



# BANORA POINTER

Sunday 30 June 2024

## A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



In my prayer time this week, I have been reflecting on the words of the Lord's Prayer. This ancient prayer, taught by Jesus to His disciples, carries profound significance for us today but was particularly important for the early Church. It is found in both Matthew and Luke but as you read those texts you may notice that it is shorter than the prayer that we're used to praying. The Didache, contains the prayer in the form we are accustomed to. The Didache is one of the earliest Christian texts, possibly predating many of the books we have in the Bible and provides a glimpse into the lives and practices of early Christians. It emphasises the importance of the Lord's Prayer, encouraging believers to pray the it three times a day. Today, we will explore the full version of the Lord's Prayer from the Didache, reflect on its themes, and consider how it applies to our lives as disciples of Christ. As I contemplated the words in the Lord's prayer, I was struck by their depth and significance, not just spiritually, but also socially and politically.

The Lord's Prayer begins with "Our Father, in heaven," immediately establishing a communal identity. We pray Our Father not My Father. We are not isolated individuals but part of a larger family under God's care. This collective address reminds us of our shared humanity and the importance of community in our spiritual journey. It challenges the individualism prevalent in today's society, calling us to recognise our interconnectedness and our responsibility to one another.

"Hallowed be your name" focuses our attention on the holiness of God. This phrase calls us to a life of reverence and awe, recognising that our actions reflect on the God we serve. In a world often marked by irreverence and trivialization of the sacred, this part of the prayer invites us to live in a way that honours God's name, setting us apart as disciples who embody His love and righteousness.

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" is perhaps the most politically charged part of the prayer. It is a bold declaration that God's reign is above all earthly powers and authorities. Praying for God's kingdom to come challenges the status quo and calls for a transformation of the world's systems to reflect God's justice, peace, and love. It is a reminder that our allegiance is first and foremost to God's kingdom, we are not citizens of the world or even Australia. We belong to the Kingdom of God, and God's kingdom values often stands in stark contrast to the values and

practices of worldly empires.

"Give us this day our daily bread" reminds us of our dependence on God's provision. It also highlights the need for economic justice and the equitable distribution of resources. In a time when wealth disparity is vast and hunger remains a pressing issue, this petition is a call to action. It urges us to work towards a world where everyone has enough to meet their basic needs, reminded of our responsibility to care for those who lack the essentials of life.

The plea for forgiveness, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors," is a powerful call to reconciliation and grace. Debt and Debtors rather than trespass or sin is possibly the best translation of the word used here. This line compels us to examine our own hearts, seeking God's mercy while extending forgiveness to others. This aspect of the prayer is deeply transformative, breaking the cycle of resentment and fostering a community of love and forgiveness.

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" is a plea for guidance and protection. It recognizes the presence of evil and our need for God's strength to resist it. This petition acknowledges our need for God's protection and guidance. It recognizes the reality of spiritual warfare and our dependence on God's strength to overcome the challenges and temptations we face every day.

"For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever" concludes the Lord's Prayer with a declaration of God's ultimate authority and eternal reign. This line affirms our trust in God's sovereignty over all creation and acknowledges His glory both now and for all eternity.

Reflecting on the Lord's Prayer this week has deepened my understanding of its profound implications for our lives as disciples. It is not just a personal petition but a declaration of our commitment to live according to God's kingdom values. It challenges us to engage with the world in a way that reflects God's justice, mercy, and love, transforming our prayers into acts of discipleship that bear witness to God's transformative power in all areas of our lives.

Blessings 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

**2 Corinthians 8:7-15**

**Mark 5:21-43**

## 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 Bible Study 6.30pm

## Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kids' Church	Lynn & Pat	Jane
Duty Elder	Robyn	Neil
Organist/Pianist	Jill & Mel	Jill & Mel
Greeters	Neil & Lynn	Joan C & Noah
Bible Readers	Dudley & Robyn	Joyce & Stephanie
Morning Tea	Mary & Chris	Pat & Hazel
Hall Set Up	Brian	Marshall
Sound Room	Nigel	Nathan
Cleaning	Craft Club	Aaron & Jane

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

## Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the 'Happy Lunchers' at 11.45am on Wednesday 10 July in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 8 July.

## 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

**Elder's Meeting** 9 July 4.30pm  
**Book Swap, Coffee & Chat** 10 July 9.30am  
**Fellowship Lunch** 10 July 11.45am  
**Chaira Companions** 21 July 12 noon  
**Craft Club** 26 July 9am  
**Men's Breakfast** 27 July 8am  
**Mainly Music** 30 July 9.30am  
**Church Council Meeting** 13 August 7pm  
**Pastoral Care Meeting** 30 August 10.15am  
**Fashion Parade** 25 September 10.30am

## Fred's Place & You Have a Friend

Winter is now upon us and it is time to show our compassion to those in need. There is need for warm clothing, especially jackets, plus warm blankets. Also non-perishable foods and toiletries items. Marshall and Jill will be delighted to hear from you if you can assist.

## Mainly Ministries

We are delighted to announce that Jo Hood (the visionary behind Mainly Music) is coming to our church to host a Mainly Ministries Workshop on Saturday 13 July from 1 pm to 3.30 pm. This workshop is for churches in the Northern Rivers/Gold Coast region. This free workshop is designed for Mainly Music/Ministries groups, anyone interested in becoming involved in Mainly Music, and the Church and Kid's Church leadership. If you wish to attend please put your name on the list in the Foyer. This is to help with catering and the workshop set up. It would be helpful if those attending could indicate on the list no later than 3 July please.

## Kid's Church Leaders Meeting

If you are a leader or helper of Kid's Church (or would like to be), please join us for a meeting after church on Sunday 7th July. We will be discussing our plans and ideas for term 3, and checking in on how we are going. New energy, ideas and perspectives are always welcome.

## 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