



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS HERE, AND WAR OVER THERE

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

There is something that seems untimely about Christmas this year. We are making the usual preparations – festive lights, a decorated tree, shopping for presents, with carols that talk of joy to the world and peace to all men in the background.

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On the other side of the world are two wars. People are homeless, starving, injured, without access to health services, and have lost loved ones in the recent past. Given this, our Christmas celebrations seem self-indulgent, insular and blinkered.

What should we be feeling? Guilt – that we have it so good, relatively speaking? Empathy – with those who will suffer oppression? Anger – at the injustice? Whatever we ought to be feeling, detachment and indifference is perhaps our most common response.

War is universal, as are festivals like Christmas. Somewhere in the world, people are always in conflict, and others are congregating and celebrating with others. It has always been like this and always will be.

What takes place on the grand scale is a reflection of the individual human heart. As Solzhenitsyn says, "The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either - but right through every human heart - and through all human hearts."

In this sense, conflict is inevitable. There is a part of every human heart that is selfish and greedy and will pursue these ends at the expense of others. Our task is to limit or restrain evil as much as possible – first in ourselves, then in others.

But conflict is not the only inevitability. As Ecclesiastes 3 instructs us, there is a time for war and a time for peace, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.

Christmas is the time when we celebrate God's love for the whole world, and Jesus' giving of himself, and it is right to receive this gift from and respond with generosity towards others.

Women's Christmas Event

Get ready to celebrate Christmas with the lovely ladies of Dapto Anglican! Join us on Wednesday, December 13th at 7:30 PM at the Ministry Centre located on Moombara St.

We're inviting you to come along, send us your favourite recipe and bring samples to share on the night. You can bring either sweet or savoury finger food dishes! Not only will you get to enjoy all the delicious dishes, but you'll also receive a recipe book filled with Christmas flavours submitted by you!

This is a free event, so register now to join us and spread the joy of the holiday season!



Once you have registered, you will get a second email to send in your recipe! If you get stuck, write up your recipe and email it to linda@daptoanglican.org.au



Join us for our Christmas Services

Christmas Eve
Sunday 24th December

At the Ministry Centre

9am Service
Communion Service

4pm Service
Family Service

St Luke's
11pm Service
Communion Service

Christmas Day
Monday 25th December

At the Ministry Centre

9am Service
Family Service

Christmas is quickly approaching, with now less than 20 days until Christmas! We would love for you to join us with your family and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We have services for everyone and would love to welcome you!

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



Fundraising for our Fence

Wardens Update This Week



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, as we look forward to the celebration of your first coming to earth in humility, help us to live also in the eager expectation of your second coming in glory. May we live as children of the light, reflecting your light to those around us and praying for that light to send into the darkest places of our world. When you return to gather your people, may we be able to rejoice with untold numbers of others to see the great Day dawn. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Tara and Nathan O; Lisa and Matt G.

MOURNING

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

HOSPITAL

Please continue to pray for Ivy E (8am) who is still in St George Private Hospital. Following her surgery, she now has Pneumonia and an infection.

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 - Trevor is so thankful for the love and prayers from church members (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Wendy 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 mobility and pain control for Ruby D who has osteoporosis. 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. May his treatment have a positive outcome. Please also pray for Lynne N, as she continues to manage her health.