



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 4 May 2025

A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



Restored by Mercy: A Call to Begin Again

Many of us carry silent burdens—regret over things we’ve done or said, we fear that we’ve strayed too far from God’s purpose for us, or feel the quiet ache of shame. Whether our failures are public or deeply personal, they can leave us believing we are no longer useful to God. But the stories of Peter and Saul in Scripture speak a radically different truth: **God’s mercy is greater than our failure.**

This message runs through the heart of the Gospel, and it’s a reminder we all need. In John 21 and Acts 9, we find three powerful truths about how God responds to our failures:

1. Failure Does Not Have the Final Word

When Peter denied Jesus three times, he wasn’t just making a mistake—he was walking away from the very One he had vowed to follow to the end. After the crucifixion, Peter must have been crushed under the weight of his shame. He went back to fishing, likely assuming his calling was over.

But Jesus met him on the shore, not with scolding, but with love. Just as He had done at the beginning, Jesus provided a miraculous catch of fish—and invited Peter to breakfast. Then, with a simple question He asked three times, one for each time Peter denied knowing Him—“Do you love me?”—Jesus gently restored the disciple who had fallen so hard.

The world may say failure defines us. But with Jesus, failure becomes the place where grace rewrites our story. God’s love meets us in our worst moments and says, “I’m not finished with you yet.”

2. Mercy Is Greater Than Our Mistakes

In Acts 9, Saul was an enemy of the church—violent, zealous, and actively involved in the killing of Christians. If anyone seemed beyond redemption, it was him. But on the road to Damascus,

Saul encountered not wrath, but the risen Jesus. And in that moment, everything changed.

Jesus didn’t remind Saul of his sins—He called him to a new purpose.

God’s mercy doesn’t come with strings attached. It’s not reserved for those who’ve earned it. Like the father who ran to embrace the prodigal son, God runs toward us with open arms. Our worst moments do not outweigh the depth of His grace.

3. Restoration Leads to Mission

After restoring Peter, Jesus gave him a charge: “Feed my sheep.” Peter wasn’t just forgiven—he was recommissioned. The same was true for Saul, who became Paul, a bold apostle to the Gentiles.

God doesn’t just patch us up and set us aside. He restores us so we can live with purpose. When we accept His mercy, we are called to extend it to others. Our stories, even the broken parts, become powerful tools in God’s hands.

A Call to Begin Again

Maybe you’re carrying the weight of past failures. Maybe you’ve believed the lie that God can’t use you anymore. But here is the truth: **You are not cast aside or beyond redemption.** God sees you, loves you, and calls you—still.

Take one step today:

- Confess your sin and receive God’s forgiveness.
- Reflect on how God might use your story to help someone else.

Step into the mission He has for you—not as someone defined by the past, but as someone restored for His purpose.
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

Acts 9:1-20

John 21:1-19

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 (CWC) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm

Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Duty Elder	Neil	Elizabeth
Organist/Pianist	Jill/Mel	Audrey
Greeters	Sylvia & Nigel	Denise & Hazel
Bible Readers	Noah & Lumiere	Lena & Joyce
Prayers for Others	Elizabeth	Audrey
Morning Tea	Shirley T & Dorothy McA	Pat & Steph
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Ross
Sound Room	Nathan	Ross
Cleaning	Craft Club	Aaron & Jane

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

Other upcoming events for your diary

Mainly Music 13 May 9.30am
Elder's Meeting 13 May 4pm
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 14 May 9.30am
Fellowship Lunch 14 May 12 noon
Craft Club 16 May 9am
Chaira Companions 18 May 12 noon
Pastoral Care Meeting 23 May 10.15am
Men's Breakfast 31 May 8am
Church Council Meeting 10 June 7pm

Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the 'Happy Lunchers' at 12 noon on Wednesday 14 May in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 12 May.

Mainly Music



mainly music Term 2 of Mainly Music starts back on Tuesday 6 May. New volunteers are always welcome.

The Banora Pointer



Many thanks for the extensive feedback giving personal views on The Pointer, after last weeks notice request. To date the feedback has been positive and requesting continuance of it in its current format. Items for future editions are welcomed—please direct these to Nigel.

Carpet Donation

Dudley is offering a carpet—size 260cm x 180cm approximately, to anyone who wants it. All he asks is that you collect it. If you are interested, please talk to Dudley for more details.

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