

28 January 2024 Our mission is to:

Shine with the love of Jesus, grow mature disciples and declare the Good News.

The Book of Hebrews

Over the past few weeks we have been exploring the first few chapters of the book of Hebrews. We are unsure as to the author of the book but upon reading it, it is clear that Hebrews was written to encourage and teach the early Jewish Christians who were being persecuted under Nero and were considering turning back to the Mosaic law and legalism. Throughout its pages, Hebrews makes clear that Jesus Christ exceeds all other people, pursuits, objects, or hopes to which human beings offer allegiance. Hebrews pictures Jesus as better than the angels, as bringing better lives to humanity through salvation, as offering a better hope than the Mosaic Law could promise, as a better sacrifice for our sins than a bull or a goat, as a better High Priest than those who had come before and as providing a better inheritance in heaven for those who place their faith in Him. Jesus is indeed superior to all others. This message of the superiority of Jesus would have been particularly important to these Jewish Christians in Rome. The writer to the Hebrews showed these Jewish Christian believers that, though they were faced with suffering, they were indeed following a better way . . . and they should persevere. The writer makes it clear that Jesus is the only person who deserves to hold the primary place in our lives. As we turn our eyes upon Jesus and give him his rightful place in our lives, we will find that everything else in life will fall into its rightful place.

(Adapted from an article by Chuck Swindoll)

Bible Readings Sunday 4 February Mark 1.16-20, 29-34 Sunday 11 February Mark 2.1-12

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Leaders & Volunteers Commissioning Service Sunday 4 February

God has called everyone who follows him to use the gifts they have been given to build his Kingdom. On Sunday 4 February, we will be commissioning all of our leaders and volunteers to the ministry that God has called them to. Please be prayerful about how God is asking you to use your gifts and come along to our commissioning service.

Church picnic on Sunday 11 February

Come along to Bi-centennial Park on Sunday 11 February for our Annual Church picnic. Arrive from 12.30 pm onwards and we will have great conversations and have some fun activities. Please feel free to bring your friends and family along.

Shrove Tuesday 13 February

This year we are again encouraging you to hold pancake Tuesday in your homes and invite friends, family or neighbours. It would also be great if your small group could hold a Pancake Tuesday event. This is a real outreach opportunity. It is a fundraiser, so we encourage people to pay \$15 as it is a two course meal. If you are willing to host in your home or cook the pancakes or attend a pancake dinner, please let Sue know.

Ash Wednesday Services 14 February

Lent begins on February 14 and it is a time where many fast from something (coffee, chocolate, TV, social media) so that they can spend time examining their lives before God. We start this season with services: St Chad's at 2pm and St Aidan's at 7pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Would you like to join a small group?

Those involved in our small group ministry (part of our strategy to establish people in their faith) have really benefitted from the pastoral care given, their growth in understanding the Bible and the fostering of a feeling of belonging to our faith community. There are many opportunities to be part of a small group. We have daytime groups on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and there are night time groups that meet in person on Tuesday and Wednesday and a group that meet on Zoom on Sunday. If you would like to be part of a group, please talk to Sue.

Next Church Market at St Chad's 17 Feb from 9am-12:30pm

Happy Birthday...Lissy C, Jan R, Nigel R, Robyn W, Ricky C

Hall floor works complete at St Chad's

The hall floor looks fantastic. Pop in and have a look. Many, many thanks to those who gave sacrificially to make it happen.

Garage Sale to Raise Money for the McGreal Family

Many thanks to all those who helped in a myriad of ways at the garage sale last week. We raised about \$2150 for the McGreal family through the garage sale and donations.

Ladies Life Group

Our Ladies Life Group meets fortnightly on Wednesday evenings, 7pm, at Glenis' house in Seaford, and we would welcome new members. This term we are studying the book "Jesus Through the Eyes of Women" by Rebecca McLaughlin, looking at how the first female disciples help us know and love the Lord. If you cannot join our group, please feel free to buy and read it yourself and chat to us informally. Please see Sue or Robyn Wheatley if you would like more information about this group.

Prayer Retreat on Saturday 24 February at St Chad's

Throughout scripture Sabbath rest is a theme that does not apply just to one day a week, but it is described as a rhythm that is encouraged on a daily basis and at times for extended periods of time. One way to take some time out with God is to come and be part of a prayer retreat. Keep this date and come along for an intentional time to just be with God as we look at the theme of peace. If you are intending on coming, could you please place your name on the list on the notice board at St Chad's or St Aidan's.

World Day of Prayer March 1—Focus on Palestine

Friday 1 March is the World Day of Prayer. It will be held at St Chad's at 1:30pm. Please bring a plate or see Sue if you can help in the kitchen.

Leprosy Mission Collection

Donations to the Leprosy Mission can be put in the plate in envelopes labelled "Leprosy Mission" or Mission Boxes can be left in the baskets at the back of either church. Call Anthea 0439 375 063 or Chandra 0421 666 252 if you have any questions.

Lauren Raiter—CMS Missionary

Commissioning Service Sunday 4 February 2024

1.30pm @ Scots Church Melbourne, followed by refreshments.

Services in the church (except in January)

10am at St Chad's every Sunday 8am at St Chad's 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month 11am at St Aidan's 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

This week in the church

Mon 9:30am Pastoral Care Meeting

Tues 11:30am Matt's Place Lunch Church Tues 11:30am Wed 9:30am-1:30pm Pantry 5000

Church Prayer Meeting Wed 1pm

Soon in the church

Commissioning of volunteers and staff at Longbeach 4 February

Commissioning of Lauren Raiter, Scots Church, Melbourne 4 February

12:30pm Church Picnic at Bicentennial Park 11 February

13 February **Shrove Tuesday** Ash Wednesday 14 February 17 February 9am-12:30pm Market

Praver Retreat 24 February

1 March 1:30pm World Day of Prayer at St Chad's

16 March Fete

Pantry 5000 Food of the Week ... Cereal and instant noodles

Prayer Chain requests—Christine Taylor 0407 725 692

Ongoing prayer—email requests to Jaqueline or Sue

Pastoral care—Sue Bluett 0433 024 626

Prayer has been requested for: Bernard, Cheryl, Del, Di, Don, Doug, Geoff, Gisela, Helen, Hunter & Stefanie, Jaqueline, Jasmine, Julie, Kayden & Elisabeth, Kirsty, Lorraine, Margot, Massy, Mia, Nick, Nigel & Chris,

Pauline, Phoebe, Rex, Richard, Ruth, Stephen T, Sue, Will

Offering Via Direct Debit—Our bank details are:

Account Name: Anglican Parish of Longbeach

Bendigo Bank BSB No. 6 3 3 — 0 0 0 Account No. 1 5 3 7 4 5 2 2 9

Please label with the words "tithe" or "offering". Thank you!

Wardens Di McGreal, Natalie Allinson, Julie Whalen

Treasurer Sofia Gerandt finance@longbeachanglicans.org.au

Child Safety Officers Zilpha Barker, Jaqueline H.

Compliance Officer Zilpha Barker