



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

RISE ABOVE OUR FALLEN CONDITION

REV DAVID REITVELD

Events in America have quickly regressed. The death of George Floyd is yet another example of police brutality against an Afro-American. Racism has many faces. Sometimes it's as blunt as violence. Often it's more subtle. Lower wages and levels of education. Unable to access health services. Fewer job opportunities and career progression. All of this is regrettable.

Things have spiralled down since then. Floyd's death has struck a chord with a disgruntled under-class, who have suffered generational discrimination. With resilience down, some have used the spirit of discontent to act out with looting, ransacking, and pay-back.

On the other side of the ledger, the powerful are using this disruption to blame, and divide. To make political gain out of the misfortune of others.

All of this looks like Lord of the Flies. The seminal novel, which suggests that given the wrong circumstances, otherwise normal and law-abiding citizens can be capable of the unthinkable. The veneer of social cohesion, it turns out, is far thinner than we would like to admit.

We see the same in scripture. How quickly does Israel turn from God to worshipping a golden cow? And what about the cannibalism in Jerusalem under siege just before exile. Or the crowd so easily persuaded to cry release Barabbas and crucify Jesus.

The unsettling thought for me is, there but for the grace of God go I. Our internal abilities to be good are not as strong as we would like. It's only by God's transforming Spirit that we can rise above our fallen condition and weakest inclinations.

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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

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

PREGNANT WOMEN

Ainsley R. (7pm), Mel F. (7pm) and Erin K. (7pm).

THOSE IN HOSPITAL

Mother of Jason R (10am). Gordon M (8am).

THOSE IN MOURNING

Sharleen, Sketch and Sienna following the death of Annette Holmes (10am)

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Helen S., Bruce M., Diana M., Kath H., Ella H., Jean D., Lorna B-W., Glenys N., Barbara B., Barbara L.

8AM/2PM

Diane L. recovering and waiting for results. Mavis B. waiting for an operation. Gordon Morris, ill, at home. Pat W - recovering from cataract surgery, Pat's son, Antony - ongoing treatment, Antony's fiancé, Sue K - ongoing chemo.

10AM

Ronnie VK., unwell, Genie C., Michael E., Janelle S. (Warren's sister) all ongoing conditions and treatment. Georgia-Lousie W., recovering from fall.

7PM

Shaina J. son, Roman, waiting for appointment. Pray for good health while waiting.

RE-STARTING SERVICES

The State Premier and Health Minister have recently announced that religious services of up to 50 people can resume. I have been meeting with the staff, wardens, the Bishop, and other local senior minister's in an attempt to clarify what is possible, and what is realistic. The wardens and I have decided to resume live services at Dapto Anglican. It is our intent to do so along the following schedule:

Sunday 7 June:

- a prayer book communion service at 8am, main Auditorium, Moombara St, Dapto
- a prayer book service at 10am in the main Auditorium, Moombara St, Dapto
- a 5pm youth service in the main Auditorium, Moombara St, Dapto



SUNDAY 14 JUNE:

- 7pm service, across two venues, St Lukes Brownsville and Moombara St, Dapto

THE FOLLOWING WEEK:

- mid-week afternoon Connect Kids

WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE:

- RISE to recommence for 17 June and 1 July

SATURDAY 20 JUNE:

- 4pm afternoon family service with children's program
- 6pm afternoon service, without children's program

TERM 3:

- Café Church, Wednesday 9.30am
- City Youth

What restrictions remain?

While we are allowed to gather for religious services, many restrictions remain, including:

- we must abide by the 4m² per person social distancing guidelines
- hand sanitising and cleaning protocols
- we cannot hand out bulletins or prayer books (liturgy etc. will be on the big screen)
- congregational singing is not permitted
- we cannot congregate for tea and coffee as a congregation after Church
- we must keep a record of who has attended services

In other words, Church will be similar, but different. There will be a new normal, so to speak.

Who can come? Do I have to book in?

These services are eligible to all members of the DAC family and the wider community. The 8am service will be similar to our previous 8am service. The 10am service will be similar to our previous 9.30am service. 5pm will be like the old 5pm. You will not have to book in for these services. But limits of 50 people remain.

The 7pm service is too large for the new restrictions in one venue, so we will run the service across two venues. This will allow a total of 80+ persons to attend. We will contact you next week about who goes to which venue.

Likewise, our previous 10am service is too large for the new restrictions. The Saturday evening services will target families and others who attended our previous 10am family service. There will be a booking and roster system, and people will only be able to attend Church once every few weeks. Again, we will come back to you with more information when we have clarified matters further.

What if I don't feel safe? What if I am not rostered to attend?

If you do not feel safe to come to Church, you can stay at home. If you have any symptoms of a cold, flu, cough, or a virus, do not come to Church. Online Church will continue to be offered each and every Sunday.



Will the Church be regularly cleaned?

Yes! We will be enforcing a strict and regular cleaning regime. If you are able to assist as a volunteer, either after your service, or on a Monday, please contact office@daptoanglican.org.au . Likewise if you can serve in anyway, please contact us.

Your assistance will help us get Church back as soon as possible.

How does the 50 persons limit for worship services work?

We are allowed 50 people on the entire site; not 50 in the auditorium, and another group in the foyer or the hall. Children are included in the 50 person limit; not 50 adults and their children. Social distancing guidelines apply for all age groups (unlike at schools).

Can I swap services?

If, at this time, you wish to change services, that is your choice. For instance, people who used to attend the family 10am service may wish to begin attending the new Sunday 10am service. If there is room, we would love to facilitate as many people as possible enjoying the blessing of gathering together, safely and legally.

Why can't we do tea and coffee together? Will the café be open?

The lifting of restrictions is an exemption for the purposes of allowing religious services only. Once the service is over, other restrictions apply. We cannot serve free morning tea to a gathering. Having said that, legally, our Café can have 30 patrons indoors, and 15 patrons outdoors. No more than that. The café will be open after all services.

You will, of course, be free to do what you like after Church. You could try to grab a coffee in our café, or elsewhere. Or you could invite others back to your house, within the current guidelines.

Why can't we sing?

Singing apparently creates four times as many aerosols as talking. COVID-19 transmission is most common via airborne particles. We can watch an item, or a video clip, but we cannot congregationally sing.

Post note

Friends, these are odd times. It's easy to be frustrated or annoyed during such times. Can I encourage you to be grateful for the opportunity we have? Many Christians will not be able to corporately gather just yet. Furthermore, there are possibilities to explore new ways of being God's people.

God is calling us to be a Church in a COVID and post-COVID world. We are not called to be the Church for 2019, or 1960. Others were called to be that. We have been called to be the Church for Dapto, and for now, with all of the freedoms and restrictions; all of the continuity and changes; all of the anxieties and possibilities that this next season presents.

God is in this new season. Jesus will not let the gates of hades overcome. Join with me as we take this next step of faith together.

Blessings,

David Rietveld
Senior Minister

