

Church Contact Details:

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Secretary: Andrea Bell wollongongcongregationchurch@gmail.com

Newsletter: Jenny Bergstedt jenabe.bergstedt@gmail.com

Church Prayer Chain: Ring or text Lynda Ratcliffe 0402622406

Food Coordinator: Jill Donnelly 0466661879

Please continue to join our activities:

- ⊗ Listen to Con's recorded video devotion each Sunday from our website www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org
- ⊗ Tuesday Bible Study will resume in the new year
- ⊗ Personalised cards can be ordered from Lynne Grimm, 3 for \$5.00 Proceeds go to the Building Fund 0438770764
- ⊗ **Reminder!** We'll be collecting gifts for Toys 'n' Tucker and Food Hamper donations. If you'd like to donate, please contact **Andrea Bell** our **Secretary** for further information
- ⊗ **Christmas Cake Orders – Reminder!**
Maureen Murray is taking orders for Christmas cakes
Small for \$7 and Medium for \$12
Please see Rob to place your order
Proceeds go to the Building Fund.

Church account details:
Congregational Church Wollongong
BSB: 032695 Account No: 494743

Thanks to everyone who has been faithful in tithing and giving



Wollongong Congregational Church

29 November, 2020

— Welcome all and be blessed —

Please only attend Church if well
Masks are available should you need them
Please follow Covid-19 protocol

Please stay for Morning Tea following our service

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Due to new Government Covid Regulations, we now have to have a digitalised record of people attending each week. If you have a smartphone, please register each Sunday using the QR code. For people who are unable to do this, Andrea will type up a digital record each week.
"Please let the person on Welcome know you have registered as we still need to know numbers."
Thank you for your cooperation
- Pastor Con and Leonie's farewell will be on Sunday 13 December after church
 - Pastor Con and Leonie's last Sunday is 27 December. After a quick morning tea, those able to are invited to take Con and Leonie to Rashay's Restaurant in Nth Wollongong. Cost is \$25 for a one course meal and includes tea and coffee. Please see Jill Donnelly before 13 December to choose your meal and pay beforehand
- A Roster will be set up for volunteers to do the final clean up each Sunday after service (volunteers needed)

Summary of last week's Sermon by Pastor Con Despinidic

How often do we hear the exclamation, I cannot do it or I am not able, or I have not got what it takes? I believe more often than not. I also believe that we are often tempted to say that of our selves. I know in my own life that there is often a struggle with God's call and my inability and with God's provision and my not feeling that He is there.

The truth of the matter is that we may not have what it takes of ourselves. The truth of the matter may be that too often people rely on how they feel, their emotions and so on. The truth of the matter is that feelings will deceive us and let us down. They may take us to places that we should not go. They may even lead us into depression and fear.

Today's reading focussed on the words of the Lord Jesus in **John 15**: and many are familiar with these words; **Vs.5 "I am the vine, and you are the branches"**. Many a sermon has been preached on this. Yes, it is important to abide in Christ. Yes, it is important to trust God for everything.

As I reread **John 15** one verse stood out. It is this verse that I would like to focus our attention on. ***3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.*** I believe that the Lord Jesus is saying to His followers that the hard lifting has already been done. He is saying that He has already made them clean. He has sanctified them, set them apart and equipped them. They are clean. For me the exciting thing is that it applies to the Christian of the 21st Century. Yes, I may not have what it takes! The Lord Jesus does. He has also given to His children all that they need. Praise God!

The apostle Peter summed it up. Remember he understood what it was to disobey, to feel rejected, to fear and fail. He also was familiar with restoration and renewal in his life.

This is what he says to each one of us. **2 Peter 1:3-4**

3 His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.4 Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

What a revelation! God has provided all that we need. The Holy Spirit is active, and He comes with gifts and fruit- evidence of His presence. Amen!

Con

Prayer Points

◇ Australia: for God's wisdom, leading and authority over our Nation, Government, Land and Peoples

◇ Our church family. Surround each other with love
◇ God's leading and authority over decisions concerning our church
◇ God's leading for new Elders and Deacons - **Nominations sought**

◇ Church family members: **Bob and Christine Monie**
◇ Those In Care: Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill
◇ Gordon Coates, thank God for his good recovery and health report
◇ Lee and Geoff Veneble's daughter Michelle recovering from an operation. Also keep her children in prayer
◇ Lenore Rinses for complete healing and God to give doctors wisdom
◇ Allan Moore, pray for wisdom for doctors to sort his medications
◇ Janice Roworth for her ongoing healing and the ability to cope and have support at home. Also pray for her son Steve
◇ Margaret, Dianne and Wendie as they wait on the Lord for justice
◇ Joyce Souter for ongoing healing and her son who is battling cancer
◇ Bernice for healing of leg ulcers, and for Peter as he cares for her
◇ Nabila for God's peace and healing

◇ Wisdom and opportunity to reach our community with the Gospel
◇ Dennis and Karen Bagnall and the letter box distribution of "Living Water" (Gospels of John) throughout the Illawarra
◇ SRE and school ministry workers as they serve their schools
◇ Pulse 94.1 FM and the effectiveness of Con's radio program

◇ FCC Churches: **NARELLAN**
◇ WECF(World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship): **AUSTRALIA**
◇ Romani Evangelical Congregational Church in **Macedonia**
◇ Jenny and Dave Rowe in USA working for Wycliffe Bible Translators
◇ Adam and the Work in Togo
◇ Persecuted Christians in **PAKISTAN**

Praise God for his goodness and any answered prayers in your life