



# Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

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

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

8 September and 15 September, 2024

**Pentecost 16 and Pentecost 17**

## Did You Get That?

*Yet he saved them for his name's sake, to make his  
mighty power known.* **Psalm 106:8**

One of the dangers we face as Christians is becoming so familiar with certain words and phrases that we fail to consider their meaning. For example, we know that God is an infinite being who is so powerful and so immense that the heavens cannot contain Him. He is infinitely above and beyond the boundaries of creation. Great! But what does that mean?

Some time ago, a Canadian astronomer working on a mountaintop in Chile sighted a supernova. It was the first such sighting since 1604. A supernova is an exploding star that in one second releases a burst of atomic particles with a force equal to all the energy the sun will give out in its lifetime of ten billion years—multiplied by 100. Did you get that? If this is what the creation can do, then what can God the Creator do?

How could the infinite God of the universe live in the temple built for Him by Solomon? It is part of the mystery of His promise. The New Testament tells us that God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus Christ. And that by faith, Christ lives in the heart of every child of God. You see, once again we are faced with a familiar phrase, the meaning of which we may fail to grasp.

Although God is infinitely above and beyond our finite understanding of Him, He hears our childlike prayers and accepts our childlike praise. All our plans, all our plots and schemes, all our thoughts and aims and affections are uncovered and laid bare before Him who loves us, and to whom we must give account.

**Prayer:** *Lord, infinite God...mighty in power...Creator of heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; thank You for living within my heart through faith in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### To Ponder

What does it mean to me that the infinite mighty Creator loves me?

**Rev Alex Thomas**

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 8 September

### Pentecost 16

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 : Psalm 125  
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 : Mark 7:24-37

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 15 September

### Pentecost 17

Proverbs 1:20-33 : Psalm 19  
James 3:1-12 : Mark 8:27-38



## SAMARITAN'S PURSE—OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Each month until October we, as a church, will be collecting items to fill Christmas boxes for children across our world who do not know the joy of receiving a gift. This is also part of a worldwide outreach to bring them the joy of knowing Jesus Christ as their saviour. For the month of **SEPTEMBER** your gift of **T-SHIRTS, SHORTS, CAP OR HAT, HAIR BANDS OR CLIPS** is gratefully appreciated.

There is also 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



**GAMES AFTERNOON**—28 September from 1.30-3.30pm in the Church Hall. Come and share a time of fun and laughter and skill as you play games together.

## PRAYER MEETING for supporters of PCCCEB

Please plan to join with Fiona and others to pray for the work of SRE at GRC Penhurst and Oatley. The meeting will be held Saturday 21 September, 2024, at 9am at Penhurst Anglican, 2 Carrington Street, Penhurst



You can't pray to someone you don't know—Do you know God? Do you believe in Him? Is He real in your life? Can you come before Him as 'Father' knowing that He cares for you and he accepts you just as you are?

### When you Pray...

God doesn't want your high speech—he wants to hear you in your language, in your way of speaking. You are allowed to be angry and tell Him you are angry...but allow Him to answer and to quieten your heart. He loves to hear your praises and your thanks for all the things He has provided

You were shown 3 points to help you Pray -

- ◇ Keep it Simple
- ◇ Keep it Real
- ◇ Keep it Up

God wants simplicity, honesty and perseverance in prayer.

We are to pray consistently and confidently that He has heard our prayers and will answer. Expect an answer. All the while keep reading His word. God will reveal what He wants when we obediently keep seeking Him. Spend time each day with Him, in fact give Him your day. Things happen when we pray.

**SUNDAY  
WORSHIP  
SERVICES**

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

**The Bill Crews Foundation—Exodus** 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.



**KNIT2GETHER** in September have commenced knitting for Winter 2025. In the last 12 months we have knitted and crocheted just over 2,600 items. This includes beanies, scarves, fingerless gloves, knee rugs and baby items and more for . . . The Kogarah Storehouse, The Hands & Feet Organisation, The Wayside Chapel, St George Hospital, Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, The Cancer Care Unit at Westmead Hospital, ten nursing homes in the local area, The Salvation Army Hurstville, Coffee, Chat & Connect at Narwee, The Dandelion Support Group, Children's knitted items for local Women's Refuges and the Pass It On organisation. The demand for items has been huge this winter and so it is good that we have many hands clicking those knitting needles and crochet hooks. We next meet on Saturday 28 September. Linda Pritchard 0487 777 210.

#### **DATES FOR THE DIARY:**

- **CHURCH COUNCIL:** 17 September at 7.30pm in the lower Church hall
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** 22 September following the Morning Service. This meeting is to bring the 2024/2025 Budget to the Congregation. If you can stay a little longer after the meeting we will continue with lunch in the Hall.
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** 24 November following the Morning Service. This meeting is to elect Offices of the Congregation and Church Council.
- **OATLEY LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS MARKET MORNING:** 23 November. The Church Café will be operating on the day.
- **CHRISTMAS SERVICE & CAROLS IN THE CARPARK:** 22 December

**A FEW GOOD MEN** will next meet on Tuesday 17 September from 10.00am to 11.00am in the Church Hall. All men are invited to join us with a cup of coffee for a good chat and some inspirational encouragement together. I look forward to seeing you there. The Elim Cafe across from our Church is now open again. Geoff Pritchard Mob: 0428 250 546.




---

**For all pastoral matters** contact Rev Alex Thomas  
H: 8411 2383 : M: 0448 35 35 39 : E: alexth@optusnet.com.au

---

**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.

---



**P—pause : R—rejoice : A—ask : Y—yield**

- ◆ ...to a faithful and holy God who loves you and whose grace is enough in your life.
- ◆ ...for Fiona Dewhurst who is the SRE teacher at Georges River College Penshurst. Pray that this term is rewarding.
- ◆ ... for a life that is full to brimming over with joy.
- ◆ ... for countries where there is political unrest, natural disasters and wars. Pray against the work of the devil. Ask for God's intervention.
- ... for Shirley Courtney and her family.

#### **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.
- ◆ ...all our friends and loved ones in Nursing Homes—Grace & Ian McKay, Noelene Baker and Rhonda wife of Vic Stewart, Jean Watts 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.
- ◆ ... 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...**

- ◆ ... the work of doctors, nurses, aid agencies in places of unrest .
- ◆ ... those whose lives have been turned upside down because of war. Lift them up so that they see Jesus is ever present in their lives and that you Lord would draw many to yourself and rebuild lives. Change the hearts of our Arab and Jewish brothers to the Gospel.
- ◆ ...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.
- ◆ ... 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**

---