

COMMUNITY MAG



MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

BEN MOLYNEUX



Dear Church,

December?! I can't believe we've hit the final month before the year closes out! As I reflect on the year, it's been a bit of a rollercoaster - both personally and for many in our church community. I'm so thankful to God for his grace to us during the year and his kindness expressed through his Spirit at work in and through his people here at St Faith's.

I wonder how you're approaching the final month of the year. Does Christmas energise you? The carols, the vibe at the shops, the excitement of events with family and friends, Christmas celebrations? Or does the very thought of Christmas cause you to shrink back and dream of the beach in January and the rest on the horizon? Whatever your vibe, I hope and pray that all of us, as those who know the love of God and the importance of this Christmas season, would make the most of every opportunity to make much of Jesus this Christmas, praying for opportunities to share the hope you have in Christ with those you love the most. Pray for opportunities! With that

in mind, here's a few upcoming events you need to know about:

Compassion Sunday (Sunday 3rd December) & Senior's Lunch (Friday 8th December)

At the beginning of December, we have set aside a Sunday to hear about the work of Compassion. Many of you already support the work of Compassion through child sponsorship and many of these children are from the Philippines. In early November, I was able to participate in a Church Leaders Field Trip with Compassion to the Philippines where I experienced first-hand the work that Compassion is doing in their communities, partnering with local churches, as they seek to release children from this cycle of poverty in the name of Jesus. I look forward to sharing more with you in church on Sunday 3rd December and at our Senior's Christmas Lunch on Friday 8th December. Contact the office to register, or speak to one of the ministers.

Christmas Services 2023

Our Christmas Eve services are a little different this year. We will combine our morning services for one 9:00am service of Lessons and Carols (a more traditional service), that will include a children's program. This service will be filled with bible readings, Christmas carols and musical items led by our 8am Choir and the organ will be roaring - you will love it!! Then in the afternoon we're anticipating two joy-

filled services at 4:00pm (Kids Family Celebration) and 6:30pm (Christmas Eve Carols). We think you should feel confident to invite family and friends along to any of these services for an excellent Christmas celebration together. On Christmas Day we will have our usual 8:00am and 9:30am services and we look forward to sharing in the joy of Christmas with you all.

New Year's Eve

Finally, as we wrap up the year on New Year's Eve together, **we will have only three services** - 8:00am, 10:00am and 4:00pm. If you normally attend our 6:30pm congregation, we'd love to see you at one of our other services that day before you hit your NYE party venue!

I look forward to sharing in the season's blessings with you all.

Ben



SQUARE ONE camp

LYNDAL FOOTE

There was much excitement and some nerves as 18 kids and 6 leaders headed down to Deer Park on the Port Hacking River for a weekend of fun activities and challenging Bible teaching from Ben Pakula.

Square One is a camp for Primary aged kids organised and run by Youthworks.

Kids and leaders from churches all over Sydney join together for a weekend packed full with excellent Bible teaching, great singing and endless fun activities. The kids had a ball! So did we!

The Bible focus was on Titus 2:11-14 which was great as Titus has been our focus at church too. The kids were challenged to really think deeply about what it means to be transformed by grace.

The rest of the time was taken up with activities like swimming, water slides, tarp soccer, cup challenges, Transformer Billionaire, a fun scavenger hunt and a campfire with marshmallows at night.

A great strength of Square One is that, because Youthworks organises and runs the program, the teaching, the catering etc, leaders are freed up to focus on spending time building relationships, talking to and caring for the kids.

Thanks to the leaders who came: Monnie, Alex, Sian, Pete and Jadon. And to Richard Osborne for driving us and St Lukes Grammar for lending us a bus.

We are looking forward to taking even more kids down in 2024!





PASTORS & CHURCH LEADERS

COMPASSION FIELD TRIPS

BEN MOLYNEUX

In November, I had the privilege and joy of being involved in a field trip experience with Compassion for church leaders and pastors. This was the first trip Compassion held since the pandemic and it was an amazing experience!

I joined a team of 14 people from all over Australia and New Zealand to see, first-hand, the amazing work that Compassion is involved with in the Philippines. We spent our first three days in Manila, visiting local partner churches and meeting children, and whole families, whose lives have been transformed by the gospel through their involvement with the program at their local church. This opportunity is only possible because of the financial sponsorship of donors all over the world. We visited the Compassion head office and met staff who advocate for children in poverty on a daily basis, all for the glory of God and the cause of Christ's mission in the world. The gospel heart of every Compassion worker and church partnership was evident everywhere we went and was obviously the motivation for their work and advocacy.

After Manila we flew to Tacloban City (about an hour's flight south-east of Manila), where we jumped on a bus for three and half hours to a remote town called Biliran. From there, each day we drove deeper into some of the most remote villages in the Philippines where we were welcomed by members of local churches, along with their Compassion program children and the joy of the Lord! Some of these partner churches have never had overseas visitors and so we were able to sing, learn, and pray together, hearing of God's goodness demonstrated to them through their local church's partnership with Compassion! From the very practical needs of food and medical supplies, to the importance of belonging in Christian community, youth and children's programs, discipleship groups and much more - God is at work growing his church, in number and maturity, through the ministry of local churches in partnership with Compassion. And it's our humble sponsorship that enables this fruitful ministry to happen!

One of the greatest moments of this trip was the joy of meeting the Molyneux family's newest Compassion sponsor child, Dexter. It's hard to express or put into words the joy of that moment and the overwhelming joy of meeting his grandparents who expressed with clarity the difference our sponsorship will make, not just to Dexter, but to his whole family.

I look forward to sharing more with you in church on Sunday 3rd December. We will dedicate that Sunday to the work of Compassion, hearing also from our Compassion Rep, Paul Beeston. We will have an opportunity to sponsor Compassion children, with a particular focus on one area of the Philippines called the City of Iriga. St Faith's members already sponsor over 100 children in this region, and we hope to continue to build that - and maybe in the future, head over to meet some of them!



DECEMBER PRAYER DIARY

FRI 1	Pray for JESS MCDONALD AND VINCENT WUENSTEL'S WEDDING today at St Faith's church. Pray God would be the centre of their marriage and that they would grow in love and service of the Lord in their marriage together.
SAT 2	MISSION - IRWAN AND CATHERINE AFES AT UNI OF WOLLONGONG - Pray for AFES National Training Event in Canberra (1-6 Dec). Pray for Phillip Jensen and Richard Chin to speak clearly and faithfully from His Word, and we as staff in leading seminar groups and electives that God may transform many hearts. Pray as we partner with local churches for NTE Mission (Wild St. Anglican at Maroubra, Tahmoor Baptist and Menangle Anglican) from 6-10 December. Pray the churches and students are mutually encouraged as we seek to know and share Jesus and grow in Him together, may the Lord open up hearts of those in their communities to Himself as we share and proclaim His gospel together. Pray as we host students and others who do not have homes to celebrate Christmas (both Christian and non-Christian are invited), may the Lord fill their hearts with His love as we celebrate and proclaim His good news of why Jesus' birth is so special. Pray for the salvation of our very dear elderly neighbours: Kevin (93) and Del (83), where Kevin is in hospital again and now in a nursing home, and also for our next door neighbour from Spain: Antonio and Cristina and their two girls (Emma and Celia).
SUN 3	Give thanks for the work of COMPASSION , that helps release children from extreme poverty in Jesus' name around the world through sponsorships and donations. Pray for PAUL BEESTON from Compassion as he preaches across all services today. Pray Paul will speak clearly and the Holy Spirit to work in people's hearts during these services.

MON 4	JESUS CLUB – Pray for the Jesus Club as this ministry wraps up for the year. Thank God for the wonderful members and for the faithfulness of each leader who has served this year.
TUE 5	GUMNUT KINDY – Pray for unity, togetherness and supportive relationships among the Gumnut team as we approach the end of the year. Ask for guidance in fostering a harmonious environment where everyone feels valued and respected. Pray for love and kindness to always prevail at Gumnut. Ask for blessings to encourage empathy, compassion, and understanding among the children, families and staff. Pray for continuous nurturing of open lines of communication, trust, and mutual support, ensuring that families feel involved and engaged in their child's education. Ask for blessings to surround the children, families and staff, keeping them safe from harm and providing a secure environment for learning and growth.
WED 6	Give thanks for GUMTREES PLAYTIME that meet every Wednesday morning during school term. Give thanks for those who oversee this ministry, including Steph, Tilly, Linda, Michelle, Kelly and others. Give thanks for the many non-church families that have come along regularly during the year and pray they will come along to the Christmas services and hear about Jesus love for them. As they cease to meet over the holiday period, pray that the friendships formed during the year will extend beyond play group and for Jesus conversations in those relationships.
THU 7	QUILTING AND NEEDLEWORK CLUB – Thank God for the women who gather in fellowship each week and for the way they share skills, friendships, encourage each other and for the items they make for charity every year. Pray for good weather today, as they meet at Middle Creek for a Christmas celebration. Pray many will come along and for a good time spent together to finish the year.
FRI 8	Thank God for the opportunity to share a CHRISTMAS LUNCH celebration here at church today. Give thanks for the team of volunteers who have helped coordinate this event. Pray many will come along and share lunch. Pray for Ben as he speaks about his trip last month to the Philippines with Compassion.

SAT 9	ST FAITH'S KIDS – Give thanks for the faithful service of our children’s leaders over the past year and for Lyndal Foote who oversees the children’s ministry each week here at St Faith’s. Pray as the holiday period approaches that the leaders will have a restful break and they will return refreshed in the new year and continue to teach the children faithfully and lovingly.
SUN 10	Pray for Neil as he preaches across all services today , starting on our Advent series. Pray for clarity as he preaches on the passage Isaiah 9:1-7 and for Colin preaching at WAC on Isaiah 11:1-10.
MON 11	ESL – Give thanks to our heavenly Father for the busy and active classes we have had this past term. Give thanks for the many new students, for their enthusiasm to learn and the great sense of community in the classes. We especially give thanks for those who have come to the Bible based lessons each week. Pray for these students that the seeds that have been planted about God’s love for them will grow and they will want to know Him more. Also, as we present the story of Christmas to all the students, please pray that they will have ears to hear, and that the Holy Spirit will work in their hearts and bring them to Him.
TUE 12	SRE – Give thanks for the many teachers and helpers who taught Scripture in the local schools this past year. Give thanks for Jo Harpur as she co ordinates the Scripture program every year. Pray that some of the students and their families will respond positively to the invites for our Christmas services and hear the great news of Jesus.
WED 13	TCP – Give thanks for all our guests. As we lead up to the Christmas Season, pray it will be a time of celebration and thanks to our Lord Jesus. Pray we will be a light and show our guests Christ's love as we serve them and respect as we interact with them. Pray for Jesus to change the hearts of those who do not know him. Praise God for always providing for our needs. Give thanks for all our amazing volunteers who cook and serve and show love to our guests each week. Give thanks for our church communities, generosity in providing Christmas hampers for our guests, as Jesus loves a generous heart.

THU 14	<p>THE COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE - Give thanks The Cottage is humming along well - being quite busy with new clients, as well as former clients returning for some more help. Pray as this time of year is always busy - sometimes people just want to get things in motion before the end of the year, and sometimes the fact that Christmas is ahead means extra grief and stress. Christmas decorations and presents and family</p>
FRI 15	<p>LIGHTHOUSE AND SOULIES - Give thanks for this ministry and the wonderful leaders who give up much of their time to faithfully serve and teach the youth each week. Pray that when groups return in the new year, that the children and youth will be bold in asking their friends to come along on Fridays to enjoy a great time of fellowship and friendship together. Give thanks for Molly, Jadon, Jake, Lyndal and others who oversee and volunteer in this ministry.</p>
SAT 16	<p>MISSION - DAN AND LIV WEBSTER - NAMIBIA EVANGELICAL AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - Give thanks to God that when parents love the Lord and his word, the blessing spreads. We are thankful we were raised in secure Christian homes. Ask God that we would be strengthened with wisdom and persevering love to raise our boys in the instruction of the Lord. Pray for the majority of people we meet in Namibia who are from families that are broken in one way or another. Pray for us that there would be something in the way we do family that NETS students can learn and imitate, for the good of their families and the good order of Namibian society, to the glory of God. Give thanks Liv has finished her series of six talks to local doctors.</p>
SUN 17	<p>Ask God to sustain Marcus as he preaches across all services at St Faith's and for Neil preaching at WAC. Pray God will speak through them as they preach on passages in Isaiah and that we will be open to hear God's message to us through his Word.</p>
MON 18	<p>WARRIWOOD BROOK - Give thanks for the ongoing opportunities to hold services that celebrate lives well lived by dearly loved residents who have died in the faith. We are thankful for being able to proclaim and promote the gospel</p>

CONT'D	<p>on these occasions and to have many residents and family members present, who would not necessarily otherwise hear the Christian hope in the Resurrected Christ. Praise God for being able to again invite residents to celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with us. Pray that God will cause many residents to want to be part of these service occasions; that as members of our church community attend village social gatherings, unchurched residents will be encouraged to respond positively to our invitation and attend these Christmas celebrations.</p>
TUE 19	<p>Thank God for the hard work and commitment of those who lead our MUSIC MINISTRY TEAMS each week across all services, including Scott, Jake, Dan and others. Give thanks for their talents and the music that inspires us all to sing joyfully together on Sundays.</p>
WED 20	<p>TCP CHRISTMAS DINNER – Pray for our Christmas dinner tonight. Pray as we share the message of Christmas that many would be strengthened in faith and many will place their trust in Jesus.</p>
THU 21	<p>Pray we would be bold to invite family and friends to our Christmas services where they might hear the gospel afresh, connect with Christians, and begin a journey of faith that sees them come to know and trust the Lord Jesus.</p>
FRI 22	<p>WAR VETS – Pray for the seekers attending Tony Bradford’s weekly Bible study from ‘Homes For Heroes’. Pray for the three men attending who have been formerly homeless. Pray for our outreach over the Christmas period, especially through services and Christmas lunches. Give thanks for our volunteers who assist on the pastoral team. As the team have a two week break from Christmas and first week New Year. Pray they are refreshed and renewed. Pray for insight, spiritual strength for Chaplain Bob and Tony as they direct the Christian work at the War Vets.</p>
SAT 23	<p>Give thanks for all those who have heard the gospel and for those who have responded with open hearts. Give thanks for those who have served at our church and in our community over the past year. Ask God to bless our endeavours as we</p>

CONT'D	continue to serve Him and seek to share the gospel to make Jesus known and care for others in many ways throughout 2024.
SUN 24	Praise God for the LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE to be held at Church this morning. Thank God for the work of the CHOIR AND ORGANIST in preparing for this event. Pray many from the community to come along and for Ben to clearly explain the significance of Jesus coming to all who attend. Also pray for the CHRISTMAS EVE 4PM AND 6.30PM SERVICES TODAY . Pray for many children, families and people from the community will come along and hear about Jesus at our Christmas Eve celebrations.
MON 25	CHRISTMAS DAY – Praise God for sending his son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour and our King. Pray for Neil and Colin preaching on Matthew 2:1-12 at the various Christmas services this morning. Pray many will attend and that God’s word preached will prompt many visitors attending to include God in their lives. Pray for all those who will be finding Christmas a sad and difficult time, pray they will know God’s love and peace.
TUE 26	THE VILLAGE CHURCH (TVC) in Jindabyne – Pray for the McGrath family as they go on holiday today. Pray for rest, renewal and times of refreshing as a family as they take a much needed long holiday together this summer. Pray for Trent for God to strengthen him with energy to speak across all services at St. Faith’s on January 14th, which he is very much looking forward too!
WED 27	Pray for our STAFF TEAM as they recover from a busy month of ministry leading up to Christmas. Give thanks for them and their commitment to serving God and the people of St Faith’s. Pray they will be refreshed and they have quality time with their family in the coming days.
THU 28	Pray for safety for the many people travelling over the holiday period . Pray for rest and refreshment over the holidays.

FRI 29

Give thanks for the **SOULIES SUMMERCAMP** taking place 21st-25th January, at the Youthworks Shoalhaven Conference Centres at Waterslea and Kaloona. Pray many youths will want to attend and that they register early. Ask God to sustain the leaders as they prepare for this and for Jake who is overseeing the organisation of the camp, looking at the book of James and thinking about how we can 'Be Real' as followers of Jesus in our day to day lives.

SAT 30

WORLD - Pray for comfort for those who are suffering from the results of war, violence and persecution around the world. Ask God to provide them with physical and mental healing. Pray for peace and an end to the violence, hatred and division.

SUN 31

Pray for endurance as **Philip preaches at St Faith's services and Colin preaching at WAC**. Ask God to help them speak faithfully from His Word on Matthew 2:13-23, and that we will hear and trust God's word and step out in faith.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Pray for those expecting-

Max & Roanize Irish (Night Church),
and Jessie & Jono Ok (Morning
Church).

Those unwell-

Larry Tolnay
Trish Clifton
Barbara Temperley
Anne Robinson
Heidi Schwarz
Max and Imelda Krause



STAMPS

Sydney Anglican Stamp Society (SASS) collect stamps, old collections and other stamp related material for sale in support of the Church Missionary Society (CMS). 100% of all funds raised goes to CMS in support of their missionaries in Australia and other parts of the world. If you have any of this material tucked away (wondering what to do with it!!) contact Nick Molyneux (0418226631)



Be Real
Summercamp '24

Soulies

REGO HERE!

WHEN: JANUARY 21ST - 25TH
WHERE: WATERSLEA, SHOALHAVEN
WHO: YEARS 7-12 (IN 2024)
COST: \$360

We'd love everyone to be able to come!
If you need assistance in paying for camp,
please contact Jake to discuss

Contact: Jake Madder | jake@stfaiths.org.au | 0422 107 833

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 22ND DECEMBER

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