



Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

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

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

3 November and 10 November, 2024

Pentecost 24 and Pentecost 25

Growing Deep Roots

*And in him you too are being built together to
become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

Ephesians 2:22

In today's passage of Scripture, the prophet Isaiah presents the first principle of spiritual growth: We must begin with a sure foundation. Here are the words of Isaiah 28:16 - "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation" (KJV). In the New Testament we read that this foundation is Jesus Christ. Our precious Lord Jesus is this living stone, chosen by God. In 1 Corinthians 3:11, the apostle Paul wrote, "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."

I recall Dawson Trotman, founder of The Navigators, one of my Spiritual Heroes, telling about a young man he once met. Daws had preached on the need for spiritual growth, and the young man came to him after the message and said, "Mr. Trotman, I want to grow, and I want to grow fast. I don't want to go through all those things you mentioned tonight such as Bible study, morning prayer, and Bible reading." He was looking for some way to take a great leap forward and arrive at spiritual maturity overnight.

In a microwave society, we keep looking for shortcuts and instant results. But there are no shortcuts to spiritual maturity. Spiritual growth is slow, but if we meet the conditions, it is sure. Involve yourself in those things that will get your roots down into Christ. The basics of church attendance, meditation on the Word, prayer, Bible study, and Scripture memory will provide the framework for you to build every day on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ.

Prayer—Lord, thank You for my salvation. Now, by Your Holy Spirit, I want to go on and become fully equipped to be a useful steward. Amen.

To Ponder—As new Christians, we face two dangers. One is being satisfied that we are saved and never wanting to grow in Christ. The other is wanting to grow too quickly.

Rev Alex Thomas

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICES**

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 3 November

Pentecost 24

Ruth 1:1-18 : Psalm 146

Hebrews 9:11-14 : Mark 12:28-34

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 10 November

Pentecost 25

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 : Psalm 127

Hebrews 9:24-28 : Mark 12:38-44



SAMARITAN'S PURSE—OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you to everyone who gave to Operation Christmas Child this year. 25 boxes were put together with the items that were donated by the Oatley congregation. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Please pray that the boxes reach all the destinations and hearts are turned to Jesus—Pip Watts

OATLEY LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS MARKET MORNING—CHURCH CAFÉ

We plan to open up our kitchen and serve Devonshire Tea/Coffee and Scones again. Your help is needed to help in the kitchen on 23 November. A scone recipe is in the foyer if required—yes we need you make scones.



"Give us this day our daily bread" Matthew 6:11

Following on from asking that the will of God be evident on earth as in heaven we were assured that Heaven is perfect. It is all around us. It is a barrier to what is unseen. It is God's dwelling place.

God fed his people manna in the desert on a daily basis. They received no more and no less than they needed. Our daily bread is not just food to live on it is also feeding on the Word of God. It is to live wholly for God – it is food to give us energy and we are to honour his name, his kingdom and his will.

It is a dependence on the Father, our creator, to keep us and the rest of the Universe. In Matthew 6:25-26 Jesus says, "...Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air...your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" God is concerned for us.

The meaning of the petition is a:

- Prayer of sacrament of Christ's body
- Prayer for spiritual food—for the word of God.
- Prayer for Christ himself – the bread of life (John 6:15)
- Prayer for the simple ordinary things.

Give thanks to the Lord for everything He has given you with gratitude.



The Kogarah Storehouse operates out of Kogarah Uniting Church. They provide food hampers and fresh vegetables each week to people struggling to put food on the table. 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.

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- **KNIT2GETHER:** 9.30am—12pm in Church Hall 16 November.
- **OATLEY LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS MARKET DAY:** 23 November. The Church Café will be operating on the day. Get out your scone recipe!
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:** 24 November following the Morning Service. This is a combined meeting of morning and evening congregations to elect Offices of the Congregation and Church Council.
- **LAST NEWSLETTER FOR 2024** is 15 December to resume 26 January 2025
- **EVENING SERVICE 'CAROLS IN THE CARPARK':** 22 December @ 6pm for 6.30pm start. This is our outdoor service hoping that the community see and hear and come to join in.
- **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE**—25 December @ 8.30am

LIONS CLUB TRASH & TREASURE—Please ensure everything is suitable for sale and in excellent condition. Donations can be delivered to Oatley Uniting Church Hall Friday 22 November 3pm - 6pm. If anyone needs assistance getting items to us or must deliver items earlier, please call me and we will work something out. Please do not bring broken, incomplete, stained, dirty or damaged goods; Electrical appliances of any kind; Videos; CD's; DVD's; Large Furniture; Adult clothing or Stuffed toys. Liane - 0411 809 442

At the **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** all Offices are vacant and will need to be filled— These include Congregational Chairperson, Congregational Secretary, Presbytery Representative, Convenor for Combined Roster, Evening Roster, Communion Rosters, Morning Tea, Hall Hire and Newsletter. Please prayerfully consider the roles and look at where you can assist the life of your church.

In the same way there are **4 CHURCH COUNCIL** places that will become vacant at this time. Please prayerfully consider nominating. It is an opportunity to serve and lead in your Church. Church Council meets the third Tuesday of the month from 7.30-9.30pm. Your nomination forms need to be placed in the box in the Church foyer by **10 November**.

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

Centre a time to pray and rejoice ...

- ◆ ... Your God is faithful and holy and loves you with all his power and might. Rejoice in his Son, God's expression of love.
- ◆ ... and give praise for your salvation and the relationship you now have with God as part of His kingdom. Thank him for his Word. Rejoice in the things God has given you and be grateful.

... Ask

- ◆ ... for God's intervention in countries where there is political unrest, natural disasters and wars. For the work of doctors, nurses, aid agencies in these places.
- ◆ ... for a ceasefire in the Middle East. Change the hearts of our Arab and Jewish brothers to the Gospel. Bring about peace.
- ◆ ... that Fiona Dewhurst, SRE teacher at Georges River College Penshurst, will bring many blessings to the students and staff.
- ◆ ... that our Minister Alex and his wife Elizabeth be upheld as they lead and support our church at Oatley.
- ◆ ... that Linda and Geoff bring blessings in their Pastoral Care work.
- ◆ ... that 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 know God's peace, love and protection. We thank you that you are also caring for Rex and Coral Roberts and Judy Walsh.
- ◆ ... that you give wisdom to the Church Council.
- ◆ ... that we love and serve each other as a community in Christ and seek the will of God and grow in ministry in this place.

... and continue to ask for

- ◆ ...our farming communities. Help them to remain resilient. Encourage the young to continue on the land.
- ◆ ... 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 Kogarah 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**
