



# WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

## GROWS ALL BY ITSELF

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

Early in his ministry, Jesus likens the kingdom to seed. "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain.... (Mark 4:26-28)"

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This verse implies that kingdom growth, be that in a church or in an individual, is natural – is to be expected. I have written much on why churches might not be growing at this moment. What about individual Christians?

Sadly, church surveys reveal that not all Christians sense they are growing, and in trend is away from growth. Put these two together bits together and you get one of two combinations.

Either growth is "all by itself", and we are doing something wrong, we are missing something – or spiritual growth is not quite as simple as "all by itself", and we need to be more intentional about helping people grow, and empowering people to make choices that result in spiritual growth. I suspect there is truth in both statements. In any case, the outcome is similar.

The next 8 weeks of the sermon series is about helping us grow. The first four weeks map out the 'what' and the stages of growth. The second four weeks map out the 'how', or the disciplines or habits of spiritual growth.

As you prepare your heart and mind for this series, perhaps I might re-ask you a question from the National Church Life Survey. In the past year, have you grown in your faith, either through this church, other groups or churches or through private activity? You might answer: Much: this local church; much: other groups; much: private activity; some growth; little or no growth.

As you think about your answer, who do you think might be responsible for your level of growth? You? The church? Other things just got in the way?

I look forward to walking with you as a fellow disciple following Jesus for the next 8 weeks.

# ProPresenter Training

A friendly reminder that our ProPresenter training night is scheduled for the 10th of April. Amy David (Office Administrator) will run the night alongside Mel Lieschke (Worship Pastor) starting at 7pm in the Auditorium.

If you serve on slides or are interested in joining the slides team, please email [office@daptoanglican.org.au](mailto:office@daptoanglican.org.au) to confirm your attendance.

A huge thank you to all those who currently serve! Your passion and commitment to learning and development are highly appreciated.



## Daylight Savings Ends

This Sunday at 3am, our clocks will be turned backward 1 hour. Most of our phones will correct for this automatically, but don't be caught out for Church on Sunday. We hope you enjoy an extra hour of sleep

## Empty Nesters Picnic

Join Empty Nesters 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.



## 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





**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

## A Prayer for School Students

Heavenly Father,

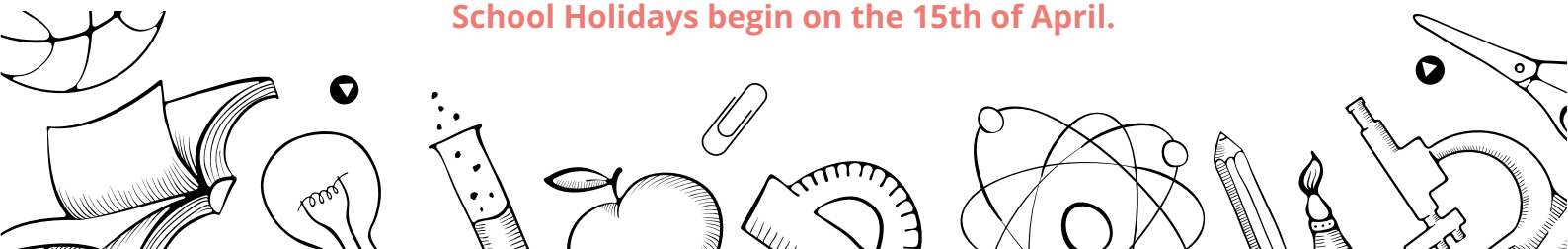
As we approach the end of this school term, we lift up the hearts and minds of all students facing the final hurdles of assignments and tests. Grant them clarity of thought, strength in their convictions, and the wisdom to apply their knowledge with confidence. May Your guiding hand lead them through moments of doubt and anxiety, transforming their worries into opportunities for growth and learning.

Help them to see the value in their education, not just as a means to an end, but as a foundation for a life filled with curiosity, empathy, and a desire to make the world a place that glorifies you.

We also pray for our dedicated school teachers and hardworking parents who have tirelessly nurtured and guided our children through another term. May they find peace and rejuvenation during this time.

In your gracious name, we pray,  
Amen.

**School Holidays begin on the 15th of April.**



# PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the dedicated staff and volunteers in Anglicare residential care homes, and for the chapel services and Bible studies that offer comfort and spiritual growth. We are grateful for Your faithfulness in providing salvation through Jesus Christ to people of all ages. We pray that You inspire new volunteers to support the spiritual care in these homes, and grant wisdom to care for residents, especially those frail or living with dementia. May opportunities for enhanced skills in palliative care, dementia care, and mental health for the elderly flourish across the organisation. Amen.

*\*Prayer based on Day 3 of the Anglicare Prayer Diary 2024*

## 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 yesterday, Wednesday, 3rd. Please continue to pray for Rick W (10am), who is still in hospital and quite unwell, and is waiting for further surgery. Also, please continue to pray for Brian L (2pm) who is still in hospital with respiratory problems. 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 Ray G (8am) who has now moved to rehab. Please continue to pray for Allan C who is recovering at home. Please continue to pray for Mavis B as she is recovering, and also for Mavis's daughter-in-law, who has started Chemotherapy. Also, please continue to pray for Deb P's brother, who is very unwell.

### 10AM

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, pray for Andrew W and his health problems.

### 6PM

Please pray for Anna P as she recovers from surgery.

### CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

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