



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 2 August 2026

A message from
Rev. Aaron Moad



Blessed in the Struggle

Genesis 32:22-31 and Matthew 14:13-21

Wrestling with God in our darkest hour

There are nights that won't let us sleep. Maybe it's grief that keeps us awake, or fear about what tomorrow holds, or a decision we can't seem to make. Most of us know that feeling of lying in the dark, wrestling with something bigger than ourselves.

This is exactly where we find Jacob in Genesis 32. Alone by the Jabbok river, with everything he owns and everyone he loves already across, out of nowhere he is confronted by a stranger who wrestles with him until daybreak. There's no clever trick this time, no way to talk his way out. Jacob simply holds on through the night, even after he's wounded, even after his hip is wrenched from its socket. *"I will not let you go,"* he says, *"unless you bless me."*

Jesus knows this kind of night too. Matthew tells us that just before the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus has learned that his cousin John the Baptist has been executed. In grief He withdraws, but the crowds follow him anyway. His mourning is interrupted by thousands of needy people. And still, Scripture says, *"he had compassion for them."*

Both stories remind us that God doesn't wait for our convenient moments. He meets us in the exhausted, lonely, uninvited struggles, and stays with us until something changes.

Bringing him what little we have

As evening falls on that hillside, the disciples suggest to Jesus that they should send the crowds away so they can find food. Jesus answers instead, *"You give them something to eat."* They do a quick inventory but all they have is five loaves and two fish, laughably small next to the need in front of them. But Jesus doesn't ask for more. He simply says, *"Bring them here to me."*

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Jacob had nothing left to offer either, no plan, no gift, nothing but his own quickly tiring grip. He had just strength enough to hold through the night.

Neither story asks us to arrive with abundance. Both ask us to bring whatever we actually have, however small it looks, and place it in God's hands.

Walking away changed

As dawn breaks, the stranger asks Jacob his name, and then gives him a new one: no longer Jacob the deceiver, but Israel, one who has striven with God and prevailed. Jacob names that place Peniel: *"I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."* He limps away, but he limps away blessed.

On the hillside, Jesus takes the five loaves and two fish, blesses them, and everyone eats until they are satisfied. Twelve baskets of leftovers remain, much more than the disciples started with.

Neither Jacob nor the disciples walked away unchanged. One carried a limp and a blessing together. The others carried an overflow they never could have imagined possible.

What this means for us

Whatever wrestling match you're in right now, God isn't asking you to win it alone or let go too soon. Hold on, even wounded.

Whatever small thing you think you have to offer, your time, your faith, your five loaves, God isn't waiting for you to find more before he uses it.

And whatever mark this season leaves on you that may be proof that you have met God, even wrestled with Him and lived to carry his blessing forward.

Grace and peace,

Rev Aaron

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

Genesis 32:22-31 & Matthew 14:13-21

What's Happening This Week

Tuesday Mainly Music 9.30am
Book Club 1.30pm

Wednesday Prayer Meeting 8am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am

Thursday Men's Bible Study 9am
CWCI (KYB) 10am
Evening Bible Study 6.30pm

Church Roster

	Today	Next Sunday
Duty Elder	Dorothy	Robyn
Organist/Pianist	Mel	Audrey
Greeters	Joan & Stephanie	Hazel & Lynn
Bible Readers	Terryll & Joyce	Noah & Lynn
Prayers for Others	Elizabeth	Joyce
Morning Tea	Shirley T & Dorothy Mc	Sylvia & Stephanie
Hall Set Up	Ross	Nigel
Sound Room	Nigel	Nathan
Cleaning	Aaron & Jane	Helene & Lorraine

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 11 August 9.30am
Church Council Meeting 11 August 7pm
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 12 August 9.30am
Fellowship Lunch 12 August 12 Noon
Craft Club 14 August 9am
Chaira Companions 16 August 1.30pm
TCCEA Prayer Meeting 18 August 4pm
Pastoral Care Meeting 21 August 9.30am
Mini Market 22 August 8.30am
Men's Breakfast 29 August 8am
Elders' Meeting 8 September 4pm
Fashion Parade 16 September 10.30am

Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the "Happy Lunchers" at 12 noon on Wednesday 12 August in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 10 August.

Mini Market

We have a number of people making jams, chutneys and relishes for the Mini Market. **They have asked if members of our congregation can please donate used clean 250gm to 295gm jars.** If you can help, please leave them on the table in the foyer as soon as possible.

Fred's Place

Many thanks to everyone who has so generously donated to this appeal – it is very much appreciated by Fred's Place. This Winter **they continue to welcome donations of blankets, jackets and socks. Canned and packaged foodstuffs would also be appreciated.** Please talk to Marshall if you have any queries.

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 Shane Hambling 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