

# COMMUNITY MAG



# Welcome

## MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

BEN MOLYNEUX



Dear Church,

Welcome along to St Faith's if you're visiting us for the summer while on holidays, looking for a new church home, or you're here every week as part of our church family. Happy New Year to you all! A new year for most people comes with new goals, new targets, and maybe even a few new year's resolutions, but our vision and goal here at St Faith's, under God, remains the same....

***We want to see a Northern Beaches that knows Jesus*** by making disciples who grow to maturity in Christ for God's glory.

To that end, knowing that God matures us through his word and by his Spirit, we've got a great year in God's word lined up that we pray will help us grow to maturity in Christ together. I thought it'd be helpful to give you a bit of a snapshot of where we're heading for the year:

### Teaching Series 2025

#### Summer Series

##### *A Fresh Start*

As we kick off 2025, we're going to be asking God to refresh our hearts for the year ahead.

To that end, we've got a series of sermons that we pray will help us to: (1) rediscover the joy of being in relationship with Jesus; (2) renew our vision for God's church across generations; (3) set a rhythm of rest amidst the busyness of life in the year ahead, and; (4) reconnect with our community as a vital aspect of spiritual health and refreshment for the year ahead. We pray these studies in God's word will help us with a fresh start for the new year.

#### Term 1 (February to April)

##### *Matthew 8-12*

This section of Matthew's Gospel begins with the words "When he came down from the mountain..." (Matthew 8:1). The events of the Matthew 8-12 take place in the shadow of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), which we explored last year. As we saw last year, Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is many things: a recapitulation of the law of God, a manifesto for God's Kingdom, but it's also a character profile of the true Son of God. The Sermon answers the question: "What does the true Son of God look like?" Matthew 8-12 can be read as this search for the true Son of God. We look forward to exploring this together.

## Term 2 (May to June)

### *The Book of Numbers*

In 2021 our Old Testament focus was the book of Genesis, followed by the journey of God's people through the book of Exodus in 2022 and 2023 - seeing the personal nature of God calling his people and leading them from slavery in Egypt to the edge of the Promised Land. In 2024 we dived head-first into the book of Leviticus - a book full of instructions for sacrificial offerings, cleanliness and other religious ceremonies for God's people in the Old Testament and we saw how this was a foreshadow of the work of Christ. In 2025, we plan to continue our journey through the Torah (first five books of the Old Testament) as we study together the book of Numbers.

The book of Numbers is one of the less-studied books of the Bible, but we're not going to let that stop us because it contains a wealth of wisdom for the people of God. It tells us the story of the Israelites' journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land and there is much for us to learn from it, even today.

## Term 3 (July to September)

### *Ephesians*

The world is crying out for wisdom. For millions of people, the world feels broken. Expectations are disappointed; tragedies strike; relationships break up; families disintegrate; hopes are smashed. Life is broken and needs to be fixed. But how? All too often disappointment leads to bitterness, hurt to hostility, and cynicism morphs into aggression. People search for answers in a variety of places -

through philosophy, self-help, or fleeting pleasures - but these solutions are only temporary, and their benefits are short-lived. What's the solution?

Ephesians has the answer. Ephesians presents a wisdom which transcends ordinary human understanding, a wisdom rooted in the eternal purposes of God, which offers true guidance and hope for a fractured world. Paul reminds believers that true wisdom is not of this world, but is a gift of the Spirit of God, who reveals the mysteries of the gospel, showing a broken world that ultimate healing and restoration come only through Christ. This wisdom, when embraced, has the power to transform lives, heal relationships, and bring peace to a world that so desperately needs it. I can't wait to look at this letter of Paul's together as a church community.

## Term 4 (October to December)

### *Commitment Series + Advent*

Finally in term four, we will spend a month in a Commitment Series (what it is we're committed to and why) and a month of Advent leading up to our Christmas services and celebrations.

I'm excited for what God, by his Spirit and through his word, will be teaching us in the year ahead and I pray that it is both enriching, challenging, corrective, equipping and comforting (2 Tim 3:16) for us all as we continue to strive to please God in living lives that are obedient to his word.

God bless

Ben

# HOLIDAY

# Hospitality



*By Rosemary MacGregor.*

Well, you've survived another crazy December and hopefully had some good times celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus over Christmas and now it's January!! Another new year - 2025!!

What does your January look like? Does it include some time off? A holiday or break away from the usual routines and busyness that often make up the rest of our year! Hopefully life may be a little slower! There may even be some time for reflection and pausing for a moment to think about how we might make 2025 different to 2024. I often have grand plans of what the new year coming in will look like. Maybe you're the same. Maybe you are a new year's resolutions sort of person - 2025 will be the year of exercising every day, reading my bible every day, praying every day, eating better, catching up more regularly with friends or family or whatever your particular choice of new good habit might be?

Don't you agree that as our lives get busier and busier, time becomes our

most precious commodity. It's the one thing we can never get back. And we know, don't we - that life here is short! If we don't intentionally make the time to spend with others, get to know them, then another year, or 2 or 5 or 10 can go by and we are no closer to each other. Our relationships continue to be surface level or superficial and so doing "real life" with one another becomes all the more difficult, because we don't actually know people very well at all!

Well I have been pondering what my January might look like and it got me thinking about whether I may be able to take that bit of extra time, the extra time that comes from not having all the other "things" on in January - that slower pace to actually invest intentionally in those relationships that maybe I don't have as much time for during the year. Often we catch up with old friends and family and that's awesome!



But I wondered if January is also possibly a good time to think about intentionally investing time in our church family?? And by investing time, I just mean having people over for a meal - opening our homes - or catching up with someone over coffee, in the park, go for a walk??

As followers of Jesus, we want to invest time in one another. Loving God and loving one another are the 2 great commandments. Opening our homes, showing hospitality to one another, spending quality time together, is a great way of loving one another!

We see God's people loving one another in this way, throughout the bible but particularly in the early church.

Acts 2 tells us that the community of new believers, "devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.... They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

Paul tells us of people that showed him hospitality throughout his missionary journeys - there was Lydia in Philippi (Acts 16) , the jailer in Philippi (Acts 16), the Ephesian elders (Acts 20) , Publius at Malta (Acts 28), Gaius in Rome (Romans 16) - to name a few.



There are a number of verses throughout the letters to the churches in the New Testament that also speak of the importance of showing hospitality to one another:

**Romans 12:13** Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

**1 Timothy 5:10** and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

**Hebrews 13:2** Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

**1 Peter 4:9** Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

**3 John 1:8** We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

We are encouraged to look out for one another and offer hospitality to not just our friends and people we like but those who may be doing it tough. Those who are lonely, those who may be different, those who may be harder to love, harder to hang out with, a little socially awkward??

I love the Hebrews verse above that says that we may be hanging out with angels and not even know it! How cool is that!!

So, I thought what about Holiday Hospitality?? I know it sounds a bit cringe but stick with me! What if we all were a bit more intentional over January about inviting one another over for lunch, dinner, breakfast, morning or afternoon tea - whatever works for you! With a bit more time, hanging out with one another but not just the people we would usually hang with but some new or different people from church. Or invite some church people over with some of your non-Christian friends - start building connections between people that may make inviting them along to other things throughout the year a bit easier.

It'd be awesome to have small groups of people gathering regularly throughout different times in January to catch up and enjoy fellowship together!

Let's make 2025 the year where it becomes the norm to open our homes, hang out with one another more and love one another deeply as we seek to follow and love our Lord Jesus together!



# Nativity photos

@ST FAITH'S 2024!



# January 2025

## PRAYER DIARY

WED 1	Give thanks for the blessings we received during the last year. Pray for our families that they will have the opportunity to enjoy some family time together over the holiday period. Pray for safety for those travelling, growing family relationships and for time talking about Jesus.
THU 2	<b>MISSION - IRWAN AND CATHERINE AFES AT UNI OF WOLLONGONG</b> - Pray for a restful and refreshing break in the first week of January. Pray for wisdom and insight as Irwan plans and drafts two semesters worth of training materials "Foundation in Theology and Ministry" for the students. Pray they will reconnect well with current students and are able to reach out to the new incoming students to the university. Pray for them as a family to have opportunities to witness to their neighbours and for Nadia's and Joanna's friends and their parents.
FRI 3	Pray for a good break for our <b>KID'S CHURCH</b> and <b>LIGHTHOUSE LEADERS</b> over January and that they will return refreshed and renewed for a new year. Asking God to raise up more leaders to join us at Kid's Church and Lighthouse.
SAT 4	Give thanks for <b>BEACH MISSION</b> , sharing the good news of Jesus with holiday-makers. Pray for the safety throughout the program and for open-heartedness, boldness, gentleness, and team unity through the week. Pray there are no weather conditions that would negatively affect the program and for God-centred conversations, and that the children, teens and parents would come to know Jesus.
SUN 5	Give thanks for <b>MATT BAINES</b> who temporarily joined the ministry team while Marcus is on long service leave. Pray for Matt, Larissa and their children Rachael and Susanna, as they prepare to leave and move back to Edinburgh, Scotland, where Matt accepted a new position to lecture in Christian Theology at the University of Edingburgh. Pray for comfort for each of them as they say goodbye to their family and friends here in Australia. Pray the transition will be smooth and they settle in well in their new environment.



MON 6	Pray for refreshment for the <b>JESUS CLUB</b> team members. Give thanks for their commitment and passion over the last year in teaching the Jesus Club members through games, bible talks and crafts. Pray that the number of members will increase so more adults with intellectual disabilities can know the good news of Jesus. Ask God to raise up new volunteers to help with this ministry.
TUE 7	Pray that our youth would continue to be growing in their own faith throughout the holidays without meeting on Friday nights. Pray that they would be bold in inviting friends to both <b>SUMMERCAMP</b> in January and <b>SOULIES</b> this year and that they share Jesus with them. Pray that God would prepare their hearts as they are taught from 1 Corinthians 15 on camp.
WED 8	Thank God for another year of building relationships with local families at <b>GUMTREES PLAYTIME</b> . Pray for safety over the summer holidays and that non-Christian Playtime families will continue to catch up with Christian families they've met. For those who attended the Christmas services, pray the Holy Spirit will be reminding them of what they have heard and let them be curious to know more about Jesus. Pray for rest and refreshment for the volunteers and ask God to raise up new volunteers to lead Playtime this year.
THU 9	Give thanks to God that <b>THE COTTAGE COUNSELLING CENTRE</b> was able to provide comfort and healing for their clients and especially in the lead up to Christmas. Pray for those counsellors who found it complicated, that they would begin to now settle. Pray for our clients as a new year begins, for healing and stability, for peace and for new learning.
FRI 10	Give thanks for the many teams who serve each week at St Faith's to ensure that God is glorified and his people encouraged in each of our gatherings. Pray for energy as they continue to serve this way.
SAT 11	Pray for the <b>SUMMERCAMP LEADERS</b> in the lead up to camp. Pray that they would be diligent and seek God's guidance in their preparations for the camp. Pray that they would also rest well over the Christmas break, being in the Word and giving thanks to the Lord in all that they do. Pray for Jake as he coordinates and oversees all the planning.

SUN 12

Give thanks to the Father for fellow residents who joined us at **WAC** each Sunday through December to consider Luke's four Christmas Songs - *Song of Mary*, of *Zechariah*; of *Angels* and of *Simeon*. Pray that many will come to know our redeeming God who is:

- Mindful and Almighty;
- Meets our Need for forgiveness and LIFE;
- Came as fully human into our mess and muddle; and
- PAID Sin's Penalty, defeating death, inviting us back to full fellowship with the Father - the Lord of LIFE.

Pray for God's comfort to members who grieve and sorrow over the recent passing of loved ones.

MON 13

Pray for our **ESL** team members to have a good break and to rest well during the school holidays in January, returning early February. Pray for our students that they will be keen to return in February and that God will raise up new students to join our classes. Pray that 2025 will be a time of blessing on the lessons, on our relationships with the students and in the hearts of the students as they hear more about Jesus.

TUE 14

GUMNUT KINDY - Pray for safety for those families who are traveling during the holiday period. Pray for the children who will be starting Kindergarten this year, grant them confidence, wisdom and a love for learning as they enter the next journey. Pray this year will be filled with blessings for each of the Gumnut families and educators and that they will grow closer to God. Give thanks for the great Gumnut team and the welcoming environment they provide for the children and families. Pray for wisdom and energy for the Director Bec who oversees all things at the kindy. Pray the new children starting at Gumnut will settle in quickly and adjust well to the new routine.

WED 15

Praise God for his provision of THE COMMUNITY PANTRY last year. Give thanks for our wonderful volunteers who serve in so many ways. Pray for each of the guests, that they will open their hearts to Jesus or continue to draw closer to him if they have accepted him into their lives. Pray we can continue to show Jesus' love as this ministry continues through 2025.

THU 16	Pray for the <b>QUILTING AND NEEDLEWORK CLUB</b> as they resume meeting after the holiday break. Pray for Judith to be refreshed and well rested and ready to lead the group again this year. Give thanks for the women who through their varied skills and talents have made many wonderful items for charities, such as Adolescent and Young Adults Hospice, Bear Cottage, Mercy Ships, Cancer Council, Sydney Wildlife and Rescue Centre and more. Pray new people from the community will want to come along, share skills and have fellowship together.
FRI 17	Give thanks for <b>NIC TREVENA</b> who will be joining the St Faith's staff team as an Associate Minister in February. Pray for Nic, Sophie and their two children Lucia and Arthur, to settle in well at St Faith's and on the Northern Beaches.
SAT 18	Give thanks for the <b>SOULIES SUMMERCAMP</b> (19th - 23rd January). Pray for safety for the youth and their leaders as they travel tomorrow to the Youthworks Shoalhaven Conference Centres at Waterslea and Kaloona, diving into what the Bible has to say about Resurrection Life, and that Christians are 'Here For Now and Home For Ever'. Ask God to sustain the leaders as they lead and disciple the youth this week and for Jake who is overseeing the camp. Pray they enjoy fellowship together and that the Holy Spirit would guide each of them towards a life in Jesus.
SUN 19	Thank God for the gift of <b>MUSIC</b> and the way it communicates truth. Pray for those who lead us in song each week, that all aspects of their lives would be godly examples and that the Lord would sustain and energise them as they prepare and lead us each week.
MON 20	Pray for an end to conflict in countries around the <b>WORLD</b> . Pray for protection for those who are displaced, comfort and healing for those who have lost loved ones and hope to those who are suffering. Pray for guidance for the leaders and nations to work toward lasting peace and stability.
TUE 21	<b>NPSRE CROMER CAMPUS</b> - Pray that the students considered the true meaning of Christmas last month as discussed in their final lessons Emmanuel - God with us. Praise God that there are currently 40 Year 7 students enrolled in Scripture next year. Pray for more students to be enrolled. Pray that God will ensure we have all the resources we need to manage the workload for 2025, especially now that Year 9 is included.

WED 22	Give thanks for those who taught <b>SCRIPTURE</b> in the local schools last year. Ask God to raise up more scripture teachers and helpers to cover all the classes again this year. Pray for the meeting being held today at church, for wisdom and clarity as they plan for the year ahead. Pray for good connections with the schools and for God's spirit to be working in all the students. Pray parents of new kindergarten students will opt in for scripture for their children. Give thanks for Peggy and Christine who coordinate Scripture.
THU 23	Give thanks to God for <b>CHRIST OUR REFUGE, BRISBANE</b> . Pray that the members of Christ our Refuge will welcome new people who visit the church in the new year. Ask God to empower members to offer refuge, security, and hope in Christ to their families, networks and neighbourhoods. Pray that God will give Dave and Rowena Miers, their church council and other leaders wisdom as they explore opportunities to plant a morning congregation.
FRI 24	Pray for the many visitors that we have had to our church over Christmas and in January. Pray they will continue to attend, that they will want to learn more about Jesus and become part of the church family.
SAT 25	Give thanks for all the <b>VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH THE SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS</b> at the 10am and 4pm Church services during this month, so that the regular leaders can have a break. Give thanks for Lyndal who faithfully and tirelessly oversees the children's ministry.
SUN 26	<b>AUSTRALIA DAY</b> - Give thanks for all the many blessings that come from living in a country such as ours. Ask God to bring us together as one, reconciled with Him and reconciled with each other. Pray for our leaders in government and positions of authority, that they would serve and govern the nation wisely and justly for the good of all people.
MON 27	Pray for <b>RENEE MILES</b> as she prepares to join us in <b>CHILDREN'S MINISTRY</b> in February as well as our 6:30pm Congregation. Thank God for bringing her back to St Faith's and pray that she settles back into church quickly and enjoys ministry amongst our children, families and young adults.



TUE 28 Pray for all the **COMMUNITY GROUPS** at St Faith's as they resume next week. Pray the leaders have had a restful break and are refreshed to lead again this year. Give thanks for their commitment in preparation of the studies as we open God's word each week.

WED 29 Pray for **TRENT & ALICE McGRATH** at Village Church in Jindabyne. Pray that God would strengthen the members of their church to continue to serve God in the year ahead, prepare well for snow season, and grow in their love and service of Christ in the year ahead.

THU 30 Give thanks for the service of our **WARDENS** Sarah, Stuart and Tim and those on **PARISH COUNCIL**, Al, Bob, Christina, Jeanette, Luke, Max, Molly and Tones, and Minute Secretary Annie. Give thanks for the way they have served faithfully with wisdom regarding finances and property affairs.

FRI 31 Pray for **SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS** as they return to school for another year of learning. Pray the teachers have had a refreshing break and are well prepared and energised for the start of the new school year. Pray for our preschoolers moving up to Kindergarten and those who have moved on to high school. Pray that they settle into their new schools and classes smoothly and that they know God's presence with them amongst the changes. Pray for their parents as they support and encourage them during this time.

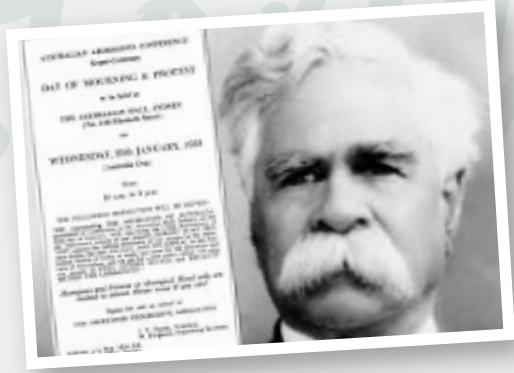


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# NARRABEEN INDIGENOUS HISTORY



On Sunday 19th January we will be spending time in each of our services praying for Indigenous Peoples. 'Aboriginal Sunday' as it has come to be known, began as a call by Aboriginal Christian leader, Yorta Yorta man, pastor and advocate, William Cooper. On 26 January 1938, Aboriginal leaders, including William Cooper, met for a Day of Mourning, seeking equality and full citizenship – which took a further 30 years.

Australian churches were then asked to set aside the Sunday before 26 January as Aboriginal Sunday, a day for Christians to act in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples and the injustices being experienced. In the lead up to this, we thought it might be helpful to consider some 'local' Indigenous history.

In our local community on the Northern Beaches, the Gai-maragal and Garigal peoples, also known as the saltwater peoples, have been living here for thousands of years.

Narrabeen borders with other clan groups which are part of Guringai Country and the wider Eora Nation. At our local Narrabeen Beach, several 'middens' can be found. Middens are accumulations of various shells by Aboriginal people who collected, cooked and ate shellfish as part of their daily living.

Turimetta Beach was known for conducting Women's Business. Women were taught about knowledge systems and responsibilities and gave birth to their children here. In years gone by, a thriving Fairy Penguin colony lived on the rock platform between Narrabeen and Turimetta Beaches.

Oxford Falls was known for its Men's Business, where men celebrated culture through storytelling, song, art and dance. In the Gai-maragal language, 'warami' means welcome!

Source: [heathercheek.com.au/the-founder-of-naidoc-week-william-cooper-was-australias-moses-martin-luther-king/](http://heathercheek.com.au/the-founder-of-naidoc-week-william-cooper-was-australias-moses-martin-luther-king/)

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