

The Beacon on the Hill

C H U R C H O F T H E H O L Y S P I R I T
 A N G L I C A N P A R I S H C O O L U M B E A C H

REFLECTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer is found in Luke 11:1-4 with a slightly longer version in Matt 6:9-14. Often it seems that we pray it mechanically without really valuing what a profound prayer it is. Yet this prayer that Jesus gave his disciples should be pondered and ruminated on so that it can be deeply appreciated.

There are many ways of addressing God and we all have our favourites. A quick glance at our Prayer Book reveals, for example, Almighty God, Gracious God, Living God, Eternal God, Holy God.

But *Our Father in Heaven* suggests a special intimacy. This is partly because it relies on a family relationship with the pronoun *OUR* claiming this. We note that it is not *MY* (though we all need to have our own personal relationship with God) but *OUR*. This is more than just the "You and me" but an *OUR* which acknowledges our God as God of the Universe. *In heaven* not only distinguishes from an earthly father but also reminds us that Heaven is God's place, God's abode.

Jesus used the term Father or even Abba, Aramaic for Daddy, Dad. Have you ever tried using this? It may work for you, or it may not. Father God is popular with many. On the other hand, one person said to me, "My father was a brute. The word Father has not one positive connotation for me. It was our mother who nurtured us and showed us the power of love." So I always pray "Our Mother in heaven". My response to her was that there are two creation stories telling about the creation of humans. In Gen 2:7,21-23 God makes Adam out of dust then a female out of Adam's rib. But in the earlier account, Gen 1:26, after making the rest of creation God said, "Let us make humankind in our own image, according to our likeness. So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them." This suggests that God, rather than being purely male, has female attributes as well. Again, there are feminine images of God in the Psalms, for example Ps 131:2 talking about the soul, like a weaned child with its mother. Isaiah, too has feminine images of God, for example in 66:12b-13 God speaks to the people "As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you." Thus, it can be argued that God, rather than being purely male, is both male and female and I said to my friend "Our Mother in heaven sounds fine to me!"

It is worth noting that the Lord's Prayer begins by focusing on God. As humans our natural tendency is to think first of ourselves and those close to us, but Jesus has us start with three God-centred petitions, all tightly interwoven.

Hallowed be your name: The Holiness of God is the essence of who God is. We know that our name is the perception or recognition of how others perceive us to be. Hence a school, a butcher, a Dr etc can have a good name – or a bad one. I am always struck by the power of our acclamation in the Sanctus during our great Thanksgiving Prayer of the Eucharist: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosannah in the highest". I hear from the strength of the voices around me that others are also extolling the holiness and glory of God.

Your kingdom come is at the heart of these three petitions and will be realised when we truly love God with our whole heart and our neighbour as ourselves.

Your will be done on earth: If we truly did the will of God then God's kingdom would indeed be here. *As it is in heaven:* Heaven is again mentioned and this time it is declared as the place where God's will is always done.

Finally, we are able start on our own needs with *Give us today our daily bread*. We humans love to plan - next week, next month, at Christmas time etc. We delude ourselves that we are in control, yet this is a clear reminder of our dependence on God – day by day. Bread, food, is the most essential of our needs. Then there is the word, *US*. As a child I clearly remember suddenly realising that this meant not just my parents, my brother and our dog but also the people at end of the street, the farmer's family where I walked every day to collect a billy of milk, and my cousins in Brisbane. (Children have these developmental spurts when their world suddenly expands and apparently this was one of mine.) As we mature our *US* may include the homeless, the people in famine, any of the folk who lack the daily necessities for life.

As a final thought, in John's gospel chapter 6, Jesus tells his followers he is the bread of life. Now there's a new aspect to ponder on. Is there also a spiritual dimension to our petition for our daily bread?

Forgive us our sins: A confession I like says: "Some sins are plain to us. Some sins we cannot see. Forgive us all of these". Sometimes we are oblivious of our selfishness, the times we thoughtlessly hurt others. It is good to acknowledge these failings. In the Eucharistic General Confession, we ask for forgiveness, not just for our wrongdoings, but also for the things we have failed to do

As we forgive those who sin against us: Most of us are aware of the feeling of relief after being forgiven for something we've done wrong – but God with infinite wisdom knows that there are two parts to forgiveness and the second is equally important. God insists on it. We must be people who forgive – not only for the sake of the other person but for our own sakes. Holding onto our anger and resentment can eat us up. We must forgive others to truly be able to move on.

Save us from the time of trial used to be "Lead us not into temptation". That's a hard God to worship! A God who would deliberately test us! Rather this refers to asking God to save us from the tough times when our world turns upside down and life is very hard. The worst time of trial is when our faith fails us – the times when we cry, "My God, My God! Why have you forsaken me?"

Deliver US from evil: Evil can be perpetrated by an individual or by a system. In some countries evil is endemic, corruption a way of life. In Australia we are blessed that there are safety nets to provide help for the vulnerable. Yet our various Royal Commissions have been about exposing evil – abuse of children, the frail elderly, those financially vulnerable at the mercy of financial institutions. Hence, we do not need to pray only for deliverance for the Rohingya in Myanmar, or the Uighurs in China or the people of Ukraine, but closer to home, for the vulnerable, victims of family violence, of drug or alcohol abuse or deliverance from the gross inequalities often found in our indigenous communities.

Finally, we come to the Doxology, which is not found in Jesus's original prayer. *For the Kingdom the Power and the Glory are yours forever and ever.* What a great note to close on.

Amen

Revd Joc Pitt



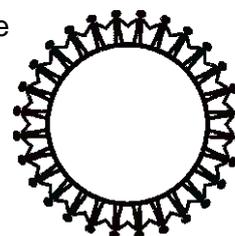
PRAYER MINISTRY

A group of dedicated parishioners pray regularly for others. This group of people offer a special prayer ministry for anyone who is seeking confidential prayer support for all situations and issues.

You are assured that the strictest confidentiality will be maintained and that your concerns/needs will not be discussed outside the prayer chain members. It is acceptable to ask for prayer without giving any details.

God knows all our needs.

Please contact Prayer Chain Co-ordinator Mary – djmel@bigpond.com



BIBLE GARDEN

Parish Council has replaced the rusted Bible Garden bench with repurposed plastic seating.

Replas (recycled plastic products) state that its products don't split or splinter. Tough with extreme durability. Resistant to termites, rot, water and sun damage, making them virtually maintenance free (no oiling, painting or sanding). Designed as commercial outdoor furniture with an extra-long lifespan - life expectancy of 40+ years.

Two salt tolerant pandanus shade trees were also purchased from our local Coolum native nursery, to ultimately provide shade in our Bible Garden.

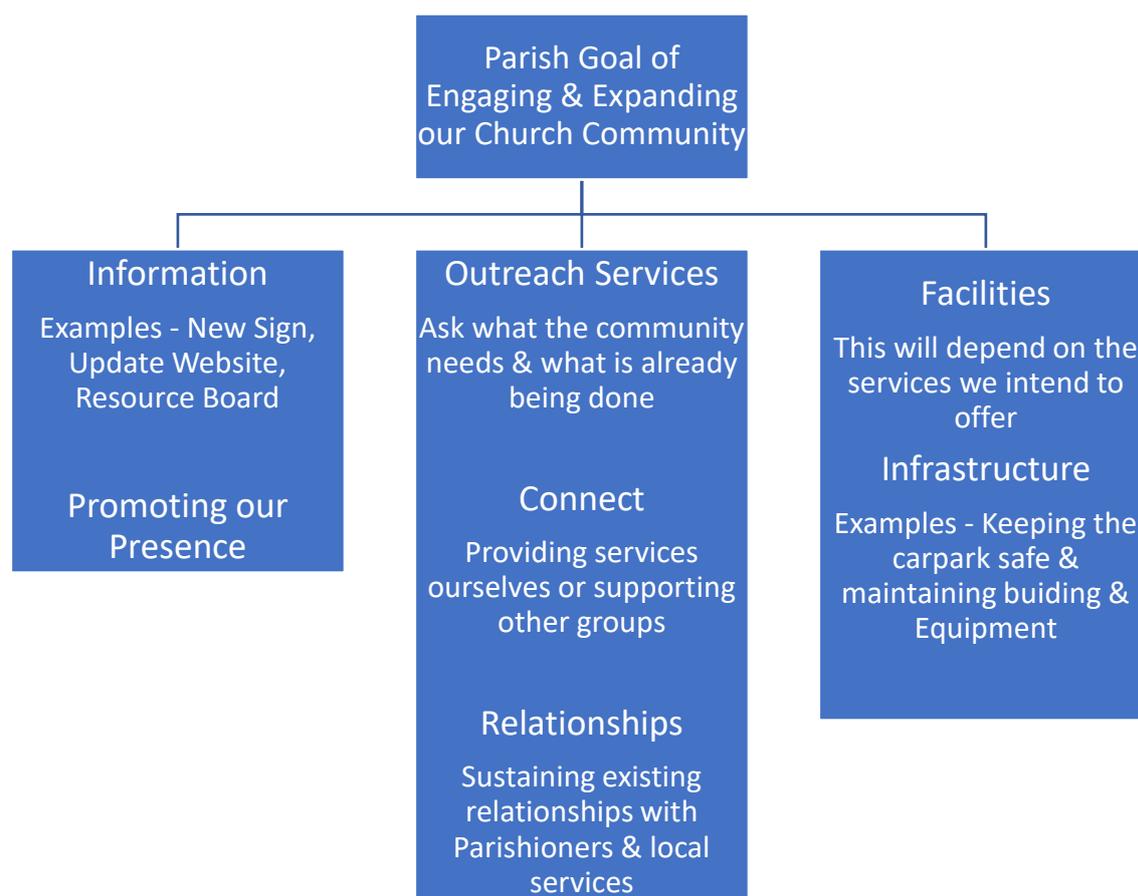


VISIONING & PLANNING DAY – UPDATE

On Sunday 18th September, at the request of the Parish Council, Jon Morgan (Simone Hayden's husband) facilitated a follow-up to the Visioning & Planning workshop in June 2022 to identify action steps after consolidating the original workshop themes.

The overall goal that emerged from the first workshop was to engage and expand our church community. The following 3 themes emerged from the group ideas.

1. Information and Promoting our Presence,
2. Outreach services, connection and sustaining relationships, and
3. Facilities and infrastructure



The following action items and responsibilities were agreed.

- Communicate outcomes of the discussion through Beacon on the Hill (Simone)
- Research what services are currently offered in the Coolum/Peregian Areas and gather ideas on the service gaps and other groups with whom we could align (Pat & Wendy)
- Identify two outreach services with which we could be involved (Pat & Wendy)
- Attend Hopes for Home Forum held by Salvation Army 26th Sept and report back to Parish Council (Wendy & Simone)
- Build a Community Resource Board containing flyers of local services (Pat)
- Put together an A5 brochure promoting the Anglican Parish Coolum (Heather & Lynne)
- Visit Schools, Real Estate Agencies, Holiday Apartments to drop off flyers for the notice boards (Heather & Lynne)
- Contact Phil's daughter who currently updates the website and discuss content ideas (Ingrid)

The Parish Council would value any input and feedback so please message simonehayden@outlook.com.au for this to be presented at the next Parish Council meeting.

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday, 20 November Cathy Laufer's last day in the parish

Cathy Laufer has been our priest-in-charge for the last 11 years. Cathy has decided to retire and her last Sunday in the parish will be 20 November. There will be a special morning tea following the service.

In appreciation of her ministry the Parish Council is organising a farewell gift for Cathy. If you would like to donate towards her farewell gift you may do so by either using one of the envelopes supplied at back of church marked '**Cathy's Gift**' or by Direct Credit using the Parish Direct Credit details: Acct Coolum Beach Anglican Parish: BSB: 704 901: Acct No: 000 00990. Please mark your donation as CATHY'S GIFT. Please make all donations before **30th OCTOBER**.

ST FRANCIS DAY

St Francis Day is always a great occasion at Holy Spirit: this year was no exception. Despite the inclement weather Sunday, 2 October saw six well behaved dogs attend church to be blessed. Three other dogs were blessed remotely, including one via Zoom!





The Bush Church Aid Society is one of the three mission agencies we support as a parish. The other two are Coolum High School Chaplaincy and Australian Board of Missions.

People living in sparsely populated areas of Australia often don't benefit from strong support networks. Churches in these areas can struggle financially due to fluctuating populations. Ongoing fellowship can be hard to maintain and encouragement can become a rarity.

In partnership with Anglican Dioceses across the country, Bush Church Aid places committed and gifted Christians in a variety of locations to help people connect with the grace of God revealed in Jesus.

During the past few years of natural disasters such as bush fires and floods BCA personnel have been on the ground in remote areas providing support, both spiritual and material.

Although the parish makes an annual donation to Bush Church Aid several parishioners contribute individually using money boxes. Even though small value coins now seem to be hard to find it is still possible to contribute to the work of BCA using the money boxes. If you would like to contribute in this way please speak to Marcia McPherson.

If you would like more information about the ministry of BCA or to contribute directly go to the BCA website <https://www.bushchurchaid.com.au/>

CUPPA TIME

On the 4th Wednesday of each month you can join with others for morning tea at a local café. Recently the group had a very enjoyable morning at The Shed in Palmwoods. It was a very enjoyable morning. If you would like to join with the group please contact Jan Christian (ph: 5448 2092) and she will let you know the date, time and place of the next get-together.



PRAYER CORNER

Lord our God, we pray for all who live in remote parts of Australia

Thank you for the Bush Church Aid Society for its ministry of word and sacrament, its medial work and support services, and its care for the young. Encourage workers in loneliness and refresh them in hardship, Call many to

stand with them in making Christ known, that your redeeming love might be accepted throughout our land.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

A Prayer Book for Australia, p 214



What's on when at Holy Spirit

All activities are run in accordance with the COVID-19 protocols current at the time.

BIBLE STUDY – 1st and 3rd Friday of each month at 10.30am in the Undercroft.

Resumes Friday, 4th February 2022.

Contact: Jocelyn Pitt Ph 5448 8059

BEER ON THE PATIO - 2nd Wednesday of each month 4.30pm-5.30pm. All men invited.

Join with other men for a beer and chat (non-alcoholic drinks available). Pick up and drop off can be arranged.

Contact: John Roth Ph 0411 690 056

GUILD - 3rd Wednesday of each month following a short service at 9.30am and morning tea. The Guild is a group dedicated to organising various activities with the aim of promoting fellowship opportunities. Membership is open to men and women and new members would be made very welcome.

Contact: Roslyn Thurairatnam 5471 7755

CUPPA TIME – 4th Wednesday of each month. Join with others for morning tea at a local café.

Contact: Jan Christian: 5448 2092

CRAFT MORNING – 4th Friday of each month at 10.15am in the Undercroft. This informal group meets to enjoy working on craft items, learning new crafts, and chatting over a cup or two of coffee or tea. Everyone welcome to either participate or just have a cuppa and a chat.

Contact: Roslyn Thurairatnam 5471 7755

HEALING SERVICE - Last Friday of each month at 5pm. This is a service of Evening Prayer with a focus on prayer for the sick.

As all of us need healing in some way, anointing is available for all present, for our own healing and for those for whom we pray. Everyone is welcome.

Contact: Mary Lupton

MEDITATION GROUP – Each Thursday in the Church at 10am.

Contact: Marcia MacPherson 040789002

CURSILLO GROUPS – Meet regularly.

Contact: Jan Christian: 5448 2092

Regular Service Times

Sunday

9.00am Holy Eucharist



Healing Service/Evening Prayer

5.00pm LAST Friday of each month

Morning service: 9.30am
3rd Wednesday of each month.

Parish Directory

Priest-in-charge:	Revd Dr Cathy Laufer
Locum:	Revd Ingrid Busk
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Phone:	0411 690 058
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