



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

LIFE STAGES

REV. MATT GOODMAN

As you are all aware, we as a church have been going through a discipleship stages series, looking at each individual stage along the map of someone's growth journey as a disciple of Jesus. We've covered the stages of child, infant, young adult and this week we will look at parent.

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As of the week starting 5th May, we will be going through a questionnaire in our growth groups that will help map each of us into these different discipleship stages to identify where we are currently on the journey.

The content we have been sharing has come from the book *Real-Life Discipleship* by Jim Putman. The categories from this book are very helpful in describing the different stages we should expect at church and how to help each other grow. The categories are also helpful in giving insight into where we each are individually in our walk with God and how to love each other at whatever stage we find ourselves in. The mapping tool is helpful, but it could also lead to discouragement. When you see your results, you may wish you had actually progressed further along. Finding out where you are could raise questions like "What do I have to do to progress" or "Why aren't I growing more than I thought?"

While the mapping is a useful tool, let me encourage you not to lose sight of the amazing fact that you are even on the discipleship map at all. The map doesn't start at "infant" - it actually starts at spiritual death. As Paul shares in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!" For those who have put their faith in Jesus, you are a new creation with new life and the hope of eternity. The old self you once were or could have become, apart from Christ, is gone.

Over time, you will desire Jesus and his ways more and more. Over time, you will resemble your Savior in your thoughts, actions, and even your reputation. Wherever you track now, be encouraged that it is such an amazing gift of grace that you are on this map as a new creation at all!

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Paul also encouraged the Philippians in Philippians 1:6, saying, “He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion”. So wherever you find yourself on the map currently, God has promised to complete His transformative work in you. You may not end up at the “spiritual parent” stage for whatever reason, but God will still perfect you in his new creation.

As Paul instructed the Ephesians in Ephesians 4:22-24, the life of a disciple is a constant “putting off” of the old self and “putting on” the new self. You can see this represented through each discipleship stage - an increasing putting off the old ways and putting on the new person you are in Christ. This is because whatever sinful habits or temptations you once struggled with simply don’t align with who you are now in Christ.

We will have a lifetime of wrestling with temptations, but this wrestle is actually a sign of our new life in Christ! If we were not spiritually alive, we wouldn’t struggle against those old patterns. The more you grow, the more your life will truly glorify God.

So be encouraged by Paul’s prayer in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 - “Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”. Amen.



Discipleship Mapping

Next week, starting the 5th of May, we ask that as Growth Groups you work together through the Discipleship Mapping Resource we have created from Jim Putman’s book. There are instructions, question and answer sheets to go through together. This self-assessment tool gives participants insights into their spiritual journey, helps us to understand our strength and growth areas, and discern potential pathways for further spiritual development.

For those not in a growth group but interested, we will run sessions in the week as required. You can let a staff member know, or contact the office.

FAMILY ADVENTURE DAY

This school holidays, Dapto Anglican Church partnered with St Luke's Preschool for a Family Adventure Day to UOW's Discovery Space. Children, along with their parents and carers had a blast as they engaged in imaginative play all throughout the centre. Children played with pretend penguins and even got to do some "shopping" with their own carts inside their very own "grocery store", and so much more. What a highlight for our school holidays!



Our Young Adults community kicked back last Friday as they came together for a relaxed hangout. People could be found mingling in many different groups and engaging in the many activities on offer. From roasting marshmallows by the fire, to taking on colouring-in challenges using only five colours, getting competitive in a game of Mario Kart and Mario Party, and enjoying board games. It was a wholesome night of community, friends and laughter, with 25 people in attendance. We're eagerly looking forward to the next event!



Connect Men Breakwall Walk

Join Connect Men at the Shellcove Marina for a walk on Saturday, 27th April. Meet at 12 noon 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.

We look forward to seeing many of you!



WOLLONGONG WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

A great day of teaching,
music, food and friendship!



Saturday 25th May

9:30am - 3:30pm

Speaker: Grace Jones

Figtree Anglican Church



Term 2 Dates

Get excited with us for Term 2, as school holidays nears an end. We hope you join us at one of our programs!

Cafe Church - 1st of May

Playpatch - 2nd of May

Connect Fridays - 3rd of May

Dapto Youth - 3rd of May

Connect Sundays - 5th of May

Oxygen - 5th of May

Creative Connection - 10th of May

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Anzac Day Prayer

Psalm 99 'The Lord reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim'.

We thank you Lord God that you do indeed reign in the glory and majesty of heaven. We pray for the church to proclaim the Good News of your Kingdom throughout the world and for people to welcome your reign in their lives. We look forward to the day when you will finally rule over a new creation, wars will cease and all whom you have saved will eat the fruit of the tree of life and the leaves will be for the healing of the nations. Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen.

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Please pray for our NOMINATORS as they seek a new Senior Minister for DAC.

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Katie and Phil C.

HOSPITAL

Ross N (10am) is in hospital on the Gold Coast. Please continue to pray for Rick W (10am), who is still in hospital and quite unwell and is waiting for further surgery. Please continue to pray for Ray G (8am) who is in Rehab in Shellharbour Private Hospital, and may be going into Residential Care. Tamia McN's (10am) mum, Cathy, recieved good news that her tumors are shrinking. Please pray for continued healing and strength as she does further chemotherapy.

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 - Graham will be having Cataract Surgery today, Wednesday, at Wollongong Private Hospital (The Links, Wollongong).

8AM / WED 2PM

Please pray for Brian L, who is very unwell and depending on oxygen 24/7; 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 please pray for her daughter-in-law who has started Chemotherapy.

10AM

Please continue to pray for Barbara and Jim H who are both struggling with throat infections and colds; Please continue to pray for Elizabeth L who is recovering from fractures in her back and wrist. Her shingles have just about cleared up; Please continue to pray for James B's sisters, Debbie and Sue, with serious health concerns, and also pray for James as he co-ordinates their care plans; Also, please continue to pray for Anne R's mother, for Andy H, and for Ruby D. And please keep praying for Andrew W and his health problems.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

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

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



Dapto Anglican Nominators' Update

Your nomination team have been working hard at the process we have in the Sydney Diocese for parishes to find a new Senior Minister. We have been meeting regularly since February to undergo training in our role; to develop a Parish Profile and a profile of the Senior Minister that we need; to develop and administer the church survey which was administered late in February; to analyse the findings of this survey (which were used in developing the Parish Profiles and our priorities in seeking a new senior minister); to consider potential ministers that could be approached. As part of this process, we have also met with each of the staff members and Wardens to gain their insights.

On the 18th of March, we met with the Diocesan Nominators (4 appointees from the Diocese and Bishop Hayward's representative) to review the Parish Profile (which is sent to potential Senior Ministers), to discuss the church's needs and to share names of clergy we might consider approaching. Following this meeting we have continued to investigate potential replacements for David, to listen to their preaching and to make observations about their leadership and suitability to the task at DAC. We then approach potential replacements to arrange to send the Profile and organise a time when we can have a preliminary meeting with the minister if they are in agreeance, followed up with further meetings as needed. This takes time, potentially months!

Once we believe that we have found the right person we will report to the Diocesan Nominators and together will request the Archbishop to write to that person offering the position of Senior Minister Dapto Anglican. This person has three weeks in which to respond back to the Archbishop as to yes or no. If no, we resume our search. If yes, our job is done. The process allows us 13 months from the 18th March to find a suitable replacement, after which time the appointment becomes the responsibility of the Archbishop.

In most case, we are unable to provide answers to specific questions you might have as we need to maintain confidentiality out of mutual respect for our Parish and other Parishes. We appreciate your understanding and support in this. Where able, we will provide general updates via the church newsletter. From time to time, we may be absent for the purpose of attending in-person church visits and interviews. Please continue to pray for us that we might have the wisdom and strength to carry out this very important task.

Greg Batten; Lorraine Miller; Janice Vesey; Vanessa Webb; Alex Williams.



Digital Version

Seniors Morning Tea

10AM THURSDAY 16TH MAY
\$10 PER PERSON
REGISTER AT THE OFFICE

Presentation about the new
Preschool In Tanzania

Raising funds for Tarime Preschool



