



COMMUNITY NEWS
10 NOVEMBER 2024
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Weekly Church Services

Nelligen: 8.00AM Holy Communion

Batemans Bay

Sunday:

8.00AM Holy Communion

10.00AM Holy Communion

2.30pm 2 EAR FM

6.30pm Soaking

Thursday: 10am Holy Communion

Readings:

Psalm 127 (Page 499)

Hebrews 9:19-28 (Page 975)

Mark 12:38-44 (Page 825)

Readings:

Monday: Psalm 24:1-6; Luke 17:1-6

Tuesday: Psalm 37:27-35; Luke 17:7-10

Wednesday: Psalm 23; Luke 17:11-19

Thursday: Psalm 146:5-10; Luke 17:20-25

Friday: Psalm 119:1-8; Luke 17:26-37

Saturday: Psalm 112; Luke 18:1-8

Sunday: Song of Hannah; Hebrews 10:11-25;
Mark 13:1-11

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us your children and heirs of eternal life: grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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:

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.

NOTICES:

- **LEAVE:** Gayleane will be on leave Monday 11th November to Sunday 24th November.
- **REMEMBRANCE DAY:** Monday 11th November 11am at the War Memorial.
- **WWW.GOD: Wednesday Weekly Worship** each Wednesday in church from 5.00pm – 6.30pm. This is an ongoing creative worship space and activity. Please feel free to come and join in.
- **BIRTHDAY:** Happy 75th birthday to Chris Andison on Monday 11th November.
- **SOMA RETIREMENT:** After a ministry spanning more than twenty years, Bishop Ian Lambert has announced at the recent SOMA Committee meeting his resignation as Chair of SOMA Australia. Bishop Ian has been provided leadership to both SOMA and the Anglican Renewal Network for many years, personally leading missions to Solomon Islands, Nepal, Seychelles, Vietnam, Indonesia as well as in Australia. We wish Ian and Jill all the best in their retirement, and birthday wishes for Ian who turned 70 recently.
- **BOOMERANG & OCC CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER:** For tickets see Gayleane in the Office.
- **CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Cards have been ordered and will be available soon.

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, Dennis Hughes, Harold.

Bible Study: Read Mark 12: 38 – 13:2. Where does this happen and what are they doing? What comparison is Jesus making with this story? What does the kingdom value? What does the world value?

Mark, Matthew and Luke all have the story of "Whose Son is the Christ" showing that the Christ (Messiah) when referred to by tradition as a 'son of David' or as being of "David's line" would indeed be a Lord above David i.e. a son of God. This passage points to Jesus divine identity. This teaching takes place in the outer temple courts opposite where the temple treasury (the place where monetary sacrifices are left) – a place accessible to both women and men. Matthew tells us that the audience is primarily Pharisees and includes teachers of the Law. One teacher has just been commended for his perceptive question on the greatest commandment. The teacher is pleased that Jesus has intellectually demolished his rivals the Sadducees, on the issue of resurrection but in this teaching Jesus is also demonstrating his authority to the teachers.

The teachers of the Law dress distinctively in Long linen robes and they expect recognition, adulation, and privilege because of the position, role, and knowledge. This gives them power over the ordinary people who came to use the temple, and they exploit this for their own gains. We are not told how specifically they devour the widows houses, but the inference is clear – they do not value the widows and protect and provide for them – a clear requirement of the Law (see Isaiah 10:1-14), and an obvious expectation of obedience to the second great commandment.

In this story, and the prior teaching, the resurrection Jesus is revealing himself and his nature in comparison with the temple and the leaders. The kingdom values humility, sincerity, love for others as ourselves.

The kingdom and the approval of God in preference to that of other people. People of the kingdom find their identity and status in their relationship with Jesus. The world finds value and status in the adulation and recognition of other people and by how they are treated socially – i.e. invited to the best parties and given useable places of honour. To then the widow is insignificant and of no value.

How tangible and longstanding is the world? What does God ask of us? What are you prepared to give? Consider, reflect and share on the changes you have seen in your lifetime? In the last 10 years? How does that relate to this story? The world is temporary and constantly changing, it is not unreasonable to characterise this constant change as decay – mountains are eroding away faster than the new mountains are formed. The impact of human activity has almost always led to the long-term changes, observe how indigenous burning of our country has preferenced eucalypts over other older species of trees. The world is ultimately a transitional space that God intends to restore and recreate. God asks of us that we love one another and that we copy his example of sacrificial living – this includes caring for our land and our community especially the widows (helpless and vulnerable). God asks us to give sacrificially with confidence that he will provide for our needs – he asks us to trust him!

It is 50 years since I finished High School – the social, cultural, technological, and ethnic change in Australia over this time has been huge. In that time the population of Australia has doubled from 13 million to 26 million and the population of my home state of WA has tripled from 1 to 3 million. The population has also grown much older, and migration has changed our culture and nature substantially. I did not have pizza or Italian food in our hometown, and I don't remember eating hamburgers then either. Some changes have been good and positive, other change like the fragmentation of the nuclear family have been catastrophic. In the rapid change of our culture, we have lost a coherent sense of who we are and a common vision of where we want to go and how we want to live. The bible tells us that without vision the people die! In the last 10 years the pace of change appears to have increased rapidly – I suspect that part of this is the passing of my generation (Boomers) into retirement (i.e. less influential) and an increased challenge with advancing age to embrace and enjoy change. I can despair at what is, and long for what was – but neither is helpful. I can choose to remember that I am wonderfully and fearfully made, and that I was made, framed and formed by God for a time such as this. As I ground my identity in Christ and not in the robes and clothes of my profession or the approval of my peers, as I find my vision in Gods call then I find the peace to look beyond the confronting changes of this world. And I hope I find the trust to place all that I am and all that I have at Christ's disposal – just like the widow did!

Sunday 10 November

Give and it will be given unto you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

Traditional: As the Deer https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBppKZ0eJlQ&ab_channel=citrail

Contemporary: Be Thou my Vision https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6XnZl-2AC0&ab_channel=AllsaintsChurch

Reading Mark 12: 38 – 44. Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces,³⁹ and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets.⁴⁰ They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Thoughts: An old Chinese curse for government officials was ‘May you live in interesting times’ implying that interesting times are not conducive to peace and bureaucracy as usual. With the international events of

this week, we can affirm that we too live in interesting times, times uncertain and likely to significant change in the world. For some this prospect is dire, for others it raises optimism and possibilities of a fresh new vision. May I suggest for both groups to reflect on: O God our help in ages past https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=eQHSVF438Cg&ab_channel=CHRISTelle27II

Our ultimate hope is in the Eternal God who has ordained our life and who has called us to his kingdom, whatever comes in this life will pass in a short season, but the promise and provision of God endures and assists us to prevail in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. Do not look to the teachers of the Law, or to those that dress to seek special privilege, places of honour and the adoration of crowds or those that seek to use their elite training and wisdom to dictate to the poor and the widows, for the kingdom of God. Observe the widow, she has complete trust in God, she gives all that she has because she knows that only God can meet her needs. Jesus in this story is telling us to place our trust in him, that God sees the motivation of the heart and cares and provides for those who place their trust in him and lean not on their own understanding. Seek him first! Seek ye first <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EsBpM9IcBts>

Prayers: Eternal Father strong to save, 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: May we and all the people of Australia, gratefully remembering their courage and their sacrifice, have grace to live in a spirit of justice, generosity and peace; Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Fifty years ago, this week Doug finished his year 12 exams and High School, he remembers those days and gives thanks for God's provision and guidance from those days to these. We pray for all the students that are finishing exams and High School and ask Lord that you lead and guide them step by step from this day forward, encouraging them to place their hope and trust in you, and in you alone. No feather is too light, no hair too fine, no flower too brief in its glory; no drop in the ocean, no dust in the air, but it is counted and told in God's story.

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: Eternal Father Strong to Save [Eternal Father strong to save](#)

Contemporary: Agnus Dei/ King of Kings [Agnus Dei / King of Kings - Hillsong Worship \(Lyrics\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

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 Hebrews 10: 19 -25. Given all you have heard in the last week or so, where is your hope? Where does the writer of Hebrews say we should put our hope and why?

What is the writer alluding to in verses 19 – 21 and how is Jesus portrayed in this passage?

What stops us in our meeting together and what should we do about it?