



**4 AUGUST 2024**

## Welcome

Welcome to church this morning, we hope you enjoy being with us.

## Lectionary readings

**This week 4 August, 2024**

2 Samuel 11:26—12:13a  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Ephesians 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

**Next Sunday 11 August, 2024**

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33  
Psalm 130  
Ephesians 4:25—5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51

## Ladies Bible Study

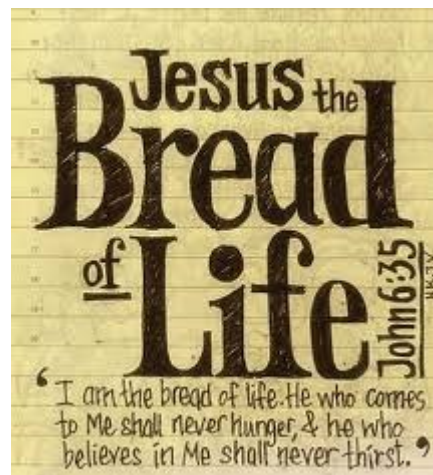
Ladies Bible Study will meet on Tuesday afternoon at 3pm in the chapel. They will be looking at Study 3 in their Proverbs series, "Women Calling" Proverbs 8:1-9:18.

## Ministerial Leave

Rev Gail is on leave until Saturday so if you have any pastoral concerns during this time, please contact one of the Ministry Team or Sue.

**Volunteers needed to visit Allity Aged Care Pemulwuy, Tuesday 17th September 10.30-11.30 am.**

I have recommenced visiting Allity once a month for a casual worship service. There is one Tuesday this year I cannot be present for and I wondered if a few of the members of the congregation would like to spend an hour with the residents. Instead of a service the staff will play your favourite hymns on Youtube and then you could chat to everyone about what the hymn/song means to you. If interested see Gail.





### **Greystanes Uniting Church**

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## **Bread of Heaven, Feed me. – John 6:24-35**

In today's reading from John's Gospel, Jesus had gone across the lake from where he had fed 5000. On his return Jesus appears to his disciples walking on water. Now the crowds once again catch up with him at Capernaum. Jesus challenges them all. John 6:26 *"you are looking for me because you ate bread and had all you wanted."*

Having travelled across the lake and back again, it would have been pretty natural for the crowd to be hungry again. They had already been fed by Jesus so it was reasonable for them to ask him for more food.

Jesus, however, is willing and able to give them something far more satisfying and much longer lasting than mere bread. Only the bread of life will satisfy their inner most craving. Still today, the church sustains the physical needs of thousands of people through a range of practical services, but our supreme offering to the world is actually Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life.

While it is very important to keep people alive – hence the works of the church in support of the needy, it is much more crucial that we, and they, are spiritually alive. Have you done the one work that Jesus says really counts? *"Believe in the one God sent?"*

Belief in Christ is new every morning. He proves his love for us over and over again as we depend on him. Verse 32 *"it is not Moses who has given you the bread from Heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven."* At the last supper, a normal Passover meal was eaten yet the gospel writers only record the consumption of bread and wine. That meal was much more than merely satisfying the human hunger and thirst. This was a meal to nourish the life that never perishes. This sustained the spiritual life of his disciples.

The gospel writer is making it very clear that the Bread of Heaven is not "what" comes down but "He" who comes down from heaven. In the end the really substantial nourishment is not physical, as important as that is. Only Christ satisfies our deepest need for life.

So what was the crowd's response? Verse 34 *"Sir, always give us this bread."*

This is a wonderful response from the Galilean crowd that day. They had no theological training but they clearly understood what Jesus said.

Still today we offer the glorious response when we sing that great hymn *"Bread of Heaven, feed me now and evermore."*

Finally; let me finish with the words of Jesus himself as recorded in verse 35. *"I am the Bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."*

**Adrian**