

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.

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

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ
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
Leila Cradock & Family	Julia Murphy
Gordon & Jan Allan	David Keiller
Len Broadbent	Jeanette Mortley

Pray for

- * those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and for those who are vulnerable to infection; missing the embrace of family and grieving the loss of loved ones
- * 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 Sundays 9.30 am
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

St Matthews Anglican Manly Sundays 10am & 6pm
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.

Coronavirus Update

State Government restrictions are being somewhat relaxed to allow gatherings in churches of up to 10 people.

This means that we are **still not able** to meet for worship on Sundays. We continue to wait for further advice from Government, and Presbytery, as to when we will be able to resume Sunday services.

However, the weekly Prayer Meetings at Church can resume (with a max of 10 people) and so the next Prayer Meetings at the Church will be on Thursday 28th May at 11.00 am and again at 7.30 pm (Choose a timeslot – Ian will be at both)

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
24th May 2020 CV-19/9



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.**

Shuffling Off This Mortal Coil

*I am a new creation
No more in condemnation
Here in the grace of God
I stand*

*My heart is overflowing
My love just keeps on growing
Here in the grace of God
I stand*

*And I will praise you Lord
Yes I will praise you Lord
And I will sing
Of all that you have done*

*A joy that knows no limit
A lightness in my spirit
Here in the grace of God
I stand*

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Thankyou Music CCLI 36183

You might recognize the line from what I think is one of the funniest Monty Python sketches (the Dead Parrot) – a sober reminder of our mortality – not that perhaps we needed any more reminders! The coronavirus pandemic, along with all the other usual sicknesses and frailties of this physical world, are enough reminders that we are mortal, fragile, temporal and temporary!

While there is much to enjoy and celebrate in this world, we also witness much suffering, sickness and death. Our hearts continue to cry out: *Why? How long O Lord? What is to become of us?*

The death and resurrection of Jesus give us light for these dark questions. The resurrection of Jesus means that God can fulfil His promise to bring about a new creation for us – a new body in a new world where there is no longer any sickness, suffering and death.

In Christ, God is making all things new (read Revelation Ch 21), which includes us, both now and into eternity. Yes, for now we still have mortal bodies that will eventually *expire, cease to exist, shuffle off this mortal coil*, but the promise of God is for a new resurrected body that will last for eternity, so we persevere in hope. That is the theme of the remainder of I Corinthians 15. In Christ we are new creations!

Ian Weeks

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Wednesday – Monday (Tuesday off)

Church Website: <http://www.belrose.unitingchurch.org.au>
Prayer Requests: prayer.team@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



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



They send their greetings:

Hi everyone,

We trust you have been coping with isolation and restrictions during this COVID-19 pandemic. But, things are looking up! And as we used to sing 'God im Gudbala' in chapel we have confidence to trust that our Lord and Saviour has our best interests at heart.

God bless you all, Wayne & Mandy

From their Newsletter of 14th May 2020 – keep praying for them.

Here in the **Northern Territory** COVID restrictions are being lifted on a progressive basis and we will be able to have church “in the flesh” from Sunday 17th May provided social distancing rules are maintained.

Church: Over the last five weeks, our church, St James in Sanderson, has been able to pre-record a service including music, bible readings, sermon, prayers and announcements. These have been well received and encouraging for the church members. Both of us have preached online during that period. We hope that our efforts were faithful to the scriptures and glorified Christ.

Nungalinya College: work at Nungalinya has changed significantly since we sent all the students home on the weekend of 21/22 March. Since Easter we have been working with resident staff on various areas of professional development. Wayne has also been working with the Gardens team on mowing, mulching etc for his project work. Mandy's project has been working on reorganising the books and language resources in the Library. Another development has been the start of Nungalinya chapels online to present a short talk each work day. We are working through the gospel of Mark and a video of the reading is broadcast via a link to a YouTube gospel song. We are trying to keep connected with students and hoping to encourage them to keep following Jesus during the shutdown of remote communities. Our current plan is to start classes again in Term 3 of the NT School year. However, that is dependent on residents of remote communities being allowed to travel to Darwin.

Communities: We are hearing reports of increased interest in spiritual matters. In some communities there have been more people attending fellowship meetings at night while in others fellowship has completely stopped..

Give thanks:

- * That NT has been spared the worst of COVID-19
- * For the online chapels that Nungalinya is broadcasting and the energy that members of college and the partner churches are bringing to them

Pray for:

- * Staff to remain motivated and the “special projects” to be useful for setting up the college for when we start again
- * Aboriginal Christians to find ways to worship Jesus and be sources of peace and wisdom in this difficult time.

Because of Jesus' Resurrection, We Have ... A New Body!: 1 Cor 15

The celebration of Easter continues right through until the Day of Pentecost (this year 31st May), although every day is worth rejoicing in the grace of God shown to us in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

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 3 (vv 35 - 58), Paul tells us that because of Jesus' resurrection, we have confidence in the power of the Gospel to raise us up with a new resurrected body, an eternal body freed from the frailties of this earthly body. So along with Job, we declare: *I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; I myself will see him with my own eyes — I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!* (Job 19:25 - 27)

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:35 - 58

A Prayer: *O Lord, you have the words of eternal life (John 6:68). Plant your Word in my mind and heart that I may live to glorify and honour you, and dwell in your house forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

1. The Mystery of Heaven

There is much we don't know about heaven & what our resurrected bodies will be like – but we will all find out in due course. In the meantime, in 1 Cor 15, Paul gives us a glimpse of what we can expect.

2. Our Resurrected Body - The Same but Different: Three Illustrations

- The image of the creation vv 36 - 44
* our new “bodies” will be recognizable and distinct from other species and people
- The image of Jesus vv 45 - 49
* our new bodies will be like Jesus' resurrected body which was “physical” and yet heavenly
- The image of indestructibility vv 50 - 58
* our new bodies will be imperishable, no longer bound by the frailties of this world

3. Why is this Important? To give us hope & encouragement!

- * Our new bodies will not suffer sickness and death. (Read Revelation 21:1 – 5)
- * So now we look forward with hope, and persevere in ministry (v 58).

BUT ... We don't have resurrection bodies yet!

* So, we persevere in a broken world with broken bodies
Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!
Romans 7:21 – 25

We will die, but we have the promise of resurrection to new and eternal life.

Reflection: Can you imagine a world without sickness, suffering, & death? What would that world be like? What images does it bring to mind? What is it about your character and nature you hope will be recognizable in heaven?