

WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

COVID RESTRICTIONS MORE LIKE WINTER

REV DAVID RIETVELD

I was asked to share a devotion this week for another Christian organisation. Their theme for the year is Spirituality that thrives. They suggested I speak on John 15 – where Jesus says I am in the vine, remain in me, and I in you, and you will bear much fruit.

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The night before, an old friend rang Marianne, my wife. She happens to work for that organisation. My wife and she might speak only a few times a year. She shares with my wife that she is anything but thriving at the moment. Lockdown is draining, removes the joy out of work, and taints many things.

It caused me to rethink John 15. What do we know about vines? They are deciduous. They grow like crazy in spring, bear fruit in summer, lose their leaves in autumn, and lie dormant over winter.

One of the dilemmas I have with this whole 'thrive' and 'flourish' vibe is that it presumes life can be lived in a forever season of spring coming into summer. That we have a right to avoid autumn, that winter is evil, and we can blame the government or our leaders or someone else because we got here.

Last year we looked at the book of Ecclesiastes. There we read that 'under the sun' (that is, in life as we experience it) seasons come and go. "There is a time for everything.... a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance". (Eccl 3:4)

If, like me, Covid restrictions feel more like winter, and you are not quite flourishing at the moment, don't become bitter or despairing. Branches need the odd season of dormancy to bear fruit again. Just stay connected to the vine. Remain.





As Lockdown Continues

As it has been announced that we are in lockdown for the rest of the month we want to touch base and keep you updated with what's happening with Church and DAC Staff.

Church Services

Our 10 am service will continue to be streamed online each Sunday morning. If you have been rostered on for the coming weeks, we will be in contact with you. We will run these services with minimal numbers of people on site.

Lorraine Miller is continuing to email parents with activities and videos for kids to do and watch during the 10 am service. She and the Connect Sunday teams are thinking through new ways to engage and with kids while we are locked down.

Jason's Farewell

We had hoped to hold Jason's farewell on-site, but with lockdown, it won't be possible. Therefore we aim to have an online farewell on Sunday the 25th of July. Join us from 10 am as we will celebrate and thank Jason for his work at DAC in the service.

Making Sense of the Mess

Each Wednesday night during Lockdown Rev David Rietveld, and Jamie Mackenzie will be streaming online through Youtube from 7:30 pm. They will be discussing Spiritual Gifts and answering your questions as you send them in. If you have questions, please send them through to 0474 636 706.

Community Dinner

The Cafe's Community Dinners these past three weeks have been simply amazing. We'd love to congratulate Jill and her team on all their hard work. There won't be community dinners this coming week (21st and 23rd) as Jill and her team are taking a well-deserved break.

Church Office

Our office is currently closed. Christine and Kim are working from home, and we have diverted the church phone to them in their homes. You can still make enquiries or ask for assistance or prayer, call on 4261 1001. You can also email the office through office@daptoanglican.org.au.

Non Digital

We encourage you to follow the regulations our government have set out for us to keep us safe. As we stay home, we know it's essential to stay connected. Some cannot access online communications, and we are posting DVD's of our online content (Church services and Making sense of the Mass), along with letters and newsletters. If you know of someone unable to access online communications, please let the office know.

Prayer Chain

We have started a prayer chain intended for people who are not comfortable or do not have access to the internet. Carol Stumbles has generously offered to be the first person on the prayer chain list if you have a prayer point. You can ring Carol with your prayer points; Carol will then ring two other people, who will ring two different people, who will ring two other people, and so on. If you are willing to be on this prayer chain during this season of Covid lockdown, please also contact Carol, and she will put you somewhere on the prayer 'chain'.

Stay Connected

As we pray for each other, we also encourage you to call, message and email each other with encouraging words. We have created some e-card graphics for you to use to help in creating an extra special message or email. You could also print them out and write a short letter or bible verse and post it to someone you have been praying for. You can download the e-cards [here](#).

Kids and Youth

Connect Kids Unleashed, our Friday kids program will be meeting online this Friday at 4 pm. The leaders and kids will spend time learning about God, strengthening friendships and staying connected.

The City Youth had hoped to return as exercise groups of 10, but under the newer restriction are unable to. The City Youth Online will commence 30th of July, with Zoom meetings. In the meantime, Youth Leaders will be keeping in contact with our Youth. Camp Hoodies will also be available for Youth to purchase online.

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



PRAYER FOR TODAY

Lord Jesus Christ, at your first coming you sent your messenger to prepare the way before you: grant that today's ministers and stewards of your message may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the ways of the righteous, that at your second coming to judge the world we may be found an acceptable people in your sight; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Amy S (10am)

HOSPITAL

Graham S has now been transferred from Wollongong Hospital - now in Bulli Hospital, 2 East, Room 20, while waiting for a room to be available in the new Care Home at St. Luke's Village. Joan D (10am) still in Wollongong Hospital - kidneys becoming more functioning.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Molly B, Diana M, Kath H, Barbara L, Reg B (all of St. Luke's Village); Robyn K (Diggers Rest, Corrimal); Barbara B (William Beach); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Jean D (Farm. Grove).

8AM/9:30AM/2PM

Lyn R - pray for good health; Pat W and son, Antony - please pray for family concerns and health; Daphne C's neighbour - Leukemia plus another rare cancer; Daphne C's daughter, Joanne - pray that she would get a surgery appointment soon. Arthur S - starting radiation treatment on 21st; Wendy R - please continue to pray for relief from pain in her back and leg.

10AM

Michael T - recovering at home following surgery; Phil P - going to hospital on Friday, 23rd July for a major operation on a cancer; Gwyn D - had last radiation treatment last week and goes back to the specialist in August; Sue B. - struggling following treatment on Monday, one more chemo treatment to go; Paul B - home dialysis; Elizabeth L - slowly recovering.

7PM

SShaina J's son, Roman - continuing prayer while waiting for scans; Gary M -ongoing health problems;

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Blake M (Janelle M's 8 y.o. grandson) - is in hospital in isolation and having very strong doses of chemo to kill off his bone marrow, then three days of full body radiation on 19th for three days, morning and afternoon to get ready for a bone marrow transplant. Pray for him and for Janelle and Ken M; Virginia C - recovering well following a knee replacement.

