



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

A DANGEROUS BIBLE STORY WE CAN NO LONGER TEACH IN SCRIPTURE

REV DAVID REITVELD

In their infinite wisdom, the NSW dept of education has decided that the story of Abraham almost sacrificing his son Isaac is no longer allowed to be taught as part of Scripture lessons.

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Here is a biblical narrative that has been told and retold by Jews and Christians for 4000 years. It is part of the collection of teachings that has given birth to great civilisations – Jewish, and both Eastern and Western Christian.

Even without an appreciation of its original context, the story contains some timeless insights. Life contains moments where you need to decide what is most important to you. Following God and his call on your life requires the willingness to sacrifice. Having said that, in the end, God does not ask anything immoral of us, and graciously provides a way forward when we trust him.

Understood in its original setting, this narrative is against child sacrifice. The nations inhabiting Canaan did sacrifice their children to gods, and by contrast, the God of Abraham is saying he requires that level of commitment, but his people will not do such things.

The original incident takes place at Mt Moriah. This will later become known as the Temple Mount, where God will allow his own Son to be sacrificed. But that is not the end of the story. Just as by faith Abraham “considered that God was able even to raise [Isaac] from the dead” (Hebrews 11:19), so God raises Jesus on the third day, and through his resurrection, all can find eternal life.

There is profound wisdom and prophetic insight here. But apparently, our ‘open-minded’, arrogant culture knows better, sees this lesson as harmful, and has censured the story.

Training, Empowering, Equipping young people to be not just the church of tomorrow but the church of today. This is the goal of LIT.

Over the last 10 days we have sent two groups of teenagers on LIT camp, gathering with over 500 other young people who are leading and serving Jesus in their local churches and schools. Campers looked at the book of Matthew, trained in small groups how to understand the Bible and how to then teach it in varying contexts.

Charlotte Hare was one of our campers and this is what she had to say:



'I went on LiT to develop my leadership skills and to meet other Christians my age. I definitely found encouragement in being surrounded by fellow Christians and hearing their stories and how they serve within their churches. I'd really encourage future leaders to go to LiT because the relationships you develop are lifelong and the content you learn is so key to becoming a better light for God's word and serving in different ministries!'

Pray for both groups of teenagers as they reflect and respond to what was learnt and what it means for them to 'pick up their cross and follow Him'.

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



Gathering by the Creek

Connect Men are meeting up from 4pm, Saturday 29th January at William Beach Reserve, Prince Edward Dr. There is plenty of space to spread out, bring a camp chair and your own food and drinks. There is a BBQ to cook if you'd like, and a play ground, so bring your kids if you like. For more info chat with Warren Southwell.

Mid Week Service

Our 2pm service returns, 2nd of February, 2pm at St Luke's Brownsville. This is a weekly Holy Communion service. When you attend please make sure you sign in, and wear your mask.



Worship Team



The Worship Team now meets every Wednesday at 7pm in the Auditorium. We are excited to be working together and playing music again in services. Please be praying for our musicians and tech teams as we seek to serve God through music and the production of services in an ever changing environment.

We are seeking team members to join either the music or tech team, please chat to Lisa and feel free to join us on Wednesdays nights.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

THOSE MOURNING

Sue and Neal Walker - Please pray for the Walkers as they grieve the sudden death of their daughter Sophie.

PREGNANT WOMEN

Mel F and Erin S.

HOSPITAL

Continue to pray as Tarj as he begins a long road of rehab and recovery following his accident.

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 and Neville K (both at Diggers Rest, Corrimal); Gae and Allen Q (Castle Hill); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Graham S (Carino Care, Rockdale).

8AM

Audrey R - recovering well after breaking her ankle; David H - recovering well following knee surgery; Greg B - back pain slowly improving - thanks for your prayers; Lyn R - still struggling with her health and seeing a Specialist in February to decide whether or not to have surgery; Wendy R - still has pain in her knee; Arthur S - pray for freedom from pain; Daphne C's daughter, Joanna, - home from hospital and waiting for more treatment; Daphne and Joanna thank you all for your prayers; Shirley S - thought that she had sold her house, but the sale fell through, please pray for her house to be sold.

10AM

Elizabeth L - struggling with her health and waiting for more appointments; Vince A - recovering well; Sue B - coping with her condition; Mary J's husband, Michael has health issues. Please pray for him.

6PM

Shaina J's son, Roman - has had scans and awaiting results in February.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lynne N's father and brother are both doing well. Thanks for your prayers.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord God, the strength of all who put their trust in you: mercifully accept our prayers, and because through the weakness of our human nature we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, so that in keeping your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**