



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

VACCINATIONS AND THE NEW NORMAL

REV DAVID RIETVELD

Recently I have become aware of two government guidelines. Scripture teachers will be required to be vaccinated before returning to teaching face-to-face (in Level 2 restrictions). The second regards preschools. All teachers, including our St Luke's teachers, will be required to be vaccinated.

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All of this is forecasting clear signals. Freedoms in the future will be greater for the vaccinated. Flights and travel, working in specific industries, attending large sporting events will all require evidence of being fully vaccinated.

Churches have not as yet received notice that vaccinations will be required for attending public services. But you can imagine that is likely, and consistent with what we see so far.

Should a Christian get vaccinated? Let me rehearse the arguments that I have heard. Some say Yes – it is part of caring for and loving your neighbour. Covid is a socially transmitted disease. You being vaccinated means you are much less likely to infect others.

Others say yes – it is part of being a good citizen who cares for the wellbeing of all and obeying the authorities that God has established (Rom 13:1).

Some say no – on one of two grounds. Allowing the government to restrict our rights undermines our freedoms, and it sets a dangerous precedent. Freedom of the individual is not just a Western, but a Christian value. As I read scripture, rights are things you give up for the good of others, more so than things you demand yourself (1 Cor 9:1-12).



Still, others say no – my body is a temple to the Holy Spirit, and I should be vigilant about what I allow into it. I do not find myself persuaded by this argument. I don't know exactly what is in the typhoid vaccine I receive before travelling, or in a tetanus booster. I trust the medical system. The body as a temple argument does not prevent me from receiving these injections.

Not all will agree with me, and that is fine with me. My sense is this. However serious you think Covid 19 is, whether or not you believe the government is overstepping its authority, whether or not you agree with how Covid has been managed to date – all of these questions are somewhat irrelevant.

It is likely that if you wish to attend face-to-face church in the future, lead a ministry, or go away on a senior's bus trip, you will have to be vaccinated. Combine that with the line of reasoning that is loving your neighbour by being vaccinated, and I suggest the case is strong. Unless you have medical advice that you are not an appropriate candidate for vaccinations, I encourage you to prepare for church under the new normal by receiving the jab.

Community Dinner

Meals this week:

Wednesday 8th September

\$12 a serve of Chicken and Veg w/rice.

Friday 10th September

\$12 a serve Roast Pork w/ Roast vege medley.

1. You can order for next week, simply email **thecafe@daptoanglican.org.au** or alternatively, you can **text 0414 935 643**. You will be able to pick up your meals from 5:45pm.

Deliveries to St Lukes Village - Other deliveries on special request.

For those needing to drop off their offering envelopes, Jim will continue to be at the church between 6:00pm and 6:30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays.



CARE PACKS, CRAFT AND CONNECTING

Whilst lockdown may have put a halt to youth group in person, it has not stopped us from meeting up online! Every Friday afternoon we have four groups that meet up together over zoom. The members share in conversation; look to Jesus through a Rightnow media devotional; share in a time of prayer; and participate in some interactive activities. While it does not compare with meeting in person, we are feeling super thankful that we can still connect with each other online!

Our Junior Girls' group has lately been enjoying working through the 'Psalm 23' devotional by Matt Chandler. We are discovering more about our loving God who calls us to follow him. It is a great reminder for us all that Jesus has not left our side while we are in lockdown, but rather he loves us immensely and wants us to keep our eyes fixed on Him! Alongside this we have invested in many activities, including Quplash, Kahoot and most recently an art activity.

On Friday morning, using contactless delivery, an art package was delivered to the homes of each of our Junior Girls and leaders. This package included everything they needed to make a gorgeous watercolour artwork. The artworks featured three different Bible verses:

- Psalm 139:14 (to remind them that they are fearfully and wonderfully made),
- Romans 8:38-39 (to remind them that they are loved), and
- Psalm 46:5 (to remind them that God is with them).

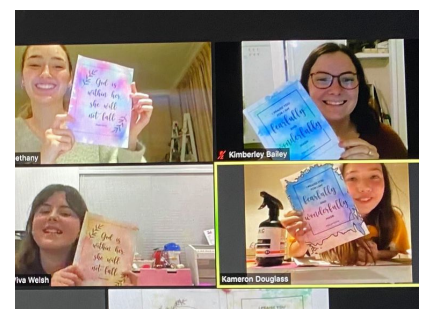
We were then able to make them all together over zoom. Each of the girls had a really fun time creating amazing artworks which can now hang on their walls.

For me, I am most thankful to God for the response we received from some of our girls who had previously been inactive over zoom. The packages brought them so much joy and reminded them that they are still deeply cared for and loved by us here at The City Youth. They were then able to make their artworks at home, not missing out on any of the fun.

We would love continued prayer for our youth, that even as they battle zoom fatigue they remain invested in Jesus. Pray that they will continue to attend youth group online, so that they can connect with friends and be supported by us.

Please also pray for energy and motivation for our leaders, particularly as they continue to share the message of Jesus with our girls. Pray that they will keep their eyes fixed on Jesus in this really difficult time.

Amy Marra (Youth Ministry Intern)



PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Amy S (10am)

MOURNING:

Colin and Carolyn G - following the death of Colin's mum, Muriel.

HOSPITAL

Neville K and Graham S - both in Bulli Hospital.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Molly B, Diana M, Kath H, Barbara L, Reg B (all of St. Lukes Village); Robyn K (Diggers Rest, Corrimall); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Jean D (Farmb. Grove, Unanderra).

8AM

Shirley S - has gone to IRT, Tarrawanna, today for respite for two weeks; Pat W - please pray for Pat and her sons, David and Antony; Arthur S - Recovering; Wendy R - please pray for relief from pain in her back and leg; Lyn R - Pray for healing; Daphne C's neighbour - Leukemia; Daphne C's daughter, Joanne - still waiting for surgery.

10AM

Phil P - pray for healing of infections in wounds; Merrilyn R - pray for full recovery following surgery; Sue B - Recovering well and thanks for prayers; Gwyn D - going okay and thanks for prayers; Paul B - home dialysis; Michael T - thanks for prayers; Joan D - pray for healing.

7PM

Shaina J's son, Roman - still waiting to have scans; Gary M - ongoing health issues.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lynne N's brother, Stephen, in America - waiting on treatment plan. Please keep praying for Janelle and Ken

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord we pray, pardon your people of their offences; that through your bountiful goodness we may be set free from the chains of those sins which in our frailty we have committed: grant this, heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen**

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