

And the value-laden filter that we use to develop our identity, comes in part from the people around us that we trust. Initially it's parents, and then friends, and then ultimately it's the culture that we inhabit. We have no independent, self-sufficient and inward looking means of determining our identity. We're not really free to make up our own identities. We're coerced by the dominant beliefs of our own culture. Though we may we may want to think otherwise, taking on the values of our community is how we are wired as human beings. Our identity is shaped and pressed upon us by all sorts of cultural expectations: from a 'consumer' mentality that erodes Christian community, to the view that our life consists of our achievements, looks and possessions.

For this reason, we are commanded to be in the world but not of it (1 John 2:15-17; John 17:14-19). For this reason, the bible makes such a big deal of Christians meeting together as a church community (Hebrews 10:25). God knows us well: if we're to resist the temptation to conform to our surrounding culture, we need to regularly gather as a community that provides God-shaped encouragement. This is how we'll conform to our True Identity: an identity shaped not by what's *popular*, but by what's *true*. That's an identity worth having.

#### **Collect**

God of the new and eternal covenant, as the forty days of the great flood swept away the world's corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life: grant to us who are washed clean and born again in the saving of flood of your grace, that your gift of new life may flourish once again; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen



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*The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news [Mark 1:15]*

#### **Lent 1**

##### 18<sup>th</sup> February

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

**Mark 1:9-15**

#### **Lent 2**

##### 25<sup>th</sup> February

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:24-32

Romans 4:13-25

**Mark 8:31-38**

### **The Myth of Modern Identity**

There is a modern idea that you must look inside yourself to discover your deepest desires and dreams, and express them. What you can never do is look outside yourself to find your identity. 'You be you' is the catch-cry of those who seek to be 'authentic'. The problem however of such a worldview is that it's simply not true.

The reality is that we all have strong inward desires, but unless we're psychopathic or entirely juvenile, we don't identify with all our desires. For some of our desires are contradictory, and some can indeed be harmful to ourselves and others. As a result, we suppress some of our desires, and to do this selectively we use filters. That is, we use beliefs and values to sift our hearts and determine which emotions and sensibilities we shall incorporate into our identity, and which we shall reject. As a result, what forms our identity is a value-laden filter, rather than our uncensored passions.



## A guide for our prayers during the week

### Monday

Our diocese and the gospel

- Bishop Peter
- Other parishes
- Dean for Cathedral – Rev. Ross Nicholson

### Tuesday

Our church and the gospel

- Children and youth
- Families
- Seniors

### Wednesday

Our community and the gospel

- St Luke's Op Shop
- Blackwater
- Emerald Churches

### Thursday

Our nation and the gospel

- Prime minister
- State and local government
- Religious Freedom legislation

### Friday

God's world and the gospel

- Islamisation
- War and poverty
- Persecuted Church
- CMS and ABM

### Saturday

Ministry and the gospel

- Bible Studies
- Food for Body and Soul
- Wardens and Parish Council
- Rev Daniel and Jenni

## Dates to Remember

18 February	Blackwater at 3 pm
22 February	Bible Study at 5.30 pm
25 February	Reports for AGM due
	Sunday Service at 4 pm
	Food for Body & Soul 5.30 pm
10 March	AGM
29 March	Good Friday
31 March	Easter Sunday

	18 February	25 February
Welcome	Alan	Alan
Power Point	Donna	Jenni
Read	Jenni, Dianne	Natalie & Russell
Prayers		Daniel
Sunday School	Cate & Noah	Cate & Noah
Morning Tea		
Shop	Donna, Jenni	
Mowing	Phil	

## The BCA Prayer

Lord our God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land. We ask you to strengthen and encourage all whose ministries are supported by The Bush Church Aid Society.

Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness and call others to stand with them in the task of making Christ known.

Grant that, through the ministry of the Word and Sacraments, through caring service and by support for young people, the message of your redeeming love may be proclaimed and accepted by the people of our land. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Direct Debit Giving Information

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**Description:** 'Giving'