



The blessing of unity

It is a wonderful thing that even though we are all so different, in Christ we can come together in unity to praise the Lord. In Old Testament Israel, all the people from each tribe of the nation would come together to worship the Lord. Despite the history between many of them, they would gather at the temple in Jerusalem at the festivals where the covenant people of God would seek divine grace. Psalm 133 focuses on this unity:

*How good and pleasant it is
when God's people live together in unity!
It is like precious oil poured on the head,
running down on the beard,
running down on Aaron's beard,
down on the collar of his robe.
It is as if the dew of Hermon
were falling on Mount Zion.
For there the LORD bestows his blessing,
even life forevermore.*

When we gather together as a church we too stand in the line of God's people, assembled as his covenant people in unity under him. Some weeks it may seem very normal and mundane, but it is remarkable, as Hebrews 12:22-24 reminds us:

But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, this is who and what we are united around: God the judge and Jesus the mediator seated in the heavenly Jerusalem. From there the Lord bestows his blessing to us, even life forevermore.

- Sam Pursell

Church News

Kids' Church Picnic

Join us on **Sunday 30th January at 12pm** for a Kids' Church Picnic.
Meet at Central Park, Oak Flats. BYO food & drinks plus chairs or picnic rug.

5pm Service

Our 5pm service returns next **Sunday, 30th January.**

Birthdays

23rd Barbara Mayhew

Anniversaries

27th Ethan & Kelly Dobbie

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN

Sun 30th Kids' Church Picnic
 5pm Service resumes

FEB

Tue 1st SRE Conference
Fri 4th Kids' Club & Refuge resumes
Tue 8th Ladies' Dinner
Thu 10th Parish Council
Sat 19th Men's Prayer Breakfast

MAR

Sat 5th Ladies' craft afternoon
Thu 10th Parish Council
Sun 13th AGM & Potluck lunch (TBC)
Tue 22nd Men's Dinner
Tue 29th Ladies' Dinner

APR

Fri 15th Good Friday
Sun 17th Easter Sunday

The people who are serving us

9.30am Service	23rd Jan	30th Jan	5pm Service	30th Jan
Welcomer:	K Eton	D Slocombe	Welcomer:	J Hoffer
Bible Reader:	R Eton	G Taylor	Bible Reader:	J Evans
Prayer Leader:	M Peters	P Taylor	Prayer Leader:	V O'Regan
Kids' Program:	N/A	B Firley/ M Klasson	Afternoon Tea:	M Peters
Morning Tea:	C Bonnici/ C Smith	J Orange/ R Slocombe	Meal Clean Up:	A Peters
Meal Clean Up:	D Slocombe	D Orange		

Cleaning Saturday: A & M Peters

Mowing Saturday: P Pratt/R Siles

Luke's Gospel

John: Preparing the way for the Lord

Luke 3:1-22

Sam Pursell • 23rd January 2022

1. Prepare for the Lord (1-6)
2. Repentance and its fruit (7-14)
3. John is not the Messiah (15-20)
4. Jesus is The Son, The Messiah, The Lord (21-22)

Next Sunday...

God's plan for salvation • Luke 3:23-38 • Sam Pursell

Information about our Church

Your kids are welcome

Children are welcome to stay with you during church. Kids church starts roughly 15 mins into the 9:30am service (during school terms).

You may also take your child to the Cry Room at the rear of the church to watch us live on a TV.

Check out our bookstall

View our quality selection of Christian books for sale at the bookstall located at the rear of the church.

Join a small group

Our midweek small groups are great for connecting with others. To join a group, contact the office.

We are filming church

(9:30am service only)

For those unable to attend, we are streaming and recording video at live.oakflatsanglican.com.

You may be filmed.

Kids and Youth programs

In school terms, we offer a range of midweek programs for toddlers, children and youth.

COVID Safety Practices

A reminder that:

- Wearing masks is mandatory indoors.
- **QR code check-in** remains mandatory at church.
- There is no limit to numbers on site.
- Doors and windows will be open to maximise ventilation.
- Maintain physical distancing of 1.5m where possible.
- Hand sanitiser is still easily accessible.
- **Please stay home if you are unwell, even if your symptoms are mild.**

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Website: oakflatsanglican.com **Livestream:** live.oakflatsanglican.com

Elvanto member website: oakflatsanglican.elvanto.com.au

Minister: Rev Sam Pursell - 0417 711 314 - sam.pursell@oakflatsanglican.com

Parish Administrator: Miss Valerie O'Regan - 0408 271 189 - val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com

Office Hours: Mon & Fri: 9am-5pm

Wardens: Dave Crook - 0404 337 502; Andy Peters - 0414 799 001; Peter Taylor - 0448 190 946

Pastoral Care: Rhonda Slocombe - 0400 679 703 - rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com

Prayer Coordinator: Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565 - geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com

Safe Ministry Representative: Harley Mills - 0409 562 932 - harley.mills@oakflatsanglican.com

GIVE ELECTRONICALLY - BANK DETAILS

Name: Oak Flats Anglican **BSB:** 633 000 **Account:** 164 385 841

Prayers

CURRENT PRAYERS

People in need

Bob & Margaret Abrahams, Marlene Arthur, Jean Beetles, Olga & John Covetz, Dave & Jan Crook, Sherida & Gary Findell, Auriel & Barrie Hadley, Raija & Robert Hannam, Joy Meyer, Pam Moore, Charlie October, Paduch family, Allan Quinn, Merv Sercombe, Sue Simpson, Sandra & Hanno Stanojevic, Mary Straughan, Betty Uren, Greg & Sue Vickery, Chris & John Wilson.

Our Parish

Pray that our services will meet the needs of our members, old and new and will draw in new friends from our community.

2022 ministry preparation

Pray for Sam and all our ministry leaders as they prepare for the start up of our regular ministries in a few weeks' time.

SRE teachers and students

Pray that God would raise up enough teachers to cover all the classes at Oak Flats Public and Balarang Public.

Pray that many parents and carers will choose to have their children learn about Christianity from the Bible.

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 health & safety and be conscious of our freedom as restrictions change, that we would act in a way that keep all safe, especially those more vulnerable.

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 and Youth Ministry

Kids' Church.

Adult Ministry

Seniors (Prime Time).

Local Evangelism

Outreach to emergency services and community groups.

Members unable to attend church

Those house-bound or living in nursing homes including Bob & Margaret Abrahams, Marlene Arthur, Audrey Ford and Lily Lyddiard.

Local Public Schools

Oak Flats Public, Balarang Public and Oak Flats High.