

**Services – Sunday 18 June, 2023**

**Pentecost 3**

**9.30am** Five Dock

*Preacher:* Rev Wattson Pualilo

*Reading:* Genesis 18: 1-15

*Theme:* "Don't make me laugh"

*We are glad to have you with us today in worship.*

*It is our hope that you will not only learn more about God, but that you will encounter Him and experience His presence, love and grace for you.*

**DIARY DATES**



**Monday 19 June**

**Monday Afternoon Lenten Bible Study**

meets in the Church at 3pm

Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35.

Topic: 'Family Forgiveness'

**Wednesday 21 June** at 1.30pm

A **Memorial Service** will be held for **Fran**

**Harding**. Family members will be in attendance and the service will be led by Rev Trevor Lunney. Fran's church family are all invited to attend as we remember Fran's life and service among us.

**Uniting in Prayer**

We continue to pray for the congregations suggested to us by the Uniting Church Assembly through the Act 2 Prayer Chain.

Points for prayer from Samford Valley congregation in Queensland are for:

- spiritual health and growth in our congregation
- our outreach programs to families – Mainly music/345
- members suffering from physical and mental illness
- future visioning.

In addition to the prayer points listed last week from the Mount Dromedary congregation, the recently appointed community chaplain who is also supporting the congregation part time, asks for prayer for:

- discussion on a changing church structure – for wisdom, grace, agreement amongst all for a new and better way forward.
- Quaama Renewal centre – to be a peaceful, helpful presence for people there, especially bushfire recovery victims.
- their witness in the areas of Bermagui, Bodalla, Cobargo and Narooma.

**'Blessed are the poor in spirit –  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'**

Mathew 5:3

Being without food, money, shelter, or health is not something we wish on ourselves or anyone. Being poor in these material terms is not something we aspire towards. So, we don't assume Jesus is glorifying material poverty. It is poverty of spirit that is favoured by God.

This poverty of spirit is all about recognising our need of the grace of God because of our spiritual bankruptcy. We realise that however good we are, we fall short of God's perfect goodness and thus are estranged from him.

This does not mean we are incapable of any goodness. It simply means we know we need mercy and forgiveness in order to find acceptance by a holy God. Poverty of spirit is not a personality trait; it is not a prescription for misery.

Rather, such poverty of spirit allows us to enter into God's sort of life, to live under his loving rule. Our inadequacies drive us to his adequacy. Our poverty has us claim his riches. We know from the gospels and perhaps from our own observations that those who are materially poor are more likely to recognise their need of help. But there is no automatic advantage in being materially poor.

It has been said that some of us miss out on the delight of salvation because we may not have recognised our need of it. The blessings bestowed on us by being found, only come to those who first knew they were lost.

David Reay Hope Media 103.2

**Prayer:**

Create within me a clean heart O God,  
and renew a right spirit within,  
Banish me not from your presence O Lord  
and take not your spirit from me,  
Restore to me, the joy of your salvation  
uphold me with your free spirit Lord.  
Create within me a clean heart O God  
and renew a right spirit within.

Rod Best "Time of Refreshing" (Psalm 51:10-12)