

### Church Contact Details:

33 Market Street, Wollongong  
PO Box 205, Wollongong 2520  
Phone: (02)4226 1750

**Website:** [www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org](http://www.wollongongcongregationchurch.org)

**Facebook:** Wollongong Congregational Church



## Wollongong Congregational Church

6 DECEMBER, 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 join Con and Leonie at 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 confirm attendance and 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) Please see Richard Donnelly
- Volunteers needed to do the POWER POINT. Lessons will be available. Please see Richard Donnelly

**Rev Con Despinidic:** Mobile 0427431709  
[cdespini@gmail.com](mailto:cdespini@gmail.com)

### Elders:

Richard Donnelly Ph.(02)4229 5248 / mobile 0422181171  
Abe Bergstedt mobile 0434418918

**Secretary:** Andrea Bell [wollongongcongregationchurch@gmail.com](mailto:wollongongcongregationchurch@gmail.com)

**Newsletter:** Jenny Bergstedt [jenabe.bergstedt@gmail.com](mailto:jenabe.bergstedt@gmail.com)

**Church Prayer Chain:** Ring or text Lynda Ratcliffe 0402622406

**Food Coordinator:** Jill Donnelly (02)4229 5248

### Please continue to join our activities:

- ⊗ **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 or Jill to place your order  
Proceeds go to the Building Fun
- ⊗ **The Offering taken on Christmas Day will go to 'TEARFUND'**  
Envelopes for giving will be available from today for those people wishing to donate to this appeal. If you want a tax deductible receipt, complete the form attached to the envelope. Make cheques payable to Wollongong Congregational Church. Place in offering plate on Christmas Day or prior, if you wish.  
Any questions please contact Glenn Martin.

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

*Thanks to everyone who has been faithful in tithing and giving*

NOVEMBER Income / Expenditure			
General Account		Building Fund	
Income	\$8,915.53	Income	\$ 25.53
Expenditure	\$4,600.85	Expenditure	\$ 489.00 (Loan repayment)

## Summary of last week's Sermon by Pastor Con Despinidic

Acts 11:19-30 "O to be a blessing to someone else!"

There are two people who stand out in Acts chapter 11 and were a great blessing to the early church. They were the Apostle Peter and Barnabas.

Their words, faith and integrity are a great example for each of us to follow.

They loved the Lord Jesus with all their might! This sort of commitment should not surprise us, it is consistent with what God asks of us.

**Matthew 22:37** Jesus replied: *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."* **Deuteronomy 6:5, Micah 6:8** *<sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

In **Acts 10** we saw that God wonderfully blessed Peter and the Gentiles.

We also saw that Peter was challenged. After explaining what God had done, much of the church embraced the Gentile believers.

**Everyone has an agenda.**

*It is the foundations of the past that in many ways sets out agendas.*

Sometimes we are not aware of what makes us tick, why we do what we do or say what we say.

Prior to his conversion, Peter's religion and the law played a strong part in who he was. There are some who follow the Letter of the Law and miss the Spirit of the Law. The Letter becomes a safe haven- **A step of faith will take us out of our comfort zone and it is not till these steps of faith become a habit that we will experience true peace and freedom.**

Peter's agenda changed when he had an encounter with the Lord Jesus and it was accompanied by a life changing experience of the Holy Spirit. His past agenda was replaced by a new and living hope.

Like Peter, each one of us has a past and a TESTIMONY! A story to tell!

Our past should not hold us back but provides steppingstones to the future.

The Lord Jesus's words ring through my mind. They are a personal challenge! **"seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."**

**OUR AGENDA SHOULD BE THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

Barnabas loved the Lord and desired to encourage others. He took seriously the words of the Lord Jesus to seek the Kingdom of God and to make disciples of all peoples He lived up to the meaning of his name, 'Son of Encouragement. His life through his commitment to the Lord Jesus was one of encouragement- and self-sacrifice!

**<sup>24</sup>He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith,"**

**When we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives,** He takes that which is good and makes it better and He deals with that which is bad. He does this with our cooperation, and He works with us. **We must come to God and invite Him to work in our lives. We must trust Him and allow Him to bless us. THE BIBLE SAYS, 'Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed!'**

**Peter and Barnabas trusted the Lord and became a blessing to others!**

Con.

## PRAYER POINTS – Please pray for:

◇ 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: **Allan Moore**

◇ Those In Care: Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill

◇ Jill Donnelly's nephew Macca, for a suitable school to cater for his needs

◇ Roger and Robyn McFarlane-Clark for their ongoing health

◇ Lee and Geoff Venables's daughter Michelle recovering from an operation. Also keep her children in prayer

◇ Dennis Grimm for his ongoing health and healing

◇ 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: **ONE R CHURCH, North Richmond**

◇ WECF(World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship): **Brazil**

◇ 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 **ERITREA**

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