

Firstly, remember that as a church we exist to work for supernatural change. Humans today are as spiritually dead as they ever were. We still proclaim the gospel to the graveyard, and only God can raise people from the dead.

Secondly, remember that persecution is normal for Christians and Jesus promised that his followers would be persecuted by the world. And though in the West we do not as yet face violent physical opposition, we do 'share Christ's suffering', being insulted for the name of Christ: not because of our creedal confessions, but because of our moral convictions on human sexuality, and the sanctity of life and marriage. But take heart. Jesus promised that if we stand firm, we shall win life (Luke 21:19). And the fires of persecution are more likely to forge resolve rather than resignation.

And thirdly, we should eschew utopianism. Though we pray that God's Kingdom might come and his will be done on earth as in heaven, we are just as confident that is a work that God himself will accomplish. In obedience and in response to God's grace, we do justice, and we love mercy, but ultimately we walk humbly with our God, who himself will usher in the New Heavens and the New Earth.

As for you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and discharge all the duties of your ministry. [2 Timothy 4:5]

Collect

God of our ancestors, whose chosen servant Abraham was given faith to obey your call and go out into the unknown: endow your church with such faith that we may follow you with courage; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



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If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him [Mark 8:34]

Lent 2

25th February

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:24-32

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

Lent 3

3rd March

Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Hope and Evangelism in a Brave New World

In 1st Century Rome, Christians were commonly thought to be not simply wrong, but wrong-headed: atheists and enemies of the state, the cause of all that was wrong in the world and the objects of ridicule and derision. In 21st Australia the parallels are increasingly evident. We are often seen as moral outlaws and are ridiculed and derided for holding 'bigoted', hypocritical, and 'hateful' understandings of ethics and morality.

The temptation I guess is to either retreat into enclaves and so cease to be salt and light in the public square, or to become militant and aggressive, and so cease to be wise as serpents and as innocent as doves. Either way, we act as if God has forfeited his divine rule over our nation, and we take control where we think God has lost control.

But there is a better way to live in what seems like an increasingly alien context. And there is still good news to be proclaimed, to a world that needs the gospel, no less now than it did in the 1st Century. To that end I offer the following encouragement as we seek to evangelise a post-Christian culture.

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
- Ivy, Larry, Chris

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

Dates to Remember

25 February

Reports for AGM due today
Sunday Service at 4 pm
Food for Body & Soul 5.30 pm

29 February

Bible study at 5.30 pm

10 March

AGM

29 March

Good Friday

31 March

Easter Sunday

	25 February	3 March
Service Leader	Daniel	Dianne
Welcome	Alan	Alan
Power Point	Jenni	'no power'
Read	Natalie, Russell	Donna, Carolyn
Prayers	Daniel	
Sunday School	Cate & Noah	Cate & Noah
Morning Tea		Donna
Shop	Kayleen, Wayne	
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

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