



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

THE LOST ART OF FORGIVENESS

REV DAVID REITVELD

Scripture Union recently surveyed high school students about their present concerns. Forgiveness ranked number three. You might guess that identity, meaning and purpose are big for teenagers – but forgiveness?

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Teenagers live in a world where the dialogue is spoken out on social media. Shaming and disliking are the methods of feedback and social control in such forums.

Look at what happened to Tim Paine – the Australian cricket captain, or Jack de Belin. One suspects they will live under a forever cloud. Their unwise actions have consequences. Think of the politician who is found to have made a politically incorrect tweet years ago. Social media, and the emerging shaming culture, has a way of labelling, disseminating, and then mass ostracising the offender.

I am not wishing to minimise or condone such actions. My point in this – say or do the wrong thing and you can be quickly judged, dismissed, and permanently banished. Is there a path back from social suicide? Can you appreciate why this is such a big issue for teenagers?

The parable of the prodigal son deals with the dilemma of forgiveness in an honour shame culture. Sin is not just a matter of personal guilt, following an offence before God. Sin has real social consequences. It undermines your standing in the community. The act of forgiveness comes with a cost. You must align yourself with the outcast, and embrace embarrassment, as the father does who in an undignified way lifts his cloak, bears his legs, and runs.

This moment of cultural transition presents an opportunity. How can we – the forgiven people of God, saved by Jesus who embraces the shame of the cross – be the people who extend forgiveness to others in a world where forgiveness is increasingly a lost art?

DAC WOMEN'S DESSERT NIGHT

Women's ministry hosted their Christmas event this week, a dessert and ornament swap night.

This was a new and intriguing concept for many of the women. Each person brought with them 2 ornaments and randomly selected the names of 2 other women to gift their ornaments.

This meant that each person brought 2 ornaments with them, and left with 2 different ones to hang on their Christmas tree.

There was plenty of opportunity to indulge in some delicious treats from our dessert platters put together beautifully by the women's ministry team.

The room was filled with laughter and warm conversations. Memories and friendships were formed. A wonderful start to the Christmas season!



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





CONNECT KIDS

Connect Inside Out finishes on Thursday, December 16, with a Christmas party for both kids and parents. Join in the fun with games, crafts and food. Adults \$7, kids \$5 (families \$20). We will be farewelling Tom David on this day too.

Connect Sundays finishes on December 19, with a Christmas party at the usual time.

Connect Kids Leaders are celebrating with 18 holes of putt-putt at the new Shellharbour links course, followed by a sausage sizzle at a local beach. Monday, December 20 at 6 pm. at the Links.

Thank God for a great Connect Kids Team and for the growth in understanding for the kids in their walk with God. Pray for a new Children's Minister, that God will provide the right person for DAC. Praise God for the appointment of Lucas Webb as the new intern. Pray for him in his new role.

Lorraine Miller



THE CITY YOUTH

We are looking forward to celebrating the end of another year of Youth Ministry, this Friday the 10th, 7-9:30pm. We will be celebrating with our annual Deck the Halls Christmas Party and Dinner.

The Youth Leaders will be celebrating the week after (the 17th) at the Vesey's. Pray as we honour the leaders for their service every Friday night over the last year and as we reflect and give thanks to God for all He has done in helping teenagers know and love Him more.

Pray as we look forward to 2022, teenagers might remain safe over the break, leaders might rest and that we might refuel to serve the Lord all the more in the year to come.

Jamie Mackenzie

CHRISTMAS AT DAC

As Christmas quickly approaches we have a few events coming up we'd love you to come along to.



Wednesday 15th December, 12noon, at the Ministry Centre

Seniors Christmas Lunch

\$20 each, Christmas Carols by Lisa Speelman
Tickets through the church office.



Friday 17th December, 5:20pm, at St Luke's Brownsville

Empty Nesters Christmas Dinner

\$20 each and please bring a Secret Santa gift of \$5 value
Book by emailing heathermboardman@gmail.com, pay by bank transfer



Sunday 19th December, at the Ministry Centre

Christmas Carols

3pm for Carols
4pm till 6pm Christmas Festival with family fun and food.
6pm Carol repeated.



Friday 24th December

Christmas Eve Services

6pm Service in the Auditorium at the Ministry Centre
11pm Midnight Service at St Luke's Brownsville



Saturday 25th December, at the Ministry Centre

Christmas Day Services

8am Traditional Service
9:30am Family Service



Sunday 26th December

Boxing Day Services

9am Combined Service
5pm BYO Diner & Fellowship, bring your leftovers and enjoy some fellowship.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

HOSPITAL

Pray for Vince A recovering slowly from a double knee replacement operation, and hopefully will be home soon.

Continue to pray for Rebekah S as she is now breathing on her own, and responding to requests. Stephen, Karen and family are grateful for our prayers.

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.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please pray for our people who are 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 at Corrimal); Gae and Allen Q ('Dorington Court', Castle Hill); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Graham S (Carino Care, Rockdale); Ella H (Warrigal Care, A.P.)

8AM

Daphne C's daughter, Joanna - doctors still trying to find out what infection she has so that they can give her the right antibiotics. Continue to pray for Joanna, and also for Daphne. Daphne C's neighbour - has Leukemia; Lyn R - still struggling with her health and will see the Surgeon on 17th December. Frances C - recovering slowly after fracturing her arm; Mavis V - recovering well after her shoulder operation; Gail R - recovering at home; Wendy R - still struggling with pain in her knee; Arthur S - pray for freedom from pain.

10AM

Denise N - recovering after a short stay in hospital; Elizabeth L - recovering slowly and will see Specialists again in March; Sue B - coping with her condition; Phil P - please pray for peace and to feel better while waiting for more treatment.

6PM

Shaina's son, Roman has seen the Neurosurgeon and they are booking him in for some more scans and trying to speed them up because she is a little concerned.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Continue to pray for Lynne N's dad who is still in hospital. Slowly getting better. Prayers for him to be well enough to go home, and also for her mum to remain healthy and stay strong. Also pray for Lynne's brother whose treatment is going well. Continue to pray for Janelle and Ken M.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Almighty God, we know that the course of this world is ordered by you and we pray that your church may joyfully serve you in all situations and circumstances; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**