! When we study Spiritual Warfare do not be surprised if spiritual conflict is a little more evident in our lives, sometimes evidenced by misunderstandings, grumbling and religious spirits. We are soldiers in a conflict with an ordinary soldiers limited perspective of the war and seeing little of the battle beyond our present position. We are but part of a greater whole, but a significant and important part, be awake and alert, stand to your front as much of the church sleeps at this time. This passage draws Ephesians to close with Paul pointing to the reality of the conflict between light and dark and the need for the Ephesians to live lives that witness to their prevailing faith in Jesus and his gospel word. The message of Ephesians is for us to live lives that make a difference in our communities but to do this understanding that our battle/ confrontation is not with other people, especially those that disagree with us or whom we see as less moral than us, but rather the real battle is with the force that motivates (or controls) their behaviour characterised as darkness (or evil). Our battle is not against flesh and blood and therefore our weapons are not physical but rather they are prayer, faith and the truth of God’s gospel word. God gives us all that we need for this battle, our task is to believe in God and to stand firm for what we believe.

Prayers: We pray for our Nation: Lord hear our prayers, and have mercy on our land. Help us to have hope and to persevere in these days that we may stand, stand firm as a light in the darkness for those without a saving hope in you. Be in the dark places shining as hope and in the light places encouraging your people to grow in faith, to worship you in Spirit and truth and to turn their vision outward to see your hand at work in the community, the nation and the world.

For our Churches: Give to each church the gifts that its needs and the courage to stand, stand firm in the gap and pray. Keep us safe in the time of trial and give your priests resilience, your prophets true inspiration, your teachers clarity and your leaders a focus on Jesus. Pray for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) as they raise money to sustain their mission with their Father’s Day Fuel appeal and for BCA and the Owens family serving in Cloncurry being lights in the jungles, desert and remote places of our world.

We pray for those in need. Jesus, fill us with a heart of compassion for the widow, the orphan, the homeless and the lost that we who have much may extend our hand to those who have a need to know you. Sustain

our prayers by your Spirit and our love by your hand. Take time to dwell and pray for what God is bringing to your attention. Give it to Him in prayer and then leave it at the cross with Him and trust.

Grant that we may see in Jesus the fulfilment of all our need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on the true and living bread that you have given us in Jesus Christ.

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: Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QGf2fTla0zo>

Contemporary: I Speak Jesus [Here Be Lions & Darlene Zschech - I Speak Jesus \(lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn-hLHWwRYY&t=2s)

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 James 1: 1 -27. Across the next 5 weeks we will look at the book of James. See overview in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn-hLHWwRYY&t=2s>

James' church is the first church based in Jerusalem. **Who is the book addressed to? How does James address his readers to identify with them?**

What context/ conditions does James consider the church/people are living in? Why might this be so? How does he use this to encourage them? What leads to joy?

How are they blessed? How are they to live in response to God's word and wisdom? What does God expect of the truly religious?

I DECLARE: I am a warrior of God. I won't back down against the enemy. God is with me. God is for me. I put on the full armour of God. Every attack of the enemy against my life, my family, my finances, my health, and my destiny is cancelled now in Jesus' name. I am covered with the blood of Jesus! **Amen**

