

Anglican
Church Central Queensland



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LET THE CHILDREN COME

ARCHDEACON TOM HENDERSON-BROOKS

Therefore, without a shadow of doubt, they are the most precious people in our churches. It's not that the rest of us are unimportant, but that our Diocesan and Parish priority needs to be on ministry to, with and amongst children and their families. Otherwise, may the Anglican Diocese of Rockhampton rest in peace.

But there are many stories of tender green shoots breaking through the dry parched landscape, that is our church.

Jesus said

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

MARK 10:14

Enough from me, here are some of their voices.

I was recently reflecting on how I was glad that Caroline and I were not actively parenting young children through these present COVID times. It led me to decide that we need to focus one of our early editions of CQFirst on our kids and our families. For many of our congregations across the Diocese, our children and families are nearly extinct!

KIDS IN THE PANDEMIC

Our churches have been doing different things for our children during this pandemic. Many have discovered the free videos and kid spots from Colin Buchanan. But how are the kids in our churches coping? Let's find out.

We asked Zac, Ella and Georgia from Keppel Parish what they are doing and how their church is looking after them. They told us they are "calling people" and "doing stuff online." They are "watching our church on TV" and "Bible Story clips on our church website" as well as "watching Colin Buchanan on church videos". Some are also "writing letters to old people at church."

The children also told us what they are you looking forward to when church can meet all together again. "Kids Church and Sunday School", "Communion" and "Singing." "Playing with the other kids at church", "Morning Tea" and one that makes our hearts smile "Seeing the old people back at church, particularly the ones we have written letters to. They make it fun."

Thanks Zac, Ella and Georgia for telling CQFirst readers what's happening in Keppel.

We also had someone catch up with a few of the kids from Messy Church at St Luke's Wandal to find out what they are looking forward to when non-iso church begins again. Not surprisingly their responses were similar "Morning tea, because it's so yummy!", "Messy Church and making stuff", "Singing" and "Seeing God's people again".

It certainly will be good when we can all meet again. CQFirst imagines lots of little Sunday Church parties happening all over CQ when we are allowed.

Before total lockdown, Boyne River parish decorated St Luke's, their very small 100 year old church to provide a place for people to sit quietly in prayer + reflection. Story books and Easter eggs were given to any children who visited over Easter.

Luke, one of their Messy Church kids, along with his Mum and Dad, has written a prayer after celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, despite it being a 'COVID Easter'. *(CQFirst has shortened Luke's prayer, but readers can contact us for the whole prayer.)*



St Luke's, Boyne River, also had some bears who were part the "we're going on a bear hunt". The idea was for children to spy the bears when they were out walking.

LUKE'S PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that Luke and I were able to come to Your beautiful, empty (but not) home... the historic St Luke's Church, and find the most beautiful prayer within. As we picked it up, it inspired us to pray for Your world. Lord thank You for making this all possible through the Holy Spirit who works through our Parish Priest, Rev Beryl. We are especially thankful for the power of prayer because we have seen Your Grace in our local community with no cases or deaths related to COVID-19. We thank You Lord!



Dear Lord Jesus, we pray for those who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19, especially those who were unable to visit or say goodbye. Let us learn to use every moment in our lives, to embrace, to praise and to shower love; let us treasure the time we have; and we thank You for Your loving arms that embraced them. We also praise You Lord for the millions that have recovered through Your healing hands.

Dear Lord, we pray for all doctors and nurses who risk their lives for others; for researchers working to find vaccinations; for food stores, risking their lives to remain open to feed us; for industries that have diligently put plans and actions in place to ensure safety for all; for teachers who have amazingly transformed classroom curriculums into engaging and fun online home learning.

Dear Lord, we thank You that through all this we knew and know that You are always in control - our Guiding Light - providing us a time for deep reflection on what is important. Time for the core fabric of society - families - to connect, bond and spend quality time together. Time to walk together in nature and hear, feel, smell the presence of Your awe-inspiring beautiful world. Time to see butterflies go fluttering by in masses - as a sign of how You have transformed the world to silence and stillness and to hear Your voice. Like the parable of the pearl, nothing is more precious than You Lord Jesus. Having everything taken away we have received so much more, the peace of knowing, loving and trusting You Lord, through the words You speak as we read Your Word in isolation, (but not). We pray that we keep the faith, that we trust You are in control, and that we do the right thing as Your disciples in making fishers of people. Thankyou Lord Jesus for Your Grace. Amen.

Thanks for this contribution Luke, Mum + Dad!

PANDEMIC PARENTING

Sandy Galea is the Kids Ministry Director at MBM (Multicultural Bible Ministry), which is Rooty Hill Anglican Church in Sydney. She recently visited Rockhampton to run training for those ministering to children. Sandy has made her resources and programs available online at www.kidswise.com.au. Here's some tips from Sandy's blog to help our children make sense of the coronavirus pandemic and to deepen their trust in God.

1. Understand that children respond in a variety of ways.

Remember that every child is different and will respond to the pandemic differently. Age makes a huge difference. Your 6 year old may become the hand-washing police, whereas your 13 year might defiantly want to hug all her friends. What worries each child is also vastly different. One will ask 'Will I get coronavirus?', another, 'Are we all going to die?' but another will just ask 'Why can't I go to my friend's house?'

2. Know that silence (or ignoring our kid's questions) is not the answer.

We have a God who speaks, and it is our privilege to speak God's truth into the lives of our children. To make God known so that our children see Him, know Him, love Him and live for Him.



*He made us, knows
and loves us -
completely. And he will
never leave us.*

PSALM 139:1-8

Talk about how big God is. He made us, knows us and loves us – completely. And he will never ever leave us. (Read Psalm 139:1-18 with your children).

Talk about our eternal hope in Jesus. Remind children that only one thing is certain. Jesus came back to life! Those who trust in him have a sure and certain future. (1 Corinthians 15:55-57). As parents, there is so much outside of our control. We don't know what tomorrow will bring. All we can do is to point them to what we do know for certain. That Jesus rose from the dead, and that if we believe, we will live forever with God. (Romans 10:9)

3. Encourage children to use their words.

Encourage children to talk about their fears; to ask their questions, and to share their feelings – their highs and their lows. Don't soften answers to tough questions. Children are more robust than we think. Keep your answers simple. Our aim in answering their questions is to take them back to Jesus and the sure hope found only in him.

4. Pray with children

Prayer is not informing God. Prayer is expressing our utter dependency on Him. Model your dependency by praying out loud with them. Pray about your uncertainty and fears (age appropriately), your confidence that God is in control, your praise for the way you see God working for good.

5. Encourage children to respond with love

Remind children of the character of our great God. He takes care of those who cannot take of themselves. So, as his people, we do the same. Help children to think theologically about everything in life. We wash our hands and practice safe distancing out of love for others.

6. Be careful what children see and hear.

There are things children do not need to see or hear. Be careful about conversations children are listening in on or news broadcasts. We can't protect them from everything that's unhelpful, but we can restrict their exposure within our homes.

7. Remind children that God uses everything, even coronavirus, to achieve His plans.

We honestly don't know what God is going to do in all of this. But we know that God always accomplishes His purposes. During this period of isolation, we can see God working in some wonderful ways. For some people, this time of pandemic will be the time God gifts them with faith. For others, it might be the first time they read the bible or pray with their children, raising them to love the Lord. And for all of us, it is an opportunity to grow to become more like Jesus.

HARD TIMES IN POPONDOTA, PNG

OUR LINK DIOCESE

While we struggle with our isolation and all that COVID19 has presented, in Australia we are able to access Government support. Not so in our sister Diocese of Popondota which is struggling during their State of Emergency (to June 1). Recently the Diocese has appealed to their national church for support. Some of the old buildings in the Diocesan



complex are rented to other organisations but this has now ceased, so there is no income. No parishes are paying their assessment. Staff have not been paid for 3 months. I suspect clergy are also not being paid. The water has been disconnected from the Diocesan Secretary's house and other disconnections are following. This means no water for bathing or flushing toilets. Power cuts continue throughout Popondetta. There are no social security benefits in PNG.

Our Diocese budgets \$5000 each year to assist Popondota. It is usually sent at the end of the year but from now until the end of the year we are sending monthly payments so that the Diocese has some income. The Archbishop of PNG, The Rt Revd Alan Migi, has resigned as Primate due to ill health. So, the situation for ACPNG is quite desperate.

How can CQFirst readers help? We need to pray for our sister Diocese of Popondota, indeed for the Anglican Church in PNG as a whole. If your parish or you personally are able to help financially, then please send funds to our Diocesan office to add to the monthly payment. We are indeed blessed in our country amidst the turmoil of COVID19. *Canon Val Gribble*

EATING + PRAYING WITH KIDS

1. **Say:** You're going to be a little part of (name your church) church at home today.

2. **Light a candle and pray:** With the light of this candle, we remember the light of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God, you are here with us now and also with our friends and family in their homes today. Especially we remember that you are also with.... (invite everyone to remember people from church, school, extended family, neighbourhood).

Thank you, Jesus, light for the world. Amen

3. **Say:** Today we're thinking about eating together, which is something Jesus loved doing with his friends and something Christians have always done together.

Quickfire questions for everyone:

- Favourite food?
- Worst thing in the world to eat?
- Best meal you've ever had with someone else?
- Weirdest place you've eaten a meal?
- If you could put anything on a pizza, what would it be?

4. **Enjoy a Song.** We suggest the Disney song from Beauty and the Beast 'Be our guest'.

5. **Read a story** where Jesus invites his friends to be his guest, not at a banqueting table, but by a campfire on a beach in John 21:1-14. This takes place after he has died and come back to life. (As you read it, ask people to close their eyes and imagine themselves as Peter in the story.) What can they see, hear, smell, taste, feel?

More questions:

- Ask everyone to share anything that struck them from the story.
- Ask everyone why they think Jesus wanted to eat with his friends.
- Can anyone think of any other time Jesus ate with anyone?
- Why do you think Christians eat together – either 'formal meals' like Communion, or other meals like Messy Church meals?

6. **Pizza Prayers** (from Holy Habits: Eating Together, BRF, 2018):

Cut a circle of paper into segments and give one to everyone present. On one side draw (or write) your favourite pizza topping, and on the other side write a short one line sentence prayer for something that you are thankful. The segments are returned to the table centre, topping side up, to form everyone's favourite pizza. Everyone takes a slice at random and they are read and pray each other's prayers in turn.

7. **Read Psalm 23** which describes a wonderful feast at the King's table with overflowing cups.

8. **Pray the Lord's Prayer** together, with or without actions, and point out the line about giving us today our daily bread.

9. **Share your meal** together – maybe pizza with some favourite toppings.

10. Finally, before you all wash up – say '**The Grace**' together (2 Corinthians 13:14) and then blow out the candle.

Thanks for this contribution Rev Andrew Gall, Wandal

PEPPERONI PIZZA PUFFS

(ADAPTED FROM EVERYDAY WITH RACHAEL RAY AND CASSIE CRAVES)

Ingredients

- 3/4 cup flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- pinch of salt (optional)
- pinch of red pepper flakes (optional)
- 3/4 cup whole milk
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup cubed pepperoni
- 1/2 cup store-bought pizza sauce



Method

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Grease a mini-muffin pan.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, Italian seasoning, salt and red pepper flakes (if using). Whisk in the milk and egg. Stir in the mozzarella, parmesan and pepperoni.

Let stand for 10 minutes.

Stir the batter and divide among the mini-muffin cups. Bake until puffed and golden, approximately 20 to 25 minutes. Meanwhile, microwave the pizza sauce until warmed through.

Serve the puffs with the pizza sauce for dipping.

COVID-19 UPDATE

As CQFirst goes to press, news has broken of a new COVID case in Rockhampton at a nursing home. Please see the latest Diocesan COVID19 Information on our website and Facebook pages. It has been distributed to all churches. Here's a brief summary as we begin Stage 1 of the Roadmap to Recovery.

At every stage of the recovery process, *CQFirst* readers should: 1) Maintain physical distancing of 1.5m from others. 2) Practice good hygiene. 3) Stay home if sick. 4) Download the COVID App.

Stage 1 starts from Saturday 16th May and lasts for four weeks. At home, we are allowed up to 5 visitors max. In the community, gatherings of up to 10 people max are now allowed. So any small group can restart in as long as it is capped at 10 people, appropriately distanced from each other. People can travel within their region up to 150kms. The church can open for prayer, small services, hall rentals, meetings, op shops etc as long as they are capped at 10 people and are safely spaced. (Funerals have a max of 20 indoors and 30 outdoors.) Slightly less restriction applies to **Outback Areas**. Community gatherings are capped at 20 people, and people can travel up to 500kms within their region. Outback Areas in CQ are: Banana, Central Highlands, Blackall-Tambo, Barcaldine, Longreach, Barcoo, Winton, Boulia + Diamantia. Woorabinda is a 'Remote Area' and has restricted access.

ANGLICARE CQ

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE

While it has been an unusual time for everyone AnglicareCQ is committed to continuing to deliver services – just in a different way! Staff have embraced the different options available via IT to connect with people. You can view our referral pathways documents at www.anglicarecq.org.au to find out how to access services across Central Queensland.

Foster and Kinship Carer Week was due to be celebrated in May, however all events and activities have been moved to November due to COVID-19. While we haven't been able to 'officially' celebrate yet, it's still important to acknowledge the selfless work carried out by carers in Queensland. So during May, let's all make the effort to thank as many Foster and Kinship Carers as we can for their incredible work.

A huge thank you to the Keppel Parish for their recent generous donations towards drought relief. These funds have been distributed to very worthy candidates in the region. We wish everyone resilience and positivity moving forward in these uncertain times.

AnglicareCQ was able to be a part of Youth Week celebrations from 1-9 April. We encourage you to get behind this year's "Yeah the Youth" theme which aims to promote strength, unity and friendships between young people. To learn more about Youth Week, visit [here](#).



A super brief Bishop Election Update...

please continue to pray. The Election Board has been working extremely hard, under the leadership of Bishop Alf, to elect a new Bishop before the initial deadline of the 20th May. Hopefully there will be further news in the next edition of CQFirst.

FROM THE REGISTRAR

THE VENERABLE JOHN BARNES

In the last issue of CQFirst we provided details of the support that was being made available to Parishes in these COVID times. Since the last issue the diocese has determined that it is eligible for the JOBKEEPER Stimulus Scheme. We have enrolled in the Scheme. Assuming all goes according to plan this will mean the Diocese will receive the \$1,500 a fortnight reimbursement for each eligible employee for the duration of the Scheme.

Once received, these funds will be allocated to Parishes as a further reduction in their fortnightly remuneration invoice (\$1,500 a fortnight) from the pay period at the end of May through until October.

On the insurance cost front, we are working with brokers to explore how it might be possible to reduce insurance costs into the future. A new Policy is being developed for consideration by Diocesan Council.