

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
- * Your Church Council as it meets on Thursday 11th June

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.

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

7th June 2020 CV-19/11

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 fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Against such things there is no law.... Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

Galatians 5:22 - 25

Faith, Hope and Love

Paul's great chapter on the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 13 talks about the greatest gifts of all: Faith, Hope and Love. They are not necessarily the most spectacular gifts like tongues or healing – but Paul maintains they are the best gifts. They are gifts that facilitate communication and bring healing in relationships; bearing witness to our Risen Lord who embodied them as God dwelling amongst us.

They are also the "Fruit of the Spirit" (Gal 5:22, 23) – the evidence of the Holy Spirit indwelling us and working within us to make us more like Jesus.

And so Pentecost is much more than the Apostles experiencing some supernatural encounter with the Spirit. It was about the Holy Spirit living in them, and us, to produce that fruit (evidence) of Godliness in them, and us. To this end, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would come as One who would comfort, counsel, guide, strengthen, give gifts, reveal truth, and sustain us in faith, hope and love.

In challenging times, what an encouragement it is to have the Spirit of Christ in us, working God's plan in us for our eternal benefit. Our daily invitation is to surrender and allow the Spirit to do God's work of grace in and through us, and be an encouragement to others. As Paul also writes: "...be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit." (Eph 5:18)

Ian Weeks

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



Coronavirus Conversations

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

I get by with a little help So I am showing my age, who cares. But the lyrics ring true – we do better with a little help from our friends. And this has certainly been true for many of us during these 11 weeks of the Coronavirus confinement. I have heard wonderful stories of people helping, and being helped by, friends, neighbours, family, Church family – what a blessing. **God can indeed turn evil, disaster, calamity, into a blessing and for good (Gen 50:20 & Rom 8:39).**

As a Church Family we seek to care for one another, even with the challenges of isolation, confinement, separation - prayer knows no barriers or borders.

Keep on praying for

- * Bill Schnabel – currently in the Wesley Gardens Transition Care Unit – his room Ph 9975 0546
- * Leila Cradock and her family as they grieve the loss of Robert – His funeral was a great tribute to his faith and life.
- * Jenny Dinning as she manages the symptoms of Parkinson’s disease
- * those of our congregation whose immune systems are fragile – such as Julia Murphy and David Keiller
- * Gordon & Jan Allan – praise God that Gordon’s health has improved and pray for them as Gordon awaits hip surgery
- * Len Broadbent - praise God that Len is home from hospital and recovering well
- * Jeanette Mortley, and others you may know who are frail or unwell
- * Praise God for Sierk Dykman who celebrated his 94th birthday last week; and for Mel & Charmaine Mottau who celebrate their 62nd Wedding Anniversary on Sunday 7th June!

Coronavirus Update

State Government restrictions are being somewhat relaxed to allow gatherings in churches of up to 50 people. However the Presbytery has advised that the precautions necessary in order for Churches to meet may be unattainable – 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

This means that it may still not be viable for us to meet for worship on Sundays just yet. 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 will resume in the Worship Space with appropriate health safeguards, and so the Prayer Meetings at the Church for June will be on

Thursday 11th June at 11.00 am

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 Helper John 14

The Trinity is one of the great mysteries of our faith – One God in Three Persons: **God the Father** – the faithful gracious “Parent”; **God the Son**, Jesus our Lord and Saviour; **God the Holy Spirit**, giver of life and gifts; three distinct persons in perfect loving unity: **One God!** (it’s enough to make my brain hurt!!) In this season of Pentecost we will be focussing on the person and work of the Holy Spirit – celebrating the mystery of God dwelling in us by the Holy Spirit.

Unfortunately the English language is very limited when it comes to describing the person of the Holy Spirit. While the New Testament Greek language has 3 genders: masculine, feminine and neuter; we only have masculine (he), feminine (she), and the nondescript “it”. The Holy Spirit is neuter in Greek, but still described a person, not an object or impersonal force. So for the sake of convenience and tradition, I will refer to the Holy Spirit as “He”.

We praise God that the Holy Spirit has “breathed” the Word of God for us to hear, read and understand (2 Tim 3:16) so that we might have trustworthy information to help us to know and follow Jesus

We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:19 – 21

Pray: God our Father, we thank you that you are God who speaks. Speak your Word into our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we might walk obediently before You, and honour Your Holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Read: John 14: 15 – 27

1. The Holy Spirit is “Like” Jesus

vv 15 – 17

Jesus tells His disciples that “another” advocate (helper) is coming. This implies that the Holy Spirit will be a person like Christ, be of the same mind as Christ; having the same authority as Christ. The Holy Spirit will be a person that we can relate to just as the disciples related to the person of Jesus; someone who is real, and who listens and who acts. He is not some impersonal force or power.

2. The Holy Spirit Carries on the Personal Ministry of Jesus vv 18 - 21

Through the Holy Spirit we will have a direct relationship with God the Father – the Spirit of Jesus dwelling in us. We pray **To** God the Father, by the **Connection** we have by the Holy Spirit, in the **Name** (authority, permission) of Jesus.

3. The Holy Spirit Leads us in the Truth of Jesus

vv 23 - 27

The Holy Spirit revealed God’s word to the writers of the Scriptures; and illumines (enlightens) us to the truths of God’s Word, and helps us to apply the commands of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, our Guide, our Counsellor.

Reflection: How might we test whether a “feeling”, “hunch” or conviction is a prompt or leading of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, continue to pour out the Holy Spirit on me, help me live this day and every day in Your power and grace. Help me to obey the commands of Jesus that I might keep in step with the Spirit, in Jesus name and for His glory. Amen.*