



# WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

## THE BUFFERED SELF

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

Following last week's blog, Augustine suggests the essence of your life is found in what you love the most. Satan invites us to idolise self, the world and its pleasures – whereas the antidote and the only true path to joy is to love God.

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This insight has consequences as to what it means to do church. The role of the pastor and the preaching of God's word is about speaking against idols and challenging people to love God and trust that being captivated by him is the only path to peace and joy. To submit yourself to your pastor and their preaching is to open up your soul to challenge and genuine encounter.

This is how pastoring and preaching would have been viewed by congregants up until the 1800s. One came to church open to hear what God was saying. In conversation with the pastor, one's posture was porous. Sociologist Charles Taylor suggests this has all changed, and we now engage with church and the pastor not as a porous self but as a buffered self. He uses the analogy of a house. In the past, we lived in close quarters, with open doors and windows. There was no private cubicle at confession. People could see and come into our private spaces, and this transparency made us receptive to people speaking into our lives.

But now we live in big houses, set back from the street, with private yards and fences. We have buffered ourselves from the view and voice of others. We become the curators of our own souls, and we can dismiss and disengage from the insights of others. We listen and lean in when we perceive it to be helpful for us, and we retreat to our private mansions when we disagree.

Furthermore, we imagine we are safe in fortresses and our houses are impenetrable. Somehow, the clunky pastor or church politics can't touch us.

This is flawed on at least three fronts. First, Satan is not bound by such fences, and evil crashes into our feeble fortresses. Second, we are not the best curators of our own soul. We need to be challenged about our love of money, reputation, and possessions. Third, we are made for community, not isolated shelters.

The buffered self may sound appealing, but perhaps it becomes a lonely prison of our own making.



**St Luke's**  
Preschool

# 70th Anniversary

**Saturday 23rd  
September**

**Celebration Service**

From 1pm in the Auditorium

**Celebration Activities**

From 2pm on Church and Preschool Grounds

**Preschool Tours**

2:30pm, 3:30pm and 4:30pm

Carpark will be closed during the event



## Experience the **First Christmas**

Be transported back to Bethlehem,  
walk through the town and relive the  
First Christmas.

Sunday 3rd December 10am till 1pm

Could you help:

- Make Sets
- Make Costumes
- Make Props

Let Linda Know



## Drum Lessons

Ever wanted to learn Drums? Our Worship Pastor Mel Lieschke is booking lessons for kids, youth and adults. Email [mel@daptoanglican.org.au](mailto:mel@daptoanglican.org.au) to find out more.



# CMS Stamps

On behalf of CMS NSW & ACT, we would like to sincerely thank you for your contribution of used stamps to the Society. We are profoundly grateful for all of you, as the collective input of your stamps, time, and effort in getting the stamps to the office, not to mention the cost incurred in the process, has contributed a significant amount of financial support to the work of CMS.

This financial year (2022-2023) we raised \$26,000! A remarkable result! The funds raised from the sale of used stamps will go towards supporting the work of missionaries as they spread the gospel around the world.



Special thanks must be extended to our volunteers who help prepare the stamps for sale. Thank you for working so hard in trimming, sorting, and processing the stamps, and for giving up your time to help CMS to raise funds. It is highly appreciated.

On that note, if you are interested in volunteering, feel free to contact the CMS office for more information. Anyone is welcome, and we would love your help and support! The volunteers meet on the 2nd & 4th Monday of each month.

We would also like to remind you that if you are sending stamps into our office already trimmed, please leave 3 to 5mm of the envelope around the stamps when trimming, to ensure that you do not damage the stamp. And if your envelopes pre-date 1940, please do not remove the stamps from these envelopes – the envelopes may be more valuable than the stamps themselves!

Thanks again for your support of the work of CMS: making Jesus known to the world. May God bless you.

In Christ,

Rev. Garry Dibley

(Mission Operations Director - CMS NSW & ACT)

## 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](mailto:safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au) or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945



# PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all your goodness to us:

for the wonder of your creation.

for the happiness of holidays,

for human love and friendship.

May we know you better through your Son Jesus,

and live our lives to your glory

and in the service of others,

through the power of your Holy Spirit in us, now and always. Amen

## PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### EXPECTANT PARENTS

Tara and Nathan O; Lisa and Matt G.

### 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 (Piper House, Dapto); Robyn K (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H, Trevor W (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Wendy C (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S (The Links, Wollongong); Brian B (William Beach Gardens, Dapto).

### 8AM / WED 2PM

Please continue to pray for Genie's brother, who has cancer. Continue to pray for Darryl N, now home from the hospital. Deb P would like to thank those who have prayed for her family over these past months - she is very grateful.

### 10AM

Please be praying for a safe surgery, recovery and answers for Roman (Shaina J's eldest son) as he is scheduled to have surgery on his spine soon. Please continue to pray for Pat McK's friend, Jan J, who is waiting for surgery. Also, pray for Andrew W as he continues with his treatment. Continue to pray for Janice S as she waits to have surgery. Also, Janice and Phillipa would like to thank all of those people who prayed for them and sent cards following the recent death of Rosie S.

### 6PM

Please continue to pray that Jael's health will stabilise.

### CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lynne N's brother, Stephen, is having his Targeted Chemo adjusted. He has been quite unwell. Pray that they can sort out his dosage; Also, keep praying for Lynne N as she has treatment for her Crohn's disease. She will be starting on new medication soon.

### SYNOD

- "The Synod has collectively confirmed that our main game remains unchanged - to make disciples." - *Tara Sing* via Sydney Anglican's Facebook page
- Pray in thankfulness for all that was accomplished at Synod last week, for Johnathon and James who are our DAC Synod Reps, and pray for the next actions following decisions made.