



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

THE WORLD IS GOING CRAZY!

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

What in the world is happening? Catholic Pope Francis is sacking the American Cardinal Raymond Burke. Burke is critical of Pope Francis, saying he is moving the church away from its core teachings on divorce, contraception, homosexuality and gender.

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The Netherlands has long been at the forefront of social progressivism on such issues. They just voted for a right-wing social conservative Prime Minister. What is going on?

In short, there are two visions of culture and society. The Pope is on the left, believing the way forward is to be inclusive, accepting, and compassionate to all. Among these values sits assumptions about the importance of individuals, within the fraternity of all humanity.

By contrast, the right is also concerned about individualism, but these individuals have the right to choose to find and express their identity within a nation-state. Geert Wilders is arguing for a Netherlands that is for the Dutch, not Muslims or migrants. It's OK to be compassionate and hospitable, but not in ways that undo the fabric of the host culture.

There are Christian (and Evangelical) versions of the above left and right positions. Cardinal Burke is arguing for a Catholicism that is compassionate, but retains and stands up for its core distinctive teachings.

Going further, Stephen Wolfe has a bestselling book entitled *The Case for Christian Nationalism*. He argues that America is a Christian nation, and that it should remain homogeneously Western Christian with a state that is anti-abortion, anti-social progressivism. Don't you want your grandchildren to grow up in a place where cultural values align with biblical values – aren't they the best for our families and our nation?

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It is difficult to align this vision of the church/nation with the New Testament. It sounds closer to the Old Testament vision of a theocracy, where all of Israel lives under God's law. Whereas the New Testament people of God are in the world as aliens and strangers, the church is an outpost of the Kingdom – a light in a dark world.

I am not drawn to Christian (or secular) nationalism, nor am I drawn to (global) social progressivism. The world will do as it will, and parts of that will reflect God's nature, and other parts will reveal human selfishness. Our primary task is to follow Jesus, in and out of season.

Christmas Events

'Tis the season for Christmas parties and celebrations as we conclude another year of loving and serving our great God throughout DAC and the wider community! Head over to our website www.dapto.church/events to see all the great things coming up that you could be a part of! These include:

- Christmas Experience
- Seniors Luncheon
- Empty Nesters Dinner
- DAC Women
- Music and Tech
- And more!



Fundraising for our Fence

Wardens Update Next Week

Thankyou!

Thankyou for your generosity! Next week in all services the Warden's will give us an update on how much was raised and what are our next steps in upgrading the forecourt.

6pm Retreat Fun

Despite the weather, our 6pm crew's spirits remained high during their annual retreat last Saturday. Although the event was made to look different from its original plan, it was still a memorable day and a great time of community! The group bonded over baked cookies, board games and a massive game of volleyball.

The retreat also featured a shared meal and a session led by Nathan, where he spoke about all the good things that happened in the last 12 months and looked forward to 2024. His message focused on cultivating a Christ-centred community that welcomes newcomers and loves them as Jesus does. We are excited to continue the good vibes at 6pm and grow as a Christ-centred community.





Experience the **First Christmas**

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

Sunday 3rd December 10am till 1pm
Dapto Anglican, Moombara St Dapto

Services Sunday 3rd

9am Service

Holy Communion Service



Parking:

The car park will be partially closed to prepare for our Christmas Experience.

Church members are advised to park Preschool side or out the front of the church, so that we may love our community.

6pm Service

Regular Service

Eating Out

Dinner at the Lake
Bring Lawn Games

ONE WAY





Can you help us?

Have you finished uni for the year? Have some spare time coming up in the next few weeks? Love to paint?

We need to put another 1 or 2 coats of paint on the Op Shop donation bins. If you can help, please let the office know!

Scripture in our Local High Schools

Kanahooka High School has approved teaching Scripture in 2024 for at least Year 7 students, and is considering extending it to Years 7-10. The Dapto Schools Scripture Board, alongside SU Australia, are looking for a suitable person to teach Scripture for one day per week starting from the beginning of the school term. The job description and required qualifications can be found by scanning the QR code below.

Please be praying for:

- The right person to be found for the position.
- Increased financial support to fund the position, in addition to the Dapto High School teacher.
- Parents and students being motivated to choose to attend SRE classes, and completing the online enrolment form.
- Continuing good relationship with the staff of Kanahooka High School.



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

O Lord God,

Open our eyes so that we may be aware of your fatherly presence surrounding us.

Draw our hearts to you with the power of your love.

Teach us to be anxious for nothing,

and when we have done what you have given us to do,

help us to leave the outcome to your wisdom.

Take from us all doubt and mistrust and remind us that all things are possible to us through your Son our Redeemer,

Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Tara and Nathan O; Lisa and Matt G.

MOURNING

Please pray for Phil and Barry W (8am) following the sudden death of their niece.

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.); Wendye C, Helen K (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S (The Links, Wollongong).

8AM / WED 2PM

Please continue to pray for Ivy E, Ray G, Jim B, Phil W and Wal S.

10AM

Please pray for Ruby D who has been bed-ridden for two weeks due to osteoporosis. Please pray for her mobility and for pain control. Please pray for Penny, Michael and Janice V's granddaughter, who has a fractured femur and is recovering at home. Please continue to pray for Andrew W and Phillip P who have health issues.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Please pray for Janelle B (was a Creative Connections member and Cafe volunteer) who has amyloid angiopathy. Continue to pray for Lynne N's brother, Stephen, as he continues medical treatment. Please also pray for Lynne N, as she continues to manage her health.