

# WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

## PRINCIPLES, PATTERNS, AND EXCEPTIONS WITHIN THE BIBLE

REV DAVID RIETVELD

One of the things I value about being back in Sydney is how Christians love and esteem the Bible. Trust me – it's not the same in Tassie, or Melbourne, or Brisbane or Western Australia.

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There is a shared belief that God's Word is authoritative, powerful, and life-giving. It's great we agree on this. But it does not mean we will always agree on how to read, interpret, and apply scripture.

Some people search the Bible for timeless truths, for first and forever principles. An example of this would be the Sabbath. We should rest because God rested on the Sabbath. It is a creation ordained principle, enshrined into both nature and Scripture. Its foundations are before the fall, before culture. Therefore it's universal and eternal. It is a first principle that we can build with certainty upon.

There is insight here, but also questionable assumptions, and interpretive dilemmas.

The dilemma: most of Scripture is story. Or narrative. Take the detail that Abigail used words to diffuse (King) David's anger. Is it just an accident that Abigail is female? Is it a coincidence that Samson is strong, and Delilah nags?

Drawing principles out of narrative is vexed. When is a rock a metaphor for something else, and when is a rock just a rock? The answer has a lot to do with how the first audience understood texts. How do you get timeless principles out of time-bound narratives?

And if you believe you have found a timeless principle – like the need for a Sabbath – what do you do with exceptions? What do you do with Romans 14:5, which suggests we get to decide for ourselves if and when to Sabbath?

Cont...



If you decide men lead, what do you do with Deborah? If you decide women cook and use words, what do you do with Jacob (who feeds and then talks his brother Esau into selling his birthright)?

In this series, I have intentionally steered away from naming up principles, instead of speaking of patterns. I think 'patterns' cope with deviations and exceptions; it allows for the role of the identifier in identifying, and it's more contextually sensitive.

God accommodates his timeless truths into culture-bound forms (Scripture), and then uses that word to speak to people who exist in yet another culture.

## NEW ARCHBISHOP

Synod elected a new Archbishop, Kanishka Raffel. Kanishka is the current Dean of St Andrew's Cathedral. He is 56-year old, was born in the United Kingdom to Sri Lankan parents, and immigrated to Australia at age seven. Six months later his father died from a heart attack. Kanishka was raised by "a single mother migrant lady in a place where we had no family".

Kanishka was raised a Buddhist. He attended the University of Sydney, where he studied law. There he met Christians, began reading the Bible, and encountered Jesus through His Word.

Kanishka served as the Rector of Shenton Park in the (liberal-anglo-catholic) Anglican Diocese of Perth. He served for 17 years, and during his time the parish grew to 750 members.

Kanishka is a regular and in-demand speaker, who speaks at Katoomba and CMS conventions and has even appeared on ABC's The Drum.

Kanishka will be inducted as the 13th Archbishop of Sydney on Friday 28 May 2021.



## MISSIONARIES UPDATE

### **Gary and Julie Haddon:**

Thank God that Gary is halfway through his hotel quarantine. He asks prayer for Julie and the girls as they settle back into school life and Sydney.



# DINE AND DISCOVER

You can still spend your \$25 voucher in the Cafe, Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm.

The Cafe has another special deal for Seniors at **12pm on Monday 24th of May**. For just one of your \$25 vouchers you can get a Pie & Chips for two people, or Pie & Chips, Dessert and a drink for yourself. Choose between a Chicken or Beef pie when you book. Booking is essential, call the Cafe on 4260 9278.



# PAINT AND SIP

Our Paint and Sip is coming up quick for DAC Women! Join us on **Saturday 22nd of May 2:30 to 4:30pm** at the Ministry Centre to be guided by a local artist in creating a masterpiece.

*Please note: This event is open to all women aged 18yrs and over. BYO drink and snacks.*

Tickets are selling quick! To secure your seat, book a ticket via [dapto.church/paintandsip](http://dapto.church/paintandsip)



# CONNECT MEN LUNCH

Connect Men are going off-site for a \$10 lunch at Dapbeto's: Cnr Bong Bong Rd and Princes Hwy, Dapto on **Saturday 22nd May at 11:30am**.

If you haven't already, please contact Warren Southwell on 0478 397 437 as he will need numbers to book in.



# COMING UP

- Sunday 16th May Lunch at the Bay
- Tuesday 18th May Gender Q&A Night
- Saturday 22nd May Paint & Sip - DAC Women  
Lunch at Dapbetos - Connect Men
- Monday 24th May Seniors Dine & Discover Lunch Deal - The Cafe



# PRAYER FOR TODAY

We praise you, God, our Father, that our Lord has entered heaven and has gone to prepare a place for us, so that where he is, there we may be also. May we be enabled to lay hold more firmly on the hope that is set before us.

Living Lord, conqueror of death we remember with gladness how on the day of your resurrection, you appeared to your disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you". Lift us above all our doubts and fears and help us so to rest on your victory that your peace may be with us, now and forever.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the King of glory, the everlasting Son of the Father. We pray that you will grant that, rejoicing in the eternal life that is ours in you, we may face whatever the future holds in store for us, calm and unafraid, always confident that neither death nor life can part us from your love.

Thank you. Amen

# PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

## PREGNANT WOMEN

Amy S (10am)

## MOURNING

Julie and Ross D (10am) and their family as they grieve the death of Julie's mother. The funeral will be on Friday, 14th May.

## VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Robyn K (Diggers Rest, Corrimal); Graham S (Estia Health, Figtree) Helen S; Ella H; Jean D; Barbara B (William Beach); Barbara L, Reg B (St. Lukes Village)

## 8AM/9:30AM/2PM

Lyn R - health problems; Pat W - recovering from cataract surgery; and son, Antony - health issues; Daphne C's neighbour - Leukemia; Daphne C's daughter, Joanna - waiting for results; Mary J - a bad bout of bronchitis

## 10AM

Elizabeth L - Slowly improving; Sue B - coping with treatment; Nelson S; Michele S - all ongoing conditions and treatments.

## 7PM

Shaina J's son, Roman - waiting for more tests; Gary M - ongoing health problems; Calvin A's mother - cancer.

## CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Lynne N - biopsy taken from foot, waiting for results; Virginia C - recovering from knee surgery; Blake M (Janelle's 8 year old grandson) having chemo for Leukemia.

# SAFE MINISTRY



Dapto Anglican Church is committed to Safe Ministry Practices.

If you have a question or concern, we are here to help.

Please contact:

- Julie Houghton, Parish Safe Ministry Representative, by confidential email [safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au](mailto:safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au) or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945

