



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

WHY THE FOCUS ON DISCIPLESHIP?

REV DAVID RIETVELD

Peter Tasker mentioned to me last week how the next generation of church leaders emphasise discipleship. This is not to say previous generations were unaware of the notion. But it was not the focus or the vocab. Emphasis was placed on teaching people outlines of the gospel, and getting people into bible studies.

Why the shift? Why are we not teaching people “2 ways to live”? Why DNA groups? And discipleship pathways?

In the past (in Christendom), several assumptions underwrote our culture. There was a shared consensus that: there is a God; this God created a good world, which also now has evil; we can choose good over evil; Jesus was the best example of this; God somehow sees and weighs our choices; and will reward us in eternity in ways that are just and fair. People who attended church, and those who did not – people who prayed and people who did not – most believed these commonly shared assumptions.

In such a culture, half the work of discipleship is done for you by culture. The church needs to place its emphasis on the fact that God is not a vague divine presence, but has come to us in Christ; God speaks through his Word and Spirit, and emphasise belief in Jesus as a means to accessing God’s grace. This last point is what our 20th Century gospel presentations centred on.

That world has gone. There is no shared consensus about God’s existence. And if he does exist, religions all disagree, so we cannot know much about him with any certainty. Jesus was a good guy, but so was Buddha. The bible may have some underlying truths, but they have been corrupted and manipulated by a self-serving power-hungry church. So you are best served trusting your own intuition and heart, finding your own meaning in the present, and let the future be what it will be. These new ideas hold the default status of plausible. The old Christendom consensus is now assumed to be implausible.

Being a Christian is a lifelong process of taking the next step to follow Jesus, in the midst of a body of people doing the same. In a culture where following someone else is implausible, emphasising discipleship of Jesus is very appropriate.

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LIFTING RESTRICTIONS!!

Yesterday, Premier Gladys Berejiklian announced that restrictions in NSW will ease from February 12. Masks will no longer be compulsory at places of worship! AND our capacity increases from 110 to 220 people in the Auditorium.

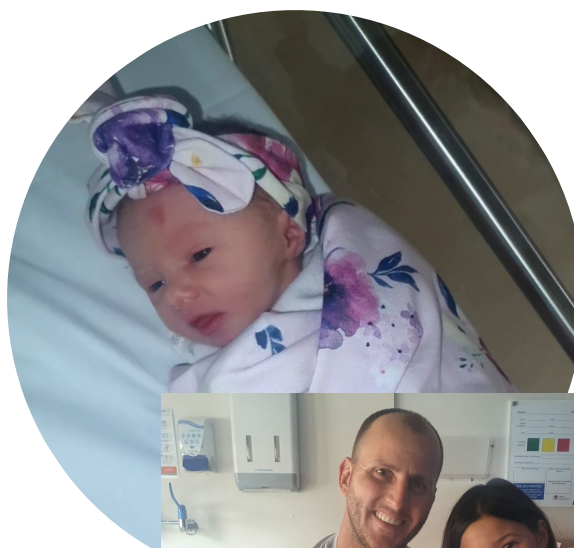
We will still be checking in with the Service NSW QR codes on arrival at DAC as well as maintaining 1.5m social distancing, in compliance with the regulations.

Join us in giving thanks for this ease in COVID restrictions!

WELCOME RIVER!

Please join us in celebrating the birth of River Rue Douglass! Brad and Kasey Douglass welcomed their daughter on Monday the 8th of February at 11:40 am. River arrived weighing 2.09 kg and measuring 43 cm long.

Kameron and Dash are excited to meet their little sister! Join us in praying over River as she grows, and over Brad, Kasey, Kameron and Dash and they care for her.



SHROVE TUESDAY & LENT

This Tuesday the 16th of February is Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins.

Every year we will practise a spiritual discipline. Lent is a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God, a time for personal reflection that prepares our hearts and minds for Good Friday and Easter.

Beginning Wednesday 17th February, we'll seek as a church community, to fast, or to give something up, for the 40 days of Lent. When you feel 'hungry', use that as a prompt to pray.

Our Lent sermon series will begin Sunday March 14th and lead us into Easter.



Shrove Tuesday in the Cafe
Tuesday 16th February
9:00am till 2:00pm
Book your table: 4260 9278

**Build your own Pancake Stack
at The Cafe, from \$10.**

DAC AGM

Our 2021 AGM will be held on Monday the 1st of March, at 7pm in the Auditorium. Nomination forms will be available at each service this week and in the coming weeks. Please pop this date in your diary and be prayerfully considering who you might nominate for the positions on Parish Council and as Church Wardens.

COMING UP

- Friday 12th Feb Connect Kids and City Youth Launch
- Sunday 14th Feb Empty Nesters Picnic
- Tuesday 16th Feb Shrove Tuesday - in the Cafe
- Wednesday 17th Feb Lent Begins
- Saturday 20th Feb Connect Men Picnic and Walk
- Monday 1st Mar Annual General Meeting



PRAYER FOR TODAY

Let your merciful ears, Lord God, be open to the prayers of your people; and make us ask such things as will please you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Loren A (7pm)

MOURNING

Warren and Deborah Southwell (10am) following the death of their sister-in-law, Janelle.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

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

HOSPITAL

Elizabeth L (10am) - may need more surgery; Jeanette R (10am) - surgery then rehab;
Graham S (10am) - waiting for test results;

8AM/2PM

Mildred A - recovering at home; Pat W & son Antony - struggling with health issues; Antony's fiancée, Sue - has been in hospital and quite unwell; Maureen (Op Shop customer) - Cancer; Daphne C's neighbour - Leukemia; Daphne C's daughter, Joanne - meeting with vascular surgeon, op in 2 weeks.

10am

Jeanette B - waiting to have back surgery; Hilary B; Susan S; Sharon S; Ruth D; Alexis L; Phillippa S; Ronnie VK; Michael E; Michele S; - all ongoing conditions and treatments; Ros R home from hospital and recovering.

7PM

Shaina J's son, Roman - waiting for more tests; Gary M - ongoing health problems; David G - Unwell - kidney issues.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Janelle Moulds' grandson, Blake (8 years old) - undergoing tests following a diagnosis of 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

