



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 3 November 2024



A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Living Out the Greatest Commandment

In our reading Mark 12:28-34, we read of an encounter where Jesus is asked by a teacher of the law, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” Without hesitation, Jesus answers, drawing from two key passages of Scripture that define our faith and purpose: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength,” and “Love your neighbour as yourself.” This passage is where BPUC mission statement comes from: **To Love God and Love Our Neighbour.**

Let’s start with that first commandment: **Love God with everything you are.** Jesus calls us to love God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength. That means not just having a surface-level love for God but committing wholeheartedly, surrendering our lives to Him. It’s about being open with God, bringing Him all we are—our hopes, our fears, our strengths, and our struggles. Loving God is an invitation to bring Him into every aspect of our lives, inviting Him into our hearts, so that His love can transform us from the inside out.

When we dedicate our lives to loving God fully, we aren’t simply following a commandment; we’re building a relationship with the One who created us, who knows us better than we know ourselves, and who loves us unconditionally. Loving God is our foundation, and it starts with spending time in His presence, seeking His wisdom, and aligning our lives with His will. As we do, our hearts are softened, our perspectives broadened, and our spirits strengthened, preparing us for the second part of this great commandment: **to love our neighbour as ourselves.**

And who is our neighbour? Jesus’ answer is simple: it’s everyone. It’s the person sitting next to us on a Sunday morning, the family next door, the person we cross paths with at the grocery store, the homeless, and even those who may be difficult to love. To love our neighbour is to see them through God’s eyes, recognising their infinite worth as beloved children of God. It’s a call to empathy, kindness, and active compassion, reminding us that faith isn’t just about loving God in isolation—it’s about expressing that love to

those around us.

Living out this call to **“love your neighbour”** isn’t always easy, especially in a world that often values individualism over community and judgment over grace. Yet, Jesus challenges us to go beyond what is easy or comfortable. He doesn’t ask us to love others when it’s convenient or when they’re easy to love; He calls us to love without limits, with a radical love that reflects the love we’ve received from God. This might look like helping someone in need, listening without judgment, or forgiving when it feels impossible. It could mean speaking up for justice, standing alongside the hurting, or simply being present for someone who feels alone.

And remember, we’re not asked to do this in our own strength. God’s Spirit empowers us to love beyond our natural capacity, helping us to live out these commandments in real, tangible ways. He fills us with His love, allowing it to overflow into our relationships, our community, and beyond.

Our mission statement—**Love God and Love Our Neighbour**—is more than just words. It’s our guiding light, reminding us of the life Jesus calls us to. It’s a reminder that loving God fully and loving our neighbour wholeheartedly are inseparable. When we open ourselves to God’s love, that love transforms us and pours out into the world, impacting lives, healing brokenness, and bringing hope to those around us.

So, as we go about our week, let’s reflect on this commandment anew. Let’s ask ourselves, “How can I deepen my love for God today? How can I show His love to the people I encounter?” Whether through small acts of kindness, a listening ear, or a helping hand, each of us has an opportunity to live out this mission. And as we do, we bring the love of Christ into every corner of our lives, fulfilling Jesus’ call to love in both word and deed.

May we be a church known for our love—a love that’s rooted in God and shared with 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

Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Mark 12:28-34

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	Pastoral Care Meeting 10.15am

Church Roster

Today **Next Sunday**

Kids' Church	Terryll	Elizabeth
Duty Elder	Neil	Walter
Organist/Pianist	Jill & Mel	Audrey & Jill
Greeters	Lynn & Walter	Robyn & Dorothy B
Bible Readers	Nigel & Lynn	Dorothy B & Robyn
Prayers for Others	Audrey	Neil
Morning Tea	Steph & Vai	Shirley T & Dorothy McA
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Neil
Sound Room	Nathan	Nigel
Cleaning	Craft Club	Aaron & Jane

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

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

Mainly Music 12 November 9.30am
Elder's Meeting 12 November 4.30pm
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 13 November 9.30am
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 Council Meeting 10 December 7pm
Pastoral Care Meeting February 10.15am TBC

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.**

Pastoral Care Meeting

Please note that this meeting will be held on Friday 8 November in the hall at 10.15am

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