



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 7 January 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Good morning

This is the first Sunday of the new year. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas, New Years period. As we embark on a new year filled with hope and purpose, let's see what the opening verses of the Gospel According to Mark, tell us. In Mark 1:1-11 we witness the lead up to Jesus' earthly ministry and the profound message it carries for us as disciples.

Mark wastes no time in declaring the purpose of his book and the identity of Jesus, boldly proclaiming, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1, NRSV). It serves as a powerful reminder that the heart of our discipleship is rooted in the truth that Jesus is not just a great teacher or moral example, he is the very Son of God, the Saviour of the world, God in human form.

The following verses introduce us to John the Baptist, a figure appointed to prepare the way for the coming Messiah. John's role was to pave a way for the people of his time to encounter Jesus, urging them to repent and be baptised for the forgiveness of sins. In doing so, he exemplified a crucial aspect of discipleship—preparing the way for others to come to Christ.

As modern-day disciples, we find ourselves in a similar position. We're called not only to follow Christ but also to actively prepare the way for others to encounter Him. Our lives should reflect the transformative power of the gospel, and our words and actions should lead people toward the life-changing love of Jesus.

One key element in our role as preparers of the way is exemplified in Mark 1:8 when John the Baptist declares, "I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy

Spirit." Here, we see a shift from an external ritual to an internal transformation. As disciples, our mission is not merely to introduce people to religion but to guide them toward a personal and life-altering relationship with Jesus Christ.

Discipleship involves embodying the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus in our daily lives. It means living in such a way that by our example people are drawn to the light of Christ within us. Like John the Baptist, we are called to be living testimonies, pointing people beyond ourselves and toward the one who can truly transform hearts.

Discipleship is an ongoing journey of growth and surrender. In Mark 1:10-11, we witness Jesus' own baptism, a moment where the Holy Spirit descends upon Him, and the Father affirms His beloved Son. This baptism marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. Likewise, our journey of discipleship involves continuous surrender to the Holy Spirit, allowing God to work in and through us for the advancement of His kingdom.

As we reflect on Mark 1:1-11, let's be inspired to deepen our commitment to discipleship. Let our lives echo the message of John the Baptist, urging those around us to turn toward Jesus. May we be vessels of the Holy Spirit, leading others to experience the transformative power of Christ's love.

Let's embrace the coming year and whatever it holds for us with open hearts and open minds, trusting that God's plan for us is filled with purpose and promise. Together, as a community of believers, let's step into the future with faith, hope, and love, knowing that we are guided by the Holy Spirit and surrounded by the love and support of our church family.

Grace and peace

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Acknowledgement of country

Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledges the Bundjalung people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

Today's Bible Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11
Mark 1:1-11

What's Happening This Week

Wednesday	Prayer meeting 8am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am

Church activities Christmas/New Year Hiatus

As you can no doubt see from the above, most of our non worship service activities are taking a break over Christmas and New Year. Please see the **Other upcoming events for your diary** list for restart dates.

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kid's Church	N/A	N/A
Duty Elder	Audrey	Elizabeth
Organist	Jill	Audrey
Greeters	Jan & Joan C	Robyn & Joyce
Bible Readers	Lumiere & Noah	Joyce & Robyn
Morning Tea	Shirley T & Dorothy McA	Pat & Sylvia
Hall Set Up	Neil	Ross
Cleaning	Lorraine W & Helene	

*If you are unable to do your roster, **please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.***

There Is Support Available

If you or someone you know is in need of help or support please let us know and how we can help by calling either;

- Rev. Aaron: 0411 325 527
- Your Pastoral Carer

Other upcoming events for your diary

Chaira Companions	21 January 1bc
Men's Breakfast	27 January 8am
KYB (CWCI)	1 February 10am
Evening Bible Study	1 February 6.30pm
Craft Club	2 February 9am
Kid's Church	4 February 9am
Mainly Music	6 February 9.30am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat	7 February 9.30am
Elders/Council Meeting	13 February 7pm
Fellowship Lunch	14 February 11.45am
Pastoral Care Meeting	23 February 10am

Church Building Security

We would ask everyone to please be security aware. If you are the last person/persons to leave the church building after a service or other event, please take a little extra time to go round both the church and the hall to ensure all doors and windows are locked, and that all lights, fans etc. are turned off. **Please also take note of the new signs on the sliding doors.** Thank you.

Unwanted cards

If you have any unwanted Christmas or Birthday Cards please speak to Sylvia, as she will be happy to take them off you and put them to good use!

Message from Barbara

Today is my last Sunday at Banora Point. I thank everyone for their friendship and care over the past 18 years. I hope I find the church on Bribie Island also very friendly and helpful. Thank you, Barbara.

Church tidy up!!

Over the years there has been an accumulation of items in various parts of our church building, many of which are not in use and extremely unlikely to ever be used again. Church Council has give approval for a small team to gather these items together, and Don has kindly agreed to use his van to take these items to Stotts Creek Dump. This will be done this month—if you are interested in being a part of this team, please talk to Nigel.

Offerings

As the Body of Christ here at Banora Point, there are many ways we can contribute to Christ's ongoing mission. Volunteering in local community groups is one way we can be the presence of Christ sharing the Gospel in action in our community.

Another important way we can contribute to the mission of Christ at Banora Point Uniting Church is financially. The offering enables the Uniting Church to have a continued presence in Banora Point, it allows us to run our current outreach programs and will help us meet the changing needs of our local community in the future. Our offerings are received physically during the Worship Service every week or if you prefer you can choose to give electronically, directly into our account. You can do this by direct debit or at your local Commonwealth Bank branch. Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Banora Point Uniting Church Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia Banora Point Church (Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762