



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 27 October 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Seeing Clearly: The Story of Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52)

In today's gospel reading Mark 10:46-52, we read a story about Bartimaeus, a blind beggar who, despite being blind, possesses remarkable insight and faith that ultimately leads to his healing and a new life as a disciple of Christ.

The Cry of Faith

As Jesus and His disciples are leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus hears that Jesus is passing by. In a moment of desperation and hope, he cries out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" His declaration that Jesus is the "Son of David" reveals a deep understanding of Jesus' identity as the promised Messiah, despite never having seen Him. This recognition is significant; it shows us that true sight is not merely physical but spiritual.

The crowd, who would usually at best just ignore him try to silence him. Yet, undeterred by their discouragement, he shouts even louder. Here, we see a crucial lesson: persistent faith. Bartimaeus doesn't allow the voices around him to drown out his need to know Jesus.

A Personal Encounter

Jesus responds to Bartimaeus' cry. "Call him," He says. The crowd shifts, going from hostility to encouragement, telling Bartimaeus to take heart. This moment illustrates the heart of Jesus, who is always willing to pause and respond to the cries of people in need. When Bartimaeus reaches Jesus, Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" This question may seem obvious, yet it highlights the personal nature of faith. Jesus invites Bartimaeus to express his deepest desire: "Rabbi, I want to see."

Healing and Discipleship

Jesus responds to Bartimaeus' request, saying, "Go, your faith

has healed you." Immediately, Bartimaeus receives his sight and chooses to follow Jesus along the road. This pivotal moment is more than physical healing; it signifies a new direction in Bartimaeus' life. He moves from the margins of society to becoming a disciple of Christ, walking the path of faith and transformation.

What This Means for Us Today

For us today, this story calls us to examine our own spiritual sight. Are there areas in our lives where we feel blind or lost? Are there struggles or doubts that hold us back from experiencing the fullness of life that Jesus offers? Bartimaeus' story encourages us to cry out for mercy, to seek Jesus with persistence, and to open our hearts to His transformative power.

As we reflect on Bartimaeus' example of faith, we are reminded that Jesus sees and values each one of us, no matter our circumstances. His compassion is available to all who call upon Him. In a world that often seeks to silence our cries, let us be bold in our faith, shouting for mercy and hope.

Let's also remember the importance of community in our journeys of faith. Just as the crowd ultimately encouraged Bartimaeus, we are called to lift each other up, to help one another see clearly, and to walk alongside those in need.

As we go about our days, may we cultivate the faith of Bartimaeus—a faith that sees beyond physical limitations, that persists in prayer, and that leads to a life of discipleship. Let us be a community that encourages one another to seek the Lord wholeheartedly, confident that He hears our cries and is ready to transform our lives.

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 35:1-6

Mark 10:46-52

What's Happening This Week

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

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music	5 November 9.30am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat	6 November 9.30am
Pastoral Care Meeting	8 November 10.15am
Elder's Meeting	12 November 4.30pm
Fellowship Lunch	13 November 12 Noon
Craft Club	15 November 9am
Chaira Companions	17 November 12 Noon
Church Fete	23 November 8am
Men's Breakfast	30 November 8am
BCC Family Fun Day	7 December 3pm

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Kids' Church	Lynn	Terryll
Duty Elder	Audrey	Neil
Organist/Pianist	Jill & Mel	Jill & Mel
Greeters	Joyce & Lynn	Lynn & Walter
Bible Readers	Neil & Dudley	Nigel & Lynn
Prayers for Others	Mel	Audrey
Morning Tea	Mary & Chris	Steph & Vai
Hall Set Up	Marshall	Craft Club
Sound Room	Ross	Nathan
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

or Your Pastoral Carer

Kids' Church

Term 4 of Kids' Church has started back. This term it will be on a 'Pop Up' basis, i.e. it will happen when 3 or more kids are in attendance. Please do all you can to spread the message, so that this very worthwhile activity is able to continue and hopefully thrive in the future.

Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the 'Happy Lunchers' at 12 noon on Wednesday 13 November in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 11 November.

Church Fete

It is all systems go with our Church Fete, and as usual there is a Fete insert in this week's Pointer. The members of the Fete Organising Committee are working hard to get everything in place, and it is encouraging to see donated items coming in. This is the key to a successful fete, and we thank everyone for their continued support. The Posters and Flyers have now been printed and are in the Foyer. Please take some with you to help publicise our Fete.

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