

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

MONDAY

5PM Walking Soccer
7PM Social Soccer

THURSDAY

3:30PM Youth
9:00AM Quilters

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

29TH Margaret Bo
30th Tony P
31st Ryan S, Shauna,
Dawn Le
1st Brendan J

TUESDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

FRIDAY

9:30AM Playgroup
4:00pm Kids Ignite

WEDNESDAY

9AM Prayer Meeting

LOVE YOUR WORST ENEMIES

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.' (Matthew 5:43-45)

Jesus said some tough things from time-to-time, but the above command is arguably one of the hardest that he gave his followers. Of course, it's easy to say this to other people, but when we're asked to do it in our own lives, that's when things get tricky. What about that bully, sullen neighbour, annoying co-worker or those so-called 'friends' who keep talking about you behind your back? Does Jesus say I have to love them too? Yes, he does, because God cares for people who are evil and hate him. In the second part of verse 45 Jesus says, *"For he gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike."* Jesus is teaching us that even though people are evil and they hate God, he still cares for them! He sends them sunshine and rain, and provides food, shelter and lots of other good things. Do any of us deserve his love? Of course not! But that's what God is like, and that's what he wants us to be like too. The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus came to die for us even though we were sinners and enemies of God (Romans 5:7-10). So, if this is how Jesus treated us, shouldn't that be how we treat others too? I'm not saying it's easy to do, but here are a few ways to help us do it. **Pray for your heart to be softened because loving your enemies starts on the inside.** Before you can show any outward display of loving your enemies your heart must be transformed by the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. **Pray for them** and ask God to soften their hearts too. **Ask God to help you forgive them when they hurt you.** Don't retaliate. We become just like our enemies when we sink to their level. **Be the first to offer forgiveness**, before someone even asks for it. **Be the first to show love**, even when you feel like they don't deserve it. **Be the first to show kindness** even if the person is not very nice. **Be patient.** People can change over time, and if you continue to show a godly attitude, you may earn the respect of others. As time goes by, they may wonder what you have that makes you so calm. It's a great way to witness to the power of Jesus in your life. Why do you need to do this? Because this is what Jesus did and when you display this type of love to your enemies, you are showing them Jesus. You are showing that you are different than the world and that is what followers of Jesus are called to do.

God bless, Pastor John.

PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS

- * Pray for our Police force who constantly face danger, risk, scrutiny and criticism. Pray for protection, courage, peace and discernment.
- * Praise God that Homes Of Hope received an extension on their licence from the Indian Government. Pray for this great ministry that seeks to rescue and help vulnerable women and children.
- * Give thanks for the life and ministry of Tim Keller – pray for his family as they grieve his death.
- * Pray for our building plans – for Council approval and a speedy start.
- * Pray for Soccer Camp preparations and give thanks that the camp is almost full already (after one week).
- * Pray for our Alpha course in term 3. Thanks for the team and pray for seekers to come.

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY

The 2023/24 church family directory is now available. There will be a copy of the directory with your name (top right corner) for you to collect from the table in the gallery after the service. A small donation towards the cost of the directory would be appreciated. A huge thanks to Lisa Blair, our Office Administrator, for all her hard work in collating the directory.

FREE BOOKS

Pastor John has cleaned out his office and has a number of surplus books to give away. Please check out the table in the galley and take whatever books you like.

BI-ANNUAL MEMBER'S MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

This will be held after the service at 11am. All members would have received information relating to the meeting. For those who don't have email, please make sure you pick up your information from the front foyer.

COMBINED SUNSHINE COAST CHURCHES WORSHIP SERVICE - TONIGHT!

As we did last year, the churches from all denominations from across the Sunshine Coast are gathering at Good Life Church (100 Buderim Pines Drive) TONIGHT at 5pm for a time of prayer and worship. Everyone is invited to come along and join together as we worship our awesome God and pray for our community.

SUPPORTING DEMENTIA AUSTRALIA

Astrid and Ryan Heckler are once again participating in the Dementia Australia's Memory Walk and Jog fundraiser on the 4th June 2023. If you would like to support them in this great cause it is now even easier to donate. Look for the pop up stall in the gallery today OR Scan the QR code to take you to the donation page image.png OR copy the link:

<https://www.memorywalk.com.au/fundraisers/astridheckler>

OR pop your cash in a marked envelope via our tithe boxes in the church up to 4th June. Thanks so much.



"Choose Life" (Psalm 139:13-16, Matthew 5:21-26)

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