

## Personal Thoughts: Family By Birth or Family By Choice.

This grandfather-in-waiting periodically gets somewhat overwhelmed with how important “family is.” It could be that I grew up in a dysfunctional family, and have for many years recognized myself as a “survivor”.

One aspect that I find difficult is that my family live all over Australia—Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, and Bundaberg.

However, I’m not Robinson Crusoe in this. Many families are now geographically scattered, and have to make an effort to be together at significant times.

I chose to move away from home when I was a teenager. Of course, that isn’t quite true. This is the way I reframed the event. It was that moving to Sydney from Grafton was a way of managing difficult family relationships. Whatever the reason, the wish to have a nurturing, positive relationship with family generally remains.

This brings us to the concept of “*family by choice*,” friends who become surrogate family members. Perhaps you have heard the expression “you can’t choose your family but you can choose your friends.” Family by choice allows you the opportunity to create the kind of family connections you desire.

When Joyce and I were first married, and I was a very young teacher in northern New South Wales, a particular family took us under its wing. They weren’t quite parents, and they weren’t quite peers. Their children were too young to be “mates” with us, and too old to be so-called “nephews and nieces”. It was just an odd conglomerate that worked then, and still does today.

Year after year, I continue to be grateful for the care and generosity and love these “*friends-like-into-family*” have offered to Joyce and I and our family over the years.

Many are in a similar situation having no family nearby. There are so many of us with a shared history, celebration of life events and their powerful connections.

When family isn’t available, creating your own family to further enjoy life is a wonderful option.

Fr. Rick



# Good Shepherd Church

## Anglican Parish of Bundaberg West

George & Takalvan Sts. Bundaberg

**Rector:** Rev’d Dr Richard Bowie 41528810  
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**Churchwardens:**  
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Russ Ford Ph 41516929  
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**Parish Office: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am – 12 noon**

**Email address: [goodshepherdwest@bigpond.com](mailto:goodshepherdwest@bigpond.com)**

**Web Site: [www.goodshepherdbundaberg.org](http://www.goodshepherdbundaberg.org)**

**The ‘family church’... where you’re a stranger only once.**

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**31ST AUGUST, 2008**

*The Good Shepherd Family — our purpose is to grow together in Christ,  
to worship and learn, to be the Good News.*

A huge thank you to all who have completed their thanksgiving / stewardship forms. Our parish data will be updated in the next few weeks.

If you want a set of envelopes and there is no set for you on the back seat, please let the parish secretary know via a care & courtesy slip.

**“We could never learn to be brave and patient, if there were only joy in the world.”**  
—Helen Keller

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

**In November we will celebrate our 30th Anniversary of Good Shepherd Church.**

**Watch this space for news of our special celebration.**

### Parish Family News!

#### Celebrating Birthdays

**31st Billy Hailey**  
**4th Emily Pressler-Gallagher**



*Best wishes from all your parish family*

Thank you to all my parish family for your prayers for my recovery after my recent surgery. Your cards, visits, flowers and especially your prayers meant so much to me.

With love  
Clara Mason.



**The “Cookie Jar needs feeding!!!!**

It loves both notes and coins!  
*Feed it, and mow the lawns by proxy!!*





## Trivia Night with Mini Cent Sale

**Friday 10th October 7pm** at Bundaberg Bowls Club, Quay Street  
**Parishioners.....**we need YOUR support to make this fundraiser a success. Can you organize a table of six—parishioners, family or friends? Start asking people to join you for a wonderful night of fellowship and fun!

We also need lots of items for the Mini Cent Sale — Items valued at approximately \$5 — \$7 or grocery items which would be suitable to make into a bucket of groceries or you may know a business which would donate a prize.

The next Men's Breakfast is in our hall on Saturday September 6th at 7am.



*MEN, bring along your favourite verse, chapter or book and enjoy breaky and fellowship with other men of our parish.*

Come and hear **BUNDEBERG FESTIVAL MALE VOICE CHOIR**



present a

### FESTIVAL OF PRAISE

TODAY at 6pm

**Ann Street, Gospel Chapel**  
Cnr Ann & Princess Streets,  
East Bundaberg.

Those who attended the Reframing Workshop—completed evaluation sheets need to be returned to Fr. Rick as soon as possible.

**COAT**—Thank you to all who are supporting the Chinese Orphans Assistance Team—those who have pledged and those who give when they can—your donations make such a difference to these little children's lives. **August donations are now due.**



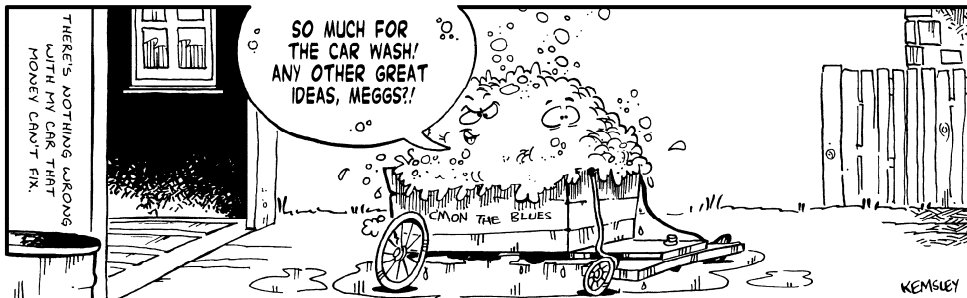
If you would like a receipt please put your money in an envelope with your name on the front, & a receipt will be available next week.

### ANGLICAN MEN'S SOCIETY

Wives/partners of members, together with Mother's Union members are invited to our next meeting in Christ Church Supper Room on Tuesday 9th September.

Arrive from 11.30am onwards for (salad) lunch at 12.15, followed by talk on Creation by Tony Osborn.

We **MUST** have numbers for catering purposes by 2nd September. Please phone Howard Kingston (41523530) by that date.



### This week in the Parish:



Monday	10.00am	Rector's Day Off Pastoral Focus Visitor Mater Hospital
Tuesday	9.30am	Sewing Circle in the hall
Wednesday	9.00am 9.45am	Midweek Service Bible Study in the hall
Thursday	7.00am	Pastoral Focus Home Visits & Bedside Communion Mater Hospital
Friday	7.00am 8.00am	Prayer Group meet in the church Bedside Communion Riverlea & Gracehaven
Sunday	8.30am 4.00pm	Family Communion Service with Baptism Samuel Stone Schmidt, Sunday School & Visit of Festival of Male Voice Praise Laate Home Group—Contact Andrew & Louise 4156542680

*It all depends on how we look at things,  
and not how they are in themselves.*  
— C.G. Jung



### Hymn Fest



Saturday 13th September

2pm to 4pm

Shalom Performing Arts Precinct  
Gold coin entry -- Afternoon Tea



## Operation Christmas Child



A huge thank you to all who have supported Operation Christmas Child.

Completed boxes should be brought in by Sunday 14th September.

**What do we still need?** Tennis balls, hairbrushes, washers & soap (wrapped)



**We also need financial donations to help with the cost of sending the boxes overseas.**

Each box costs \$8 to send and we expect to send more than fifty boxes.

**Our Parish Prayer**

Father God, equip our Good Shepherd family with the resources we need.  
Empower us all by your Holy Spirit.  
Strengthen, protect and guide us – especially in our times of need.  
Remove the obstacles that would block our endeavours to do your will.  
Make us one, within the fold of your church.  
We ask in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.



**Pastoral Focus Prayer.**

God our Father,  
Grant us the skills to serve your church;  
The ears to hear the calls for help;  
The lips to speak your words of truth;  
The eyes to see the needs to fill;  
The feet to go to those in want;  
The mind to meet the doubts we find;  
The heart of love to share your peace;  
The hands to work without reward;  
We ask this only to do your will,  
Through Jesus, our Saviour, Redeemer and Friend. Amen.



**Prayer of Evangelism.**

Heavenly Father, Set our hearts on fire to go into the world in your name.  
Grant us wisdom, and the confidence to speak your word.  
Give us the strength and the will to continue through all circumstances.  
Help us take the Good News to all who will listen,  
so they may know Jesus as their Lord and master.  
May we glorify your name in all we say and do. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.



**In your prayers, please remember:-**

**Our Parish Family prayer list this week** ( from our parish directory – to show we care)

Phoebe Adams; Heather & Greg Chamberlain; Coral Dilger; Lorraine Jose; Don & Leone  
Lincoln Alice Nixon; Peter & Yvonne Sorensen; Madge Warren; Claire Webb.



*Absent Friends:* Parish Family not with us today.

For those in need:

**Prayers for Healing:** "Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest"

Judy; Barry; Anna; Clara; Phyllis; Norah; Reg; Mark; Audrey; Dave; Ben; Sarah; Bev; Richard; Sherryl;  
Chris; Bon; . ...*(and those known only to the Lord)*

**Special Needs:**

Pauline, Michael, Wendy, Elizabeth & James; Alan & Yvonne; Lance, Wendy, Penny & family; Matthew;  
Vivienne & Don; Kym; Emma; Linda, Neil & Brendan; Julia; Bonny & children; Janet, Dudley & Family;  
( & those known only to the Lord) *Pray for continued Pastoral Visits in hospitals and nursing homes & that new legislations regarding privacy will not prevent these visits.*

**Pray for the political situation and the people of Zimbabwe**

**Our School Chaplains:** Fr. Andrew, Paula, Kelli, Steven, Adrian, Noel, Craig, Teresa & Brenda

**Our Link Missionaries with CMS** – Shirley Gent in Pakistan and the Hayes Family – Bruce, Libby  
and their children Daniel, Julia, Stephanie & Ruth in Nepal **and BCA Missionaries** - the Keith  
Family—Rev'd Mike, Chantalle and baby Rachell in Lightning Ridge.

**Years Mind – we remember- (i.e. the anniversary of the death of a loved one):-**

Gloria Lohse; Martha Christensen;

**Thanksgiving for the Life of:** Barry Augustus

**Today's Worship—Pentecost 16**

**Sentence:** If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow him.  
Matthew 16:24-25

**Readings Today:**

Old Testament: Exodus 3:1-15  
Psalm Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26 page 332  
New Testament: Romans 12:9-21  
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

**Readings next Sunday:**

Old Testament: Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm Psalm 149 page 379  
New Testament: Romans 13:1-10  
Gospel: Matthew 18:10-20

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice  
holy and acceptable to God,  
your spiritual worship.  
Do not conform yourselves to this age,  
but be transformed by the renewal of  
your mind, so that you may judge what  
is God's will, what is good,  
pleasing and perfect.

**YOUR OFFERTORY TRUST**

Our Offertory gift is not to be a haphazard hit and miss affair. It requires intelligent planning both by the contributor and those who budget the Church finances. Every single member of Christ's Body has the responsibility for the welfare of the whole. If each does his and her share, no one is unduly burdened and the Word of God moves to its fulfillment.



**ABM Reflections of Today's Readings**

Matthew adds to Mark. Peter is not only called 'Satan', but a 'stumbling block' as well. Is Peter a 'representative disciple' where we see both the power and weaknesses of the followers of Jesus, or did he have a singular role? Peter has his highs as well as his lows, yet Jesus trusted Peter. He also trusts us with feeding his sheep. Moses at the burning bush recognized God's voice, and eventually obeyed. He, too, failed at times, yet we remain thankful for his leadership and humility.

- Pray for the perseverance we need, being thankful that God continues to entrust us with the good news.
- Pray for the Ministry amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.