



# BANORA POINTER

Sunday 8 September 2024



## A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



### A reflection on Mark 7:24-37: Jesus' Compassion and Boundless Grace

In our reading from Mark 7:24-37, we find two remarkable stories of healing that reveal the heart of Jesus' mission. While the encounters differ in context and details, both show the compassion of Christ and His willingness to cross human made cultural boundaries to bring healing and restoration.

In the first story, Jesus retreats to the region of Tyre, a Gentile (non-Jewish) area, likely seeking anonymity and rest. Yet, His presence cannot remain unnoticed, word has reached even into the Gentile regions and a desperate woman comes to Him. This woman, a Gentile from Syrian Phoenicia, approaches Jesus with a plea: her daughter is possessed by a demon, and she believes Jesus can heal her.

Jesus' initial response seems challenging. He says, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." In this, Jesus is highlighting His primary mission to Israel—the "children" of God. However, the woman's bold faith shines through in her reply: "Even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." She humbly acknowledges her position but boldly expresses her belief that even a small portion, mere 'crumbs' of Jesus' power is enough to heal her daughter.

Jesus praises her faith and heals her daughter from a distance, illustrating that God's grace is not limited by cultural or national boundaries. The woman's persistence and humility remind us that faith transcends barriers, and that Jesus welcomes all who come to Him with genuine faith.

The second story takes place in the region of the Decapolis, another Gentile area. Here, a group of people brings to Jesus a man who is deaf and can't speak.

Jesus takes the man aside from the crowd, showing His personal care for him. His healing method is intimate: He puts His fingers in the man's ears, spits, and touches the man's tongue. Looking up to

heaven, Jesus sighs deeply and says, "Ephphatha," meaning "Be opened." Immediately, the man is healed—his ears are opened, and his speech is restored.

This healing is more than just physical; it is a sign of God's kingdom breaking into the world. Throughout the Old Testament, the prophets spoke of a time when the deaf would hear, and the mute would speak "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy." (Isaiah 35:5-6). In healing this man, Jesus is showing that this promised restoration is being fulfilled through Him.

These two stories offer profound lessons about the nature of Jesus and the kind of faith He honours. First, Jesus' love and power extend to everyone, regardless of their background. The Syrophenician woman was a Gentile, and yet her faith led to her daughter's healing. Jesus' mission, though initially focused on Israel, was always meant to reach beyond—to all nations and peoples.

Second, faith is often found in unexpected places. The Gentile woman showed tremendous faith by approaching Jesus and persisting even when she faced obstacles. Likewise, the deaf and mute man's healing came through the faith of his friends, showing the importance of interceding for others.

Finally, Jesus' healing is not only physical but also spiritual. His touch opens the ears of the man, enabling him to hear and speak. In a broader sense, Jesus opens our hearts to hear the truth of God and empowers us to proclaim it.

As we reflect on these stories, may we be reminded that Jesus' compassion knows no bounds. Whether we are seeking healing for ourselves or standing in the gap for others, Jesus responds to faith with transformative power. Let us approach Him with humility, persistence, and faith, trusting that His grace is sufficient for all.

Grace and peace. Rev Aaron

**MINISTER:** Rev. Aaron Moad  
Phone: 0411 325 527

**Church Office:**  
63 Darlington Drive, Banora Point, NSW 2486  
Postal: PO Box 577 Banora Point, NSW 2486  
Phone: 07 5524 9035  
Email: bpt.uchurch@gmail.com

### 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

**James 2:1-10**  
**Mark 7:24-37**

## What's Happening This Week

<b>Tuesday</b>	Mainly Music 9.30am Elder's Meeting 4.30pm
<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	Lynn & Robyn	Jane & Lorraine
Duty Elder	Neil	Audrey
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Jill & Mel
Greeters	Sylvia & Nigel	Hazel & Lorraine S
Bible Readers	Walter & Dudley	Robyn & Neil
Morning Tea	Pat & Dorothy Mc	Sylvia & Pat
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Marshall
Sound Room	Ross	Nigel
Cleaning	Craft Club	Lorraine/Helene

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

## Other upcoming events for your diary

**Chaira Companions** 15 September 12 noon  
**Mainly Music** 17 September 9.30am  
**Book Swap, Coffee & Chat** 18 September 9.30am  
**Craft Club** 20 September 9am  
**Congregational Meeting** 22 September 10am  
**Fashion Parade** 25 September 10.30am  
**Men's Breakfast** 28 September 8am  
**Church Council Meeting** 8 October 7pm  
**Fellowship Lunch** 9 October 12 Noon  
**Pastoral Care Meeting** November TBC 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 on Sunday 22 September, immediately after our worship service. All are encouraged to attend, and there will be no morning tea that day.

## Fellowship Lunch—CHANGE OF VENUE

Our monthly Fellowship lunch will be held at **Club Banora** next **Wednesday 11 September at 12 noon.** We will be lunching in the front room, at the end of the dining area (on the right). Everyone is most welcome. For more information contact **Janice.**

## 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