



◆ ...to a faithful and holy God who loves us immeasurably and who lifted up his Son to die for us; to save us from ourselves. That the name of Jesus will continue to challenge the unbeliever; continue to challenge world views.

- ◆ ... for the family of Shirley Barrow as they mourn her passing. Give them the strength and love they need at this sad time.
- ◆ ... for David & Henrietta, Jenni & David and family as they, too, mourn the passing of Ian Holden.

Bless...

- ◆ ... our Minister Alex and his wife Elizabeth as they lead and support our church at Oatley.
- ◆ ... Linda and Geoff as they carry out Pastoral Care work.
- ◆ ... all our friends and loved ones in Nursing Homes— Grace & Ian McKay, Ian Holden, Noelene Baker and Rhonda wife of Vic Stewart and Marlene Woodham’s mum Betty McKay. We thank you that you have also been caring for Rex and Coral Roberts, Joyce Fieldus, Jean Watts and Norma Manwaring. Surround them all with God’s peace, love and protection.
- ◆ ... Judy Walsh and give thanks for her continued healing as she rests at home.
- ◆ ... the Church Council.
- ◆ ... each other. Let us be an encouragement and a blessing to each other.
- ◆ ... our congregation as we plan to grow in ministry and seek the will of God in this place.
- ◆ ... the various prayer groups and Bible Study groups.

Uphold...

- ◆ ...Countries where there is political unrest, natural disasters and wars—praying particularly for the ongoing fighting in Ukraine, and the fighting between Israel and Hamas militants. Pray for the work of doctors, nurses, aid agencies in these places.
- ◆ ...our farming communities. Help them to remain resilient.
- ◆ ... those doing it tough because they have no home, no regular meals, no job.
- ◆ ...aid agencies who support people in distress like The Wayside Chapel, The Bill Crews Foundation, the Storehouse, Mission Australia...
- ◆ ...our Government—for good leadership, wisdom, discernment, co-operation and collaboration. To stand for the truth and care for the disadvantaged.
- ◆ ... Governments across our world where political leaders offer lies for truth.
- ◆ ... the Uniting Church in Australia—that God’s word is not compromised.

Let us allow the Holy Spirit to show each of us how best to pray—and to pray for all these things In the mighty name of Jesus—**Amen**

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER
 Pip Watts—0403 758 487—Please leave a message.
 OR Email: pippa0183@gmail.com
 Email heading subject: **NEWSLETTER**



**SUNDAY
 WORSHIP
 SERVICES**

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

**Come, now
 is the time
 to worship.
 Come, now
 is the time
 to give your
 heart.**

Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

<https://oatley.uca.org.au/>

*Mission Statement: Loving, Caring, Transforming
 our community through Jesus Christ.*

Easter 4 and Easter 5

21 and 28 April, 2024

PATIENCE

Lord God, I thank You that You are patient and have shown much patience with me. I want to ask You that You help me grow in patience too. I recognise I cannot do this by myself, but that I need the help of Your Holy spirit. Please make me more like You and help me to learn how to wait when I don't feel like it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Proverbs 16:32 (NIV)

The Bible is abundantly clear. God wants us to be patient. I feel as if I have never given this the consideration it deserves. Why is patience so important to God?

We need to learn patience partially because there are things outside of our control, beyond the limits of our ability. We need to learn how to wait well on the things which will be given to us, either by other people or by God. When we patiently wait, we show that we trust in His promises.

But God Himself is also patient. That's amazing when we think of the fact that there is nothing that's beyond His power to control. He can do whatever He wants, when He wants it! So why should God Himself exercise patience?

I think the answer lies in the fact that God wants the best for everybody. For example, He waits for people to repent, as He does not want anyone to perish, so He gives the world more time before Jesus returns and the final day of judgement arrives. He holds back because it is best for others.

In Isaiah Chapter 30, God says He wants to help Israel, even though, in their stubbornness, they are refusing His help. He explains that this means they will have even more troubles. But this is not the end. He also says that He will patiently wait until they are ready to trust in Him.

'Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him' (Isaiah 30:18, ESV).

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**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 21 April
Easter 4**

Acts 4:5-12 : Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24 : John 10:11-18

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 28 April
Easter 5**

Acts 8:26-40 : Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21 : John 15:1-8



There is something very selfless about exercising patience. In our sinful self, we just want things in our way and in our time. But God is so different. He is willing to wait if it results in blessings for you and me.

Personally, I find it particularly challenging to wait when I feel that I know the right way forward. But sometimes we need to learn to wait on others to get to that same place, so we can move forward together. When we are patient, others are blessed. It means putting the needs of others above our own.

When we exercise patience, we become more like God, less selfish and more loving. For me, I wish I had started taking patience more seriously earlier on in my life. But thank God, what matters most is not where I am now, but where I am heading. I want to become a more patient man. If you want to grow in patience too, then let's pray together for the Lord to help us be more like Him.

Prayer: Lord God, I thank You that You are patient and have shown much patience with me. I want to ask You that You help me grow in patience too. I recognise I cannot do this by myself, but that I need the help of Your Holy Spirit. Please make me more like You and help me to learn how to wait when I don't feel like it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Rev Alex Thomas

OneLove Women's Conference 2024—is a ministry of Katoomba Christian Convention and is to be held this year at Hillsong Church (no, it is not Colour Conference). This is a one day event to be held on 24 August, 2024. The speaker this year is Blair Linne. Please look to the website: <https://onelovewomen.com/> for more information.

The Early Bird Ticket is \$104 and is available until 30 April. This cost includes program attendance, printed booklet, conference gift, morning tea and lunch. You may like to view the conference online— please refer to website. In past experience the cost goes up after this date. If you are interested in attending please let me know so we can book tickets.. Pip Watts 0403 758 487



FLOWER ROSTER VACANCY—Is there a willing person who might fill the gap in the roster. There are boxes of artificial flowers available for your use if the garden isn't blooming.... If this is something that you can do please let Ross Cooper or Pip Watts know.



GAMES AFTERNOON will be held on Saturday 27 April from 1.30—3.30pm. You're never too old to learn a new game or play an old one...Come and share the fun.



KNIT2GETHER have been very busy and have collected 360 items of ladies/gents underwear and socks for The Wayside Chapel. We knitted 350 pairs of newborn baby booties and beanies for the Maternity Unit at Bankstown and St George Hospitals. We assisted The Kogarah Storehouse with clothing and household goods for an Indonesian family of four, with two teenage boys, who have just moved into a home after being homeless for the past six months. They have never before experienced a winter in Sydney so we sent many items of winter clothing and household goods to assist here. We wish them well. Beanies, scarves and gloves are being distributed to many places as winter approaches. Thank you everyone. It is just amazing what we achieve each month. Also, we received a fantastic donation of \$1,000 from Hurstville Rotary enabling more wool for knitting for the homeless as winter approaches. We meet next on Saturday 27 April from 9.30am—12.00pm. Linda Pritchard 0487 777 210.

In the Summer edition of *Eternity* magazine Pete Greig wrote a piece on prayer and suffering. Pete was the founder of the *24/7 Prayer* movement that has been a non-stop prayer movement for 25 years. Yet behind the success of the movement Pete's own prayer life struggled when his wife was diagnosed with a brain tumour. God seemed silent as Pete prayed for his wife. He started to realise that the only way forward was "the path of discipleship, which is to embrace the full Easter experience ... the discipleship journey must not only embrace the resurrection of Easter Sunday, but the silence of Holy Saturday and the agony of Good Friday. In those three days together, we find a balanced faith." he says.. Despite our experiences "only Jesus Christ and him crucified that makes sense of the pain and the brokenness and the vulnerability of life". Greig encourages, "God's not insecure as to whether we or others believe in him. Our job is not to do his PR. It's to be truthful about our experience and cling to him." And to press on in prayer...



Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength—carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying does not empty tomorrow if its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.

- Corrie ten Boom

For all pastoral matters contact Rev Alex Thomas
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Hall Bookings: Please contact Rosemary Cooper
- on 0402 428 560 - for all Hall Bookings.
Please also let her know if you would like to borrow any equipment.
Your prompt return of any borrowed items is appreciated.

This Church has a loop system for the hearing impaired.
Please switch hearing aid to "T" switch

