



Seek you first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

## PRAYER CHANGES...

THEREFORE  
*confess your sins to each other  
and pray for each other*  
so that you may be  
healed. THE PRAYER OF  
A RIGHTEOUS PERSON  
IS POWERFUL AND  
EFFECTIVE.

JAMES 5:16

### This Issue

Cathedral + Prayer / Praying with the Dying / To Stream or Not to Stream?

Teaching Children to Pray/ AnglicareCQ Strategic Planning

Mothers Union Prayer Trees / ABM-A support in PNG

#### FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

Welcome to Edition #8 of **CQFirst**.

Since launching **CQFirst** back in March, my aim has been to produce a short magazine that encourages us in our *walk with God*. The theme this month is **Prayer**, so vitally important for our own spiritual health and also the spiritual health of our churches. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition.

Dianne from the Cathedral has written about her 'prayer quilt' - a visual reminder of our Lord's resurrection and therefore the hope and confidence in which we pray. It currently hangs in the Cathedral for all to reflect upon. Rev Andrew from Wandal, and our Rockhampton Hospital Chaplain, has written about praying with those who are dying. Andrew shares his experience of the importance of prayer, 'until our final breath'.

Rev Philip, from Keppel, and our Diocesan Children's Minister, writes about how we can encourage our children, and grandchildren, to become prayers from an early age. Thus, in one sense, this edition of **CQFirst** covers **Prayer**, from the cradle to the grave! Finally the Mother's Union share about how they use 'Prayer Trees' to pray specifically for those affected by domestic violence in our community.

Synod is fast approaching. One of the issues being discussed is the role of GAFCON. Originally I had planned 'for' and 'against' GAFCON articles for this edition. I have held them back for after Synod. They did not sit well with this month's focus on Prayer, whereas next month's **CQFirst** will focus on the Bible, and can we trust it? Instead, I have shared some of my own thoughts and experiences of being Anglican.

The Ven Tom Henderson-Brooks

### Diocesan Mission Prayer

God of Mission,  
who alone brings growth to your Church,  
as we seek to love you and to love others we pray;  
send your Holy Spirit to give vision to our planning,  
wisdom to our actions, and power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
in spiritual commitment to you,  
and in service to our local community,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### A Prayer for our Bishop-Elect

Eternal God, Shepherd and Guide,  
in your mercy you have given your church in the Rockhampton Diocese  
a shepherd after your own heart, who will walk in your ways  
and who will, with loving care, watch over your people.  
We praise you that you have given us a leader of vision and a teacher of your truth.  
Lord, we earnestly pray, build up your church in this Diocese,  
enable and equip your children with the power of your Spirit  
to draw people to yourself from every walk of life, so that your name may be glorified.  
We pray for Peter, for Virginia, and their family.  
Thank you for their willingness to cross this great country,  
to love and serve your people across Central Queensland.  
We pray for ourselves and the people of our communities.  
Prepare our hearts and minds. Help us to be prayerful, as we have been asked to be,  
to receive your word and to welcome them with open arms and loving hospitality,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### A Prayer for Synod

Almighty and ever-living God,  
give wisdom and understanding  
to the members of the Synod of this Diocese.  
Teach us in all things  
to seek first your honour and glory.  
May we perceive what is right,  
have courage to pursue it,  
and grace to accomplish it,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



### A Prayer Quilt

Dianne Jehu, a member of the cathedral congregation, kindly created a prayer quilt which we used in our parish Zoom services through the COVID-19 lockdown period.

The quilt serves as a symbol of our unshakable hope in the resurrected Lord and a focus for prayer, in the knowledge that the Lord is always there for us. No matter what happens, God is our provider and protector. Isaiah 41:10, *'do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.'*

Wherever you go, whatever you do over the coming months, be assured of God's constant presence and care. You will always be prayed for here. Pray for the Cathedral and the Diocese, our nation and the world.

Let us pray for one another, as Christ Jesus prayed for his disciples: *'The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one'* (John 17:22).



# THE CALL TO STAND UP AND GIVE MORE



**P**rayers have been a great part of my whole life and have always been a time for me to be still - not always to ask, but always a great time to listen. As life has been somewhat hard, with the pressure of life within the church being disrupted by changes and also COVID-19, I had felt quite despondent and beaten - but I have always prayed. When Dean Melusi asked me about making a prayer quilt it led me in a very different direction and made me realise I was...

**R**eady to stand up and give more. I had always felt if we can bring people together in the community we would have a greater opportunity to share the love, grace and support that Christianity and the Bible teaches. How could we...

**A**chieve this? To have a celebration leading up to Christmas in the way of a Christmas Fair. This would create community, increase our income and was something I had hoped for for some time. Previously parishioners have said we don't have enough people and it would be too hard. Not to be put off, I started to ask many people in the Parish and beyond and to my surprise every person said...

**Y**es - yes - yes! Sisters and brothers from other parishes in the Diocese would be asked to participate. We could pray together with ecumenical partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ. In particular, we would pray for the world we live in. Due to COVID -19 not many of us were experiencing much...

**E**xcitement. We put together a steering committee with each one bringing many talents, skills, and new ideas - we shared and prayed - took away something to explore and bring back to set into motion this wonderful event. As with many excitements comes disappointments. The next time we came together it was the hard task of one of our group to explain we would not be able to proceed due to constraints around COVID. While this event cannot happen in this way it has brought to us quite a few:

**R**evelations, especially to me and I hope others too. We do have support - we need always to ask for help. We have been able to come together and build a foundation to work on, and will do some events in a much smaller way. During this I have had a very clear feeling of God's helping Hand. Through Christ, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we will bring a greater spirit of COMMUNITY - GRACE - LOVE and SUPPORT to others in a time of great need in God's world.

Dianne Jeha



## PRAYING WITH THE DYING

I receive a phone call from the Rockhampton Base hospital. I grab my red Anglican prayer book and holy oil. When I reach the bedside of the patient who is dying of terminal cancer, other members of the family tell me the patient grew up 'Church of England'. I begin to pray using selected prayers from the 'Ministry with the Dying' section in our AAPB. Throughout the prayers I go slowly, leaving short periods of silence. I come to the section entitled: CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION.

I tell the family and the patient that I will pray the prayer on her behalf. During this prayer the lady, who is near death, begins breathing very hard, I am holding her hand, she is not responding in any way, then all of a sudden when I pray the prayer of confession of sins she squeezes my hand very hard, then when I pray the prayer of absolution she opens her eyes and looks directly at me, then her breathing slows down, and she appears to be more peaceful. I continue in prayer, and I anoint her on the forehead with holy oil in the sign of the cross. I conclude the prayers by praying the traditional form of the Lord's prayer, 'forgive us our trespasses ...' Most of the members of the family join in.

After the prayers are finished her brother is very keen to talk, he tells me how he grew up Church of England in Rockhampton, he recounts specific names of people asking if I know them, he then introduces me to the rest of the family. One other lady is keen to ask me lots of questions about the Christian faith, she talks about trying Buddhism and meditation, I am able to share some passages of Scripture with her, in particular Romans 10:9

*"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*

At that moment I pause, the presence of God seemed to somehow be present with us. I give the dying lady's brother my business card, say 'God Bless' and leave the room.

Later that week I meet members of the family in a hospital lift, they tell me the lady has died, and thank me for my prayers.

I share this experience as an example of how during ministry with the dying people are more open to the Christian faith, some times I get to share with them, other times I do most of the listening, sometimes I form a connection and end up taking a funeral, other times I simply pray and sow a few seeds. Either way, I believe God is at work in people's lives and it is an amazing privilege to pray with individuals and families at the time of death and see God at work in their lives.



Rev Andrew Gall  
Chaplain, Rockhampton Hospital



# TO STREAM OR NOT TO STREAM

Our diocese is going through some immense changes, not all COVID-19 related, and the clergy are not immune to them. When our churches were forced to close at the beginning of April and we had to rush to be tech-ready to live-stream, I have to admit I was more than a little anxious about this as I'm not one to embrace the exposure of social media. I did so for the sake of the Gospel and for the sake of connecting our lovely people at North Rocky during the difficult times of COVID-19 lockdown. So from 5 April to 5 July, I fronted the camera and live-streamed our service to keep our people connected. Then came 12 July, the date that we were allowed to re-gather in person in the church building. What were we to do?

*"To stream or not to stream?"  
that was the question.*

There are two reasons why we decided to continue to live-stream. Firstly, if we were instructing our people to stay away if they were not feeling well, we still wanted them to be included so live-streaming was a good way of doing this. Secondly, and more importantly, this experience has made me realise even more-so that we need to connect with our community in any way that we can, even if it means getting out of our comfort zones. My own comfort pales to the importance of introducing people to Jesus, and I also realised that we need to embrace a new understanding of our church congregation.

It is not about who turns up to do what we like to do on the right day. It's about people in a relationship with Jesus, and because of that, in relationship with each other. If we can introduce one person to Jesus because they tuned in to our live-streamed service from the comfort and anonymity of their own home and heard the good news of Jesus' love and saving death and resurrection, then I'm willing to continue to live-stream our service until the day that a better Gospel vehicle presents itself.

I mentioned that our diocese is going through some immense changes. By that I mean dwindling numbers over many years, with many generations not represented. We cannot deny it any longer. I pray that we will all be united right now to embrace ANY change that is needed as we travel through COVID-19, and out the other side, that might bring more people into a real relationship with Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. The pandemic has not just been a cause of disruption for our churches, it's been a wake-up call that we need to embrace change in order to realise the possibilities of Gospel proclamation and, once again, grow our churches. This can only happen if we all get out of our comfort zones together and embrace the change in unity and love, for the sake of Jesus.

Please pray that MANY people might tune in and hear about how awesome Jesus is and that he loves them and calls them to repentance, faith, peace and eternal life, just as he calls each one of us.

Rev Matthew Taylor  
North Rckhampton Parish



# A PERSONAL REFLECTION ON ANGLICANISM

In February next year, I will be celebrating 30 years of Ordination within the Anglican Church of Australia. For me it is a significant milestone, and during that time the Anglican Church has changed much, as has society.

In the contemporary Australian Anglican Church, we enjoy a wide breadth of worship styles and traditions. We need them all because our world is far from monochrome and it has so many sub-cultures that need to hear the good news of Jesus, in a way that connects with them. However, sometimes, in a desire for the church to be relevant to speak into those sub-cultures, our church leaders abandon the very foundations of faith in Jesus and the foundations that make us Anglican.

## My Journey...

When the Rev Gary Mulquinny was trying to encourage me to offer myself for ordination when I was a 23 year old Maths Teacher, his final argument was, "the Anglican Church is the best boat to fish from in Australia." He of course was referring to Jesus' words to his disciples, of *"Come follow me, and I will teach you to become fishers of people."* I had been brought up Roman Catholic. I was baptised in the Catholic Church in London and confirmed in the Catholic Church in Sydney. However, it was only as a teenager, in an Anglican Church youth group, that I had committed my life to Jesus and had become a Christian.

I clearly remember my enthusiasm as I read the Bible for myself, thinking upon Jesus' words and reflecting upon the church institution that I saw around me in society. I knew nothing about church history or religious politics. The words 'high-church', 'low church', 'evangelical' or 'anglo-catholic' meant nothing to me. To this day,

I shrink back from typecasting people into this 'camp' or that, just as in the same way, every time I vote for a new government, I have never found myself in agreement with everything they stand for. Jesus was quite clear about the extreme danger of having a judgemental heart. All that mattered to me, and still does, was following Jesus and obeying His word, His teaching, His commands. (Hence, one of the very first questions I sought to answer for myself was 'Can I trust the Bible? which CQFirst will look at next edition.)

I'm told that my beloved grandmother was a strong lay leader in the Roman Catholic Church both in Hong Kong and Manila, but of course I was largely ignorant of all that. So when I wrote to her about my teenage, new found faith in Jesus, I was not sure of what kind of response I would get. She wrote back something like, "Everything that you wrote about, I believe. Hasn't your mother taught you these things?!"

Her response prompted me on a journey to explore the differences between Anglicanism and Roman Catholicism. (My later in life friend Rev Ray Galea, documents a similar journey to mine in his book 'Nothing in My Hand I Bring' which is well worth the read if you want to understand the differences and similarities between the Anglican and Catholic Churches.)

When one begins to examine the differences between denominations, or what traditions or practices we should adopt in our churches, it is a complex question. However, I quickly came to the conclusion that several principles were foundational.

Firstly, I want to follow Jesus! That means that everything in my personal life, I want to submit to God's will. Additionally, I want the body of



Christ (the Church) to follow Jesus. Christ Jesus is the head of the Church.

Secondly, I want to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. I want that for all my brothers and sisters in Christ as well. In fact no one can declare that Jesus is Lord apart from having the Holy Spirit dwelling in them. (1 Cor.12:3) We should expect our Church leaders to be Holy Spirit led.

Thirdly, I follow God's will by submitting myself to God's word. This is an extremely important point, and (according to our Prayer Book and 39 Articles of Religion), this is one of the foundational beliefs that distinguishes Anglicanism from Catholicism. Therefore, measuring all of our denominational 'quirks', our church traditions and practices, against God's word is at the very heart of Anglicanism.

Finally, in all other non-essential matters, we have freedom. The question for us then becomes, "Is this aspect of denominational life, is this tradition or church practice, helpful for advancing the kingdom of God, or not? Is it glorifying to God? Is it a stumbling block to faith?"

When I was in my early twenties, leading the local Anglican youth group of about 60-80, 15-25 year olds, the Sunday evening service, that was 'for the youth', was a prayer book service, with hymns on the organ and clergy in full robes. When the young people wanted to create a service that was more contemporary (for the early 1980s), instead of the church leaders saying things like, "but we've always done it this way", they said to us, "let's work with you to make the changes you think will better connect with the young people, as long as we keep following Jesus, are led by his Spirit and stay true to God's word. Outside of that, you have complete freedom."

So, we did. We moved the service out of the church into the hall. The clergy stopped wearing

robes at that service. The young people formed a worship band, under the mentorship and leadership of the gentleman who had been playing the organ. It began as a monthly 'Celebration Service' with guest speakers invited to address issues around having faith in a contemporary society. It wasn't long before we didn't fit in the hall anymore and had to move back to the bigger church! From that bunch of young people, one is now an Anglican Minister in Sydney, another was a Baptist Minister in NZ, another is a Uniting Church Minister in Sydney, another is a Church planter in Albury, and another is the Administrator in this Diocese, and I'm not even beginning to reflect upon all the young people who are now lay members of congregations across the world.

At our forthcoming Synod, I have invited a speaker from the NT who currently sits on the Australian Board of GAFCON. The Rev Joshua Kuswadi will be telling Synod members a little of the history of the formation of GAFCON and answering any questions about it. I am of course aware of the potential for controversy, but my desire is that members of Synod receive the information they need, first hand, so that they can make their own informed decisions as we elect people to participate in the life of the National Anglican Church. After Synod will be an appropriate time for CQFirst readers to read of some of the reasons for and against this movement within Anglicanism worldwide.

Finally, on a different but related note, I announced at our Diocesan Council this week, that I have accepted a role within the Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn from April 2021. I will continue on as Administrator until we have installed Bishop-Elect Peter at St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 27th February. In the meantime, I continue to do all things for the sake and glory of Christ our Lord and Saviour, in whose name I serve.

The Ven Tom Henderson-Brooks  
Diocesan Administrator/Bishop's Commissary

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sonforce Central Queensland has been fast recruiting new Special Agents for Jesus.

Sonforce Kids is the name of our Holiday kids program for children across our network of churches. Children from Blackwater to Emu Park signed up to learn special agent skills.

Due to the pandemic challenges of 2020, we moved this program to online.

The team at Keppel Anglican Church put together craft packs and small group booklets and posted them out to children across Central Queensland (a big thank you to Colleen, Anna, Jasper and the rest of the team).

Each morning the children would start the day with our program on a private Youtube channel. Together, we learnt new spy skills (you never know when a child from North Rockhampton needs to know how to jump out of a plane without a parachute), learnt a Top Secret verse about what Jesus is doing in his world. We looked at Mark 1 + 2 and considered together what it means that Jesus came not for the healthy, but for the sick.

After our morning session, the children would go offline to do some craft, making their own special agent badges and robots.

The children made some thumbprint cookies (which were remarkably similar to jam drops), along with other nutritious goodies such as Detective Dogs and fruit wands.

Holiday programs are always hard work for the teams that put them together. Usually they offer parents a break, but not this year. The parents worked very hard to help the children with their cooking, use of technology, craft and Bible discussions to see our Lord Jesus Christ who came to save sinners.

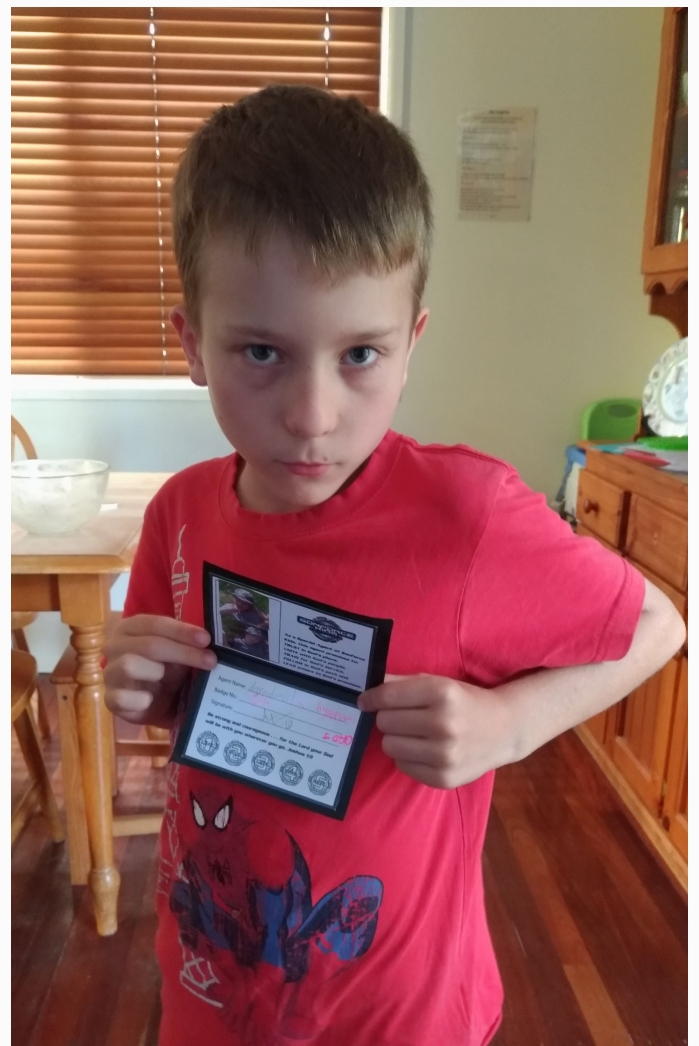
Thank you to the parents who continue to work hard all year round.



Please be praying that these young ones would come to know our Lord Jesus and grow to know him better and better.

As we look to the future, there are many things that we have learnt from the Sonforce program and restrictions placed upon us due to COVID that we may be able to use to look after the children that God has placed in our Diocese.

Rev Phillip van't Spyker  
Families Minister, CQ Diocese





# TEACHING CHILDREN TO PRAY

Prayer is both the hardest and easiest thing in the world.



**Easiest thing:** I've seen a 3 year old pray his heart out to the Lord in a way that puts many of us to shame.



**Hardest thing:** I've experienced prayer times interrupted by the world, iPhone or the thoughts in my head or the need to sleep.

In Colossians 4:12, Paul writes about Epaphras, who is... *always wrestling in prayer for you*. Prayer is a struggle and at times a battle. It won't come naturally to the children in our churches. So how will we teach them to pray?

Here are 3 tips for teaching children to pray.

**1. Remind them of the God to whom we pray.** Psalm 115:2-3 : *"Why do the nations say, 'Where is their God?' Our God is in heaven and does whatever pleases him."* There is no limit to God's power or his ability to listen to our prayers. He sent Jesus to die for us, we have full access to God the Father, so we can pray.

**2. Model Prayer.** If we want the younger members of our churches to pray. We need to model growing as a person who prays, whether they can see you or not. Talk about what you are praying about and note the prayers that God has answered. We also want to model Biblical prayer, not just *'God bless Kurt,'* but Paul's prayer in Philippians 1:9-11 for Kurt.



Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them to pray. We will need to teach the young ones to pray.

In our family, we've taught our children two prayers: The Lord's Prayer aka The Special Prayer, and a prayer before meals: *Dear God, thank you for the food and thank you that Jesus is Lord. Amen.*

These, along with our church services, will model the things to include in prayer.

### 3. Make Prayer Part of Everyday Life.

When a child has lost a ball or their shoes (EVERY SINGLE MORNING!!). We stop and pray about it before looking or asking why they weren't put away last night.

When a child hurts themselves, before reaching for the Disney band-aids to fix it. Pray about it.

Starting at a new school and nervous? Pray that the child will know and trust God in their nervousness.

When you arrive in the carpark and are looking for car space, ask a child to pray for a parking space and for Christlike behaviour such as for patience. Remember, when you find a car space, pray and thank God for the parking space and patience.

When your family or church signs up to pray for a missionary or a sponsor child, display the postcard and consistently pray for them when you see it.

We want our young people to grow in faith in our great God. So, therefore, we want to pray for, and with our children, modelling our faith in God, but coming to Him in prayer.

Rev Phillip van't Spyker  
Families Minister, CQ Diocese

# STRATEGIC PLANNING



Recently at a function, I was talking with a member of the Cathedral congregation and I mentioned my involvement with AnglicareCQ. He said that he felt that Anglicare was Anglican in name only and not associated with the Anglican church. I was shocked by this impression - we are truly part of the Anglican church in the Diocese - the Bishop and Archdeacon Tom Henderson—Brooks sit on the Board. Our work is throughout the Diocese right across Central Queensland. Our constitution is closely aligned to the church and its values.



It is therefore quite timely that the Board of AnglicareCQ has decided to draw up the Strategic Plan 2021-26 by setting out on a mission to visit all AnglicareCQ offices, meet the staff and engage with all stakeholders across the diocese. This very involved process has been driven by board members, Helen Quaife and Bronwyn Dendle working with professional facilitator, Kalair McArthur. They, along with the CEO, Carol Godwin, myself and other board members have held sessions in Emerald, Longreach, Rockhampton, Biloela and Gladstone.



Each session was well attended by a range of community organisations and Anglican ministers and wardens.

Using a method of appreciative enquiry, we have had some incredibly positive discussions and look forward to meeting with the whole board in November to draw up our final Strategic plan using the feedback from each area.

We look forward and are committed to taking AnglicareCQ into the next 5 years with a transformative strategy - building on the solid work of our dedicated staff and volunteers.



There are numerous opportunities for us to strengthen our services and to build our relationship with the church. The feedback through the communities is that AnglicareCQ is highly respected and professional with a strong reputation that aligns with our core vision "*Working with people to make the best of their lives.*"

Libby Homer  
Chair, AnglicareCQ Board



# KAREEN'S KITCHEN



Hi everyone,

Kareen here with a sweet recipe for you today. Caleb had to make something for a school project the other day, and he asked to make cupcakes. These are so delicious, and just a little bit special. We love the chai flavours at our house, I hope you do too.



## CHAI CUPCAKES WITH HONEY BUTTER ICING

Serves 12

### Cupcake ingredients

- 100g butter
- 60g castor sugar
- 80g honey
- 2 eggs
- 150g milk
- 1 ½ tspn vanilla
- 320g SR flour
- Pinch salt
- 1 tspn cinnamon
- 1 tspn ginger
- 1 tspn cloves
- 1 tspn cardamom

### Honey butter icing

- 125g butter
- 250g icing sugar
- 2 tspn hot milk
- 3 tblsp honey

### Method

Preheat oven 180C and place cupcake wrappers in a muffin tin.

### Cupcakes

1. Cream the butter, sugar and honey until light and fluffy.
2. Add the eggs, vanilla and salt and mix till combined.
3. Add the milk, flour and spices and mix till a smooth batter forms.
4. Spoon the mixture into the wrappers and bake for 15-20 minutes or until golden.

### Icing

1. Mix the icing ingredients together in a small saucepan
2. On a low heat stir until the mix is just melted and smooth
3. Place in the fridge for 15 minutes to set slightly, then pipe onto cooled cupcakes. Or you can drizzle on cooled cupcakes if you can't wait.

## ATTENTION teens in yrs 7 - 12

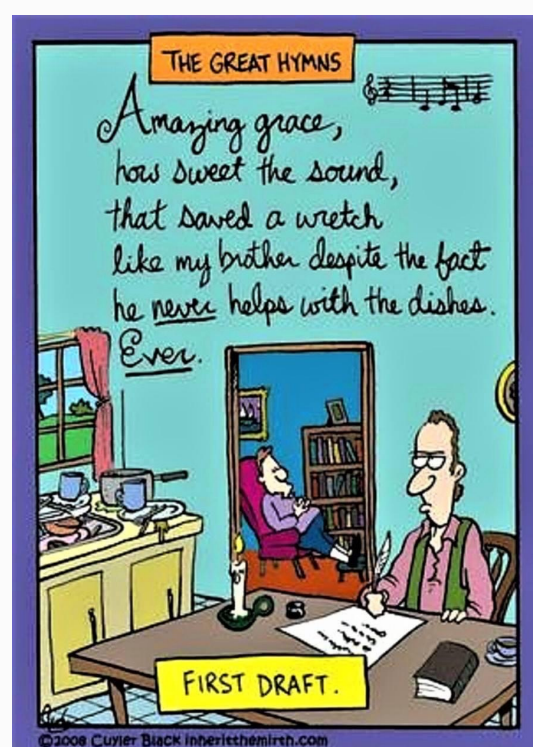
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## CQ SPUR

St Paul's Cathedral Hall, Rockhampton  
more info available in your church soon

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on  
toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together,  
as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one  
another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.  
Hebrews 10:24-25*

contact Philip van't Spyker 0416 258 292  
philipvs@keppelanglican.org





## ABM-A SUPPORTING NEWTON COLLEGE



Bishop Driver providing lectures (pre COVID)

Did you or your parish gift funds to the Archbishop's November appeal in 2019? Rarely do we hear feedback but a few weeks ago Bishop Jeffrey Driver (retired Archbishop of Adelaide) gave a very indepth ZOOM presentation to 31 interested people in the province. (I was privileged to represent our Diocese.) Bishop Driver was appointed by ACPNG as the Acting Principal of Newton College (situated in the Diocese of Popondota) to assist in addressing the many concerns of the College. Newton is the only Anglican theological college in PNG. The maximum number of students is only around 26 and those who are accepted usually are married with families so the whole family moves to Newton for the 4 year program. Special training is given to the partners of the students as the 'Mothers' play a very important role in the parish once their husbands are ordained. I quote from Robert McLean (ABM-A) – *"We learned of significant progress ....water tanks have been installed, buildings and toilets have been renovated. The curriculum has been updated to reflect contemporary theological*

*education, to incorporate development studies and to emphasise Melanesian spirituality. As well as this, governance and financial management strengthened to support efforts to gain PNG Government accreditation. Arrangements have been made at a local school for young men whose education has been cut short to get their Y12 certificates, with a view to becoming theological students. Study, teaching and family life is being strengthened through practical donations of books and gardening equipment from around Australia."*

But there is still much to do to bring Newton to a standard expected by the Government to approve Diplomas and later Degrees and to bring accommodation to a suitable level.

I was particularly interested in one diocese collecting gardening equipment and carpentry tools. (The students continue to live from their gardens while at Newton and have little in the way of gardening tools) I thought our diocese could easily take on this project. Getting such items to PNG, however, is always the problem.



Newton is around 15kms out of Popondetta (on the road to the Airport.) Over recent years I have watched the power poles and wires gradually inch forward. In the last couple of months they have finally reached Newton and now they await the installation of separate pay as you go meters to each residence. This will also greatly assist with online learning. Please continue to prayer for Newton College (*and again quoting from Robert Mclean's email.*)

Canon Val Gribble ML



Fr Luscom Bera and Fr Giles Motisi, NTC lecturers sort through donated books with Larissa the librarian.

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,  
we pray for the people and work of  
Newton Theological College,  
a place where faith seeks understanding.*

*Guide all members of the college,  
staff, students and their families,  
to listen attentively to your Spirit  
so that those who teach + those who learn  
may follow you in proclaiming  
God's love to the world.*

*This we ask in the name of Papa God,  
na Pikinini bilong em, na Holi Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen*

## PRAYER TREES

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

Prayer changes things..... and praying is one thing what we all can do.

This year will be the third year that Anglican Mothers Union Australia (AMUA) in this Diocese has promoted the use of Prayer Trees in parishes during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, 25th November to 10th December. All churches are invited to have a 'tree' on which prayer 'leaves' can be hung. Everyone can support this activity by writing a prayer to hang on the tree. Parishes will have different ideas as to how and when these prayers will be offered up in Church.

We need to pray and work for the elimination of violence against women and girls, for changes in attitudes towards the use of violence, for greater respect for all people, for victims and perpetrators and for all who work frontline in these areas.



Last year Keppel Parish took their tree into the Town Hall for the annual Christmas Tree Festival. What a wonderful way to spread the message in the wider community!

*Loving Lord, we offer up these prayers for all  
who are affected by gender-based violence.  
May blighted lives be transformed through the  
healing power of the Spirit. Amen*



## COVID SAFE UPDATE

It has now been more than 28 days since the last community transmission of COVID-19 in QLD. The strength of the results in QLD has given the Chief Health Officer and Premier the confidence to ease some restrictions and shift some guidelines for COVID Safe Practice which impacts our churches and church based activities. A full list of areas eased will be sent to clergy and wardens by the Administrator shortly.

In summary easing measures include:

- Allowing ACCQ Staff and Volunteers who fall into any of the identified high risk categories to be given the opportunity to volunteer and serve on rosters and frontline roles where personal declarations of risk awareness are signed.
- Fellowship gatherings after church will be a little less restricted.
- Events can be held with appropriate planning and endorsements.
- Surface cleaning of worship spaces between services and deep cleaning at the end of the day is still required.
- Some easing of restrictions around play groups, kids clubs, youth groups, soup kitchens + Op Shops.

Please contact the Diocese Office on 4927 3188 or the Safe Ministry Coordinator, Rev Jen Hercott at [safeministry@anglicanchurchcq.org.au](mailto:safeministry@anglicanchurchcq.org.au) if you are unsure of anything.

The Government's 'Unite + Recover' road map indicates that there could be further easing at the beginning of November. At this stage there is no change around social distancing, building capacity, hand hygiene, weddings, funerals, baptisms or the preparation and distribution of communion. (Full hand hygiene, individual cups only, no common cup and strictly no intinction or dipping).

We are all, I am sure, excited about some of the easing measures, however we should always be mindful that operational restrictions may be reintroduced where COVID-19 outbreaks occur, or where community risk levels are raised by the State or Federal Government.

Thank you everyone for your patience, diligence and assistance through this very trying time.

Yours in Christ,  
Jen

We heartily thank this month's contributors and welcome your contributions.

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