



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

SCOTT MORRISON'S FINAL SPEECH TO PARLIAMENT

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

Just over two weeks ago, the former Prime Minister gave his final speech to parliament. It contained many standard features of a farewell speech. Thanks to some core supporters, reaffirmation of his core turns of phrase, defence of some of his disputed decisions, thanks and praise for his family, and acknowledgement of his faith in Jesus.

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One theme in particular stood out to me. Morrison offered his reflection – that Australians place too much faith and hope in politics and politicians. “While a noble calling, politics can only take you so far, and government can only do so much.” “I suspect that much of our disillusion with politics today and our institutions is that we have put too much faith in them. At the end of the day, the state and the market are just run by imperfect people, like all of us.”

This is an interesting reflection from anyone, let alone an ex-prime minister. Perhaps an ex-prime minister has felt the burden of people’s dreams and expectations, as well as hurts and frustrations aimed at him and the governments he led. His answer is not that we could have done better or they (the opposition) stopped us. His answer is that we are asking of politics things it cannot deliver.

There is an old definition of politics – it’s about who gets what, when, how, where, how and why. In other words, politics is about creating a stable platform for the economy and then distributing the proceeds from taxation appropriately.

Morrison’s point is that neither politics nor the market can deliver meaning or purpose to life, nor can they fulfil our hopes and dreams. At best, governments provide a stable economy and society in which individuals can prosper and, from that platform, pursue ultimate meaning. Politics and the market are the means, not the end.

I think Morrison makes a valid point. Australians, in particular, are quick to blame the government for societal problems and see government interventions as the essential solution. We look to the government for answers, but some of our yearnings can only be fulfilled by ourselves and our relationships with God and our neighbours.

CHRIST FOR THE COAST



Last Friday night, Dapto Youth went to Christ for the Coast. Christ for the Coast is a huge combined night for all youth groups in the Illawarra. The night was at Figtree Anglican, and we had close to 800 youth and leaders there (on Sunday, I said 750, but we did a recount!). As people arrived, there were so many great activities to do: jumping castles, 9-square, silent disco, slushies, hanging with friends and more.

The next part of the night was the session. Here, we sang songs of praise, heard how God was working in the life of a youth in a testimony, spent time praying and read the Bible. Mitch (our guest speaker) spoke from the Bible and asked the question, "Can you trust Jesus?". Mitch spoke the gospel clearly and then invited everyone in the room to respond. By God's grace, we had 180 responses from youth who want to know more and grow more in Christ. This means, 180 youth wanted to take their next steps in their faith. Either for the first time, or who want to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus! Praise God!



I know I left the night feeling encouraged and excited to get back to Dapto Youth on a Friday night with this energy from Christ for the Coast!

Nathan Gray (Next Gen Minister)

AGM 2024

Our Annual General Meeting for 2024 is this coming Tuesday night!!! We would love for you to join us on the 19th of March, at 7pm, as we gather together as God's people and vote on important matters within our church.

Hot Cross Buns Fundraiser

Please help support High School SRE and it's ministry by donating to the Dapto Schools Scripture Board this Easter. Give a donation of \$10 and we will give you a pack of 6 Hot Cross Buns! See the Church Office, or the Connection Desk at our Sunday services, for a form. **Orders are due back by this Sunday (the 17th)!**





Wollongong Women's Conference - a once a year opportunity to gather with women from all across the region to be encouraged and challenged in God's word, share stories, catch up with old friends and make new ones!

Join us on Saturday 25th May as we look into Ephesians with our guest speaker, Grace Jones. This years theme: UNITED. Early bird tickets are on sale now.

An event of The Gospel Coalition Australia Illawarra.



Join us for our Easter Services

Tenebrae **Thursday 28th March**
7:30pm, St Luke's Brownsville

Good Friday **Friday 29th March**
9am, The Ministry Centre

Easter Sunday **Sunday 31st March**
8am, Communion Service
10am, Family Service
6pm, Contemporary Service



New Offertory Envelopes

Our new Offertory Envelopes are in! Available at the connect desk for our Sunday services, from 2pm next week or from the Office throughout the week.

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 or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Heavenly Father, we ask for wisdom as we make decisions this month. Help us to seek your will and trust in your plans. Help us to be still and know that you are God. Amen.

Taken from the CBM 2024 Prayer Diary

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Katie and Phil C.

HOSPITAL

Please pray for Ray G (8am) who is in hospital and could be in there for at least another week. Please continue to pray for Allan C (8am) who is still in rehab in Wollongong Hospital. Please pray for Brian L (2pm) who is in hospital with respiratory problems. 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 (please continue to pray for Audrey as she recovers from her fall), 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.); Wendye C, Helen K (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S (The Links, Wollongong).

8AM/2PM

Please pray for Mavis B who is recovering at home after being in hospital, and for Mavis's daughter-in-law, who has started Chemotherapy. Please continue to pray for Jill S who is recovering slowly and appreciates your prayers. Also, please pray for Deb P's brother who is very unwell.

10AM

Please pray for Barbara H, who has had corrective surgery on her shoulder. Please continue to pray for Andy H that his hand will heal well. Also, please continue to pray for Ruby D for freedom from pain. And please continue to pray for Andrew W and his health problems.

6PM

Please pray for Anna P who will be having surgery on 20th March.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

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