

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:**

- * 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

**June Mission of the Month:
The Bush Church Aid Society**



The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia has a heart for people living in remote and regional Australia.

"We are committed to going the distance to reach Australia for Christ. Since 1919, BCA has been reaching outback Australians with the good news of Jesus."

- Under God, the BCA does this by
- * proclaiming Christ so that people may respond to Him;
 - * nurturing Christians in their faith and ministry;
 - * strengthening local Christian communities in their mission.

Pastor Jack Harradine, a UAICC/UCA minister, works with BCA in the Broken Hill Congregation - *we supported Jack with his Christmas Party for disadvantaged families.*

By supporting Bush Church Aid, you are reaching people in rural, remote and regional Australia with the saving word of Christ.

Check out the BCA web-site
<https://www.bushchurchaid.com.au/>

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
14th June 2020 CV-19/12
The Season of Pentecost



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

The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"
Ezekiel 37:1 - 6

The Holy Spirit – The Breath of God

"I can't breathe" – the chilling last words of George Floyd as he was dying. Words that have sparked protests across the world, a stark reminder of injustice and racism, and also, of our vulnerability – breath is life! If we don't breathe, we die.

The Old Testament Hebrew word for Spirit is also breath – the Breath of God – God breathes and life is given (see Genesis 2). Jesus breathes and says *"receive the Holy Spirit"* (John 20:22). When Jesus was on the cross He said, *"It is finished."* *With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.* (John 19). The Spirit is life! Without the Spirit, we are dead!

In this season of Pentecost, we are reminded that the Holy Spirit gives new life – a spiritual re-birth. When God saves us, He makes us alive in Christ, breathing resurrection life into our spiritually dead bodies – we are born again!

If you are feeling overwhelmed by the challenges of life, by the heartaches of this world, by the pain of brokenness and sin; take a breath and pray:

"Come Holy Spirit, renew the whole creation."

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



The Breath Prayer

Written by Sheridan Voysey

Lord God, fill me with your Holy Spirit

I receive your love & release my insecurity

I receive your joy & release my unhappiness

I receive your peace & release my anxiety

I receive your patience & release my impulsiveness

I receive your kindness & release my indifference

I receive your goodness & release my ungodliness

I receive your faithfulness & release my disloyalty

I receive your gentleness & release my severity

I receive your self-control & release my self-indulgence

Artwork by @jodie888

Coronavirus Update

State Government restrictions are being somewhat relaxed to allow gatherings in churches of up to 50 people. However the Presbytery has given the Church Council an extensive list of requirements that need to be put in place if Sunday Services are to resume, including limiting numbers (turning people away?), providing adequate spacing, recording attendance, restrictions on singing, sanitizing all seating, Bibles, and other equipment before and after services, etc.

The Church Council is responsible for drawing up a **Covid-19 Safety Plan** to submit to the Presbytery to show how we can meet these requirements for the safety and well-being of our Church members and the wider community before we can resume Sunday Services – we will keep you posted!!

However, the weekly Prayer Meetings at Church have resumed in the Worship Space with appropriate health safeguards, and so the

Prayer Meetings at the Church for June will be on

Thursday 18th June 7.30 pm Thursday 25th June 11.00 am

If you are unwell or vulnerable to infection, please do not attend the Prayer Meetings – join us from your home in “Spirit”.

Because of Pentecost, We Have A New Message Acts 2

The “anointing” of the disciples on the Day of Pentecost was a world-changing event! The followers of Jesus became empowered and bold witnesses to the power of the Gospel and the hope we have in the risen Lord Jesus. Their message spread throughout the Roman Empire, and beyond, and the Church grew in amazing numbers as the Book of Acts records for us. **What was their message that impacted their world so much?** In short it could be summarised in Peter’s sermon in Acts 2, and echoed by Paul in Acts 17:

“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.” Acts 17:29 -31

Read: Acts 2: 15 – 36

Pray: Heavenly Father, I thank you that you are a gracious, merciful, just and patient God. Continue to fill me with Your Spirit that I may hear and obey Your Word, walk in Your righteous ways, and grow in Christ, in Jesus’ name. Amen

1. The Holy Spirit: The Promise of God Acts 2:15 - 21

The Holy Spirit has always been present. Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit of God is mentioned and seen at work. So when Peter explains what the people have seen, he refers an OT promise (Joel Ch 2) that the Holy Spirit would be given to anybody who surrenders to the Lordship of Jesus. Every Christian – “everyone who calls upon the Lord to be saved” - is given the Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit: The Finger of God Acts 2:22 - 28

The Hand of God accomplishes the will of God. The Book of Acts is the story of the Spirit of Christ doing the ministry of Christ – and the Spirit always points to Jesus. Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, proclaims Jesus the risen Lord – this is the Spirit at work: the finger of God pointing to Jesus. As Jesus did signs and wonders, so too will the Holy Spirit do amazing things to point people to Jesus.

3. The Holy Spirit: The Power of God Acts 2: 29 – 36

The Holy Spirit is the presence and power of God at work in us. It was the Holy Spirit who was involved in creation (the Breath of God) and it is the Holy Spirit who is involved in re-creation, resurrection, new life, born again. Jesus has been raised from the dead by the power of God, and He has poured out that same Spirit upon His followers.

4. A New Message

The message of Jesus takes a new turn – it now has a sense of urgency. The time has come. The Holy Spirit has ushered in the age where the Gospel is to be proclaimed, Jesus is to be acknowledged as Lord and Messiah (Christ), people are called to repent, salvation is available, God is patient, but there is a time limit!

Reflection: How might we test events and experiences to determine if they are really “of the Spirit”?

How might we respond to the sense of urgency in these “last days”?