



**Greetings to you all
in the name of Jesus.**

Services – Sunday 23 July, 2023

Pentecost 8

9.30am Five Dock

Preacher: Rev Wattson Pualilo

Reading: Philippians 1: 1-11

Theme: "The Joy of it all, regardless"

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 24 July

Monday Afternoon Lenten Bible Study

is not able to meet due to the health of some members.

Wednesday 26 July at 11.30am

PAC Meeting will be held.

Annual Reports

Annual Reports from congregation groups are due to be received for inclusion in the Annual Reports booklet.

Please forward to the church office by the

Friday 28 July deadline.

It would ease pressure if you are to complete your report prior to this deadline.

COVID-19 Test Kits

A local Medical Centre has provided surplus Test Kits as the use-by date is August 2023.

Please take some if you believe any may be useful to yourself or others known to you.

As I sit here typing away on my piece for this week's newsletter, so many things have filled my weird and limited mind throughout this week that I've often felt the need to press pause, and to just reflect for a while on some of those things which at times can be a lot for a person to consume mentally.

We live in a world that seems to have somehow lost its course like a ship in the middle of a raging storm on a dark gloomy night, being tossed to and fro with absolutely no hope of escaping its devastating fury. Those inside the ship, however, continue to go about their normal routines of life totally oblivious to what is happening around them, turning a blind eye and carrying on as though it's all normal and acceptable. They have become docile to their situation without any regard for their own safety or those around them.

It's as though they have either given up hope for any change in their situation, so why resist it? Or no one cares anymore: we live, we die, that's all there is folks, and then there are those who are just too afraid to reach out and make a difference, so we hide with our fears. Sadly, this ship/world is heading towards a catastrophic ending unless it decides to change its course and focus on the one that calms the storm. *Matthew 8: 23 – 27*

This story reminds me that only Jesus has the power to change any situation in life. Just as he rebukes the winds and the waves of the storm, he is also able to rebuke away the storms of our lives and bring calmness and peace.

The disciples knew who to turn to when their lives were at risk and there was danger all around. The world must likewise also turn to Jesus when situations and circumstances around us become too much to deal with. There is no fear when Jesus is near, for he has promised to never leave nor forsake us, even in times of uncertainty. We must continue to put our trust and faith in him and never be afraid to stand up for what is pleasing and for what is good in the eyes of God.

Blessings, **Wattson**