



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

KEEPING CHRISTMAS CHRISTIAN?

REV DAVID REITVELD

Does it annoy you, the way Christmas is becoming commercialised or all about family and presents? Do you think we should be advocating that culture keep the true meaning of Christmas (the gift as Jesus) as the focus?

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In my view, we Christians ought to celebrate Jesus coming at Christmas, but if the world wishes to drift away from that message, I am not about to try and stop them. The bigger question has to do with (religious) liberty in the public space.

In about 197 AD Church Father Tertullian wrote this: "Let one man worship God, another Jupiter; let one lift suppliant hands to the heavens, another to the altar of Fides;... let one consecrate his own life to his God, and another that of a goat. For see that you do not give a further ground for the charge of irreligion, by taking away religious liberty, and forbidding free choice of deity, so that I may no longer worship according to my inclination, but am compelled to worship against it. Not even a human being would care to have unwilling homage rendered him."

What Tertullian is saying is that being human is about having and expressing freedom (or liberty). About being able to live and worship as your conscience directs you, not under compulsion. Compelling others to acknowledge Jesus at Christmas does no service to them, and renders worthless homage.

Tertullian wrote before Constantine, at a time when Christians were still a persecuted minority. I think he offers us sound advice, as Christianity once again becomes a marginalised minority. Tertullian (following St Paul) is arguing that in a just and fair society, we should be free to celebrate Jesus at Christmas. If the world wishes to celebrate presents and family, we ought to allow them the freedom to worship according to their inclination.



CELEBRATING JILL

Last Sunday we had both the joy and the sadness of farewelling and thanking Jill for her last 15 years of service to DAC as a member of our staff team. And while we won't be losing Jill from our community, we will have to get used to not seeing her happy, smiling face behind the cafe counter.

Please continue to pray for Jill as she moves into this next season. Give thanks for her time on staff, for the relationships built and for staff trained, for the many meals that she has provided for us and for our broader community.

Thank you, Jill, for making the cafe a place where anyone can feel welcomed and part of a community. You will be missed.



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



GOVT GRANTS

This week we had a visit from our Local State Member, Anna Watson to formally present us with the grant to upgrade the meeting spaces at the Ministry Centre. David, Linda, and Mary-Anne Fleeton, from Anglicare, were able to explain how the grant will be used to benefit our broader community through programs that are run by DAC and by the Anglicare Family Mental Health Support Service



Also, this week we received news that we DAC were successful in obtaining a Volunteer Grant from the Federal Government. This grant will be used to upgrade our groundskeeping equipment including the purchase of a new lawnmower (hopefully a ride-on) and whipper snipper. We are thankful to Stephen Jones (MP) for his ongoing support of DAC.

CHRISTMAS AT DAC

This weekend we have our Christmas Carols and Festival. Sunday 19th from 3 pm you can enjoy Carols in the Auditorium, followed by a family-friendly festival. There will be another session for Carols at 6 pm.

Please bring your friends and family along and enjoy the community, carols and celebrating the birth of Jesus together.

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

David H (8am) in Wollongong Private Hospital having a knee replacement operation. Pray for good recovery following his surgery. Graham S (Carino Care, Rockdale) - in St. George Hospital following a wheelchair accident. Leg caught between bed and chair. Blood transfusion, skin grafts etc. Possibly two weeks in hospital. Continue to pray for Rebekah S in Liverpool Hospital. 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); Ella H (Warrigal Care, A.P.)

8AM

Daphne C's daughter, Joanna - physios have had Joanna up on her feet, which is a great sign. 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 this Friday, 17th; Frances C and Mavis V- both recovering from shoulder problems; Wendy R - still struggling with pain in her knee; Arthur S - lot of pain from cancer in groin.

10AM

Vince A - recovering at home; Shirley S - asks for prayer as she sells her house to move down the coast to be with family; Sue B - coping with her condition; Phil P - waiting for more treatment.

6PM

Shaina's son, Roman, is waiting for more scans.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lynne N's father has had many trips by ambulance to hospital. Please pray for healing and for doctors to get his medical welfare under control. Lynne's brother is doing very well.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

We beseech you, Lord, to pour your grace into our hearts; so that, as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ through your word, we may be brought to understand the reason for the suffering and death of your one and only Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**