



May, 2024 Newsletter

Helping the people of Pakenham find life in Jesus

Mother's Month

prayerful
loving forgiving
unfading beauty
nurturing generous
committed selfless



Welcome to our May Newsletter.

May is the month we reflect, and give thanks, for the gift of motherhood. I love how our creator God hard-wired us to be in family units and gave mothers their vital place in them. Motherhood is sounder valued in our culture today. To own our homes and meet all our financial obligations both parents are forced to work. I believe our communities would be better off if our children were at home with a loving nurturing parent instead of being in care outside of the home so often. My mother passed into glory when I was 18 years old and I know the pain and the loss of not having her in my life. With every milestone that goes by in family life we cannot share our joys and struggles and receive her advice. This proves to me how important Mothers are and how we are to give thanks to God for every day they are in our lives.

I find great comfort from the words of Jesus to us when He said, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18) He loves us so much that He steps into the empty places left behind by parents who have passed away or have not been there for us. It is so good knowing that after He won eternal life for us on the cross we now have an advocate who will provide parental comfort, strength, healing, and wisdom.

Pastor Richard Schoenmaker

pastor@pc3.org.au
0416 204 797

2-1-2 Prayer Tool

1 Timothy 2:1-2



How are you going with this prayer tool?

2 people, every 1 day, for 2 minutes.

It is not hard for us to find two people we know who need Jesus. The alarm on my phone is going off at the same time every day prompting me to pray. I am continuing to watch for how God impacts them and gives opportunities for me to point them to Jesus.

What's Been Happening!



Finding Purpose in Serving: Our Experience at the Bunny Rescue Farm

On Sunday, April 7, 2024, our Bible study group embarked on a journey of service and compassion at the Bunny Rescue Farm in Cockatoo. What awaited us was not just an afternoon of physical labor, but a profound experience of love, care, and the joy of making a difference in the lives of these furry creatures and their tenders. As we arrived, we were greeted by a menagerie of animals –small to giant sized bunnies hopping around in the home, two majestic dogs standing guard, chickens clucking contentedly, and a gentle pony grazing nearby, waiting for its carrot treat. It was a scene that immediately filled our hearts with warmth and purpose.

Throughout the afternoon, we worked tirelessly, engaging in tasks ranging from general clean-up to tending to the gardens, chicken coop, and even chopping wood. Every task, no matter how small, was infused with meaning knowing that our efforts were contributing to the well-being of these rescued animals. But it wasn't just about the work; it was about the connection we forged with each other and with the animals. We witnessed firsthand the resilience of these bunnies, rescued from neglectful situations, now thriving under the care and love they received at the farm.

In our afternoon of serving, we found a reflection of our own journey of faith – the importance of compassion, redemption, and the transformative power of love. Just as these bunnies found a second chance at life, we too are reminded of the endless possibilities that await when we open our hearts to serve others. Let our experience at the Bunny Rescue Farm be a testament to the beauty of selflessness and the joy that comes from giving. May it inspire us all to seek out opportunities to serve, to extend a helping hand, and to spread kindness wherever we go. For in serving others, we find not only purpose but also the truest expression of our faith.

~ *Vivi Bezuidenhout* ~

CRCA Women's Fundraising: Anzac Day Biscuits

Thanks to everyone who supported our Anzac Day biscuit fundraiser. We made over 300 biscuits and raised over \$200 in sales to go towards the Ladies Day in October.

Blessings,
Lucy, Lesley & Anne
Ladies Day Committee

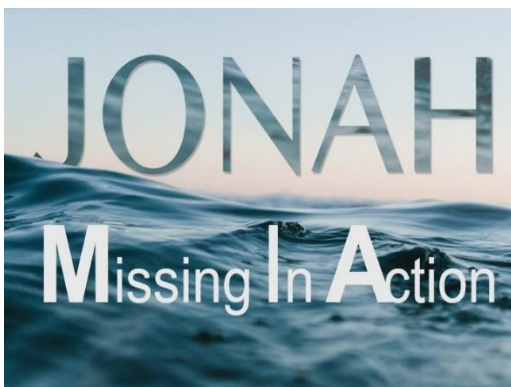


PC3 Church Picnic

A wonderful time of community, our April church picnic was enjoyable and flowed with conversation. Oakland Way Parkland surprising all with it's beautiful walking trail.

If you missed us this time, we hope that we will see you at the next church picnic in May.

Sermon Series



This month we will end our sermon series going through the Gospel of John and begin a new series called Missing In Action, focusing on the life and ministry of Jonah. We will learn how he tried to run away from God's call to go to Nineveh and how God disciplined him to bring him back into His will. God gave Jonah a second chance to obey, and his message led to a whole nation repenting of their sin. We will see how Jonah points to One who is greater - in obedience to God the Father, Jesus came to save us and call the whole world to repent.

If you need a refresher, or to catch up on a sermon you missed, you will find all the messages on our YouTube Channel, via the website and on your favorite podcast channel.

5th May 'Resurrection brings... Power' John 17:20-26

Vibe Service 'The Jesus Groove'

How to see Jesus The Emperor's New Groove

12th May 'Unfading Beauty' 1 Peter 3:1-6

19th May 'Missing In Action' Jonah 1:1-10

26th May Sana Raja TBA

2nd June 'There's No Escaping God's Love' Jonah 1:11-17

Upcoming Events



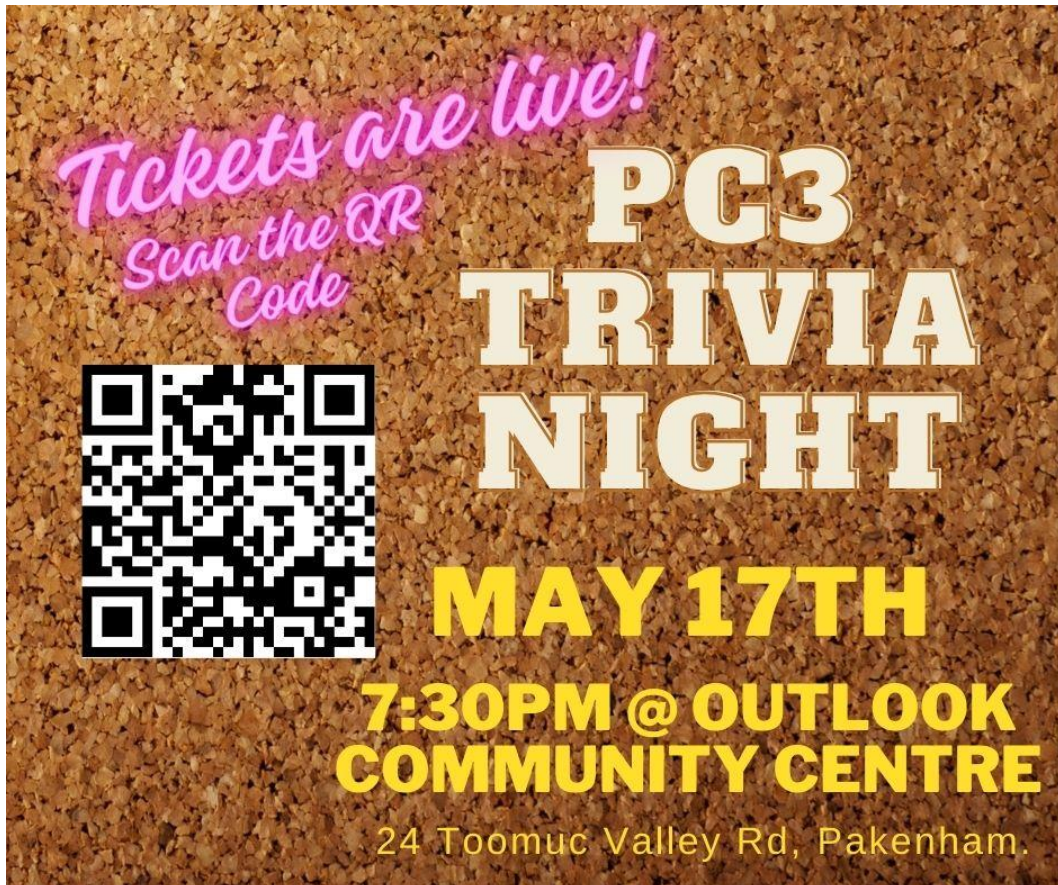
Join us on **May 5th at 5pm for our VIBE service** as Pastor Richard leads us in discussion based on 'The Emperor's New Groove'.

Please bring along a friend or family member, we would love to see them there! Dinner is provided.



It is time to bring out the good old picnic basket from the back cupboard, grab some sandwiches and pack the drinks.

Following the Sunday service, we will be heading down to Oakland Way Playground for a picnic. Please bring your own lunch, BBQ facilities are available onsite. There are no toilets at the playground so please use the church toilets before heading down.



A time honoured PC3 tradition and a night that is sure to be great fun and full of knowledge! We hope that you will join us on

May 17th at 7:30pm for the PC3 Trivia Night at the Outlook Community Centre (24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham).

Tickets are \$10 per person with all proceeds going towards Youth Convention, State Youth Games, and PC3 events. To purchase a ticket, scan the QR code above and follow the link.

To volunteer or donate a silent auction item, please see Kristy Noorbergen.



If you find yourself needing a bit more notice or thrive with having a calendar on hand, jump onto the PC3 calendar to sync with your calendar app. Simply click on the following link:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=pakenhamc3%40gmail.com&ctz=Australia%2FMelbourne>

PC3's Faithful Volunteers



Thank you to all our family who help out weekly with the set up, pack down and running of our Sunday service.

We could not do it without you!

If you would like to join our volunteer roster, please speak with Pastor Richard Schoenmaker or a member of our leadership team.

	5 th May	12 th May	19 th May	26 th May	2 nd June
Pastor	Ps Richard	Ps Richard	Ps Richard	Sana Raja	Ps Richard
Call to Worship	Charis	Dan	Andre	Dave	Peter
Communion Set/Pack Up	Lucy				Justin
Second Offering	PC3 Deacons		Reformed Theological College	Candidacy Committee	
Sound	Andre	Andre	Johnny	Johnny	Andre
Media	Dave	Dave	John	John	Dave
Music Coordinator	Siska	Siska	Siska	Siska	Siska
Jam 1	Renee	Lynn	Leah	Renee	Lynn
Jam 2	Anneke	Chris	Ansa	Janet	Anneke
Greeter 1	Peter	Janet	Janet	Mel	Mel
Greeter 2	Lesley	Kevin	Kevin	Ian	Ian
Set Up/Morning Tea	Schoenmaker	Van Rossen	Bond & Benson	<u>J,R</u> de Haan	<u>J,J</u> Gould
Pack Up	Van Rossen	Bond & Benson	<u>J,R</u> de Haan	<u>J,J</u> Gould	Madhavan & Ormesher
Notes	Lord's Supper Vibe				Lord's Supper

Church Council Update

Dear PC3 Church Family,

We continue to pray for you that we play our part to prepare you for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up and that we are reaching unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and are becoming mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11,12)

At our last Church Council meeting we opened by considering chapter 3 of the book "Enjoy Your Prayer Life." We were challenged by the thought that if prayer is "the chief exercise of faith" our prayer life reveals how much we really want communion with God and how much we exercise faith. We concluded we all need the help of the Holy Spirit in this. Our Dashboard for the past month showed our overall attendance numbers were down with no reasonable explanation for why. We plan to watch and see if this trend continues and address it if it does.

We are so thankful that our giving for last month was at the right level. We are praying this will continue and that we all have risen to the challenge of giving to meet our budget.

We received feedback on our new initiative to add daily prayer points to our Prayer Chain each day. We heard that because there were so many points members were not reading them. We decided to only send out prayer points for one area of Church life per week.

To grow our Media and PA team Andre is still planning to organise a training session for all those interested in joining the team.

As an instituted Church within the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia we are still working on the best method of collecting both offerings fortnightly.

We have now discussed the Synod reports and have given our opinions at our Classis meeting in preparation for Synod which is being held in Brisbane this month. Pastor Richard will be attending.

We are thankful that we have now met all the requirements to be a Safe Church for our vulnerable members. We now have to insure we remain vigilant and keep meeting all our obligations.

We are thankful to Lucy, Anne and Lesley for their work in organising our state CRCA Women's Day in October.

To grow in unity and community we will continue having Church picnics each month. We pray you can be a part of this community building exercise. To encourage us to improve in our witnessing for Christ we plan to give opportunities for you to prepare your personal testimony so you can share with those God has laid on your hearts.

We are thankful for those who are committed to being on our ministry Teams. But we are also praying more will get on board to share the load for all our programs. Please commit to praying for us as we seek to serve you all as godly leaders.

Deacon's Dispatch



Greetings Church Family,

You would have gathered that we are running the Clothing and Equipment giveaway again this year. It's a wonderful opportunity to help those in our community providing them with needed clothing and equipment for their families, all at no cost! We had heaps of donations from the community in Pakenham last year and many were so thankful on the day. We are in need of help to set up on Friday, 12th July 6pm -9pm and on the actual day of the giveaway -Saturday 13th July 8.30am-12.30pm. You don't have to be available the whole time, a couple of hours would be a huge help.

Please let us know if you are available. There will also be a bin each Sunday at Church for you to start bringing in any items you or family members may have that you wish to donate.

Blessings,
Justin, Renee & Lucy

Youth



April was a relatively quiet month for youth. We had one youth night where we discussed loving your enemies and what that looks like in our schools or sports teams. Otherwise, the month was restful which was a blessing from God to prepare us for the next couple of months which are jam packed with amazing events and studies!

Please continue to pray for our young people! They are the next generation of church leaders and we need to start praying and investing into their lives now. If you want to find out how you can do that more, please come speak to me.

Charis Ormesher
~ Youth Worker ~

Life Groups

Our Life Groups are the main way we grow as disciples of Jesus together. We open God's Word together, pray together, support each other, and think creatively about how we can get involved in God's mission to reach Pakenham for Christ.

Sunday

JAM kids

Every Sunday during the service (except during school holidays)
Contact Lynn de Kretser

Life Group 5

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday evening each month.
Contact Dan van Rossen

Wednesday

Life Group 4

Fortnightly on Wednesday evening, 7:30-9pm
Contact Sean de Kretser

Thursday

Life Group 1

Fortnightly on Thursday evening, 7:30-9pm
Contact Richard Schoenmaker

Life Group 2

Fortnightly on Thursday evening, 7:30-9pm
Contact Lesley Schoenmaker

Friday

Life Group 3

Fortnightly on Friday evening, 7:30-9pm
Contact David Barrot

Soul Enrichment

Mother's Month

prayerful
loving forgiving
unfading beauty
nurturing generous
committed selfless



THE SPIRIT OF GODLY MOTHERHOOD

To help us remember and thank God for the gift of motherhood it is good for us to consider what He teaches us about it in His Word. We find that throughout Scripture we read about godly mothers who raised their children to love, honour and serve God.

Consider these verses that show ten characteristics of a godly mother.

1. PRAYERFUL

She prays for each of her children and intercedes for them daily. For their salvation, to have a teachable heart and protection from the lies of the world.

"I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him." (1 Samuel 1:27)

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." (Ephesians 6:18)

2. SEEKS BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE

She maintains an intimate relationship with God through prayerful devotions to keep a discerning heart.

"The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly." (Prov 15:14)

3. FEARS THE LORD

She chooses not to worry about gaining worldly acceptance and meeting all those unrealistic expectations and devotes herself to living to please God.

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise." (Psalm 111:10)

4. KEEPS A PURE HEART

She is aware of everything that influences her thoughts, actions, and emotions and relies on the Holy Spirit to convict her of hurts, habits and hangups that can compromise her faith and mission. She grows in integrity as she centres her identity in Christ and finds peace, strength and safety in Him.

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)

5. A JOYFUL SPIRIT

She has a joy that is rooted in knowing that her God will never forsake her as she faces the challenges of raising her children.

"She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." (Proverbs 31:25)

6. A WISE STEWARD

She stewards her God-given life and glorifies God by managing her time and is not distracted by social media, comparing, movies and frivolous spending.

"She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness." (Proverbs 31:27)

7. CONTENT

Her life is marked by contentment.

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." (Philippians 4:12)

8. A LOVING COMFORTER

She is present with her children to support them through the trials of growing up.

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; and you will be comforted over Jerusalem." (Isaiah 66:13) She has godly patience and kindness and is empathic and understanding (1 Corinthians 13:4)

9. A LOVING TEACHER

She relies on God to empower her to train up her children. She delights in helping them discover their God-given gifts, talents, and purpose. Trains them to pray, live, work, serve, and worship.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6) "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." (Proverbs 31:26)

10. CHRISTLIKE SELFLESSNESS

She finds joy in serving and loving others as Jesus did.

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves." (Romans 12:10)

"No man is poor who has a Godly mother." - Abraham Lincoln

"Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children." - Billy Graham

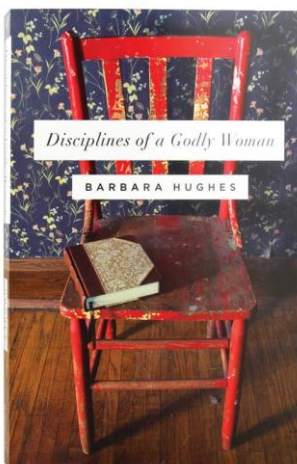
"In the absence of a loving home, children will go the way of the culture." - Sally Clarkson

This month's MUST READ:

Disciplines of a Godly Woman

Discipline is not a popular subject in our world today, but it is essential for living in a relationship with Jesus. This book is a vital for younger women who need a godly mentor to disciple them and for older women who need equipping in how to mentor. It is a textbook that covers nearly every aspect of life.

It would be such a blessing if you join with others and read and discuss and hold each other accountable to putting it into practice.



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Solomon Island Workgroup

OVERSEAS MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

The Solomons Islands Workgroup (SIW) requires a practicing Christian to be appointed as Base Manager to lead the staff and operations at the S.W.I.M Mission Base in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Collaborative team leading and the ability to work sensitively cross-culturally are important skills for this role. A negotiable package will be agreed on with the SIW Board, that meets the needs of the Mission Workers and the funds available from the CRCA. Packages will include comfortable on base accommodation, facilities and the use of a vehicle, superannuation, insurances, travel as required, and may include salary and any other necessary expenses.

The initial appointment is for 6 months, followed by a negotiable longer term if desired.

For further details or a full role description contact the SIW Chair Person on 0412058848 or E: repeet777@hotmail.com

Giving

Thank you to all those who generously give to our Gospel Work!

We believe regular, joyful, and sacrificial giving is our act of worship to a God who has so sacrificially given to us. As we give, we proclaim our faith to God as our Provider and the Lord of our lives. Your generous giving supports our mission to reach Pakenham with the Gospel.

If you would like to give, you can do so in the following ways:

General Fund

Bank: West Pac
BSB: 033-341
Account number: 505817
Account name:
Pakenham Christian
Community Church

Building Fund

Bank: West Pac
BSB: 033-126
Account number: 616792
Account name:
Building Fund

In Person

Donations can be made in the offering bag passed around during the closing song.

International Justice Mission

**MAKING
2024
RESOLUTIONS?**

*while
you're at it,
bring justice*



BECOME A FREEDOM PARTNER



ijm.au/freedompartner24

