



**Oak Flats  
Anglican**

*Real Hope • Real Jesus*

# HOLY HOLIDAYS

In my Bible reading this year I have made it up to Leviticus 23.

Its contents may not come immediately to mind, so I will jog your memory. It is a portion of the law for Old Testament Israel, and it outlines the Sabbaths and Festivals for the year of that nation. In other words, the holy days/holidays.

For the Israelite, every holiday had both a portion of rest from regular work, and a reminder about God's provision or salvation. Kiuchi (Leviticus, 2007) helpfully summarises:

1. The weekly sabbath – creation
2. The Passover – salvation
3. The Sheaf of First Fruits – birth and growth
4. The Weeks – the beginning of the harvest
5. The first day of the seventh month – towards inner salvation
6. The Day of Atonement – inner salvation
7. The Booths – joyful remembrance of the Lord's guidance

What struck me reading it this time around is that each and every one of their holidays had a portion devoted to God, yet I find that hard to do with my public holidays and 4 weeks annual leave.

For us, Easter and Christmas are fixed times of worship in our holiday calendar, thanks to our western Christian heritage. But perhaps if you're like me, going away on holidays and taking time out of the 'regular routine' is when daily prayer and Bible reading is the hardest to keep going?

Of course, as Christians we are not bound to observe the festivals, celebrations and Sabbaths of the Old Covenant, for the reality of rest from our labours and worship is found in Christ (Col. 2:16-17). But if you are like me, and find holidays a harder time than usual to worship Christ, perhaps it reveals we are too formed to the world's patterns. For our culture worships the celebration and rest of holidays, but has little or no time to celebrate God. Should we not ensure that in our holidays a space given to acknowledge God's good gifts to us – even the holiday break itself?

Holy days were God's gift to Israel to be freed from work to rest and celebrate his provision and salvation. What a shame it would be, if we became like the world around us and received the gift of holidays, but forgot the giver?

- **SAM PURSELL**

**WELCOME TO CHURCH • SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2021**

# Prayers

## CURRENT PRAYERS

### Church people who are unwell

Bob Abrahams, Marlene Arthur, Jean Beetles, Olga Covetz, Jan Crook, Raija Hannam, Robert Hannam, Pauline Kirby, Geoff Kyngdon, James Mills, Noel Monk, Charlie October, Allan Quinn, Merv Sercombe, Sue Simpson, Hanno Stanojevic, Eileen Stokes, Mary Straughan, Betty Uren, Susan Vickery, Chris Wilson.

### Howard Slocombe

Give thanks for the life of Howard Slocombe, who peacefully passed away this week.  
Pray for David, Rhonda, Phil, Alison, John, Bronwyn and family as they mourn his passing.

### Peace in our time

Pray for peace as many countries continue in civil unrest and war, and for calm as much of our world faces a constant threat from terrorism.

### Prime Time ministry

Give thanks for the ministry of Prime to Seniors. Pray for the upcoming lunch on Monday, 8th March.

### Upcoming AGM

Pray that our Annual General Meeting will serve well to share the church vision and to recruit the right men and women to serve in elected positions.

### COVID-19

Pray for State and Federal Governments as they continue to work through difficulties which have come about because of COVID-19. Pray for our health care workers - doctors, nurses, aged care workers, allied health workers, and those involved with testing and developing the vaccines.

Pray that the vaccine will be able to be distributed easily and made available for all.

## REGULAR PRAYERS (CYCLE 3 OF 4)

### Government:

The Premier and NSW politicians.

### World Focus:

The continent of Asia.

### Mission Partners:

Stewart Continuing Ministries - training leaders of the persecuted church in ministry.

### Organisations We Support:

Youthworks and the Bible Society

### Word Ministry Training:

Ministry Training and Development (MT&D) and the Ministry Training Strategy (MTS).

### Staff and Senior Leadership:

Wardens and Parish Councillors.

### Children's and Youth Ministry:

Andy's Club.

### Adult Ministries:

Prime Time and Interact.

### Local Evangelism:

Outreach to emergency services and community groups.

### Members unable to attend church:

Those house-bound or living in nursing homes including Audrey Ford, Lily Lyddiard, and Bruce Smith.

### Local Public Schools:

Oak Flats Public, Balarang Public and Oak Flats High.

### Other Regular Matters:

Our ongoing financial needs for the ministry at our church and beyond.

**Gospel of John:**  
**Do not be surprised if you are**  
**hated for being Christian**  
**John 15:18-16:4**  
**Sam Pursell • 21st February 2021**

1. Do not be surprised if the world hates you (18-25)
2. Keep testifying about Jesus (26-27)
3. Stick with Jesus (1-4)

***This Sunday...***

'Gospel of John' sermon series • John 16:4-15 • Sam Pursell

**THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SERVING US**

9.30am Service

**Welcomer:**

**Bible Reader:**

**Prayer Leader:**

**Kids' Program:**

**Morning Tea:**

**Meal Clean Up:**

**COVID Cleaning:**

**21st February**

B Clark

K Dobbie

R Hannam

A Hadley/M Klasson

C Bonnici/R Eton

K Eton

J & M Klasson

**28th February**

B Hadley

V O'Regan

J Mills

P & G Taylor

M Klasson/A Hadley

C Bonnici

P & G Taylor

3.30pm Service

**Welcomer:**

**Bible Reader:**

**Prayer Leader:**

**Afternoon Tea:**

**Meal Clean Up:**

**COVID Cleaning:**

**21st February**

D Rainey

G Taylor

P Taylor

C Pratt

P Pratt

P & G Taylor

5pm Service **28th February**

A Peters

V O'Regan

D Orange

G Taylor

P Taylor

A & M Peters

**Cleaning Saturday:**

A & M Peters

**Mowing Saturday:**

J Klasson/ D Slocombe

# Church News

## HOWARD SLOCOMBE

Howard peacefully passed away on Thursday 18th February.  
Please join the family for a service at Croome Road, Albion Park Cemetery on **Wednesday 24th February at 11am**.  
A light lunch will follow at our church.  
Please uphold the Slocombe family in your prayers.

## AFTERNOON SERVICE TIME CHANGE

From **Sunday 28th of February** we will begin meeting at **5pm**.  
We won't start dinners again at this stage, but will continue the same food (cake, biscuits etc.) following the service with tea and coffee.

## PRIME TIME LUNCHEON

Coming up on **Monday, 8th March**, 11.45am for a **12 noon start** with a 2 course meal plus a talk between courses, finishing at 2pm. Cost is \$10 and is located at the church. Ideal for our seniors and your friends and family.

## OUR BIRTHDAYS

22nd Angela Pursell  
24th Zachary Firley

## AGM 14TH MARCH

Our AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be held on **Sunday 14th March** after the morning service, at **11.30am** in the church.

We will be electing representatives for Wardens, Parish Council and Parish Nominators. Please pick up a nomination form at the front desk.

## COVID SAFETY PRACTICES

A reminder that:

- Numbers are limited to 120 people in the whole church building premises, but only 90 adults in main hall.
- Children and youth under 18 do not need to physically distance.
- Hand sanitiser must be used.
- Your name and number will be recorded as per Health NSW regulations.
- Wearing a face mask is recommended but not mandatory.
- There will be no congregation singing. However you can hum along to the music.

## OUR ANNIVERSARIES

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**Elvanto member website:** [oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au](http://oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au)

**Facebook:** OakFlatsAnglican **Twitter:** @oakflats **Instagram:** @oakflats

**Minister:** Rev Sam Pursell **M:** 0417 711 314 **E:** [sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Parish Administrator:** Miss Valerie O'Regan **M:** 0408 271 189 **E:** [val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Office Hours:** Mon & Fri: 9am-5pm; Thur: 9am-12pm; Tue & Wed: Closed

**Wardens:** Dave Crook **M:** 0404 337 502 Geoff Kyngdon **M:** 0417 044 565 Phil Pratt **M:** 0411 328 731

**Safe Ministry Representative:** Harley Mills **M:** 0409 562 932 **E:** [harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Pastoral Care:** Rhonda Slocombe **M:** 0400 679 703 **E:** [rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com)

## GIVE ELECTRONICALLY - BANK DETAILS

**Name:** Oak Flats Anglican

**BSB:** 633 000

**Account:** 164 385 841