



# WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

## MAFS: “MY NEW FOREVER”

REV DAVID RIETVELD

The next season of Married at First Sight (MAFS) is about to hit your screen. The promos have started. The final and climactic line in one ad has a bride saying in her wedding day vows: “...my new forever begins here today with you.”

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MAFS was Australia's highest-rated (most watched) TV show for the past two years. Another tagline from the promo captures the essence of the plot. “I gave up my family, my friends, my job because I wanted to find love.” Finding that special someone is the ultimate and yet elusive piece of the puzzle of life.

Back to our bride with her promises to her “new forever”. Doesn't it make your heart melt?? Aww – how sweet. Hmm - not me. My immediate question is this: What happened to your old forever?

I presume this bride has been there before. She made similar promises previously. How many forevers can you have? What happens if this ‘experiment’ does not work? Will the next one be her ‘new new forever’?

Behind this vow of committing to a new forever sits a deep assumption. That the past is in the past. That we can have a fresh start. That what I feel and believe about me today, is who I am. We are a ‘no regrets’ culture. Mistakes are no longer mistakes – they are an opportunity to learn. We imagine that if we reframe the past as a learning opportunity, we can move, free from any ongoing consequences.

Contrast this with a conversation I had with several non-Christians this week. All were whinging about divorces. The lies, the disputes over money and access to children, and the lawyers' fees. There was deep bitterness, not an absence of regrets.

The forgiveness we find in Jesus is the closest thing to a fresh start we will ever find. And yet the struggle remains. Peter's impulsiveness, Judas' greed, David's lust... these old temptations have a way of sneaking up on us – even later in life. The old has gone, the new has come (2 Cor 5:17), and yet we must continually put off the old self (Eph 4:22). Keep up the good fight!



# LIFTING RESTRICTIONS?

Yesterday Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced that restrictions in NSW might ease from February 12, unless outbreak occurs. This ease will include returning to 2m2 and mask-wearing will no longer be compulsory at places of worship.

If these restrictions lift, we will be able to have 220 in our Auditorium and masks will be optional next Sunday, 14th February. We still won't be able to sing, however, we do aim to have a live band at some of our services.

Pray with us against further outbreaks, for safety and good health in the community. Pray restrictions can continue to ease.



## CORE DANIEL SERIES GROWTH GROUP

This Sunday, 7th February, is the first in our 5 week Core Series, **Daniel: Faith tested in the Furnace**. As a church we will work our way through the first seven chapters of the book of Daniel.

Are you in a Growth Group? Have you been wanting to try one out? For this series we have additional Growth Groups running. If you would like to try one of these out please email ([office@daptoanglican.org.au](mailto:office@daptoanglican.org.au)) or call the office 4261 1001.

- **Night Growth Group** - Tuesday's 7:30pm, lead by Rev David Rietveld.
- **Day Growth Group** - please let us know if interested.



# PRAYER LAUNCH

Our 2021 Prayer launch is this Friday, the 5th of Feb. We will be praying from 7pm to 8pm at the Ministry Centre, in the Auditorium.

The Cafe will be taking bookings for a roast beef roll dinner beforehand from 6pm. You must call the cafe to book in for dinner - 4260 9278.

# WOMEN WHO WALK

Women Who Walk is a new monthly women's ministry walking group. We had our first walk on Saturday the 30th of January where we walked from Koonawarra Bay to Kanahooka Point. It was a lovely morning socialising with 13 women and enjoying some fresh air, with a little bit of drizzle.

Our next walk will be on Saturday the 27th of February. We look forward to more women coming and walking with us then.



# COMING UP

Thursday 4th Feb DNA Groups Info Night

Friday 5th Feb Prayer Launch

Saturday 6th Feb Youth Leader Training

Sunday 7th Feb GG Leaders Lunch

Friday 12th Feb Connect Kids and City Youth Launch

Sunday 14th Feb Nesters Picnic

Saturday 20th Feb Connect Men Picnic and Walk

Monday 1st Mar Annual General Meeting



# PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord, you have taught us that whatever we do without love is worth nothing: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts the gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you; grant this, for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake. Amen

# PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## PREGNANT WOMEN

Loren A (7pm), and Kasey D (10am).

## VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

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

## HOSPITAL

Mildred A (8am) - having surgery. Elizabeth L (10am) - back surgery. Hilda S (10am) - pacemaker fitted. Grahame S (10am).

## 8AM/2PM

Shirley S; Pat W & Antony & Sue - all struggling with health issues; Maureen (Op Shop Customer) - Cancer; Daphne C's daughter, Joanne - surgeon consultation today, 28th); Daphne C's neighbour - Lukemia.

## 9:30AM

Robin B - ongoing pain..

## 10am

Hilary B - bad arthritis in hand; Susan S - torn ligament in knee caused by fall; Sharon S - waiting for vision to fully return; Jeanette B - praying for a date soon for back surgery; Ruth D; Alexis L; Sylvia McG; Genie C; Phillippa S; Wendy E; Ronnie VK; Michael E; Janelle S; Michele S - all ongoing conditions and treatments; Dave S - recovering at home after surgery.

## 7PM

Shaina J's son, Roman - more tests soon, pray for more answers and good health while monitoring and waiting; Billy H - chemo treatment; Gary M - ongoing health problems; David G - unwell and awaiting surgery.

# 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](mailto:safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au) or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945

