



# WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

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## CURSES

REV DAVID RIETVELD

The fall (Genesis 3) is a key passage in the Bible, and Christian thought. After re-reading it recently, I was struck by the word 'curse'. The serpent and the soil are cursed. Technically, Adam's curse is indirect, he is burdened with having to work hard because the soil is cursed. The word curse is not used in relation to Eve. But in the next chapter, Cain is directly cursed.

I am not used to thinking of God as someone who actively curses – who wishes ill on others! Furthermore, I am more used to thinking of the fall as condemnation (we are condemned to die because of Adam's sin – Romans 5), but Genesis uses the word curse, not condemnation.

Biblical curses are the opposite of blessing. In the Garden of Eden, everything is good, and blessed. That is to say, it exists under a state of God's provision and protection. God sustains his creation in this blessed state. When God curses, it is not the wishing of evil onto people or things, but the removal of his provision and protection.

When people do not have God's protection and provision over them, they are forced to look elsewhere. And the only other option is Satan, who comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). So the net effect of God removing his protection, is that one comes under the influence of Satan, which is a cursed state.

This brings us back to the consequences of sin and the fall. Yes, sin brings condemnation, which requires grace, atonement and forgiveness. We Western Protestants appreciate this. But there is another insight here, something closer to African (power-fear) spirituality.

To dishonour God by disobeying him is to step out from under God's protection and blessing. It is trust that we know better, to imagine that we can provide for and protect ourselves. In fact, we cannot. Away from God, we are now susceptible to the work of the devil. Only Jesus brings life to the full. Satan brings us only towards destruction. Life away from God is cursed.

# Back to Church

13th March



We are officially in Gathered Mode! It's great to be seeing so many of you return to our services, but there are still some of you missing. We know over the past couple of years, life has turned upside down and caused major disruption for many people. Due to restrictions we've missed a few different elements to our services, however as of Sunday 13th we'll be celebrating the return of these elements.

If you have been wrestling with the right time to come back, we'd love to see you this week. We'll be celebrating this Sunday, at each of our services:

- 8am Service - Join us for a special morning tea after the service.
- 10am Service - Come along for morning tea, jumping castles and kids activities, after the service.
- 6pm Service - We'll have Dinner and a Dessert Bar with live music in the Cafe, games and activities as well.

## 2022 Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up on Monday 28th of March, 7pm in the Auditorium. Nomination forms will be available at each service this week and in the coming weeks.

Please pop this date in your diary and be prayerfully considering who you might nominate for the Parish Councilors, Wardens and Nominators.

Finance Reports will be available from Sunday 20th.



## Serving the Lord in Eurasia

This Sunday we will be meeting our new CMS Missionaries. They will be visiting each of our services, and we'll be holding events throughout the week.

### MORNING TEA

Monday 14th of March please join us from 10am for a Scone Morning Tea in the Cafe. It will be \$5 for scones and hot beverage. No tickets needed.

### DINNER

Wednesday 16th of March please join us from 6pm for a Mediterranean Style Dinner in the Cafe. If you pre-book your ticket online or through the office, the cost is \$15 per person. On the night the cost is \$20 per person. Family rate is \$50 per person. Scan the QR code or call the office to book in.



All proceeds from these events will go directly to CMS. Come along, enjoy some great food, get to know our Missionaries and financially support CMS.

## Welcome Evelyn

Join us in giving thanks for the safe arrival of Evelyn Sylvia Jeannie McGuire. Mark and Katy welcomed their daughter on the 3rd of March, weighing 3.48kg and measuring 50.4cm in length. We are sure Evelyn's siblings, Max, Isabella, Samuel, Joseph, Beatrix and Benjamin, are thrilled to meet her, as are her grandparents Syliva and Ted.



## 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](mailto:safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au) or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945



# PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## CONGRATULATIONS

Please pray for Peter and Anna Hutchinson as they will be leaving West Wollongong Anglican and have been appointed as the Senior Minister at Keiraville Anglican Church. They will be starting there in mid-July.

## PREGNANT COUPLES

Lisa & Michael S; Mel & Michael F.

## HOSPITAL

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

## VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please pray for our people in Nursing Homes: Allen & Gae Q, Kath H, Elsie N, Diana M, Barbara L, Reg B (all in Piper House, Dapto); Robyn & Neville K (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Graham S (Carino Care, Rockdale).

## 8AM

Wendy R is slowly recovering from her fall. Pray for freedom from pain in her knee, and also for patience; Ray McP is recovering slowly; Audrey R - pray for freedom from pain and for healing as she is now doing physio exercises. Lyn R - possible surgery in the future. Please pray that she can negotiate God's way out of her current maze of ill-health.

## 10AM

Suzanne W - going to East Sydney Private Hospital on Wednesday, 16th March for a knee replacement. She will be in hospital for a few days. Elizabeth L - will have surgery in April to remove screws, etc. from her previous surgery. So good to see her at Church on Sunday. Vince A - please pray for healing of the nerve endings in his legs following his knee surgeries; Sue B - coping with her condition, please continue to pray for Sue; Phil P - please pray for Phil as he does not have a date for his surgery as yet. Hospitals are all full with Covid patients and 'elective' surgery has been put back. Pray for patience, wisdom, and an early date for his surgery; Mary J's husband, Michael, will be in hospital on Monday to have a cancer removed from his leg.

## 6PM

Seb R - Please pray for patience and healing as he tries to transition into some more daily activities with his hand. Shaina J's son, Roman, has received good news from scans, and currently his back is stable.

## CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Please pray for Lynne N as members of her family have tested positive to Covid this week. Pray for peace and strength for Lynne.