

WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

FREEDOM IS A MEANS, NOT AN END

REV DAVID RIETVELD

The storming of Capital Hill today (Thursday 7 Jan 2021) in America is a catastrophe. It represents so many things that are wrong.

A leader who uses power to divide. A loser who will not concede defeat. A man whose personal agendas overshadow. Democracy undermining itself. Peaceful protests becoming more (or is that less?). Lies being broadcast, and then believed. Mob rule and hysteria.

While many things will be said of this day, I will choose to focus on one. America was a nation founded upon the rights of individuals. Many of those who boarded the Mayflower in 1620 were fleeing religious persecution in Europe. From inception, modern America was founded upon the right of the individual to freely hold to beliefs and practices, according to one's personal convictions.

Trump fashions himself as a preserver of such individual and religious freedoms. In some cases, he has defended the right of religious organisations to employ, or engage, or act in ways that are consistent with their beliefs.

Yet his definition of freedom does not align with that of scripture. In the bible, freedom is usually framed in relationship to the law. We are free from the obligation to try and save ourselves by obeying the law. This does not lead to the conclusion that we are free to do as we please. Rather, once freed from the obligation of saving self through the law, we become slaves to Christ and others.

Put simply, in Christianity we are freed from sin, not freed to do as we please (which often, is also sin?). We are freed from sin to serve.

Freedom is a means, not the greatest end in itself. The right to choose has become an idol. God's question to you on judgement day will be about what have you done with your freedom?

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CHURCH THIS WEEK

As you will have been hearing in the news, the current COVID situation has led to more restrictions being imposed by the NSW Government. As a result, we have had to revert to some of our previous practices for Sunday Services and include some new ones in order to ensure compliance.

From now on, whenever you come to the Dapto Anglican site, you will need to sign in using the QR code provided. If you are unable to do so, we will have someone available to record your details. You will also be required to wear a mask at all times and there will be no live music or singing in any of our services. The number of persons permitted in our services is restricted to 100.

Whilst on-site you will also be required to maintain physical distancing and not mingle especially between the separate congregations. For this reason, it is important that once each service is concluded we clear the site before the arrival of the next service.

We will be continuing to run a children's program as part of our 10 am service. Parents will be required to drop their children at the Youth Hall using the entrance from the car park and then proceed to the auditorium. In order to maintain separation between groups, we ask that you please bring your children at 9:45 and collect them at 11:15. You must then leave the site.

For parents of teenagers attending our 5 pm service and staying for the 6 pm meal, could you please collect your teenager at 6:30 pm unless they are staying for the 7 pm service.

After the services, our cafe will still be operating following its normal COVID-Safe practices.

We understand that this does cause additional inconvenience and if you feel at all uncomfortable about attending in person, our 10 am service will continue to be streamed live on Youtube.

Rev David Rietveld
Senior Minister

AT THE MINISTRY CENTRE

Renovation is underway at the Minster Centre. The stage in the main hall has been taken out, new timber has arrived and the framing has begun.

Thank you to those who have helped so far, and if you would like to help in the coming weeks please let us know! In the weeks to come we'll be framing, prepping, painting and more.



SUMMER NIGHTS

WORKSHOPS

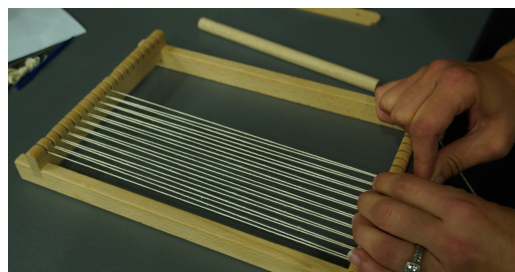
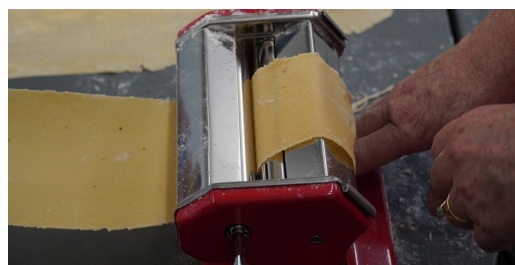
5TH, 12TH, 19TH JAN 2021

WWW.DAPTO.CHURCH/SUMMERNIGHTS

Tuesday night saw 47 of us gather across the Minster Centre to learn different skills. We perfected our Chocolate Brownies, and while they baked learnt how to make pretzels. Yards of Pasta were rolled out. Looms were threaded and different weaving techniques explored. To our children's delight, Ava broke a wooden block with her kick. 3D Models were designed by children and while others investigated painting techniques.

It was a relaxed and fun night. While social distancing and wearing masks, we were still able to appreciate the joy of learning together.

The next Summer Nights workshops will be held this coming Tuesday, 12th Jan, from 5:30pm till 7:00pm, with dinner available for purchase from the Cafe afterwards.



WORKSHOPS

Tuesday 12th January:

- Profiteroles (18+)
- Sausage Making (18+)
- Watercolour Painting (18+)
- Macrame (18+) SOLD OUT
- Line Dancing (all ages)
- Kids Pottery - two weeks (7+)
- Kids Painting (5+)

Tuesday 19th January:

- Cake Decorating (18+) SOLD OUT
- Butcher Workshop (18+)
- Weaving (18+)
- Dumpling Making (18+) SOLD OUT
- Line Dancing (all ages)
- Kids Painting (5+)

To find out more and book tickets head over to:
www.dapto.church/summernights



PRAYER FOR TODAY

Eternal Father, who declared Jesus our Lord to be your beloved Son at his Baptism: grant that we and all who have become his members through baptism in your Spirit may rejoice to be your children and the servants of all men; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

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

THOSE MOURNING

Pray for the family and friends of Bruce Massey (was 9.30am) who died on New Years Eve.

Pray for the family and friends of Lorna Blissett-Walker (10am).

Pray for Peter and Ruth Dimitrievich (10am) and Phyllis Dimitrievich (9.30am) whose nephew, and grandson, died on 3rd January, aged 26 due to cancer. Pray for his family and friends.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Helen S, Diana M, Kath H, Ella H, Jean D, Lorna B-W, Glenys N, Barbara B, Barbara L, Reg B.

8AM/2PM

Shirley S; Pat W and son, Antony and Antony's fiancée - all struggling with health issues; Maureen (Op Shop customer) - cancer; Daphne C's daughter, Joanna, has a rare condition and needs urgent surgery; Daphne C's neighbour is having ongoing treatment for Leukemia.

9:30AM

Julia L will be having cataract surgery on Wednesday, 13th; Robin B - pray for freedom from pain.

10am

Ruth D, Alexis L, Sharon S, Sylvia McG, Genie C, Phillippa S, Wendy E, Elizabeth L, Ronnie VK, Michael E, Janelle S, Michele S - all ongoing conditions and treatment. 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 - recovering from 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 or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945