



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

ISOLATION

REV DAVID RIETVELD

The Coronavirus train roles on. Many of our behaviours have shifted – our work patterns, how we shop, sanitisation routines etc. There is so much information to digest. How does the disease spread? What are the latest guidelines? When will restrictions lift?

Changing your behaviours and thought patterns inevitably impacts your feelings. Many of us have been on an emotional roller coaster ride. It might have begun with fear, or dismissing the fearful. Then came the helplessness when we feel we are no longer in control. This may result in panic (or panic buying). Put all these together and you get an underlying level of anxiety that rises. Mix in some blame – those NSW health officials messed up the Ruby Princess.

The feeling that I sense is now slowly overtaking all others is isolation.

Fittingly, the gospel speaks to all of this. The human heart is susceptible to certain diseases. The desire to be in control, to be like God, to trust ourselves and what we have stored up in our barns. To conceive plans in our minds, and then act them out – plans that come from, and are about self. Such behaviours and thoughts have consequences. Fear, greed, envy. Have I got enough? Have others got more? When resources are short, and we compete for them, others become our enemy, and we become isolated.

We were not created to be alone. It is not good. Jesus comes to overturn the tables of greed, self-trust, and enmity. His death defeats sin and its powers. His resurrection invites people out of isolation and into restored relationships. To participate as citizens of different kingdom. One where loving God and serving others brings renewal.

Why not use some of your newfound solitude to contemplate what it means for Jesus to be your hope? How will life now, and the virus be different?

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PRAY WITH US

Heavenly Father,

We praise you and thank you for your everlasting love and care for us through all circumstances. Please help us to make wise decisions as we move towards some of the social restrictions lifting from this weekend. Your word tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves, please help us to think about those around us who may be vulnerable as we move around the community more freely. We pray for our government and expert leaders who are making decisions about restrictions. We ask that they continue to guide us confidently through this time of uncertainty. Keep them safe and well. In all things, we seek to bring glory to you. May your name forever be on our lips.

In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Ainsley R. (7pm), Mel F. (7pm).

THOSE IN HOSPITAL

Michael J (Mary's husband 9:30am) rehabilitation at Figtree.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

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

8AM/2PM

Pat W. son's fiancé Sue K. undergoing chemo treatment, Diane L. undergoing chemo treatment, Mavis B. home from hospital recovering.

10AM

Genie C., Annette H., Michael E., Janelle S. (Warren's sister) Ronnie VK, all ongoing conditions and treatment. Trevor W. recovering at home. Garion W recovering at home.

7PM

Shaina J. son, Roman, waiting to see neurologist in Sydney. Pray for good health while waiting.

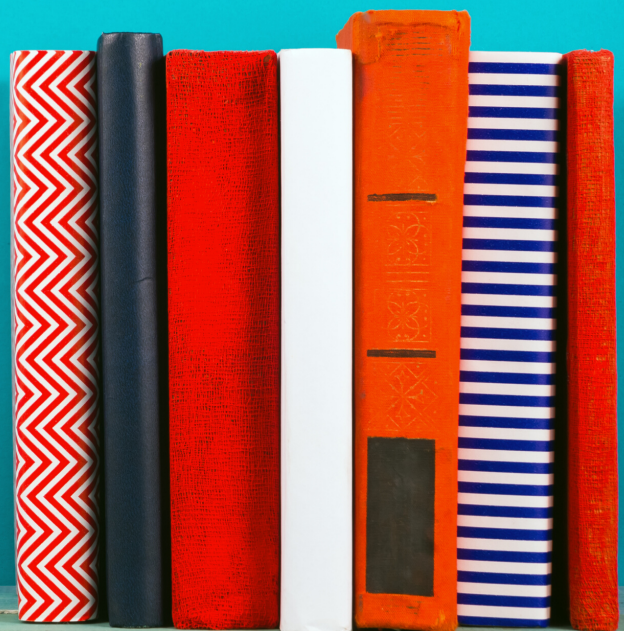
THE NEXT NINETY DAYS

This week over 100 families joined together for our first online virtual Church Dinner. We watched the live stream from Rev David's dining table and heard the plans for the Next Ninety days at DAC. If you haven't had a chance to catch up on this announcement you can watch it [here](#) and read about it [here](#).

BOOK CLUB

One of the opportunities David talked about was a series of Book Clubs fun by staff members. We have 6 Books for you to choose and we have listed them below for you. We've also included links to where you can purchase or download them (and what great timing, Koorong has 20% off until Monday!). If you would like to join one of these Bookclubs sign up [here](#). We'll contact you soon when they will start.

1. David Rietveld has picked "The New Testament in Its World: An Introduction to the History, Literature and Theology of the First Christians" by N T Wright, Michael F Bird.
2. Jamie Mackenzie is reading "You Can Change" by Tim Chester.
3. Matt Stanley will explore "Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy With God" by Timothy Keller.
4. Dianne Whittaker's book is "Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God" by Bob Kauflin.
5. Zoe Vesey will be reading "Surprised By Joy: The Shape of My Early Life" by C S Lewis.
6. Jason McPhail has chosen "Soul Keeping: Caring For the Most Important Part of You" by John Ortberg.



MAKING SENSE OF THE MESS

"Making Sense of the Mess" David also announced we'd be doing some online forums. The aim being to help us explore topics relevant to today's situations and therefore we are calling it: Making Sense of the Mess.

Making Sense of the Mess will take place at 7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings. The first one will take place this week, the 6th of April, and we'll be looking at "Pandemic's Throughout History".

The format will be through Facebook Live. You'll be able to tune in and hear a discussion on the topic and then participate in a Q and A.

FINACE UPDATE

It is pleasing to be able to report that the giving to the Church in April was \$46,330. While this is \$5,670 below our monthly target of \$52,000 it is a great encouragement given these unusual times that we are living in at the moment.

Thank you to all who have moved across to give by bank transfer or who continue to give using envelopes and dropping them into the office. Thank you also to all who have continued to give using a bank transfer in these uncertain times.

If you are not already doing so, please consider using a bank transfer or dropping your gifts into the Church Office.

You can set up a bank transfer through your bank's website or app. The Church's BSB Number is 032686 and the Account Number is 301487. If you use the Offertory Envelopes but aren't able to get them to the Office, or if you have not received a new set of envelopes, please telephone the Church Office on 4261 1001 and we will arrange to collect envelopes or deliver a new set.

Thank you all for your faithfulness in financially supporting the ministry of our Church.

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