



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

I'M SPECIAL – RIGHT?

REV DAVID RIETVELD

The notion in last week's sermon that being 'authentic' is presently over-rated, and not valued by Paul received some push back. So I will have another bite at the cherry. The underlying question is this – what makes us human beings? What do we need to flourish?

The world's answer is something like – we need to be centred. We need to be in touch with our true self, our desires and our gifts. We need to love ourselves and fill our own cup so that our cup can overflow and fill others. Being 'true to who you are' is the world's definition of authentic.

Put another way, I am an individual. Unique, special – and when I believe and express that, I become the best me, who then blesses others. Individualism is usually contrasted with collectivism. In collectivism, it is not the individual who is special, but the collective. Communism is an example of collectivist philosophy. Disney does a great job of parodying collectivism. Films like Antz and Bee Movie revolve around the individual who is supposed to sacrifice their uniqueness for the good of the colony, but actually stands up – alone, and ends up being the hero. Collectivism denies that individuals are distinctively gifted, known as one person by God, and created in God's image. So if we aren't collectivists – we must be individualists! Right?

Paul, in my reading, is neither a collectivist nor an individualist. We are not simply a cog in a big machine, or an entity in our own rights. Rather we are a living member (think arm or leg as members) of a body. And when you think 'body', don't think of the universal church, but a local church family or body.

We are individuals who exist in relationship. Limbs not connected to the body die. Just as ears need eyes, so we all need each other. Human beings are not independent, but inter-dependant. Persons thrive when loved by others in community. Love from God and others is more life-giving than self-love. (Don't we know this under restrictions!)

Being authentic, if it has a place, is about being true to who God made you to be, and honouring the body that you are intimately and dependently connected to.

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IT'S COMPLICATED

Term 4 has kicked off with a bang!
Last Friday Youth returned for a combined night.
Praise God for the teenagers that returned and their enthusiasm for being back.

This term, at the 5 pm service and at Youth group, we are starting with a relationships series titled 'It's Complicated'. The past two weeks in the series have been great as we explored friendships and dating. This Sunday we will be speaking about sex. The youth will break into juniors and seniors for QandA sessions afterwards.

This series has provided a safe space to talk about these important topics for our teenagers. It has sparked great discussion and thoughtful questions as wrestle with what they hear from the world and what they hear from God's word, and how to live for Christ.

Please pray for these teenagers as they seek to navigate this difficult topic, for many of them they have many questions and hear many "answers". Pray that they might hear God's good news and good plan for this tricky topic.



WELCOME BABY OLIVIA

On Monday the 19 of October, April and Haiden Alexander welcomed their 2nd daughter Olivia Louise Alexander. Olivia arrived at 10:41am weighing 3.7kg. April and Olivia are both doing well, and big sister Alyssa is eager to meet her little sister. Join us in praying over the Alexanders as they celebrate Olivia's safe arrival and adjust to being a family of four.



COVID UPDATE

As many of you may have heard, COVID restrictions on Religious Gatherings will change from tomorrow (Friday), with the gathering size increasing from a limit of 100 to 300. This is great news. Even though we are still restricted to 4 square metres per person, this increase in size allows more flexibility in the use of our site.

It was also announced that masks are no longer "strongly recommended" during the service. We are encouraged to use them when moving to and from services, however, while in the service we can be without them provided we remain in our seats and maintain physical distancing.

COMMUNION THIS WEEK

This Sunday we will be having Communion at all our services, including online. At the Ministry Centre, communion will be supplied for you and served to you (with COVID Safe Practices). However, If you are watching from home make sure you get your bread and juice ready before the service.

We look forward to sharing communion with you.



WORSHIP NIGHT

Though we can't join in congregational singing, we can come together in song and prayer to our Lord. Therefore we are holding a night of worship, through song and prayer.

No need to book in or buy a ticket, join us, Tuesday November 3rd from 7 pm in the Auditorium.



PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty and eternal God, grant that we may grow in faith, hope and love; and so that we may obtain what you promised, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

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

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

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

8AM/2PM

Pat W son Anthony and Anthony's fiancée, Sue K - all struggling with health. Shirley S - problems with health. Beth Weston (wife of Trevor) recovering. Glad A, stroke, home recovering.

9:30AM

Pat McK - recovering from surgery.

10AM

Wendy E - had a fall and injured her back. Pray for healing. Elizabeth L, Ronnie V.K., Michael E, Janelle S, Michele S - all ongoing conditions and treatment.

7PM

Shaina J son, Roman - Scans are booked in for 19th November. Pray for good results Billy H - chemo treatment. Gary M - ongoing health problems. David G - pain whilst recovering from surgery.

HSC STUDENTS

Micah S, Olivia Q and Own D. Please pray for these students.

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

