



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

REV DAVID REITVELD

If you read only the sensationalist headlines - Novak was this week granted a vaccine exemption to play in the Australian Open. Given the Aussie distaste for tall poppies, many of us will sense this preferential treatment is unfair, and unwarranted. The hate on social media is off the charts. I expect the nine times Australian Open champion Novak to be booed in his first game.

His tennis and public persona are also not winsome. Federer is a class act. Nadal has grit and passion that makes him likeable. But Djokovic can be machine-like, awkward, and stand-offish.

Was his exemption unfair? Apparently, the application for medical exemption entrance is anonymous, so Novak did not receive preferential treatment.

Beyond that, Novak has a lot going for him. He is gracious in defeat and victory. He fought for prize money to be allocated more evenly - which would mean he got less. He reached out to Naomi Osaka, as he does for others, during their dark times.

Away from tennis, he raises money for poor children to attend school in his homeland in Serbia. He is the patron of a foundation.

Novak is also a public, practising (Orthodox) Christian. He can be seen praying on court, and often wears a cross. He talks openly about his beliefs and his prayers. In last year's Australian Open he left the tennis precinct to find a Serbian Orthodox Church so he might pray in the Orthodox New Year.

Like him, or loathe him - Novak is an individual whose faith grounds him as a person and player, allows him to dig deeper than most when his back is against the wall, and sets him apart from the polished brand managed personas on the professional tour.

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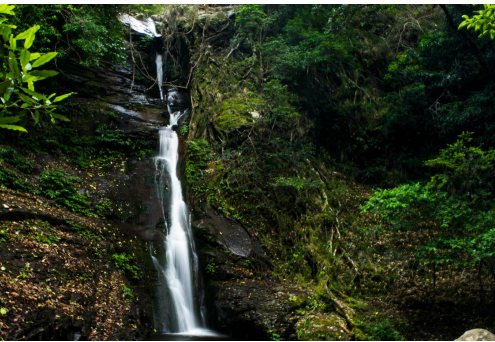
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SUMMER NIGHTS

Due to the high COVID case numbers we are changing Summer Nights. Instead of gathering indoors, we are moving outdoors. Instead of workshops, we're going to gather and enjoy nature in a relaxed form. Check the details below.



Cascade Falls Walk

Join us for a walk up to the beautiful waterfalls, **Tuesday 11th January**. Meet at the Cascade Falls Carpark at the bottom of Macquarie Pass. The walk will start at 4pm, so get there a little earlier to ensure you're ready at 4pm.



Harbour Picnic

Join us for a picnic in a Little Park in Shellharbour Village, Tuesday 18th January. Bring your own picnic, or purchase food from the shops, and enjoy a relaxed evening from 5pm.

We'd like to thank all those who were preparing workshops and happy to host, for the time and effort you put into serving our community. Our thanks also goes out to those who booked in. We'll be in contact with them about refunds.

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



PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

HOSPITAL

Daphne C's daughter, Joanna, still having treatment and has to have another procedure. Could be in hospital for another six weeks. Please pray for healing for Joanna, and peace for Daphne. Praise God that Tarj is awake after many weeks in an induced coma. Continue to pray as he begins a long road of rehab and recovery. Rebekah S has had a miraculous recovery and she has just been allowed to go home to the family. She will now be treated as an outpatient. They are thankful for our prayers.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please pray for our people in Nursing Homes - Kath H, Elsie N, Diana M, Barbara L, Reg B (all in St. Luke's Village); Robyn K, Neville K (both at Diggers Rest, Corrimal); Gae and Allen Q ('Dorington Court', Castle Hill); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Graham S (back in Carino Care, Rockdale).

8AM

Audrey R - recovering at home following surgery to her ankle; David H - recovering at home following a knee replacement; Greg Batten is struggling with his mobility due to a bad back. Please pray for healing; Shirley S - asks for prayer that her house can be sold; Lyn R - still struggling with her health and will see another specialist soon; Wendy R - still struggling with pain in her knee - please pray for healing and patience; Arthur S - lots of pain from cancer in groin.

10AM

Vince A - recovering well; Sue B - coping with her condition; Phil P - waiting for more treatment.

6PM

Shaina's son, Roman - waiting for more scans.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lynne N's father doing better, but still frail; and her brother has had his 5th treatment for skin cancer and is doing well.

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.