



# BANORA POINTER

Sunday 11 August 2024



**A message from  
Rev. Aaron Moad**



## **The Bread of Life: A Reflection on John 6:35, 41-51**

In the Gospel of John, Jesus makes a profound declaration: "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). This statement is not merely a metaphor but a divine revelation of Jesus' role in our spiritual sustenance and eternal life.

The imagery of bread is powerful and deeply rooted in the Jewish tradition. Bread was a staple food, essential for physical survival. We usually have meat as the centre of the meal but bread was the main part of the meal in Jesus' time. By referring to Himself as the "bread of life," Jesus indicates that He is essential for spiritual survival. He offers a sustenance that goes beyond physical needs, addressing the deepest hunger and thirst of the human soul.

In verses 41-51, Jesus elaborates on this concept, addressing the scepticism of the Jews who grumble about His claim to have come down from heaven. They question how Jesus, whom they know as the son of Joseph and Mary, can make such a statement. Jesus responds by emphasising that it is through the Father's drawing that people come to Him, and those who believe in Him will have eternal life.

Jesus asserts, "I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." (John 6:48-51 NRSV). In these verses, Jesus contrasts the manna, a temporary sustenance provided to the Israelites, with Himself,

the eternal sustenance provided by God.

Moreover, Jesus' statement that His flesh is the bread He gives for the life of the world points to the sacrificial nature of His mission. This foreshadows the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist, where Jesus offers His body and blood, symbolized by bread and wine, for the salvation of humanity. This sacrament becomes a means by which believers can partake in the divine life, continually nourished by Christ Himself.

The passage also emphasises faith and relationship with Jesus as the pathway to eternal life. It is not through mere head knowledge or ritualistic practices that you get eternal and abundant life, but through a living, dynamic relationship with Jesus, marked by trust, dependence, and love.

In our modern context, these verses challenge us to examine the sources of our spiritual nourishment. Are we seeking fulfillment in temporary, worldly things, or are we coming to Jesus, the true bread from heaven? Are we grumbling like the Jews, trapped by familiarity and scepticism, or are we open to the transformative power of Christ's presence in our lives?

As we reflect on John 6:35, 41-51, let's renew our commitment to Christ, the bread of life. Let's come to Him with open hearts, ready to be filled and sustained by His love and grace. In a world that often leaves us spiritually hungry and thirsty, Jesus offers us an invitation to a deeper, more satisfying existence—one that leads to eternal life. May we accept this invitation with faith and joy, continually drawing near to the One who provides all we truly need.

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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**

**Philippians 2:1-11**  
**John 6:35, 41-51**

## What's Happening This Week

<b>Tuesday</b>	Mainly Music 9.30am Church Council Meeting 7pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am Fellowship Lunch 12 Noon
<b>Thursday</b>	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm

## Church Roster

Today                      Next Sunday

Kids' Church	Elizabeth & Robyn	Jane & Lorraine
Duty Elder	Walter	Neil
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Jill & Mel
Greeters	Lynn & Terryll	Noah & Walter
Bible Readers	Terryll & Lynn	Lumiere & Sylvia
Morning Tea	Pat & Stephanie	Sylvia & Terryll
Hall Set Up	Ross	Nigel
Sound Room	Ross	Nigel
Cleaning	Terryll & Lynn	Aaron & Jane

*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** 18 August 1.30pm  
**Mainly Music** 20 August 9.30am  
**Book Swap, Coffee & Chat** 21 August 9.30am  
**Craft Club** 23 August 9am  
**Pastoral Care Meeting** 30 August 10.15am  
**Men's Breakfast** 31 August 8am  
**Elder's Meeting** 10 September 4.30pm  
**Fellowship Lunch** 11 September 12 Noon  
**Fashion Parade** 25 September 10.30am  
**Church Council Meeting** 8 October 7pm  
**Church Fete** 9 or 23 November 8am

## Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the 'Happy Lunchers' at 12 noon on Wednesday 14 August in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 12 August.

## Mainly Music

 **mainly music** Mainly Music is back and running!! **We are now averaging in the mid 20s for the number of kids attending plus their parents/carers, which is exciting to see. However, this number means we need lots of volunteers, including kitchen helpers. Unfortunately 2 of last term's volunteers are no longer able to help. If you feel you can assist, please do talk to Lynn.**

## Fashion Parade

Ladies, the fashion parade is next month on Wednesday 25 September at 10.30am. Please put the date in your diary and ask some friends to come. The donation is \$10 for lunch, and there will be lucky door prizes and a guessing competition. If you could help with a slice or a small donation for the making of sandwiches, please see Jan or Mary.

## A Thought for Today

"Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

**Deuteronomy 31:6**

## 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