



## God works with what he's got

Sometimes we think that we need to get ourselves to a certain degree of holiness before God is happy to work with us. For this is often the case in other areas in our lives. Skill up, train hard, study well and you will get onto the team, land the job, or be invited into the group of friends devoted to a pastime. But we must never forget that God works with where you are at today, not some place of perfection.

This year, you probably already have neglected to pray about something important, made harsh comments, or in some way failed to live the kind of life Jesus calls us to. But be reassured, God is still working with you. He is the one who saved you, who transforms you, and always dwells with you. So do not think that you first need to change yourself to be worthy. The good news of the Bible is that God releases people stuck in their ways.

So do not despair about what you are like now, but be reassured that Jesus loves you and will change you, as you strive to live for him. Jesus instructed his apostles and disciples who followed after them in Matthew 28:20 that they were to teach and obey everything he had commanded, and that he support us all until his return.

*“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

Similarly, the 'you' which Jesus speaks of is plural. He doesn't just work with you individually, where you are at, but all the members of his church. This should reshape how we interact with one another, mindful that they are God's work in progress. The grace, patience and forgiveness God shows to you, should be extended to others as well. In this, we become more like the merciful Lord, in mutual growth, working from where each of us are at right now.

- Sam Pursell

# Church News

## Welcome to the Lovells

It is wonderful to have our CMS Link Missionaries, Adrian, Anita, Matias and Maya Lovell, with us today, sharing about their life in Bolivia.

Please take the opportunity to say hello and welcome them.

## Pot Luck Lunch

Join us as we gather after our morning service today for lunch.

Thank you to everyone who has provided food and drinks!

## Kids Church Returns!

Kids Church starts back for the year today - we're so excited to welcome our kids back!

To kick off the year, families are invited to join us on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 12:30pm** for a picnic. We'll meet at The Red Lamp Playspace (1 Reddall Parade, Lake Illawarra).

Bring a picnic, enjoy time together, and start the year with fun and fellowship.

## Birthdays

28<sup>th</sup> Arthur Stavert

29<sup>th</sup> Amy Kerr

## Children & Youth programs

Our other children's and youth programs, Playmakers, Kids Club and Refuge are still on a break until February.

## Term 1 Rosters

The rosters for all those serving have been emailed. Please make sure you check your inbox to find out when you are serving.

Paper copies are available for pick up at the welcome desk.

## Position Vacant: SRE Teacher

### (Lake Illawarra High School)

SISMB are looking to appoint an SRE Teacher for Lake Illawarra High School, working 7.6 hours (one day) per week. View the full advertisement online at [su.org.au/careers/sreri](http://su.org.au/careers/sreri).



*The Red Lamp Playspace*

## Give Electronically

### BANK DETAILS

BSB: 633 000

Account: 164 385 841

Name: Oak Flats Anglican

## Serving Roster

**Saturday**

**31<sup>st</sup> January**

**Cleaning:**

D & R Slocombe

**Mowing:**

A Peters/P Pratt

**Sunday**

**25<sup>th</sup> January**

**1<sup>st</sup> February**

**Welcomer:**

A & M Peters

D & R Slocombe

**Bible Reader:**

P Pratt

P Evans

**Prayer Leader:**

H Mills

V O'Regan

**Morning Tea:**

J & A Stavert

R Hannam/M Klasson

**MT Clean Up:**

P Pratt

P Pratt

**Kids Church:**

V O'Regan

B Firley

# Shadow Kingdom

Matthew 13:24-43

Adrian Lovell • 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

1. The Reality of the Kingdom (v. 24-30)

2. The Rise of the Kingdom (v. 31-33)

3. The Revelation of the Kingdom (v. 34-43)

**Next Sunday...**

LUKE SERMON SERIES • 'Jesus' kingdom is now and to come' • Sam Pursell  
Readings: Luke 4:16-21 & Luke 17:20-37

# 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

### Australia

In the aftermath of Bondi, for our nation as grief, anger, and confusion deepen.

For our elected and appointed leaders, amid poor decision-making and rushed legislation, that wisdom, humility, and accountability would prevail.

For Christian witness and words in a fractured public space, and discernment in how we speak and act.

For communities affected by fires in Victoria, flooding along the Great Ocean Road and North Queensland, drought, heat, stock losses, and rising crime.

### Local Community

Students and families returning to school.

Those struggling with rising essential costs, and wisdom to help those in special need.

For comfort following the tragic death on Macquarie Pass.

### 2026 Ministries

Wisdom and sound planning as we look ahead.

Wise use of resources, more volunteers, and faithful prayer support.

A heart for the harvest, welcoming visitors, strengthening outreach ministries, and caring for those on the fringe.

### 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 4 of 4)

### *Making Disciples of Jesus in Oak Flats*

#### Engage

That we would engage people from our community with the grace and love God has shown to us.

#### Evangelise

That we would share the goods news about Jesus with all people and see conversion.

#### Establish

That we would teach people to know and obey Christ's teaching.

That we would be true friends with people in our church.

That we would love one another and support one another in life's challenges.

#### Equip

That we would raise up workers for the gospel harvest.

That we would train people to various ministry roles, giving them skills, encouragement and space to flourish.

#### Church members

Ken Illiffe

Ben, Adrianna, Elena & Henrik Irwin

Amy Kerr

Pauline Kirby

John & Mia Klasson