

I PRAY... Personalised Prayers for us all to take to our Heavenly Father



- 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.
- Pray that you will stand for the faith you believe in.
- that God's grace will be enough in your life—beautiful, powerful, transforming.
- for Fiona Dewhurst who is the SRE teacher at Georges River College Penshurst. Pray that she will reach the students with the love of Jesus.
- for Kathy Baigent and her family as they mourn the loss of Kathy's mum, Joyce Fieldus.

Bless . . .

- our Minister Alex and his wife Elizabeth as they lead and support our church at Oatley.
- Linda and Geoff in their Pastoral Care work in our church.
- all our friends and loved ones in Nursing Homes—Grace & Ian McKay, Noelene Baker and Rhonda wife of Vic Stewart and Marlene Woodham's mum Betty McKay, Jean Watts, Shirley Courtney and Norma Manwaring. Surround them all with God's peace, love and protection. We thank you that you are also caring for Rex and Coral Roberts and Judy Walsh.
- the Church Council.
- each other. Let us be a loving and encouraging community in Christ.
- for our congregation—that we 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—Pray for the work of doctors, nurses, aid agencies in these places. Lift up your people so that they see Jesus is ever present in their lives.
- 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

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please forward any notices for 28 July and 4 August to Pip Watts – 0403 758 487
Email: iplwatts@optusnet.com.au Email Subject: NEWSLETTER

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9.30am
Morning
Worship

AND

6.00pm
Evening
Worship

Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

<https://oatleyuca.org.au/>

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

14 and 21 July 2024

Listen To Wisdom

“Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favour from the Lord. But whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death.” Proverbs 8:34-36

Those words describe a certain attitude to wisdom, one that's been vivid and real to me for many years. “Blessed is the man who listens to me.” You see, your life really depends on whom you listen to. “Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching at my doors, waiting at my doorway.” I believe we need to put that first. I believe particularly as we awake each day, we need to be at wisdom's doorway. We need to have our ears opened. We need to be prepared to listen to what wisdom has to say.

I believe that wisdom – the wisdom of God in Scripture – offers us counsel for each day. It pays to cultivate an attitude and a relationship to wisdom that keeps us in continual contact with her. The one who finds wisdom finds life, but on the other side: those who hate wisdom love death. You see, there's a real parting of the ways there. We cannot combine the two. Our attitude to wisdom must be positive or it will be negative, and the attitude that we have will determine whether it's life or whether it's death.

Provided by Rev Alex Thomas



LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 14 JULY

Pentecost 8

2 Samuel 6:1-5 Psalm 24
Ephesians 1:3-14 Mark 6:14-29

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 21 JULY

Pentecost 9

2 Samuel 7:1-14a Psalm 89:20-37
Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

A Breath of Prayer

A breath of prayer in the morning,
Means a day of blessing sure.

A breath of prayer in the evening,
Means a night of rest secure.

A breath of prayer in our weakness,
Means a clasp of a mighty hand.

A breath of prayer when we're lonely,
Means Someone to understand.

A breath of prayer in our doubting,
Assures us the Lord knows best.

A breath of prayer in our sorrows.
Means comfort and peace and rest.

A breath of prayer in rejoicing,
Gives joy and added delight.

For they that remember God's goodness,
Go singing far into the night.

There's never a year or a season,
That prayer may not bless every hour.

And never a soul need be helpless,
When linked with God's infinite Power.

Frances McKinnon Morton

UCA 17th ASSEMBLY

The 17th Assembly is the triennial decision-making meeting of the National Council of the Uniting Church in Australia. Members worship together, form community, and discern where God's spirit is calling the Church. The meeting will take place from 11-16 July 2024 at the Novotel Paramatta on Burrumattagal land in Western Sydney where on Day One Rev Charissa Suli was appointed as the new President of the Uniting Church of Australia. To follow daily events here is the link <https://uniting.church/17thassembly/>



SAMARITAN'S PURSE—OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

“Shoebbox gifts are collected in Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the United States. More than 11.3 million shoebbox gifts were collected globally in 2023, 10million from the U.S. alone. In 2024, Operation Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoebboxes to reach another 12 million children.”

This Month will be Stationery Items

Let's set our sights beyond ourselves and start collecting for the child who does not know Jesus Christ or the joy of receiving a gift. The collection box will be in the Church Foyer each month until October. There will also be a tube to collect money for postage. Each box is \$10 to send. Your monetary donation is gratefully accepted to assist and an alternative if you are unable to shop for gift items. Pip Watts

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN—KIDSFEST Rockdale Uniting Church is holding a holiday kids club with a Medieval theme—the topic is 'Kingdom'. It will be held 15—19 July from 9am-12pm. Games, craft, music, talks and “Medieval World” Enquiries: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPVIS> Spaces limited—book now.

GAMES AFTERNOON will be held on Saturday 27 July at 1.30pm in the Church hall and all kids, teens and beyond are most welcome to come along and play Chess, Drafts, Scrabble, Trivial Pursuit, Rummy-O and Uno, etc. For more details contact Margaret Lacey on 0437 704 865

A FEW GOOD MEN will be meeting in the church hall on Tuesday 16 July at 10.00am until 11.00am for a good chat and sharing together our activities and adventures and our faith journey with Jesus. You can purchase tea or coffee at Elim Cafe across the road from the church. All men are most welcome to attend. Any Questions, please contact Geoff Pritchard on 0428 250 546

KNIT2GETHER in June assisted The Hands & Feet Organisation here in Oatley with non-perishable food items and also winter clothing and blankets for an Afghanistan family in need. Jenny Pun from this organisation came and gave a short talk at the knitting group and read testimonials from recipients. This group hand out food parcels to any family or person in need from The Gospel Chapel here in Oatley each Wednesday afternoon. It is wonderful to assist all of these local organisations who are overwhelmed with gratitude as government funding for these food programs has become a little unstable this winter. Hundreds of our knitted and crocheted items, plus jackets, coats and thermal clothing are out there helping to keep the homeless and disadvantaged in our local area and in the city a little warmer. Thank you everyone for your great support with everything . . . Linda Pritchard Mob: 0487 777 210.



EXODUS - The Bill Crews Foundation Thank you everyone for your generous donations to Exodus. Please continue to give things that are necessary pantry items: long-life milk and non-perishable food items i.e. canned items, rice, pasta, tea, coffee, cereals, biscuits and even personal items—soap, toothpaste, shampoo. These things all go to make home packages. *Thanks everyone for your contributions.*

For all Pastoral Matters: Contact Rev Alex Thomas
Ph: 8411 2383 Mob: 0448 353 539 E: alexth@optusnet.com.au

Hall Bookings: Contact Rosemary Cooper
Mob: 0402 428 560 E: rosie.cooper2019@gmail.com
Please let me know if you would like to borrow any equipment.
Your prompt return of any borrowed items is appreciated.