



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 18 August 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Reflection on John 6:51-58: A Deeper Call to Discipleship

Last week, we explored John 6:35, 41-51, where Jesus declares, "I am the bread of life." In that passage, Jesus introduces Himself as the essential sustenance for our spiritual lives, promising that those who come to Him will never hunger or thirst. He invites us to believe in Him, assuring us of eternal life and emphasising the need for a personal, faith-filled relationship with Him. This week, as we continue with John 6:51-58, Jesus deepens this teaching, challenging us to understand the profound implications of what it means to partake in the "bread of life."

In John 6:51, Jesus makes a startling statement: "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." Here, Jesus begins to speak more explicitly about the necessity of not just believing in Him, but also of participating in His life, death, and resurrection in a more intimate and tangible way.

The language Jesus uses in verses 53-58 can be difficult for us to grasp: "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day." This imagery is strong and confronts us with the reality that discipleship involves more than intellectual assent—it requires us to enter into a deep, life-giving communion with Jesus.

Jesus is not merely offering bread for physical nourishment, as He did when He fed the five thousand earlier in John 6. Instead, He is offering His very self—His body and blood—as spiritual nourishment that leads to eternal life. This passage

foreshadows the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist, where Jesus gives His disciples bread and wine, telling them, "This is my body" and "This is my blood." The call to "eat" and "drink" is an invitation to fully partake in the life of Christ, to allow Him to dwell within us, and to let His life sustain and transform us.

For us as disciples, this passage challenges us to move beyond a superficial belief and into an intimate relationship with Jesus. We are invited to partake in the mystery of His life and to be united with Him in a profound way. This means embracing the sacrificial nature of Jesus' love, being willing to take up our own cross, and living in a way that reflects the self-giving love of Christ.

This passage reassures us that in this communion with Christ, we are promised eternal life. Jesus' words in John 6:54, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day," remind us that our relationship with Him transcends the temporal world. It is a relationship that promises not just spiritual sustenance here and now but also the hope of resurrection and eternal life.

As we reflect on this passage, let us consider how we can more fully embrace this call to deep communion with Christ. Let's live lives that reflect Jesus' life, let's lives that are nourished by His presence, shaped by His sacrifice, and oriented toward the eternal life He promises. In doing so, we become true disciples, fully participating in the life of Christ and bearing witness to His love in the world.

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

Proverbs 9:1-6
John 6:51-58

What's Happening This Week

Today	Chaira Companions 1.30pm
Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWCI) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Friday	Craft Club 9am

Church Roster

Today Next Sunday

Kids' Church	Jane & Lorraine	Terryll & Pat
Duty Elder	Neil	Elizabeth
Organist/Pianist	Jill & Mel	Audrey & Mel
Greeters	Noah & Walter	Sylvia & Nigel
Bible Readers	Lumiere & Sylvia	Dudley & Dorothy B
Morning Tea	Sylvia & Terryll	Mary & Chris
Hall Set Up	Nigel	Brian
Sound Room	Nigel	Elizabeth
Cleaning	Aaron & Jane	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 27 August 9.30am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 28 August 9.30am
Pastoral Care Meeting 30 August 10.15am
Men's Breakfast 31 August 8am
Craft Club 6 September 9am
Elder's Meeting 10 September 4.30pm
Fellowship Lunch 11 September 12 Noon
Chaira Companions 15 September 12 noon
Fashion Parade 25 September 10.30am
Church Council Meeting 8 October 7pm
Church Fete 23 November 8am

Church Fete

We are pleased to advise that our Church Fete will be on **Saturday 23 November** this year. More details will follow in the coming weeks—please watch out for them!

Mainly Music

 **mainly music** We are now averaging in the low 30s for the number of kids attending plus their parents/carers, which is exciting to see. **As previously advised we need more volunteers. This is particularly for Tuesday 27 August, when 2 of our volunteers will be away on holidays. If you can help out on that day or would like to know more, 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.

Men's Breakfast

Meeting for breakfast at 8am on Saturday 31 August at the Twisted Fig Café (near Bunnings in Tweed Heads South), then on to our church hall for Carpet Bowls. **Organiser Les would dearly love to see a good attendance—All men are 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