

Weekly News

Welcome,

We're so very glad you can be at church today, there is nothing better than starting the week focusing on the important things of life. Taking a break from our everyday concerns and stopping to thank God for his goodness to us, learning from His word and encouraging others to keep trusting Jesus for those everyday concerns. Please join us for a cuppa after the service.

Today we're reflecting on one of the great stumbling blocks Christians (and non Christians) fall over when they think about how to relate to the God of the universe. People have a very high opinion of themselves and so figure that good deeds they perform should make God happy. Down through the ages people have sought to make their peace with God by offering some sacrifice: doing good, being selfless, giving, the list is endless, however there's a problem people like to ignore. They still want to live as their own god and just keep the true God happy by throwing him a few bones of their good deeds on occasion.

If I left my wife and my rightful obligations as a husband, ran off with some other woman and went to live in Africa. And if I did wonderful and loving things in Africa, helping people, even achieving spectacular things for the good of many Africans, how do you think my wife would view such 'good deeds'?

No matter how much good I do, until I have made my peace with Anne, until I've apologised and done everything I can to undo my wrong, I am not going to have a relationship with her.

It's exactly like that with the God we have ignored. If we are unwilling to seek out a reconciliation with Him, we remain a stranger to Him, and He's not impressed with any feeble attempts to suck up to Him while we still want to live as our own god. (Matthew 7:22-23)

But the story doesn't end there, even those of us who have made our peace with God can still be blind to how our relationship with God should work. Christians can live in a prison of the law of God, doing good deeds, feeling they have to, to keep God happy. They fail to realise their happiness will only be found in loving God and His purposes for them, rather than a legalistic and slavish keeping of God's commands.

Jesus talked about his burden being light, if you can get to the stage of loving what God loves, it is no burden at all, but the joy of knowing the grace of God. (Psalm 19:7-10)
More about this as we explore Romans 12 today.

Ray Robinson.

Ray Robinson's contact details are—Mob: 0423 161 363.
Email: mail.ray@icloud.com

Upper Mountains Combined Churches—Pentecost Service.

This special event will be held on Sunday 26th May, 2024 starting at 5pm and will be at Katoomba Convention Centre.

If you would like to go and do not drive, speak to one of the wardens in the church you attend and transport will be arranged.

A Date for your Diaries—An Imprint Youth Fundraiser at St Aidan's in Blackheath. Christmas in July—

Please save the date for a special night of food and fellowship on Saturday 27th July 2024. More details to come.

Prayers before church services.

St Aidan's invites anyone who would like to pray with others before the Sunday service each week at 10am in the small meeting room in the church hall. Any questions speak to -

Ian Robinson who facilitates this time together.

St Peter's also has a prayer time each Sunday before the service at 8.15am in the vestry, anyone is welcome to come and either pray together with others or support silently.

Children's Ministries.

Play and Sing on Thursday morning.

Kid's Club—Mt Victoria on Thursday afternoon.

Kid's Club—Blackheath on Friday afternoon.

Imprint Youth Group—Blackheath on Friday evening.

Scripture in Mt Victoria Primary school on Wednesday afternoon.

Scripture in Blackheath Primary school on Thursday morning.

Scripture in Katoomba High School on Friday morning.

Sunday School at St Aidan's on Sunday mornings.

Please pray for the children that attend any of these ministries and for all those who lead, teach and help in any way during each program.

Notes

Sermon Series -

8 things Christians know but don't necessarily believe.

1. **Jesus is Lord.**
2. **You are loved more than you ever realise.**
3. **We are in a spiritual battle.**
4. **The Bible is an amazing treasure chest.**
5. **You have an important role in the Kingdom of God.**
- 6: **It's easy to confuse Grace and Law.**

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BLACKHEATH

St. Aidan's Blackheath, St. Peter's Mt Victoria,
St. John's Hartley, St. George's Mt Wilson

CENTRED ON CHRIST

Building up One Another, Reaching Out to the World

Sunday 5th May, 2024

SERVICES FOR TODAY

8.45am Mt Victoria —Morning Service—Rev Ray Robinson
10.30am Blackheath— Morning Service—Rev Ray Robinson
3.00pm Hartley—Communion Service—Rev Ray Robinson
6.30pm—Night Church— Rev Ray Robinson

First Reading—Psalm 84

Second Reading—Romans 12:1-8

Welcome

Bible Readings—for next Sunday 12th May, 2024

1st Reading—Psalm 22

2nd Reading—Ephesians 1:15-23

Rev Ray Robinson

Prayers

St Peter's : Geoff Brimley. **St Aidan's**: Stephen Fifer.

Night Church: Elizabeth.

Minister: Rev Tim Mclver

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