



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

AMBASSADORS

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

In 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 we read, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come.... God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.... We are, therefore, Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

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Ambassadors make it into the media spotlight globally. It might be Kevin Rudd's comment about Donald Trump or the Chinese Ambassador explaining why tariffs are valid. How does one be a good ambassador?

A good ambassador has two reference points.

First, they are an ambassador from somewhere. The Australian ambassador is representing Australia. They must understand and speak up for Australian interests, values and culture.

Second, they are ambassadors to somewhere. Being an ambassador to Iran will be different from being an ambassador to India or Italy. The ambassador to Iran has to be aware of Arabic and Islamic culture and laws, and females will likely have to wear a scarf. The ambassador to Italy will have to learn to avoid making appointments during siesta and dine late into the night.

Two mistakes are possible. First, the ambassador could 'go native'. That is, they could assimilate with the local culture and lose all sense of being Australian. The opposite mistake is to ignore all local cultural norms and imagine you are an Australian ambassador still living in Australia.

A good ambassador will be mindful of both reference points and avoid the risks at either extreme.

All of this helps us appreciate how to be an ambassador for Christ. Our citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20) – we are "fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household" (Eph 2:19). We are to represent Kingdom values and beliefs to this world. In some ways, we are "foreigners and exiles" (1 Peter 2:11).

And yet we, in a context, are given a ministry of reconciliation to the people around us, "as though God were making his appeal through us." What a high calling we have. Be a good ambassador for Christ.

Empty Nesters Picnic

Join Empty Nesters in Wollongong for a Botanical Gardens Picnic on Saturday, the 20th of April, starting at 11 am. Meet at the entrance by Murphy's Road and don't forget to bring your own picnic goodies! For more info, contact Ruth Finney.



Connect Men Breakwall Walk

Join Connect Men at the Marina for a Men's Breakwall Walk, on Saturday 27th April. Meet at the Marina where we will gather, buy some food, and then set off for a leisurely walk along the breakwall.

It's a great opportunity to connect with other men from our church community, enjoy some good food, and spend time outdoors in a relaxed atmosphere. If walking isn't your thing, feel free to hang out at the Marina and soak in the beautiful surroundings.

Don't miss this chance to unwind, make new friends, and enjoy a casual outing by the water. See you there!



Parish Council Update

- A motion has been passed making it possible to enter into a long-term lease agreement of St Aidans
- Thank you for your generosity in the first three months of 2024 as giving has met our budget
- Parish Council is following up on the Safe Ministry Report to the AGM and is concerned about the declining numbers of volunteers opting to renew Working With Childrens Checks and Safe Ministry training
- AGM recommendations to Parish Council have been addressed and referred as appropriate
- Discussing staffing options with the Acting Rector

FAMILY ADVENTURE DAY

DISCOVERY SPACE

From 9am till 12pm
Wednesday 24th April
University of Wollongong

Meet at Entrance
Organise own tickets
Pay on the day
or pre book online



Dapto Anglican

42 611 001

www.dapto.church/events



St Luke's
Preschool



CONNECT KIDS

Term 2 Dates

Here is when all of our programs start back for Term 2:

Cafe Church - 1st of May

Playpatch - 2nd of May

Connect Fridays - 3rd of May

Dapto Youth - 3rd of May

Connect Sundays (preschool and primary aged in-service program) - 5th of May

Oxygen (high school aged in-service program) - 5th of May

Creative Connection - 10th of May

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 THE WEEK

Almighty God, you have made us members of Christ and of his Church in this parish. May we as a congregation reach upwards to your throne in worship and adoration; inwards to one another in understanding and fellowship; and outwards to the world in evangelism and social compassion. Make us like a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden, so that men and women may find Christ as the light of the world and his Church as the family of the redeemed, and eternal life as the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Katie and Phil C.

HOSPITAL

Please continue to pray for Rick W (10am), who is still in hospital and quite unwell and is waiting for further surgery. Please continue to pray for Ray G (8am) who is in Rehab in Shellharbour Private Hospital. Please pray for Tamia McN's (10am) mum, Cathy, who is in hospital with a cancer diagnosis.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please continue to pray for our people in Residential Care Homes: Jean W, Kath H, Phyllis D, Audrey & Alan R, Gae & Allen Q, Elsie N, Barbara L, Pamela B, Gordon M, Beth W, Betty B (Piper House, Dapto); Robyn K (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H, Trevor W (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Wendy C, Helen K (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S - Graham will be having cataract surgery on the 24th April at Wollongong Private Hospital (The Links, Wollongong).

8AM / WED 2PM

Please pray for Brian L who is now home from hospital and depending on oxygen 24/7; Please continue to pray for Deb P's brother, who is very unwell. Also, please continue to pray for Mavis B as her recovery is going well, and also please pray for her daughter-in-law who has started Chemotherapy.

10AM

Please pray for Barbara H who is struggling with a throat infection; Please pray for Elizabeth L who has shingles, and recovering from fractures to her back and her wrist; Please pray for James B's sisters, Debbie and Sue, with serious health concerns, also pray for James as he co-ordinates their care plans. Also please continue to pray for Anne R's mother who is unwell, also Andy H that his hand will heal well, also for Ruby D for freedom from pain, and please keep praying for Andrew W and his health problems.

6PM

Give thanks to God for all those who graduated from university this week.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Please continue to pray for Lynne N and her family with health problems.