



# Oatley Uniting Church

PO Box 73, Oatley

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

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

17 November and 24 November, 2024

Pentecost 26 and Christ the King

**SUNDAY  
WORSHIP  
SERVICES**

9.30AM

AND

6.00PM

## How Thankful Are You?

*"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds" **Psalm 9:1***

Most of us acknowledge that everything we have comes from God, but how often do we stop to give thanks to him? At the end of a workday, do you take time to say, "Thank you, heavenly Father, for giving me the skill, ability, and health to do my work today"? Do you ever physically or mentally go through your house and say to God, "everything in the house and the food in the cupboard and the car (or cars) in the driveway are gifts from you. Thank you for your gracious and generous provision"? When you give thanks at mealtime, is it routine and perfunctory, or is it a heartfelt expression of your gratitude to God for his continual provision of all your physical needs?

Taking for granted all the temporal provisions and spiritual blessings that God has so richly bestowed on us, and so failing to continually give him thanks, is one of our "acceptable" sins. In fact, far too many Christians wouldn't think of it as sin. Yet Paul, in his description of a Spirit-filled person, said we're to be "giving thanks always and for everything to God" (Ephesians 5:20). Note the words always and everything. That means our whole lives should be ones of continually giving thanks.

Giving thanks to God for both his temporal and spiritual blessings in our lives is not just a nice thing to do—it's the moral will of God. Failure to give him the thanks due him is sin. It may seem like a benign sin to us because it doesn't harm anyone else. But it's an affront and insult to the one who created us and sustains us every second of our lives.

(Excerpt taken from 'Respectable Sins' by Jerry Bridges)

**Rev Alex Thomas**

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 17 November

### Pentecost 26

1 Samuel 1:4-20 : 1 Samuel 2:1-10

Heb 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25 : Mark 13:1-8

## LECTIONARY READINGS FOR 24 November

### Christ the King

2 Samuel 23:1-7 : Ps 132:1-12, (13-18)

Revelation 1:4b-8 : John 18:33-37



## OATLEY LIONS CLUB CHRISTMAS MARKET MORNING—CHURCH CAFÉ

The kitchen will be serving Devonshire Teas/Coffees 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. Please support and place your name on the Roster in the Church Foyer.

**A MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**—has commenced in recent weeks. It is held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 7.30—9.30pm at the Church. For further information see David Holden.

**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. **There will be no Evening Service on this day.**

The following members have been nominated to be on Church Council.

Helen Phillips—1 Year  
Pip Watts—1 Year  
Robert Alderdice—2 years  
Ross Cooper—1 year  
David Holden—1 year

At this meeting, all Offices to the Congregation are made 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 in the life of your church.

**KNIT2GETHER** in October ... In between knitting and crocheting we have



been part of a campaign called "It's In The Bag" organised by Share The Dignity where we filled 90 large handbags with personal items. These are for ladies affected by domestic violence and find themselves in a Women's Refuge on Christmas Day without anything. A BIG THANK YOU to all involved here whether you donated bags or personal items it was a fantastic effort from all. Mark Coure MP came along and gave a short talk about the important work of Share The Dignity. It has been wonderful to be a part of this great campaign once again. Next week we will be raising funds for a local school with our stall at the Oatley Lions Market Day. See you there! Linda Pritchard 0487 777 210.

**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:**

- **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

**"Lebanon Emergency Prayer & Appeal"** - Rev Gaby Kobrossi from Bankstown UC has a heart for the unrest in the Middle East as it hits very close to home to many of their siblings in Christ. Bankstown Uniting Church has partnered with their sister churches in Lebanon to provide funds for humanitarian aid for the over 1.7 million displaced individuals that need support in the face of danger and great uncertainty. If this is something you feel you would like to support Gaby has provided banking details. If you have questions please use the contact details at the bottom of the Appeal.

**Georges River Presbytery** welcomes Rev Dr Matthew Wilson as Mission and Leadership Presbytery Minister.



Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100:4-5

**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.
- ◆ ...that Fiona Dewhurst, SRE teacher at Georges River College Penshurst, as she witnesses and teaches, moving alongside students. Pray for the plans to be made in 2025.
- ◆ ...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, Judy Walsh, 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 .
- ◆ ... 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**