



## The true and lasting happiness of joy

“Do what makes you happy.” “I just want my kids to be happy.” Our culture prizes happiness above almost everything else.

Christians, however, often speak instead about joy. Scripture is full of it. The psalmist writes, “At his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord” (Ps 27:6). Paul urges believers, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Phil 4:4).

Because of this emphasis, many Christians draw a sharp line between joy and happiness. Happiness, we are told, is light and fleeting, shaped by circumstances. Joy, on the other hand, is deep, constant, and rooted in God. Paul’s words, “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing” (2 Cor 6:10), are often used to show that joy cannot be the same as happiness.

But perhaps this distinction goes too far.

Joy is *not* less than happiness. In fact, happiness is an essential part of true spiritual joy. If joy lacked any positive feeling, it would no longer be joy at all. Scripture regularly describes joy as something that makes people sing, shout, leap, and celebrate (Ps 98:4–9; Luke 6:23). At times, the Bible even uses words like gladness and happiness alongside joy.

When Paul says he is “sorrowful, yet always rejoicing,” he is not denying that joy is positive. Rather, he shows that Christians can experience deep happiness in God even while walking through real sorrow. Joy does not erase pain, but it exists alongside it.

Christian joy, then, is not shallow or fragile happiness. It is **true and lasting happiness rooted in heavenly realities**—a gladness grounded not in circumstances, possessions, or success, but in the unchanging goodness of God.

Extract adapted from Abby Wright, *Moore Matters Summer 2025/26*

**WELCOME TO CHURCH • SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**

# Church News

## Lovell's visit

Our CMS link missionaries, Adrian, Anita, Matias and Maya Lovell, will be joining us next **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January** and Adrian will be preaching.

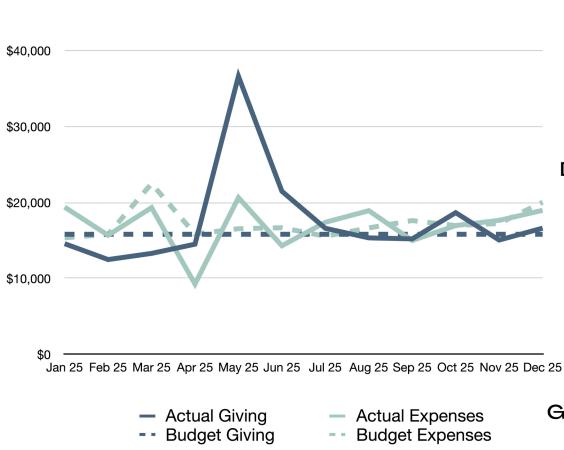
After the service we will share together in a potluck lunch. Please **sign up to bring a plate of food to share.**

## 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.

## Finance Update (to the end of 2025)



## Term 1 Rosters

A reminder to let Val know if you will be unavailable during the period of **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February through to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April**.

If you would like to serve, or have any questions regarding the rosters, please contact Val.

## Birthdays

23<sup>rd</sup>      Barbara Mayhew  
                 Emmy Stavert



December Giving  
We fell behind the budget by \$802



Giving Year to date  
We have exceeded the budget by \$20,652

## Give Electronically

### BANK DETAILS

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

## Serving Roster

### Saturday

**24<sup>th</sup> January**

### Cleaning:

P & C Pratt/R Hannam

### Mowing:

N/A

### Sunday

#### Welcomer:

D & J Orange

#### Bible Reader:

G Taylor

#### Prayer Leader:

D Young

R Hannam/B Mayhew

#### Morning Tea:

A Peters

### 18<sup>th</sup> January

#### Welcomer:

D & J Orange

#### Bible Reader:

G Taylor

#### Prayer Leader:

D Young

#### MT Clean Up:

A Peters

### 25<sup>th</sup> January

#### A & M Peters

P Pratt

H Mills

J & A Stavert

P Pratt

# There Are No Chance Encounters in God's Economy

John 4:7-42

Geoff Kyngdon • 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

1. Background and a Remarkable Meeting. (v. 7-9)

2. Confusion and Clarity. (v. 10-14)

3. A logical Response and Question (v. 15)

4. An Insightful Question from left field. (v. 16-24)

5. A God Fearing Woman and a Perfect Answer. (v. 25-26)

6. An Immediate Response. (v. 27-30)

7. The Work of the Holy Spirit. Many Saved. (v. 39-42)

*Next Sunday...*

Adrian Lovell

# 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](http://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](http://oakflatsanglican.com) **Livestream:** [live.oakflatsanglican.com](http://live.oakflatsanglican.com)

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

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

**Parish Administrator:** Valerie O'Regan - 0408 271 189 - [val.oregan@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto: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](mailto:rhonda.slocombe@oakflatsanglican.com)

**Prayer Coordinator:** Geoff Kyngdon - 0417 044 565 - [geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com](mailto:geoff.kyngdon@oakflatsanglican.com)

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

# Prayers

## CURRENT PRAYERS

### World Developments

Peace and stability in Syria, Iran, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, and Venezuela.

Wisdom for global leaders, clarity in political decisions in Mexico and Colombia, and guidance for UN, USA, EU, and other world authorities.

African nations facing mixed despair and hope.

### Our Nation

National healing as a Royal Commission into the Bondi attack proceeds.

Leaders to act with integrity and courage. Protection amid fires, floods, drought, and community strain.

For emergency services, chaplains, their families, and rural communities.

### Our Missions

Volunteers, funding, and prayerful support as ministries plan for 2026.

**Outreach:** SRE, Pantry, Playmakers, Kids Club, Refuge, services, and Bible studies. Families, young children, and vision for all involved.

### One Another

For encouragement, support, and care for each other.

**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 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, Sandra Stanojevic.

### 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

Barrie & Auriel Hadley

Paul & Hazel Hall

Robert & Raija Hamman

Erin Hick

Yvonne Hurst