



# BANORA POINTER



Sunday 29 June 2025

## A message from Rev. Aaron Moad



### From Comfort to Commitment: Following Jesus Without Looking Back

We all want to live lives that matter—to wake up each day with a sense of purpose, direction, and meaning. But when following Jesus starts to challenge our routines or push us outside our comfort zones, it can be tempting to pause, hesitate, or even step back.

In today's reading from Luke 9:51–62, we see Jesus on a mission. The passage tells us He “set His face” toward Jerusalem. He knew what was coming—rejection, opposition, suffering, the cross—and He didn't turn away. He moved forward with boldness, focus, and love. And then, along the way, He invites others to follow Him. But His invitation isn't a soft sell. He's honest: following Him is costly, and it won't always be comfortable. This week's passage gives us three big takeaways about what it really means to follow Jesus with our whole hearts:

#### 1. Jesus Doesn't Promise Comfort—He Offers a Deeper Purpose

When someone says, “I'll follow you wherever you go,” Jesus replies, “Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.” (Luke 9:58)

In other words, *don't expect an easy ride*. Jesus didn't live a life of luxury or security. And if we're serious about following Him, we might be called to let go of comfort, convenience, or control. But what He offers in return is far better—a life of purpose, love, and transformation.

**What might Jesus be inviting you to let go of so you can follow Him more freely?**

#### 2. Delayed Obedience Is Still Disobedience

To another person, Jesus says, “Follow me.” But the man replies, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Sounds reasonable, right? But Jesus' answer is striking: “Let the dead bury their own dead. You go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

This isn't about being insensitive—it's about urgency. Jesus is saying, *don't put off the call of God*. There will always be a reason

to wait—bad timing, fear—but following Jesus means saying “yes” today, not someday.

**What excuses have been keeping you from stepping fully into God's calling?**

#### 3. You Can't Move Forward if You're Always Looking Back

Another person says, “I'll follow you, Lord, but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Again, Jesus replies with a challenge: “No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

Jesus isn't saying we can't love our families—He's calling out divided hearts. When we're always glancing back—whether it's to old habits, regrets, or past comforts—it's hard to move forward in faith. Jesus calls us to fix our eyes on Him and not turn back.

**What are you still holding onto that might be slowing you down?**

#### So What Now?

Jesus doesn't sugarcoat it—following Him is a serious, life-changing decision. But it's also the best decision we could ever make. He isn't calling us to perfection—just to faith, surrender, and commitment.

This week, take some time to ask yourself:

- Am I following Jesus out of convenience or conviction?
- Where might I be hesitating instead of moving forward?
- What step is Jesus asking me to take right now?

Remember:

You're not alone in this journey.

Jesus has already walked the hard road ahead of you.

And He's still saying, “*Follow me.*”

**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

**2 Kings 2:1-2 & 6-14 & Luke 9:51-62**

## What's Happening This Week

<b>Tuesday</b>	Mainly Music 9.30am
<b>Wednesday</b>	Prayer meeting 8am Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
<b>Thursday</b>	Men's Bible Study 8.30am KYB (CWC) 10am Evening Bible Study 6.30pm

## Other upcoming events for your diary

**Elders' Meeting** 8 July 4pm  
**Book Swap, Coffee & Chat** 9 July 9.30am  
**Fellowship Lunch** 9 July 12 noon  
**Chaira Companions** 20 July 12 Noon  
**Craft Club** 25 July 9am  
**Men's Breakfast** 26 July 8am  
**Mainly Music** 29 July 9.30am  
**Church Council Meeting** 12 August 7pm  
**Pastoral Care Meeting** 29 August 10.15am  
**Fashion Parade** 17 September - time TBC

## Church Roster

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Sunday</u>
Duty Elder	Neil	Elizabeth
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Jill & Mel
Greeters	Robyn & Terryll	Hazel & Lorraine W
Bible Readers	Dudley & Walter	Dorothy B & Terryll
Prayers for Others	Georgina	Elizabeth
Morning Tea	Mary & Chris	Shirley T & Dorothy McA
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	?
Sound Room	Nathan	Nathan
Cleaning	Craft Club	Helene & Lorraine

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

## Fred's Place & You Have a Friend

Winter is very much upon us, and as everyone can feel it is especially cold at present! It is that time again when we show our compassion to those in need. There is need for warm clothing, especially jackets, plus warm blankets. Also non-perishable foods and toiletries items. All donations can be left in the church foyer. Please contact Marshall or Jill, for more detailed information. Many thanks to all who have assisted in past years, and we hope and pray for your continuing support this year.

## TCCEA

Today we welcome Kirsten Strong and members of the PAIS team. We look forward to hearing about their wonderful ministry in teaching Special Religious Education to students at Banora, Tweed River and Kingscliff High Schools. **You are invited to donate to our retiring offering today, which will go to TCCEA to support this vital ministry.**

## Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the 'Happy Lunchers' at 12 noon on Wednesday 9 July in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 7 July.

## Fashion Parade

Ladies, a date for your diary—this year's Fashion Parade will take place on Wednesday 17 September. More details to follow in due course.

## 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