

CHURCH TODAY

9:30am: Mark

First Sunday in Lent

Bible Readings:

Ps 32

Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Rom 5:12-19

Matt 6:1-6, 16-18

(Godly Play) is on today for children in K-Yr 3)

(Godly Science) is on today for kids from Years 4-9).

5pm Jesus Talk

NEXT WEEK

9:30am: Mark

Second Sunday in Lent

Bible Readings:

Ps 121

Gen 12:1-4a

Rom 4:1-5, 13-17

Matt 6:7-15

(Godly Play) is on today for children in K-Yr 3)

(Godly Science) is on today for kids from Years 4-9).

5pm Jesus Talk

The Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SUNDAY MEETINGS

Every Sunday

9:30am – each week

Prayer Praise Proclamation and Holy Communion

5pm Jesus Talk

“the testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10) Jesus Talk seeks to be a “prophetic hub” where Christ- concentrated expressions of prayer, praise, and proclamation, can take place in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

Contact

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Sermons – Audio & Video

www.stmarksbassendean.church/blog

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarksbassendean>

St Marks Bassendean YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkz-PyZ7TSSOOVSH7OUegQ>

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Bank Account

Changes to BSB for payment to Bank Account

We encourage people to use direct deposit or direct debit.

(direct debit forms available at the back of the church)

Anglican Community Fund

BSB: 706 001 **A/c No:** 300070717

Name: Anglican Parish of Bassendean.

Please identify payment, i.e., offering.

No need to use your name if you prefer not to.

More info from Jenny

Church Council
Minister:
Mark Grobicki
Church Wardens
Shirley Landon
Roger Wright
Councillors
Alan Hunt
Mary Lindsey
Jennifer Murray
Judyth Smythe
Marilyn Wright

Welcome to

ST MARK'S BASSENDEAN

*Discovering and demonstrating Jesus' love
in Bassendean and beyond.*

26 February 2023

Playing for an Audience of One

Welcome today, the first Sunday of Lent. Lent is often marked, in part, through ‘fasting;’ we might discuss ‘what are you giving up for Lent?’, and even post it on social media! Which makes Jesus’ words today in Matthew 6 particularly fitting. “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven” (Matthew 6:1).

Jesus applies this principle to three key acts of religious devotion: giving, praying and fasting. And each time he warns against doing them merely to be seen by others: like someone who draws attention to their giving with trumpets; or who purposefully prays in public places; or who disfigures their face to show they are fasting! The problem is not doing these good acts – but how they are done, stemming from why they are done: merely to gain the approval of others. When we do that, actions which are intended to express love for God and for others, in reality are merely actions which love myself.

Jesus’ words are surely very pertinent for us today too. We can come to church, or say ‘I’m praying for you,’ or slip into conversation how much we’ve ‘sacrificed’, or serve in a ministry, or a myriad other things – but in fact be merely seeking the approval of others. Jesus warns when we do that, then the praise of people in this life is all the reward we will get.

Jesus’ solution isn’t to cease doing these things all together, but to do them “in secret”. When we do, others may not see or praise us; but there is always one person who does: “Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (Mt 6:4). What a wonderful encouragement: God sees, and knows, and one day he will give the approval that ultimately matters: “well done good and faithful servant, come and share your master’s happiness” (cf Mt 25:21).

The truth is, we are all prone to this kind of religious hypocrisy, doing things more for the approval of others. Praise God for Jesus, who alone lived a life completely devoted to the approval of God, and who gave himself to the rejection of others – even to the cross – that by grace we might not receive the rejection, but the approval, of God.

Now the question for us his disciples is: are we being motivated just by a desire for the approval of others? Or will we follow Christ’s example and play for an audience of One?

In Christ,
Mark

WELCOME

Welcome to St Mark's. We are an active Anglican church of all ages and walks of life, seeking to grow in the likeness of Christ and welcome new members and visitors.

Please relax and enjoy the worship and fellowship. Are you **new to this church**? Please make yourself known to one of the ministers or service leaders. You may also like to complete and return the **Welcome Form**.

The **Order of Service** may be followed on the screen.

The **Holy Communion** is open to all believers. Visitors are welcome to receive Communion if they normally take it in their own church. Gluten free bread is available. Please ask the minister when you come to communion.

Praying Together This Week: Help to live & share the gospel & for people to come to Christ; Those who are unwell; Christians being persecuted; Myanmar; Afghanistan; Ukraine; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Mark & Kate Grobicki, our Youth Group, our Children's Ministries.

Regular Parish Prayer Meeting.

When: Every second Saturday 11am-12pm **Dates:** 4/3, 18/3, 1/4

Where: in the church

Why: that the Lord might pour on us his Spirit in power so that we become a true missional (apostolic) congregation. **More Info:** please talk to Shirley or Mary.

Women Together – Saturday 18 March from 2-4pm

at Barb and Verna's Home – 65 Bernley Drive, Viveash – Afternoon Tea

Guest Speaker – Ann Clews on the topic: Giving & Receiving Encouragement

Please RSVP to Barb Wadley: 0407 476 436 or Donna Yates: 0401 615 819

The Disciplines of the Father – Understanding how God the Father perfected Jesus through relationships & how he will do the same in us.

7 Free Public Meetings by John Yates

South Perth Uniting Church – 2 Sandgate St, South Perth

Wed evenings from 15 Feb 23 6:30-8pm. See John for more info.

Bible Study Groups

Women's Bible Study:

Mondays 7-7:30pm catch up, 7:30-9pm Prayer & Study in Bassendean – Contact Donna – 0401 615 819

Men's Bible Studies:

Tuesdays 6:30pm in Bayswater – Contact Mark – 0406 659 249

Also **Tuesdays** 6:30pm - location varies between Swan View and Bassendean
Contact Roger – 0408 096 022

Wednesdays 5-6pm in the church – Contact John – 0405 640 740

Men's & Women's Bible Studies:

Wednesdays 9-10am in the church led by John - 0405 640 740

Thursdays 7:30pm in Caversham at Charles and Charmaine's place. Contact Charmaine – 0421 868 321

MISSION PROJECT UPDATE Information for your Prayers



Barnabas Fund

www.barnabasfund.org/au/

An international interdenominational organisation dedicated to meeting the practical and spiritual needs of Christians experiencing persecution and discrimination.

Recently Barnabas has been supplying aid to Christians displaced by Jihadi attacks in Cameroon, assisting impoverished believers in Lebanon, funding repairs for a Christian hospital in Pakistan and supplying food to Middle Eastern refugees in Jordan.

Aid keeps arriving in Ukraine, whilst relevant skills are provided for grassroots church leaders in South Sudan. Flooding in West Africa and internal displacement in Myanmar continues to terrorise multitudes. Food is being sent to drought affected Namibia, whilst ISIS attacks in Congo target believers.

Anti-conversion legislation is spreading across India despite supposed constitutional religious liberties. The list could be extended indefinitely, such as troubles in Mozambique, Iran, Central Asia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Algeria... Please pray for this ministry and for our persecuted brothers and sisters across the globe in their ever acute needs.

For more info speak to John Yates.

The next **Men's Breakfast** is on **Sat 18th March at 8am** in the Church Hall.
The Speaker will be **Peter Pollock** – all welcome and bring a friend.
For more info see Roger.

Coffee & Chat is still in recess for the Summer months. It will start again once the weather cools down.

Youth Group

Youth Group meets fortnightly during term time for young people in years 4-9.
We play crazy games then share a meal and learn about Jesus together. Dinner is provided.

Saturdays 4-6pm, at the Church Hall - all welcome.

Term 1 Dates: 25/2, 11/3, 25/3

Contact Andrew, Ros, Brenton, or Steph.

Financial Information for January 2023:

Total income: \$9,909.80 made up as follows:

Envelopes - \$1,680.00
Direct Giving - \$5,431.00
Open Plate - \$1,285.00
Other - \$1,513.80

Total Expenses: \$4,696.70

Please note church bank account details on the back page.