

People, Participation and Prayer: a church isn't a building of brick and wood. It's a group of people gathered by God who are building their lives around Jesus. That's why belonging to church means more than just Sunday services. In this **Newsweek** are some of the things we are doing, events and activities we think are worthwhile, and people and things to pray for. Pray regularly for our Church family.

Unfortunately, new Government restrictions mean that our weekly Congregation prayer gatherings are now also suspended.

Please pray for our world, our community, and each other

Remember: Philippians 4:6, 7

Staying at home doesn't mean we can't keep connected. Take opportunities to phone around our church family to say hi.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:-
Healing, Strength & Comfort for:**

Bill & Marcia Schnabel	Jenny Dinning
Robert & Leila Cradock	David Keiller
Gordon & Jan Allan	Jeanette Mortley
Len Broadbent - now home from hospital & all well, PTL!	Joan Colmer
	Julia Murphy

Pray for
 * those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and for those who are vulnerable to infection.
 * local businesses & their staff
 * those who have lost their jobs
 * our health care service personnel
 * our Governments & those in leadership

Want to "worship at home"?
 Look out for live Services on the internet such as:

FF Baptist Church Sunday 9.30 am
www.ffbc.org.au

St Faiths Anglican Narrabeen Sunday 9 am & 6 pm
<https://stfaiths.church>

Pittwater UC 9.30 am & 6 pm Sunday:
<https://pittwater.online.church>

Wesley Mission 10.00 am Sunday:
www.wesleymission.org.au/christian-life/congregations-online

May Mission of the Month:

CMS: Wayne & Mandy at Nungalinya College Darwin

Nungalinya is a Combined Churches (Uniting, Anglican & Catholic) Training College for Ministry

At Nungalinya College, Indigenous and non-Indigenous Christians work together, growing the gifts and calling of Indigenous people for ministry.

Wayne is the Dean of Students for the Anglican community; and Mandy teaches various Bible and literacy subjects.

Nungalinya College has a vision:
 * to become a leading Indigenous Christian College, empowering Indigenous Christians by providing education and employment pathways for individuals, Churches and Communities from across Australia.

* to be a place where Indigenous theological perspectives are developed.
 * to be a place where Indigenous and non-Indigenous Christians will work together in partnership, growing the gifts and calling of Indigenous people.
 * to eventually be fully staffed by competent Indigenous people who have the language, cultural knowledge, qualifications and experience needed to perform their roles.

Please keep giving! I encourage you to make use of the electronic funds transfer option from your bank account to the Uniting Financial Services Congregation account using the following information:
Belrose UC Property Committee
BSB 634-634 Acc Number 10000-1487

Belrose Uniting Church
 Corner Forest Way and Morgan Road, Belrose
TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN
GOOD NEWSWEEK
3rd May 2020 CV-19/6



Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ from Frenchs Forest to Terrey Hills; from the beaches to the bush, since 1916.

Old vs New Old Life, New Life



A common question I keep hearing is "When will things get back to normal?" I wonder if there will be such a thing as "normal" once the isolation restrictions have been removed? What will be the new normal?

In many ways we have entered into a "new life". Things are different: our routines, our movements, our social life, our work life, even our spiritual life.

For some of us, like me, this is really frustrating and unsettling. But it may also present new opportunities. I have discovered new ways of doing ministry – using technology to deliver video messages and maintain pastoral contacts. It has given me opportunity to take time to reflect on ministry and mission, to read and to listen. But I am certainly looking forward to meeting with my Church family in worship and fellowship again!

In Romans 6, Paul reminds us that as a result of Jesus' death and resurrection, we have a new life – a very different life now that we are reconciled with God. We are raised up with Christ into a life of discipleship freed from the power of sin, and living lives to honour and serve God.



We don't look back to our old life of disobedience and rebellion towards God, but like new green shoots rising out of the dust of death, we live a new life in Christ, looking upward and forward with our eyes on Him.

May God's grace and peace empower you to live this new life in these different and challenging times in ways that honour Him. God bless you, *Ian Weeks*

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Prayer Requests: prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



**Our Mission Partners Wayne Oldfield & Mandy Jones
Working with CMS at Nungalinga College Darwin**



They send their greetings:
Hi everyone, we are in relative safety in the Northern Territory. We are thinking of, and praying for, people "down south" in NSW and further afield at this time. God bless, Wayne & Mandy

Here is an extract from their 27th March Newsletter – please keep praying for them.

With the Coronavirus pandemic, many changes have occurred around the world. Darwin and the Northern Territory are no different. These are strange and uncomfortable times. Nungalinga College is effectively closed to students.

Students were, on the whole, relieved to be going home to family in their remote communities. The NT government is facilitating vulnerable people to return to communities. It is hoped that by isolating vulnerable communities the virus will not impact the residents.

Remote Indigenous communities have a disproportionate number of vulnerable people and living conditions make self-isolation impossible, so if the virus enters these communities it will wreak havoc. As of 26th March, a long list of communities are in lockdown. No-one (other than essential services) can come in without self-isolating for 14 days BEFORE they enter the community.

Wayne, Rosemary and Derek's ministry at CAAPS (an alcohol rehab facility) is continuing via Skype. Our church and small group are also continuing via electronic means. Like most people we don't know what the next weeks or months will bring for us or Nungalinga. We do appreciate your prayers.

Give thanks that Nungalinga College students were able to return home.

Pray that communities will be unusually peaceful in this lockdown period and that Coronavirus will not infiltrate remote communities.

Pray... * For Government, Nungalinga and NT Diocesan leaders as they give advice about and make rules about the day-to-day running of activities.

* That all the Darwin churches will be able to develop strategies to care for people. * Pray especially for the care of Aboriginal people stuck in Darwin with limited or no internet and ever-changing phone numbers.

* That church leaders in remote communities will recognise unfounded "doomsday" scenarios and will be able to encourage people to turn to the God who loves them for help.

Because of Jesus' Resurrection, We Have ... A New Life: Romans 6

Paul's letter to the Roman Christians is all about what God has done in reconciling us to Himself through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a magnificent exposition on the nature of the Gospel, faith, grace, justification, and sanctification; and what that means for our life as followers of Jesus.

In **Romans 6**, Paul reminds us that when we surrender to the grace and mercy of God, and come in repentance and faith, confessing our sins and our need for a Saviour, then we have identified with Christ both in his death and in His resurrection: we have been "*baptized into his death*" (v 3) and "*joined with him... in the likeness of his resurrection*" (v 5).

Read Romans 6:1 - 14

1. A New Life to Live

vv 1 - 5

Many of us will be familiar with the term "A clean slate" – referring to the writing slates once used in schools on which students wrote with chalk, and hence could be wiped clean (think whiteboard, or deleting your internet browsing history). In Christ we are offered a fresh start – our spiritual slates (or data) wiped clean.

So Paul says, if we have new life in Christ, how can we hang on to the old life of enmity against God, selfishness, sin etc? Our old self is dead & buried with Christ, and our new self is raised from the dead with Christ – aka being "born again". Baptism (by immersion or sprinkling – either is good) is an image of this re-birth.

Reflection: What does it feel like to have all shame & guilt removed & deleted, knowing God will not hold it against you?

2. A New Way to Walk

vv 6 - 11

In our new life, sin is no longer the master – Jesus is!

Sin no longer has the death hold over us and we are no longer slaves to sin.

So we are urged to live (walk) in that new reality, not in the old way of self rule.

Now that does **NOT** mean that Christians are sinless! We are still broken people in a broken world, and we still fail and fall. However, our heart is being changed so that we desire not to sin, but rather live to honour God (sanctification, holiness). And so we become more aware of our frailty and sinfulness, and more thankful for God's forgiving grace. **Remember 1 John 1:9** was written to Christians!!

Reflection: What attitudes, behaviours, or values are you aware that God is seeking to change in you?

3. Don't Look Back

vv 12 - 14

The Gospels tell us that Jesus' resurrection body was similar, yet very different, from his "earthly" body – He ate, walked through walls etc. We may still look the same, but our new life in Christ will be different to our old life. We want to be used by God for His glory as instruments for good, not for evil or wickedness.

So we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, not looking back to the old life; offering our lives to God as acts of worship (Romans 12).

Reflection: When are you tempted to look back & long for the old life? What good might God be calling you to do?