BANORA POINTER



Sunday 8 November 2026

A message from Rev. Aaron Moad

Ready for the Bridegroom, Living in Hope
Readings: Matthew 25:1–13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

Have you ever waited for something that took longer than you were expecting? As a kid, I remember waiting forever for a mate to arrive for a sleepover or waiting for Christmas morning to arrive. Waiting is something we all experience. We wait for news, for answers, for things to change. And when it goes on longer than we hoped, it can leave us tired, discouraged and uncertain. This week's readings are about exactly that kind of waiting. And here is the good news I want you to hear before anything else: the One we are truly waiting for is coming, and He comes with love.

The Wait: Learning to trust God in the in between times
In our reading from Matthew Jesus tells us a story about ten bridesmaids waiting for the groom who is delayed. All ten have lamps, all ten are waiting, and eventually all ten fall asleep. The difference is that five brought extra oil, prepared in case it's a long night. What we notice is that Jesus doesn't say the wise ones never grew tired. We know what it's like to wait for God. We pray for healing, reconciliation, peace and direction, and the answers don't always come when we hope. But the delay doesn't mean God has forgotten us, and the silence doesn't mean God has abandoned us. Sometimes the Christian life is simply lived in the quiet faithfulness of waiting.

The Oil: Keeping our faith and hope burning
When the cry finally comes, "Look! Here is the bridegroom!", the foolish bridesmaids discover that readiness can't be borrowed. We can't live on our parents' prayers or the faith of the person beside us. Each of us is called to our own living relationship with God. Jesus isn't asking us to be frightened or to work out the date of His return. He's asking us not to put off living faithfully: forgiving, showing kindness, reaching out to someone who is lonely. And being ready doesn't mean being perfect. The oil is the quiet, everyday things: a prayer on waking, a moment of gratitude before sleep, an unnoticed kindness, a decision to keep loving. They seem small, but they matter.

The Welcome: The promise of being with the Lord forever
Paul writes to Christians in Thessalonica who were grieving loved ones who had died. He doesn't tell them not to grieve. He tells them not to grieve as people who have no hope, because grief and hope can live together. We can miss someone terribly and still trust God. Our hope rests on Jesus, who died, was buried and rose again, and because He lives, death is not the end for those who belong to Him. "And so we will be with the Lord forever." No more goodbyes. Paul gives us this promise not to satisfy our curiosity about the future, but to strengthen our hearts now: "Therefore encourage one another with these words."

Living Between Now and Then
Keep your faith alive through prayer, worship and listening for God's voice, and don't be discouraged when you feel weary. Even the wise bridesmaids grew tired. Live each day with love and purpose: care for those who are struggling, forgive where it's needed, be generous, and don't wait for the perfect moment to do good. And hold on to hope in difficult times, remembering that our future is in the hands of the risen Christ.

We don't know the day or the hour, but we know the One who is coming. We wait with faith. We live with love. And we look towards tomorrow with hope.

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
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 & Matthew 25:1-13

What's Happening This Week

Tuesday	Mainly Music 9.30am
	Book Club 1.30pm
	Elders' Meeting 4pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am
	Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 9.30am
	Fellowship Lunch 12 Noon
Thursday	Men's Bible Study 9am
	CWCI (KYB) 10am
	Evening Bible Study 6.30pm
Friday	Pastoral Care Meeting 9.30am

Church Roster

	Today	Next Sunday
Duty Elder	Robyn	Elizabeth
Organist/Pianist	Audrey	Mel
Greeters	Lorraine & Robyn	Denise & Hazel
Bible Readers	Joyce & Lumiere	Nigel & Sylvia
Prayers for Others	Terryll	Audrey
Morning Tea	Janice & Hazel	Terryll & Steph
Hall Set Up	Craft Club	Ross
Sound Room	Nigel	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

Chaira Companions 15 November 12 Noon
Mainly Music 17 November 9.30am
Book Club 17 November 1.30pm
Prayer Meeting 18 November 8am
Book Swap, Coffee & Chat 18 November 9.30am
Men's Bible Study 19 November 9am
CWCI (KYB) 19 November 10am
Evening Bible Study 19 November 6.30pm
Craft Club 20 November 9am
Men's Breakfast 21 November 8am
Christmas Market 28 November 8.30am
Church Council Meeting 8 December 7pm
Fellowship Lunch 9 December 12 Noon
Elders' Meeting 12 January 2027 4pm
Pastoral Care Meeting February 2027 9.30am TBC
TCCEA Meeting March 2027 TBC

Fred's Place

They have requested donations of Towels please. These can be left on the table in our Foyer. Please talk to Marshall if you have any queries.

Fellowship Lunch

Everybody is welcome to join the "Happy Lunchers" at 12 noon on Wednesday 11 November in the "Secret Garden" South Tweed Sports Club for fellowship and lunch. RSVP to Janice by 9 November.

Christmas Market

Our Christmas Market is due to take place on Saturday 28 November 2026 from 8.30am to 11.30am. As well as goods for the various stalls, **donations for the 'Guessing Competition' prizes are being requested. This time the plan is to have 3 baskets of goods for prizes. A list of items being sought for the baskets is on the table in the Foyer. Please talk to Terryll or Estelle if you have any queries about this**. **Please also spread the news about our Market with our Posters and Flyers**, which are on the table in the foyer and in the hall. Many thanks to Jane for her creativity and artwork in putting them together! If you require more flyers, please talk to Nigel.

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