



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

LESSONS FROM CATHOLIC PRIEST HENRI NOUWEN

REV DAVID RIETVELD

Henri Nouwen was born in Holland in 1932 and was ordained into the Catholic priesthood aged 25. While he initially studied theology, he transitioned to studying psychology. He became a famous speaker, author, and academic, was a professor of Pastoral Theology at Yale and Notre Dame and lectured at Harvard.

As a person, he struggled with self-doubts and loneliness. Nouwen is perhaps best known not as an academic, but as a spiritual guide who spoke into people's lives through his speaking and books. Consider this quote: "Our life is full of brokenness - broken relationships, broken promises, broken expectations. How can we live with that brokenness without becoming bitter and resentful except by returning again and again to God's faithful presence in our lives."

At his most recognised, Nouwen stepped back from public life and began serving in a residential community for the intellectually disabled called L'Arche. Nouwen was paired with a man with severe developmental disabilities named Adam. Nouwen wrote a book about the experience: *Adam: God's Beloved*. Reflecting on that relationship, Nouwen reflected: "It is I, not Adam, who gets the main benefit from our friendship".

Nouwen also struggled with same-sex attraction. Nouwen never went public about this, but he did confide in others, write about this in his private journals, and there are allusions in his writings. There is no evidence that Nouwen broke his vow of chastity.

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cont...

Nouwen is a prophetic example of a man who lived and struggled with his psychological and sexual inclinations. He found the answers to his deepest needs in the presence of God, and in serving others. He expresses his 'self' as a child of God, and imitator of Christ.

But Nouwen is also an example of where the church encounters a great man with flaws. A person of homosexual orientation is neither shunned nor excluded. Rather, he is embraced into a community of religious orders, allowed to flourish, and granted authority, profile, and voice. This is the body of Christ loving and accepting one another.

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



Pop-Up Cafe

For one day only The Cafe will be opening its doors to anyone and everyone who would like to share a coffee or a hot meal.

8th of June

From 10:30am for Coffee and Muffins

12:00pm till 2:00pm for Lunch and Dessert

"What's on the menu?" we hear you ask...

Steak Pie w/ Mash and Peas \$10

Chocolate Mousse \$5

Call the office, or email office@daptoanglican.org.au to let us know you're coming, it'll help us to know our quantities for lunch and dessert!



Passover

On June the 11th, at 5 pm, we will be enacting the Passover together, with all congregations, across all ages, as we come out of our One Another series and launch into our Exodus series.



Passover has been practised for thousands of years. God's Old Testament people were to practice a meal together that demonstrated both mercy and salvation. It was a meal that reminded each member that their story has been intertwined with others. A meal that, for a moment, placed them back in that night of that final plague before God rescued them in the great Exodus. Where judgement and mercy meet, where blood is spilt, and lives are saved.

\$10 per person or \$30 for a family

Please RSVP to the office or at the Info Desk at your service.

Community Pantry

As the cooler weather kicks in, we turn our thoughts to those who are sleeping rough and in need of support. We have a rich history at DAC of supporting the community through food and supplies. This year, we would like to invite you to donate 1 or 2 pantry items (canned food with ring pulls, long life milk, boxed juice, crackers, biscuits etc) to our community pantry which is accessed by those in need through DAC Care.



Please bring items you wish to donate to the office Tuesday-Thursday over the coming weeks.



Anne Scandritt

Please join us in giving thanks for Anne Scandritt and pray for her family and friends as they attend her funeral tomorrow, Friday, 27th May at 12 noon at Parsons at Dapto.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

O God, the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven. Fill us with your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and bring us to eternal life in heaven where our Saviour lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for evermore. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT COUPLES

Lisa & Michael S.

HOSPITAL

Pray for Trevor W (10am) following surgery on his knees. Will be going back to rehab once his post-op settles down.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please pray for our people in Nursing Homes: Audrey & Alan R; Gae & Allen Q; Kath H; Elsie N; Diana M; Barbara L; Reg B; (all in Piper House, Dapto); Robyn & Neville K (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H Warrigal Care, A.P.); Graham S (Carino Care, Rockdale).

8AM

Alan R requires further surgery; Wendy R - still struggling with pain in her legs; Lyn R - her pneumonia is now in the recovery stage, and now has anemia; Ray McP - still struggling with his health; Pray for Daphne C's daughter, Joanna, who will be having further investigation following her recent surgery.

10AM

Carl C - recovering from his eye surgery; Paul B - recovering well; Elizabeth L - coping with her pain; Suzanne W - recovering slowly and having physio; Phil P - still struggling with the after effects of his operation and is feeling a bit isolated. Sue B - is coping with changes in her condition. Please continue to pray for these people.

6PM

Continue to pray for Tarj as he recovers; Pray for Roman, Shaina J's son.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Continue to pray for Lynne N's brother, Stephen.

COVID

Please continue to pray for all those people from our congregations who have Covid, and those recovering from Covid.