



# BANORA POINTER

Sunday 25 February 2024



## A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Good morning

Today is the second Sunday of lent. Lent is a special season of the Christian year, when we prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter. Lent lasts for 40 days, not counting Sundays, and it began on Ash Wednesday and will end on Holy Saturday, which is the Saturday before Easter Sunday. During Lent, we are invited to reflect on our relationship with God, to repent of our sins, and to renew our commitment to follow Jesus. Lent is also a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, which means giving generously to those in need. By practicing these spiritual disciplines, we draw closer to God and to our neighbours, and we grow in faith, hope, and love. As we journey through the sacred season of Lent, we're invited to reflect deeply on the teachings of Christ and the significance of the cross in our lives. In this second week of Lent, we turn our attention to the profound words of Jesus as recorded in Mark 8:31-38.

In this passage, Jesus reveals to his disciples that he must undergo great suffering, be rejected by the religious leaders, and ultimately be killed, only to rise again on the third day. Peter, in his love and concern for Jesus, contradicts him, unable to comprehend the necessity of such a fate. Yet, Jesus responds with a solemn truth: "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human

things."

These words challenge us to examine our own understanding of discipleship, are we too concerned with earthly things rather than the Kingdom of God? Jesus makes it clear that following him requires embracing the way of the cross. It is a path marked by sacrifice, self-denial, and surrendering our own desires to align with the will of God. It calls us to renounce the temptations of worldly comforts and ambitions in favour of serving others and bearing witness to the transformative power of love and redemption.

As we reflect on Jesus' call to take up our cross and follow him, let's remember that the cross is not merely a symbol of suffering, but also a symbol of hope and salvation. Through Christ's sacrifice, we are offered the promise of new and abundant life and the assurance of God's unfailing love.

During this Lenten season, let's engage in some of those spiritual disciplines and deepen our commitment to discipleship by embracing the cross in our own lives. Let's strive to live with courage, compassion, and unwavering faith, trusting in God's grace to sustain us through every trial and tribulation.

Grace and peace

Rev. Aaron

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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 53:1-12**  
**Mark 8:31-9:1**

## What's Happening This Week

<b>Tuesday</b>	Mainly Music 9.30am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Prayer meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
<b>Thursday</b>	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	Craft Club 9am

## Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Duty Elder	Robyn	Elizabeth
Organist	Jill	Jill
Greeters	Sylvia & Nigel	Jan & Walter
Bible Readers	Dudley & Nigel	Lumiere & Neil
Morning Tea	Mary & Chris	Shirley T & Hazel
Hall Set Up	Brian	Nigel
Sound Room	Elizabeth	Nathan
Cleaning	Lorraine W & Helene	Craft Club

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

**Mainly Music** 5 March 9.30am  
**Book Swap, Coffee & Chat** 6 March 9.30am  
**Elders Meeting** 12 March 7pm  
**Fellowship Lunch** 13 March 11.45am  
**Craft Club** 15 March 9am  
**Congregational Meeting** 17 March 10am  
**Chaira Companions** 17 March 12 noon  
**Men's Breakfast** 25 March 8am  
**AGM/Church Council Meeting** 9 April 7pm  
**Pastoral Care Meeting** 24 May 10am TBC

## Nominations

Nomination forms for Church Council, for the positions of Elder, Councillor, or both, are available from CC Secretary Janice. Please speak to Rev. Aaron or any member of CC for more information.

## Anniversary Breakfast

Let's celebrate.... Everyone is invited to breakfast on Saturday 9 March at 8.30am.

Come and celebrate the 31st anniversary of BPUC and hear from our Special Guests, Jemma and Kirsten, who will share about their work teaching Special Religious Education in our local high schools.

Cost is \$15 per head and any donations to support Tweed Coast Christian Education Association will be greatly accepted at the breakfast.

If you plan on attending the breakfast, please place your name on the list in the front foyer.

## Book Swap, Coffee & Chat

Just a little reminder that there is a **book swap, coffee & chat** event held every Wednesday from 9.30-11am in the church hall. Everyone is welcome, so please come and bring your friends and neighbours. If you have any queries, please talk to Robyn.

## 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