



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

SPORTING PRIORITIES

REV DAVID RIETVELD

It is fascinating to watch the priority given to sportspeople to fly in and out of the country! Or the efforts that are given to creating bubbles so that high-level footy competitions can resume during Covid. Will professional athletes be prioritised in the vaccination queue?

Equally interesting, is the public response. Some think the prioritising of sport and athletes is justified; others think all sport is frivolous. Why are tennis players flying in and out, while tens of thousands of Australians remain stranded overseas?

Why does sport get such a priority? One reason is sport is big business. Sport in Australia generates sales of over \$30Bn! It employs over 100 000 people.

But the bigger reason, I suggest, is that sport is now mass distraction and public religion.

The first-century Roman poet Juvenal said of the masses “give them bread and circuses, and they will never revolt”. In that sense, sport is the 21st Century version of a circus. It amuses us. Distracts us. Fills our lives with something, so that we don’t notice their things we ought to be revolted by – or perhaps revolt against.

The other part of sport is that it is public religion. We feel like we are part of something. We belong to an army of dragons’ supporters. We hope – hope that our team will win the flag. The good fight is fought by the blues against the maroons. Or against the poms.

Football codes are now ambassadors for inclusion, or against racism. They are displacing religion as the moral voice in culture.

I love my sport, more than many. But it is a poor replacement for the hope and meaning and sense of belonging that we find only in Jesus.

OFFICE PHONE - 4261 1001

WWW.DAPTO.CHURCH

OFFICE@DAPTOANGLICAN.ORG.AU

PO BOX 25, DAPTO NSW 2530

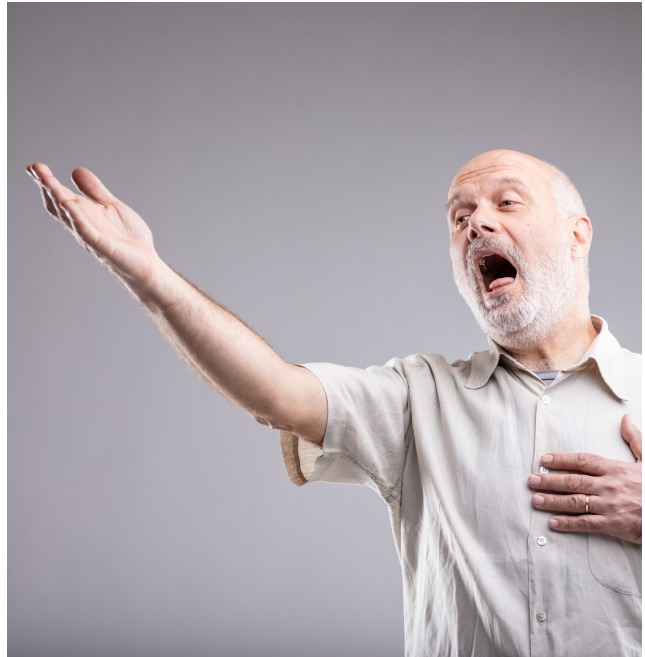
THE CAFÉ - 4260 9278



A JOYFUL NOISE!

On Wednesday, February 24th, the NSW Premier announced the latest update to the Covid-19 restrictions. We were pleased to hear that from Friday, February 26th singing will now be permitted in worship services by congregation members!

However, there are costs to allowing this to happen. The government has announced that if churches choose to allow congregational singing, they must revert back to 4m² per person and masks **MUST** be worn during times of singing.



For these reasons, the staff team have decided that:

- **8am, 5pm and 7pm Services** will have congregational singing. These services will be restricted to 110 people and masks are compulsory during songs.
- **10am Service** will not have congregational singing at present. This service will be able to seat 220 people and masks are NOT compulsory.

We understand these new restrictions may not be exactly what we had hoped for but we remain thankful for good health and now for the ability to start reintroducing singing into our church gatherings.



AGM IS THIS WEEK

Our 2021 AGM will be held on Monday the 1st of March, at 7 pm in the Auditorium. Please make it a priority to be there.

There will be ministry reports emailed out the afternoon of the AGM, and a limited number will be printed for those who cannot access online communications. The Financial Reports have been available from your Service this Sunday, the 21st February. Nomination forms were due in this week, however there is also the possibility of nominating someone in the service if they are there to indicate they would like to be nominated.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday evening.

EMPTY NESTERS

Empty Nesters is an informal group that aims to meet monthly for social gatherings to promote connection and share faith among regulars and newcomers.

In March we are headed to the Wollongong Botanic Garden for their Sculptures in the Garden event. Join us for a picnic Saturday 13th March from 12noon. Bring your own Lunch and Chair. Come along to enjoy community and the fantastic gardens.



COMING UP

Monday 1st Mar Annual General Meeting

Sunday 7th Mar DSSB Commissioning

Saturday 13th Mar Empty Nesters - Picnic



PRAYER FOR TODAY

We beseech you, almighty God, look on the heartfelt desires of your servants, and stretch forth the right hand of your power to be our defence against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Loren A (7pm)

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Helen S; Diana M; Kath H; Ella H; Jean D; Barbara B; Barbara L; Reg B.

HOSPITAL

Elizabeth L (10am) - in hospital for a few more weeks; Graham S (10am) - waiting for results.

8AM/2PM

Glad A (2pm) - had a fall and broke her arm. Please pray for her son also as they care for each other. Betty B, Margaret T and Mildred A - all recovering at home; Pat W and son, Antony still struggling with health issues; Maureen (Op Shop customer) - Cancer; Daphne C's daughter, Joanne - to hospital on Monday at Westmead. Daphne C's neighbour - Leukemia.

10am

Nelson S - unwell with infection; Hilda S; Jeanette R; and Ros R - all home and recovering well; Jeanette B - seeing Specialist this week and waiting for surgery; Sharon S - thankful for prayers following her stroke, please pray that she can get her licence again; Susan S; Hilary B; Ruth D; Alexis L; Phillippa S; Ronnie VK; Michael E; Michele S; - all ongoing conditions and treatments.

7PM

Shaina J's son, Roman - waiting for more tests; Gary M - ongoing health problems; David G - unwell - kidney issues. Calvin A mother - diagnosed with cancer.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Blake M (Janelle's 8 year old grandson) - having chemo for Leukemia.

SAFE MINISTRY



Dapto Anglican Church is committed to Safe Ministry Practices.

If you have a question or concern, we are here to help.

Please contact:

- Julie Houghton, Parish Safe Ministry Representative, by confidential email safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945

