



Jesus: light in the darkness

As the news reports rolled in from Bondi Beach last Sunday night, I was saddened and sickened to my stomach. The terror which took place at Bondi beach reveals that no place is immune to the deep problems of humanity.

In the context of war and worldwide divisions over who is the most wicked, my mind was immediately drawn to Jesus, who changes the focus back upon each of us. Just that afternoon I read with some people Jesus' own words: *"For it is from within, out of a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and defile a person."* (Mark 7:20-21)

But Jesus did not come with a rifle or sword in order to honour God and purify the world. Rather, he died at the hands of wicked people, so that they could be saved. Jesus' self-sacrifice is light and life to a world darkened by evil and sin (John 1:4-5). Furthermore, his instruction for those who follow him, and are zealous for God, is this: *"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."* (Luke 6:27-28)

The Bible states that authorities are to administer justice and do good for our society (Romans 13:1-7), and that we must pray for a peaceful and quiet society for all people (1 Timothy 2:1-2). At this time we are particularly to pray for the safety and consolation of our Jewish communities. Yet above all, we recognise and pray for widespread reception of the deeper peace, hope and restoration for the world, which comes through the self-giving love of God, in the Jewish man Jesus Christ. *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people."* (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

- Sam Pursell

Church News

Carols on the grass

We'd love you to join us at **5pm this evening** for our Community Carols Celebration!

Plus, a FREE sausage sizzle... yum!

Christmas Day Service

Join us at the special time of **9am on Christmas Day** for an all-age, community celebration of the birth of Jesus!

Children & Youth programs

During school holidays, our normal children's and youth programs take a break until February.

Activity sheets will be available for children at our services.

CMS Stamp Collecting

If you have any stamps you'd like to donate towards CMS, bring them to church and place them in the brown box located on the Book Stall shelf.

Birthdays

26th Sherida Findell
Pam Moore
27th Ed Stanojevic

Anniversaries

22nd Sam & Susan Pursell

Give Electronically

BANK DETAILS

Name: Oak Flats Anglican

BSB: 633 000

Account: 164 385 841

Serving Roster

Saturday

27th Dec

Cleaning:

D & R Slocombe

Mowing:

N/A

Sunday

21st Dec

Welcomer: A Kerr/V O'Regan

Bible Reader: J Mills

Prayer Leader: A Peters

Morning Tea: M Klasson/B Mayhew

MT Clean Up: A Peters

Thursday

25th Dec

D & R Slocombe

J Orange

V O'Regan

N/A

N/A

28th Dec

J & M Klasson

R Slocombe

P Pratt

J Mills/J Orange

A Kerr

The resurrection of the body, and the life to come

John 11:17-27; 1 Corinthians 15:12-24 & Revelation 21:1-5

Sam Pursell • 21st December 2025

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

1. The resurrection of the dead

2. The life of the age to come

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 service (during school terms).

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 Bible study group

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

We are filming church

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.

Weekly prayer meeting

Saturday, 7:30am (online via Zoom)

A time to share, to encourage, and to pray for one another. Come join us and experience and power of prayer!

Contact Geoff Kyngdon for details.



Scan for the online 'Contact Us' form

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

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

Wardens: Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565;

Andy Peters - 0414 799 001; Ed Stanojevic - 0405 970 434

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

Prayers

CURRENT PRAYERS

Bondi tragedy

For the many families and friends impacted by the senseless killing. For all who are mourning, especially those closest to the victims. For Jewish congregations across the country.

For those who remain in hospital. For all those caring for the injured.

For the on-the-spot volunteers who responded so bravely and compassionately. For the injured police officers, particularly those whose working lives may be permanently affected. For all police and ambulance staff involved on the day and in the aftermath.

For the accused, that justice would be done. For all our leaders. For the Prime Minister, to show courage and true leadership. For balanced, thoughtful action, not just words.

For eyes to be turned to Jesus, the only true "Light of the World".

Our Church and Christmas

Carols Service: for all involved in preparing and serving, for joy, unity, and energy. That many in our community would come and hear the good news of Jesus.

People in need: Carmen Bonnici, Bronwyn Clark, John & Olga Covetz, David & Jan Crook, Kevin & Ruth Eton, Barrie & Auriel Hadley, Robert & Raija Hannam, Pauline Kirby, Graeme & Marianne Krout, Pam Moore & family, Debbie Paget, Resh Prasad, O'Regan family, Merv & Nola Sercombe, Eileen Stokes, Allan Quinn, Helen Wagemans, John Wilson.

That this Christmas our hearts would be focused on Jesus, and that many would come to know the hope He brings.

REGULAR PRAYERS (Cycle 3 of 4)

Church ministries

Kids Church, Kids Club, Playmakers playgroup.

Youth ministry.

School Scripture (SRE).

Bible Study groups.

Pilates & Praise.

Anglicare Community Pantry.

Women's and Men's ministry.

Ministry to seniors.

Members unable to attend church

Those house-bound or living in nursing homes including Margaret Abrahams, Olga Covetz, Lily Lyddiard, Pat Pepper, Merv Sercombe.

Staff & Senior Leadership

Our Minister Sam Pursell, his wife Susan and their kids Ed, Mary and Angela.

Valerie O'Regan (Parish Administrator).

Wardens and Parish Councillors.

Diocesan Leadership

Archbishop of Sydney, Kanishka Raffel.

Bishop of Wollongong, Peter Hayward.

Church members

Dianne Young

Tania Young

Zac & Carol Adams

Sabah Al Qass Ounan

Lenore & Joe Armour