

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 Meeting at the Church will be on

Thursday 4th June at 7.30 pm then Thursday 11th June at 11.00 am

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

31st May 2020 CV-19/10

Pentecost Sunday



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

Pentecost:

The Power and the Presence

Pentecost Sunday celebrates the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon the followers of Jesus as recorded for us in Acts 2. It was the fulfilment of God's promise expressed in the Old Testament (eg Joel Ch 2) as well as in the New Testament (eg words of Jesus in John 14).

The Day of Pentecost is sometimes described as the "birthday" of the Church – the day when the power and presence of God was given permanently to the people of God – creating a new "Temple" where God would dwell.

The Book of Acts tells of the ongoing work of the Risen Lord Jesus by His followers empowered by the Holy Spirit – the people of God in the first century living out the

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1 - 4

Gospel in everyday life and impacting the world with the news that Jesus is alive!

But what is more exciting is that this same Power and Presence is available to us today! Paul prays in Ephesians 1 that *".. the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know ... (God's) incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms ..."* (vv 18 – 20).

I pray that you may know this same power and presence at work in your life.

Come Holy Spirit – Help us to bear witness to your presence & power in Jesus.
Ian Weeks

Pastor: Rev Ian Weeks
(P) 9451 3916 (M) 0408 308 196
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



Coronavirus Conversations

(What have you been doing during the “Coronavirus Confinement?”)

As I have been talking with people over these last 10 weeks since our Sunday services were suspended, I have been fascinated by some of the different things you have been doing in this time of social isolation.

For some, it has been business as usual – “*we don’t get out much anyway*” – due to age or perhaps infirmity. For others, it has been a frustrating time not being able to do the “normal” social activities – golf, bowls, clubs, concerts, cinema, eating out.

Some have been discovering new things – books read, extra time for prayer and reflection, learning new skills (who knew anything about Zoom before this?), or improving existing talents (I understand Keith B has become an expert scrabble player!!).

Many have grieved the loss of that personal contact that we are so used to, especially of close family – children, grandchildren, siblings – as well as missing the fellowship we share in worship and Bible study groups. It has been a testing time for us all, I’m sure.

Some of you may be wondering what I have been doing with all the “extra spare time” (laugh very loudly!!!!). I think I have almost been busier in these last 10 weeks than I was before!

While my normal duties such as SRE at Belrose Public School, services at Terrey Hills Nursing Home & Glenaeon, Prayer Breakfasts and Bible Studies, and the many and varied meetings I attend have all been suspended, they have been replaced by a multitude of other things.

I have

- * participated in umpteen Zoom web meetings (Presbytery, PRC, Zone & Consultations; Church Council, ACC, FACE, Supervision)
- * prepared and posted out the weekly Newsweek with a devotional or “sermon” (a bit more work involved than the usual Newsweek and Sunday sermon preparation)
- * made numerous phone calls to Church members
- * conducted a wedding, another next week: God bless Jackson & Erryn)
- * learnt how to make and post a YouTube video (a new skill for me!)
- * observed how other churches are doing live streaming services
- * undertaken some on-line SRE teacher training
- * checked on the Church property every day – everything is secure
- * participated in a Presbytery review of another Minister

These certainly have been interesting times; but through it all I have been greatly encouraged by the positive feedback you have given me – **Thank you!**

I look forward to meeting with you in person again for worship & fellowship in the (hopefully) not too distant future. In the mean time, be safe, and may God bless you and keep you, and give you strength and peace.

Ian Weeks

Because of Jesus’ Resurrection, We Have ... A New Mission! Acts 1

The Day of Pentecost is celebrated 50 Days after the Passover (Good Friday) and had been originally the celebration of the first fruits of the harvest. God chose that day to pour out the Holy Spirit on the followers of Jesus as a sign of the “first fruits” of the Kingdom of God - the promise that we too would be raised to new life, receive the Holy Spirit, and be a part of the great “harvest” of the redeemed.

In the lead up to Pentecost, Luke recorded for us occasions when Jesus met with disciples after his resurrection, and before his ascension. In this account from Acts Chapter 1 we see that the ministry of Jesus is promised to continue through his followers empowered by the Holy Spirit, and given a new mission: to go beyond the borders of their own small part of their world, and bear witness to Jesus.

“Those who accepted (Peter’s) message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:41, 42

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit who is given that we might know and understand Your Word. Lord, may I be led by the Spirit as I read, and reflect upon, Your Word, and as I pray for others, in Jesus name. Amen.*

Read: Acts 1:1 - 11

1. The Mission Continues

vv 1 – 3

Luke wrote his second volume (Acts) to continue the story of Jesus where he left off in his Gospel in which he wrote about “*..all that Jesus **began** to do ..*”. In other words, the announcing of God’s Kingdom did not finish with His death or even His ascension to glory – it continues by the working of the Holy Spirit in His followers.

2. The Message of the Mission is the Same

vv 4 – 8

Throughout His earthly life Jesus pointed people to the Kingdom of God – God’s rightful rule over all creation; and the recognition of the rightful King – Jesus.

In Acts 1, Jesus continues to teach about the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom that won’t be established in Jerusalem, but in the hearts of people all over the world. Jesus commands his followers not to be concerned about earthly kingdoms, but to focus on the eternal Kingdom, and the great task at hand: to proclaim the good news to all the world; to be His witnesses: passing on what they have seen and heard of Jesus’ life, commands, death, resurrection and imminent return.

3. But The Mission Is Also New

vv 9 - 11

The mission now has a new dimension: Jesus the King and Judge is coming back! He will return, and, as our historic Creeds reminds, He will come “*to judge the living and the dead*”. A common prayer of the early church as it faced persecution and suffering was: **Come, Lord Jesus** (Rev. 22:20)

Reflection: How might the return of Jesus to finally establish God’s eternal kingdom be good news? (see Rev 21:1 – 5)
How might it be alarming news? (see Rev 20:11, 12)