



# WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

## LOVE, IDOLS, AND IDENTITY

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

For God so loved the world.... You, I, indeed, the entire world, are loved by God. It is astounding that the creator and sustainer of the universe is mindful of us (Psalm 8). Even while we were sinners, Christ died for us (Rom 5:8). The natural response to this overwhelming and undeserved love is: We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19).

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If all of this is true, why is there so much discord in the church? Hatred in the world is distressing but understandable. But we are the loved people, shown grace and mercy. But we are not always the loved ones who love. Why? Something holds our hearts and wills captive – what is it? And how do we expel it?

Augustine answers that we have false loves. Rather than loving Jesus and enthroning him as Lord and King, our first love is self, pleasure, success, reputation, security, etc. Calvin explores the same idea with different labels. The human heart and mind is an 'idol factory', fashioning obsessions to which we entrust our hopes and dreams.

Danish philosopher Soren Kierkegaard says a similar thing yet differently again. Humans are beings that find their identity in the self. This self can define itself in three stages: in the present moment (think pleasure vs pain), in forming one's character (ethics), or committing to following Jesus and defining self as a disciple.

What holds our hearts and wills captive are false loves, false idols, and false identities. How do we expel this false love? In two ways. You put off the old self, and you put on the new self (Eph 4:22-24).

As Augustine might put it, don't fuel the old love, but rather release the power of the new love. Or Calvin, don't worship (dream about and chase) the false idol, but worship God. Or Kierkegaard, find your identity in Christ and place ethics and pleasure as a subset of being a disciple.

What are the loves, idols, or identities that captivate you? How can you give them less air? More importantly, how do you love God, worship him, and find your identity in Jesus? This is the only path to life.

## Empty Nesters Picnic

Join Empty Nesters in Wollongong for a Botanical Gardens Picnic on Saturday, the 20th of April, starting at 11 am. Meet at the entrance by Murphy's Road and don't forget to bring your own picnic goodies! For more info, contact Ruth Finney.



## Connect Men Breakwall Walk

Join Connect Men at the Marina for a Men's Breakwall Walk, on Saturday 27th April. Meet at the Marina where we will gather, buy some food, and then set off for a leisurely walk along the breakwall.

It's a great opportunity to connect with other men from our church community, enjoy some good food, and spend time outdoors in a relaxed atmosphere. If walking isn't your thing, feel free to hang out at the Marina and soak in the beautiful surroundings.

Don't miss this chance to unwind, make new friends, and enjoy a casual outing by the water. See you there!



## SAFE MINISTRY

Dapto Anglican Church is committed to Safe Ministry Practices. If you have a question or concern, we are here to help. Please contact:

- Julie Houghton, Parish Safe Ministry Representative, by confidential email [safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au](mailto:safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au) or through our church office on 4261 1001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945



# PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

We praise you, O God, that your foolishness is greater than human wisdom, that the 'foolishness' of the cross is the way to your peace and the 'foolishness' of the resurrection is the reality that for us who believe turns this mortal life into eternal life with our Risen Lord, Jesus. Sadly, those who reject you now will hear you reject them in eternity. Strengthen our faith and give us the fire of your Spirit to share this Gospel with those around us, and across the world for which Jesus died. Amen.

## PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### EXPECTANT PARENTS

Katie and Phil C.

### HOSPITAL

Please pray for Sharon L's (10am) mum, Marie, who has had major spinal surgery and is in the recovery phase. Please continue to pray for Rick W (10am), who is still in hospital and quite unwell, and is waiting for further surgery. Also, please pray for Tamia McN's (10am) mum, Cathy, who is in hospital with a cancer diagnosis.

### VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please continue to pray for our people in Residential Care Homes: Jean W, Kath H, Phyllis D, Audrey & Alan R, Gae & Allen Q, Elsie N, Barbara L, Pamela B, Gordon M, Beth W, Betty B (Piper House, Dapto); Robyn K (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H, Trevor W (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Wendy C, Helen K (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S (The Links, Wollongong).

### 8AM / WED 2PM

Please pray for Brian L who is now home from hospital and depending on oxygen 24/7; Please pray for Ray G who has now moved to rehab at Shellharbour Private Hospital; Please continue to pray for Deb P's brother, who is very unwell. Also, please continue to pray for Mavis B as her recovery is going well, and also for her daughter-in-law, who has started Chemotherapy.

### 10AM

Please pray for Elizabeth L who has shingles, and this follows two fractures on her L1 in her back, and her wrist, following a fall in the shower. Please pray for James B's sisters, Debbie and Sue, with serious health concerns. Pray also for James as he co-ordinates their care plans. Also, please pray for Ann R's mother, who is unwell. Also, please continue to pray for Andy H that his hand will heal well. Also, please pray for Ruby D for freedom from pain. Also, please pray for Andrew W and his health problems.

### CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Please continue to pray for Lynne N and her family with health problems.



# FAMILY ADVENTURE DAY

# DISCOVERY SPACE

From 9am till 12pm  
Wednesday 24th April  
University of Wollongong

Meet at Entrance  
Organise own tickets  
Pay on the day  
or pre book online



Dapto Anglican

42 611 001

[www.dapto.church/events](http://www.dapto.church/events)



St Luke's  
Preschool



CONNECT KIDS

# FAMILY SERVICE

SUNDAY  
10 14TH  
APRIL



Join us at the 10am Service next week  
for our Family Service