



Blessings in the New Year

In his 17th-century work *The Country Parson*, George Herbert reflects on the diminished use of blessings by both laity and clergy in his time. He wonders if perhaps it is due to conformity with worldly greetings and complements, or whether some might think them empty and superfluous. Reading his words today, I imagine that the use of blessings is even less common now than 400 years ago!

Blessings are often said in church. We end most services by saying to one another, 'Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.' As we disperse, we declare that we live in the peace of Christ, and seek to love him and serve him in the world. Another commonly used blessing comes from Numbers 6:24-26, and may it be true for you in the New Year:

*"The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace."*

Blessing in the Bible is not primarily concerned with the things for which the term is most often used today. For example, material wealth, a happy family situation or a new job. In some cases, blessing means expressing gratitude on social media in the form of Christian humblebrag (#blessed) which dutifully links such worldly success to God. While these examples are nonetheless blessing from God, the central focus of Biblical blessing is a close personal relationship with the Lord. Knowing him, his love, and then afterwards enjoying all the good things he gives.

Finally, in the face of rising tensions across various groups in our society, it is important to reflect on who we should bless in our prayers, words and actions. Jesus directs us to bless widely, as God does:

"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)

May you be blessed by the Lord in the New Year and be a blessing to all.

- Sam Pursell

WELCOME TO CHURCH • SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY 2026

Church News

Holidays are here!

We're delighted that you could join us today during this time of holidays. If you're taking some time off with family and friends then be sure to give thanks to God for the joy (and sometimes challenges) of relationships, as we hope for Heaven!

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.

Pursell family on holidays

Sam, Susan and the family will be taking a much deserved break from this **Tuesday 6th January to Tuesday 20th January**. The church office is open during regular hours and our Wardens (Geoff Kyngdon, Andy Peters and Ed Stanojevic) are also available if any matter arises.

Birthdays

6th Barrie Hadley

10th Pauline Kirby

Anniversaries

Give Electronically

BANK DETAILS

Name: Oak Flats Anglican

BSB: 633 000

Account: 164 385 841

Serving Roster

Saturday

10th January

Cleaning:

J & M Klasson/B Clark

Mowing:

N/A

Sunday

Welcomer:

Bible Reader:

Prayer Leader:

Morning Tea:

MT Clean Up:

4th January

R Prasad/E Stanojevic

A Stavert

G Kyngdon

B Irwin/A Kerr

C Bonnici

11th January

P Moore/V O'Regan

E Stanojevic

J Stavert

C Bonnici/M Klasson

J Orange

Integrity in our life with the Lord

Psalm 15

Sam Pursell • 4th January 2026

1. Life with God (v. 1)

2. A call to comprehensive righteousness (v. 2-5a)

3. Remaining secure in the Lord (v. 5b)

Next Sunday...

Geoff Kyngdon

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 2025

For those grieving, for the injured, and for all who witnessed the tragedy.

For first responders, especially the Bondi Police team, and for Police, Ambulance, Fire, SES and Chaplains as they continue to serve amid ongoing impact and trauma.

For safety within our community, and for those working to protect and care for others.

For our State Leaders and Public Servants, for wisdom, restraint and common sense as laws and policies are considered.

For our National Leaders, and for AFP and ASIO officers, for clear judgement, sound intelligence and responsible decision-making.

Our Ministries

Thank God for sustaining us in 2025.

Continued planning for 2026 for vision and overall support.

Refreshment during the end of year break.

Our People

For those who are struggling with various issues, exacerbated by the time of the year.

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, O'Regan family, Merv & Nola Sercombe, Eileen Stokes, Allan Quinn, Helen Wagemans, John Wilson.

REGULAR PRAYERS (Cycle 1 of 4)

Government

King Charles.

The Prime Minister and federal politicians.

The Premier and NSW state politicians.

Our Mayor and local government.

Those serving in the defence forces, including chaplains.

The World

International leaders.

The persecuted church.

Local Community

Oak Flats Public, Balarang Public and Oak Flats High schools.

Emergency services.

Local community groups.

Indigenous communities.

The poor.

People with physical, mental illness.

People socially disconnected.

Church members

Hinea Clark

John & Olga Covetz

Dave, Jan, Sienna, Abigail & Ashkan Crook

Jenni & Matt Dawes; Flynn & Rhys

Faulconbridge

Brian Dixon