

### Services – Sunday 1 September, 2024

#### *Pentecost 15*

9.30am Five Dock

*Preacher:* Rev Wattson Pualilo

*Reading:* James 1: 17-27

*Theme:* "Man in the Mirror"

*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 2 September** at 3pm

**Monday Bible Study** continues to be held in the Church on Monday afternoons, currently studying a series looking at the Gospel of Mark with the title *Follow Me*. Owing to the Church not being available the group will not meet on Monday 9 September.

**Sunday 8 September and Sunday 15 September**

Church services will be held in the Fellowship Room.

**Saturday 14 September 2024**

**2024 NSW Local Government Elections**

Pre-poll for the election will be held in our Church building so the Church will be unavailable for the Congregation from **6 to 13 September** inclusive. Church services will be held in the halls. This means that on the weekdays during this period we cannot park in front of the Church or access the building. The Church office will be open normal times.

**Sunday 15 September** after Service  
**Carer's Group** will meet.

**Wednesday 18 September** at 11.30am  
**Property & Administration Committee** Meeting will be held in the Church foyer.

**Thursday 19 September** at 11am  
**Extraordinary Church Council Meeting** to receive the Life and Witness report from the Chair of the Life and Witness Team and a Presbytery representative.

**Sunday 22 September** after Service  
**Congregational Meeting**  
As the Annual Report will be presented to the Congregation, individual reports will not be

required for this meeting. The agenda and meeting papers will be available on Sunday 18 September.

### *Daylight Saving Time*

Just a reminder that Daylight Saving Time for NSW will begin at 2am on **Sunday 6 October** when our clocks go forward an hour.



### *Praise and Prayer Points.*

#### **THERE IS A LIGHT ON THE HILL**

One moment we could be enjoying time with friends, the next, the conversation takes a turn. Tragedies, shootings, violence, natural disasters and global conflicts, for example, leaving one feeling overwhelmed and afraid.

It is tempting to shut it all out - stop watching the news, unsubscribe from social media. Fear can be paralysing, even for those who find hope in Jesus.

While it's okay to take breaks from the negativity, hiding from the world isn't the answer Jesus would want.

The Bible tells us Jesus was deeply compassionate. He wasn't afraid to be around people who were hurting. When Jesus taught a crowd on a mountaintop he started by acknowledging the suffering of those considered unfortunate - the poor, the grieving, the persecuted.

Following Jesus means being a light in the darkness. A city built on a hill will shine a visible light, a beacon of hope. If everyone shuts their windows and hides their light, darkness wins.

As followers of Christ, we need to be aware of what's happening in the world. This doesn't mean dwelling on negativity but staying informed allows us to pray more effectively.

Hearing about violence and wars should make us uncomfortable. But instead of letting fear win, let it turn to prayer and trust in God's plan. We can fight injustice, offer hope to those suffering and support organisations making a difference.

Fear doesn't have to control us. Let's choose action over hiding, prayer over paralysis. Let's be the light of Christ in a world that desperately needs hope.

*adapted from weekly Insights.*