

## Bringing Jesus to our Gold Coast community

Hello Surfers!

The sound of wedding bells is in the air (well, they will be this Wednesday in Melbourne when my son gets married). This week I'll be conducting the wedding of my son and his fiancée, which will see me leave the Parish early on Tuesday morning and return late on Thursday evening. I will be available via email during that time.



Our lectionary readings today feature a section of Psalm 22, the beginning of which are the verses Jesus called out from the Cross as He died, and concentrate on the passages describing the attentiveness God has for those who suffer (Ps. 22:24-31). It is apt for us to consider these verses during Lent to remember that God does care about our suffering, He neither despises nor scorns those who are afflicted but rather listens to their cries for help.

We read about the account of Abram and the covenant God made with him to make a mighty nation of people who would be dedicated to God (Gen. 17:1-7,15-16). It is interesting that in this interaction God gives both

Abram and Sarai new names – effectively changing their identity – to show that something new has happened.

Abram is not 'just' now the "exalted father", but instead now Abraham the "father of many". Similarly Sarai is from then on Sarah, the "mother of nations".



Today's gospel reading is the focus of today's sermon and it speaks to the clarity Jesus had about the necessity for both His suffering and death upon the cross, as well as those who would seek to follow Him: Christians

(Mk. 8:31-38). As we contemplate the reality of suffering in this life it is worthwhile to recognise that we are not called to ignore suffering and focus on the next life, nor are we called to overly obsess on suffering. Pain and suffering are real, and our Lord Jesus is intimately aware of what it is to suffer. Christians are called to endure.

In today's New Testament reading we consider the words of the Apostle, Paul to the church in Rome, where he outlines the hope and belief of Abraham in the face of trials (Rom. 4:13-25). Paul speaks of the faithfulness of Abraham and how he trusted God to do what He said He would do. The faith we are called to exhibit is that of a person who trusts the other party to hold true to their word. We must, therefore, also hold true to our part in faithfulness and follow Jesus.

Please welcome the Rev'd Lima Bray to services both this Wednesday (the 28th Feb) and the following Wednesday (the 6th March) while I am away. She's much better looking than me anyway :)

I pray you have a blessed week.

Jim Raistrick

Priest-in-charge.

### BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16 (page 11)

Psalm: 22

Romans 4.13-25 (page 916 )

Mark 8.31-38 (page 820)

### **Monday 26th February**

8.30am Morning Prayer

9.30am Craft Group (HC)

2.30pm Conversation English  
(Nan's room)

### **Tuesday 27th February**

9.30am Paintpots

3.30pm Pure Dance

### **Wednesday 28th February**

8.00am Indoor Fitness

10.00am Holy Communion  
(Rev'd Lima Bray)

3.00pm Pure Dance

6.30pm Alpha  
(The Chosen)

### **Thursday 29th February**

8.00am Prayer Meditation

### **Friday 1st March**

(Jim's Day off)

9.30 am Mainly Music

11.00am Pure Dance

### **Saturday 2nd March**

8.30am Indoor Fitness

9:00am Music Practice  
(Sandra U)

### **Sunday 3rd March**

7.30am Holy Communion

9.30 am Holy Communion

### READINGS FOR SUNDAY

#### **3rd March**

Exodus 20.1-17

Psalm: 19

1 Corinthians 1.18-25

John 2.13-22

## Homestay

### Eastern Shores International

"Hosting international students from Japan"  
If you have family or friends who would like to host,  
Please contact Homestay  
Phone : 0423 374 908  
Email : info@esinternational.com.au



**Happy Birthday**  
Judith Atkins (28.02)

## Christian Meditation

Thursday mornings at 8.00 am  
(old Sunday school room)  
Please contact Helen Kness, for further information  
0437 859 784

## JOIN A BIBLE STUDY GROUP in 2024

Please phone/email the contact person to join a group:

### TUESDAYS

12.30 pm Jane Parry 0403 369 467  
3.15 pm Jim Raistrick jim@surfersanglican.au

### WEDNESDAYS

10.00 am George Stuart 0407 741 669  
11.00 am Judith Atkins 5532 0798  
6.00pm ALPHA (Barry Doyle) 0412 818 083

### THURSDAYS

7.00 pm Sandra Uptin sandrauptin@icloud.com  
7.00 pm Robert Kelly 0439 339 395



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## Packer's Points in the Prayer Book



*Do we value the Prayer Book enough?  
Do we appreciate its real quality?  
Do we make the best use of it?*

Certainly, the Prayer Book does not play in the lives of the present-day churchmen, anything like the part it played, in the Christian practice of their great-grandfathers.

A century ago, Christians wove Prayer Book prayers into both private and family devotions as a matter of course.

Their Bible reading followed the psalms and lessons set for each day. They memorized the catechism in youth, and dwelt on it constantly in later life. Their Prayer Book was prized and well-used, but all that has changed.

Many modern Anglicans do not even own a Prayer Book. Their Bible study scheme, if they have one, owes nothing to the lectionary.

They rarely hear, nor do they wish to hear, what used to be called 'Prayer Book teaching' – exposition of the Articles and services. The Prayer Book has little hold on their affections. They patronize it, treating it as a rather faded family antique, nothing like as precious as their forbears imagined. They seem to have no inkling of its real worth.

*The Gospel in the Prayer Book - JI Packer*

## In Remembrance



Trevor Foster (26.2.12)  
Jeanne Mary Claydon (1.3.19)  
Malcolm Felt (1.3.22)

**THANK YOU for continuing to give to fund the ministry and mission of Surfers Paradise Anglican Church.**

**Please continue your generosity as we seek to make Jesus known across our city.**

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Anglican Parish of Surfers Paradise OR ...if you would like to arrange a direct debit contact the office—we will email you the ANFIN Parish Direct Form

or for one-off donations use our QR Code or EFTPOS machine (come in or over the phone).



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