



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

JESUS AND ROME

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

As I re-read the passion narratives, I am struck by the role of Rome. The grand narrative of the Old Testament is God's efforts to graciously redeem his chosen but stiff-necked people. Israel is called to be a light to the nations but ends up being indistinguishable from them.

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So when God sends his son, and the leaders of Israel reject him - then murder the Messiah in the hope they might claim the inheritance, that narrative twist actually fits with the plot thus far.

Ezekiel says of Israel leaders, "Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock." (Eze 34:2-3)

I appreciate why the chief priests wish to kill Jesus - but why Pilate? Pilate allows himself to be somehow complicit with the leaders of Israel in the murder of Jesus. This is even after his wife warns him to "have nothing to do with that innocent man." (Matt 27:19)

Fast forward 2000 years, and we now have state governments, including NSW, introducing "Conversion Practices" legislation. These laws not only prevent rare and questionable treatments, but they also prevent prayer and pastoral care for persons of faith who do not wish to enact some of their sexual desires. Legislation that prevents Christian organisations from hiring only Christian staff is also on the radar.

On the whole, our Western experience of governments has been that they are there to bring order and "punish the wrongdoer." But Romans 13 is not the only biblical passage that reflects on the State. John (in Revelations) likens Rome to Babylon - an empire diametrically opposed to Jesus and his Kingdom.

Jesus encounters opposition, and followers of Jesus will also encounter opposition - from outside and inside the church, and at times, even from the state. But Jesus is still Lord.

Dapto Anglican and St Luke's Preschool invite you to

Easter Sunday

For God so Loved the World

10am, Sunday 31st of March



Easter Egg Hunts,
Craft & Activities



BBQ Picnic, Donuts & Coffee



Join us for our Easter Services

Tenebrae

Thursday 28th March

7:30pm, St Luke's Brownsville

Good Friday

Friday 29th March*

9am, The Ministry Centre

Easter Sunday

Sunday 31st March

8am, Communion Service

10am, Family Service

6pm, Contemporary Service

* Our Good Friday service will be livestreamed

AGM

Thank you to all who attended our AGM on Tuesday night. The AGM reports are available to view! Scan the QR code below or heading to the link listed below it.



<https://www.dapto.church/s/DACAGM.pdf>

Connect Men Picnic

Join Connect Men for a relaxing picnic at William Beach Park in Brownsville on the 30th of March (Easter Saturday) at 12 noon, weather permitting. Bring your own lunch, snacks, and folding chair (there's also a BBQ available at the park). It's a great opportunity to catch up, chat, and enjoy the outdoors together. We look forward to welcoming you.

No Programs on Good Friday

There will be no Connect Fridays or Dapto Youth on Good Friday, the 29th of March.

CONNECT
FRIDAYS



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 4261 1001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Loving Lord, we think of your close friends running away the night you were arrested, and we remember the times we have run away from you in our thoughts and actions. We are ashamed, as they were, and ask your forgiveness. We praise you that you did not give up on them, but after your resurrection, you commissioned them to be your agents to spread your Gospel to all the world. Restore us when we repent and give us your power to take the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection to those around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Katie and Phil C.

HOSPITAL

Please pray for Rick W, who had a major heart attack some weeks ago, and is back in hospital quite unwell, he is still awaiting more surgery. Please continue to pray for Ray G (8am) who is still in hospital. Continue to pray for Brian L (2pm) who is in hospital with respiratory problems; Also, 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 (The Links, Wollongong).

8AM/2PM

Please pray for Allan C who has returned home from hospital, following surgery to his broken leg. Please continue to pray for Mavis B as she is recovering, and also for Mavis's daughter-in-law, who has started Chemotherapy. Also, please continue to pray for Deb P's brother who is very unwell.

10AM

Mary J is thankful for all your prayers and cards at this time. Please continue to pray for Barbara H who is recovering well following corrective shoulder surgery. Please continue to pray for Andy H, that his hand will heal well. Pray for Ruby D for freedom from pain. Also, pray for Andrew W and his health problems.

6PM

Please pray for Anna P as she recovers from surgery.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

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