



Diversifying our prayer

A few weeks ago, I was reading Psalm 4, and was struck that in the opening verse David demands that God hears his prayer!

*Answer me when I call to you,
my righteous God.*

*Give me relief from my distress;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer. (Psalm 4:1)*

When was the last time I did the same? I cannot remember! Scanning over the two open pages before me I wondered - how often do I pray like the Psalms? Sure, they are highly poetic, breathed out by the Spirit of God (2 Timothy 3:16), and humanly speaking, probably written down, crafted and edited before being shared. But the range of ways God is addressed puts me to shame.

It was another reminder of how the Scriptures can expand our prayer vocabulary. For there is a transforming and renewing of our mind which takes place as we pray through each part of the Bible, particularly those which are explicitly prayers.

We may readily list the concerns of our hearts and minds, and pray for them. But reading and praying through scripture grows us to pray beyond ourselves.

Imagine if you prayed to God about your material concerns, anxieties, joys in a similar way to the last 3 verses of Psalm 4. Pray through Scripture and you can learn to do so. What a privilege it is to approach God with such confidence brought by our salvation in Jesus Christ, trained and shaped by the words that God has given to us.

*Many, LORD, are asking, "Who will bring us prosperity?"
Let the light of your face shine on us.*

*Fill my heart with joy
when their grain and new wine abound.
In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for you alone, LORD,
make me dwell in safety. (Psalm 4:6-8)*

- Sam Pursell

WELCOME TO CHURCH • SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2026

Church News

Children & Youth programs

We're excited to welcome our children and young people back for another term of fun, learning, and friendship! Please keep our leaders and kids in your prayers as they gather.

- **Kids Church** is already back in action.
- **Kids Club and Refuge Youth** return on **Friday, 6th February** - we can't wait to see everyone!
- **Playmakers** playgroup will kick off on **Tuesday, 10th February** - come along and join the fun!

Kids Church Picnic!

To kick off the year, families are invited to join us on **Sunday 15th 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

2nd Auriel Hadley

Wedding Celebration – Ed & Resh

We rejoice with Ed Stanojevic and Resh Prasad, who will be married this coming **Saturday 7th February at 2pm** here at church.

Please give thanks to God for Ed and Resh, and keep them in your prayers as they prepare for their wedding day and begin their married life together.



Position Vacant: SRE Teacher

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.

Anniversaries

7th Merv & Nola Sercombe

Give Electronically

BANK DETAILS

BSB: 633 000

Account: 164 385 841

Serving Roster

Saturday
7th February

Cleaning:
D & J Orange
Mowing:
N/A

Sunday	1 st February	8 th February
Welcomer:	D & R Slocombe	P Moore & J Stavert
Bible Reader:	P Evans	J Dunkeld
Prayer Leader:	V O'Regan	G Kyngdon
Morning Tea:	R Hannam/M Klasson	C Bonnici/B Mayhew
MT Clean Up:	P Pratt	V O'Regan
Kids Church:	B Firley	M Klasson

Luke's Gospel

Jesus' kingdom is now and to come

Luke 17:20-37

Sam Pursell • 1st February 2026

1. The kingdom of God has begun (v. 20-21)

2. The king will return suddenly and visibly (v. 22-25)

3. Don't be preoccupied with the world (v. 26-30)

4. Value your life and join with Jesus (v. 31-37)

Next Sunday...

'Persist in prayer' • Sam Pursell • **Readings:** Psalm 88:1-18 & Luke 18:1-8

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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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

Australia & Our Local Community

Cost of living pressures, including housing costs, interest rates and school expenses.

Communities affected by bushfires, flooding and extreme weather, especially in Victoria and parts of NSW.

Drought conditions, farming pressures, and safety during planting and harvesting.

Government, Civic & Community Leaders

State and Federal leaders, for integrity, accountability and wise stewardship amid serious budget pressures.

Police and emergency services, stretched by crime and community need.

Police leadership, officers known to us, and Police Chaplains serving across Australia.

World Concerns

Ongoing conflict and instability in Iran, the Middle East, Ukraine and Russia, Venezuela and across Africa.

Protection and endurance for Christians facing persecution.

Comfort for those who mourn and effectiveness of aid and mission efforts.

Our Church & Ministries

Thanksgiving for: Pantry, Playmakers, SRE, Kids Club, Refuge, hospitality, music and pastoral care.

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

Graeme & Marianne Krout

Geoff Kyngdon

Karen Laird

Barbara Mayhew

Harley & Jane Mills