

**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

Leila Cradock & Family

Gordon & Jan Allan

Len Broadbent

David Keiller

Joan Colmer

Jenny Dinning

Jeanette Mortley

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

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

**FF Baptist Church** Sundays 9.30 am  
[www.ffbc.org.au](http://www.ffbc.org.au)

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

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

**Wesley Mission** 10.00 am Sundays:  
[www.wesleymission.org.au/christian-life/congregations-online](http://www.wesleymission.org.au/christian-life/congregations-online)

**St Matthews Anglican Manly** Sundays 10am & 6pm  
[www.stmattsmanly.org.au](http://www.stmattsmanly.org.au)

**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.

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**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**  
**17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 CV-19/8**



Assembly of Confessing Congregations

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

*Our Present and Eternal Hope!*



*"We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name. May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you."* Psalm 33:20 – 22

Hope is a valuable gift. It sustains us, helping us to endure in the midst of adversity, hardship and suffering. It keeps us going in those times when we feel like giving up. Hope keeps us focussed on that which is yet to come so we can stand firm in the present.

The current restrictions continue to prevent us from doing many things, but there are signs they are being loosened, and maybe it won't be too long before we are free to enjoy worshipping together again. Hope!

The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope. Hope in God's power, promises and faithfulness. Hope not only for our eternal security, but also a hope that makes a difference in the present. As C S Lewis writes: *"Hope is one of the Theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next."*

We are people of hope! So I hope you will continue to endure with hope and look forward with hope, as we wait on the Lord. God bless you, Ian Weeks

***"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* Romans 12:12**

**Pastor: Rev Ian Weeks**  
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**mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au**  
**Wednesday – Monday (Tuesday off)**

**Church Website:** <http://www.belrose.unitingchurch.org.au>  
**Prayer Requests:** [prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto: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 a recent 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Hope: 1 Cor 15***

The celebration of Easter continues right through until the Day of Pentecost (this year 31<sup>st</sup> May), although every day is worth rejoicing in the living hope we have because of Jesus' resurrection (see 1 Peter 1:3 & 4).

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul writes of the wonder of this new life we have in Jesus, and the reality and importance of Jesus' resurrection for our faith and life.

**In part 2 (vv 20 – 34)**, Paul tells us that because of Jesus' resurrection, we not only have confidence in the power of the Gospel, but we have a new eternal hope.

**Read:** 1 Corinthians 15:20 – 34

**A Prayer:** *O Lord, Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path (Ps 119:105), open my eyes to see Your light, open my heart to understand Your instruction, direct my feet to walk on Your path, in Jesus' name. Amen*

**1. Our Resurrection Hope: The Glory of Heaven vv 20 - 28**

In the resurrection of Jesus we have been given a glorious hope: of life eternal and the treasures of heaven that will never fade nor decay.

**We have the hope of glory because**

**i) Jesus has indeed been raised – the "first fruits".**

Jesus' resurrection is the guarantee that God gives us, a guarantee that we too will one day be resurrected. Just as the first fruits of the harvest mean that there will be more harvest to come, so in Christ we too will be raised to eternal life when our life on this earth finished, or when Jesus returns, whichever comes first.

**ii) Jesus has destroyed death!**

The resurrection of Jesus is God's demonstration that sin and death are beaten:

*"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"* (vv 54 & 55). The risen Jesus has overcome the "final" obstacles of our mortality – sin & death - the enemies of life.

**iii) Jesus is the Lord over all!**

God has raised Jesus to life, vindicating Him as the true Saviour and Lord: *"..God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, ... and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,...."* (Philippians 2:9 – 11)

**2. Because We Will Be Resurrected, We Can Stand Firm in Hope vv 29 – 34**

With our eyes fixed on Jesus and the glory that awaits us in eternity, we have hope in the midst of the present dangers & even death itself.

Christian funerals are occasions for grieving but also rejoicing – knowing our loved ones are with the Lord and we will see them again in glory.

And so we can stand firm in our hope – living and labouring for the Gospel (v 58), not caught up in fear of death, but proclaiming life in Jesus; especially to a world that needs hope.

**Reflection:** Have you planned your funeral? What hymns/songs & Bible readings would you like at your funeral to convey your hope in Christ?

**(Ask Ian for the Funeral Planning Guide if you don't already have one)**