

Church Contact Details:

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Elders:

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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 (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!** This is the last week 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 Fund

☼ **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.

☼ 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

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

13 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

- **Pastor Con and Leonie's Farewell Service is today and our guest speaker will be Michael Hunt**
We will continue fellowship in a special morning tea
- **Due to the easing of Covid restrictions, we can approximately double our numbers for the church and hall. However, unless you are a family group, please remember to maintain a 1.5m distance. The Government advice remains to wear a mask especially when singing**
- **If you are attending church or hall during the week, there is a form in the foyer and kitchen for you to register your details.**
Thank you for your cooperation
 - **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 today to confirm attendance and choose your meal and pay beforehand
 - **A five week (Saturday only) ONLINE introductory Pastoral Care Course is offered early next year for anyone interested.**
Please see the attached HCA IPCC course information for further enquiries

Summary of last week's Sermon by Pastor Con Despinidic

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

I believe that when we put God first all other things fall into place.

I also believe that this is not as easy as it sounds, as I have shared with you on many occasions; each one of us has **"a tug of war, the 'my will verses God's will' syndrome.** When we struggle with right and wrong, to believe or not to believe, to trust or not to trust, temptation, loss and victory, these things enable us to grow. Yes, we will fail, we will also win.

What I learnt was that even if God tells you that you will be okay and at the end of the day you will be healed, He allows you to go through the difficulty of the situation. There will be pain, there will be struggles and there will be a faith challenge. Your attitudes will be put to the test; your real agenda will be exposed.

The Lord Jesus also challenges our motivation and agendas in life.

OUR AGENDA SHOULD BE THE KINGDOM OF GOD

We are called to live as people who belong to the kingdom, as this has an impact on every area of our lives. It is easy to say these things and it is much harder to live it out! There is no room for the hurts of the past to control us, they should be steppingstones to far better and greater things: -

Where there was hatred there is love

Where there was unforgiveness there is forgiveness

Where there was doubt and fear there is faith and power

Where there was confusion there is clarity and revelation

I love the words of our Lord Jesus: **"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."** John 8:36

To seek God's righteousness is to know that we are set free from the consequences of sin and that we are given **'power from on high'** for living!

To pursue righteousness means we must recognize that we cannot please God in our sinful state.

⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. Romans 8:8

To pursue righteousness means that we seek the mercy of God, desiring that He continues to transform our minds.

(Romans 12:2a)² Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

John 6 is one of those passages of scripture where the light is turned on. New revelation is the order of the day. Not all understood and many who did where not prepared to accept, they were not prepared to pay the price of commitment.

The challenge remains the same for the 21 century. Do we seek after the 'Peal of great price?' Are we willing to pay whatever is required, or do we turn away or do we choose to be lukewarm?

For the inner circle there was no question as to what they would do.

John 6⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.

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: **Rob, Maureen & Katherine MURRAY**

◇ Those In Care: Joan Weber & Dawn Coleshill

◇ Jill Donnelly's great-nephew Macca, has been given a school placement for next year. Praise God for blessing him and answering prayers

◇ Tom Knight in hospital with glandular fever. Pray for his full recovery

◇ Lee and Geoff Venables's daughter Michelle for ongoing healing. 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 pray for her son who is battling cancer. He recently suffered a stroke

◇ Bernice for healing of leg ulcers, and for Peter as he cares for her

◇ Nabila for ongoing healing and now mourning the loss of her brother

◇ 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: **PADSTOW (1922)**

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

◇ 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 **SUDAN**

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