



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 15 September 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



A reflection on Mark 8:27-38: The Cost of Discipleship

In our gospel reading today (Mark 8:27-38), we find one of Jesus' most challenging teachings: the call to true discipleship. We catch up with Jesus as He walks with His disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, a place known for its idolatry and worship of pagan gods. Against this backdrop, Jesus asks a simple yet profound question: "Who do people say that I am?" Jesus is not looking for the latest gossip or rumour; He is setting up a more important question leading His disciples into a deeper understanding of His identity. The disciples answer with various opinions they have heard: "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." These answers show that the people see Jesus as a great man, perhaps even a prophet like those of old, but proves that their understanding of Jesus is still incomplete.

Jesus then gets them to a point where He asks His disciples a simple yet life-altering question: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter's response, "You are the Messiah," shows an amazing point of inspired clarity and marks a pivotal moment in the gospel. But Jesus quickly reveals what that means, that His path as the Messiah involves suffering, rejection, and ultimately, death. This is not the triumphant, conquering Messiah Peter or all of Judaism had imagined. Then Jesus explains that discipleship means a similar fate for those who follow Him: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Jesus' words remind us that the call to follow Him isn't a call to comfort or ease but a call to surrender, obedience and submission. To take up our cross means to set aside our own comfort, desires, ambitions, and dreams and align our lives with God's purposes. This doesn't necessarily mean we will

face physical suffering, but it does mean that discipleship involves sacrifice—sacrificing our will for God's will, and our plans for His plans.

Yet, in this passage, Jesus also offers an inspiring but paradoxical promise: "For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it." In this paradox, losing our life to save it, we find profound truth. Jesus is saying that when we hold tightly to our lives, pursuing only what we think will bring us happiness and security, we actually end up losing what matters most—our life in Christ. But when we surrender to Jesus, letting go of control and entrusting our lives to Him, we discover true life. A life filled with peace, meaning, purpose, and eternal hope.

This passage invites us to examine our priorities and think deeply about what truly matters. Are we chasing after worldly success, accumulating stuff thinking that it will make us feel better, or are we pursuing the things that lead to eternal life—through faith, love, service, and devotion to God? Jesus calls us to live with an eternal perspective, recognising that the value of our soul is far greater than anything the world can offer.

In our daily lives, we can live out this call by looking for opportunities to serve others, by standing firm in our faith even when it's difficult, and by trusting God in moments of uncertainty and hardship. As we do, we may find that the more we give of ourselves for the sake of Christ, the more we are filled with His joy, peace, and life.

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 50:4-9
Mark 8:27-38

What's Happening This Week

Today	Chaira Companions 12 noon
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	Elizabeth & Steph
Duty Elder	Audrey	Walter
Organist/Pianist	Jill & Mel	Audrey
Greeters	Hazel & Lorraine S	Dorothy B & Jill
Bible Readers	Robyn & Neil	Nigel & Sylvia
Morning Tea	Pat & Sylvia	N/A
Hall Set Up	Marshall	N/A
Sound Room	Elizabeth	Nigel
Cleaning	Lorraine/Helene	Craft Club

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

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child

It is that time of year again, and this year's supply of Christmas Shoeboxes are sitting on the table in the foyer. This is a wonderful project, and we encourage you to be a part of it. Please take a box (or more) plus the leaflet which explains the project and gives very good gift ideas. A donation to cover project costs per shoebox is detailed on the leaflet and is strongly encouraged please.

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 or Your Pastoral Carer

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

Other upcoming events for your diary

Congregational Meeting	22 September 10am
Mainly Music	24 September 9.30am
Fashion Parade	25 September 10.30am
Men's Breakfast	28 September 8am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat	2 October 9.30am
Church Council Meeting	8 October 7pm
Fellowship Lunch	9 October 12 Noon
Craft Club	18 October 9am
Chaira Companions	20 October 1.30pm
Pastoral Care Meeting	8 November 10.15am
Elder's Meeting	12 November 4.30pm
Church Fete	23 November 8am
BCC Family Fun Day	7 December 3pm



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

Season of creation 2024

The first fruits of hope (Rom 8:19-25)

Our congregation will celebrate CREATION SUNDAY on Sunday, 29 September 2024. An "all-age" service will be organised and led by Elizabeth. If you can bring any fruits, vegetables or flowers that grow in your gardens, please bring some with you on this day. Keep your "produce" with you until you are invited to bring it forward during the service. If you are happy to have your produce sold after the service, any money collected will be donated to the Tweed Coast Christian Education Association. Our SRE teachers are "creating disciples" with the Year 7 & 8 students at Banora Point, Tweed River & Kingscliff HS

Congregational Meeting

Please note that this meeting will be held next Sunday, 22 September, immediately after our worship service. All are encouraged to attend, and there will be no morning tea that day.

Fashion Parade

Ladies, the fashion parade is 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.