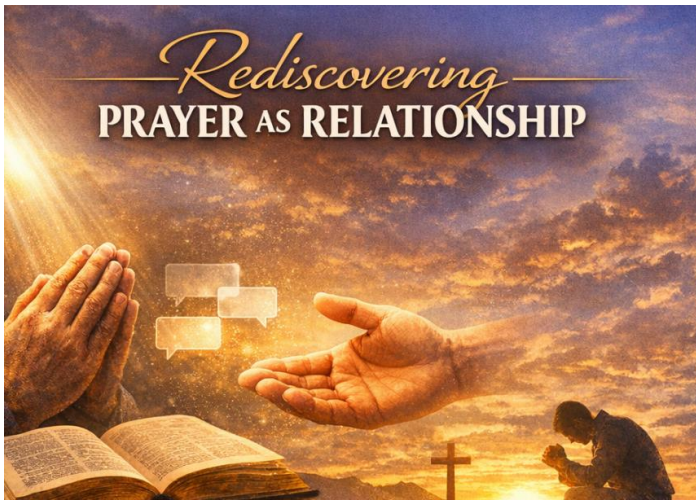


REDISCOVERING PRAYER AS RELATIONSHIP

(by Rev'd Maria Brand)



How many unread messages do you have in your phone inbox? People often laugh and cry when they see the little number in red at the top of the 'messages' icon on my phone home screen. I will give you a hint, it is four digits, but you will have to come and ask me if you want to know the actual number!

How did this happen? It is all the subscriptions that force you into sharing your number and then send you messages that you don't want or need to read. On the other hand, it is quite a different story when it comes to messages shared with someone you have a relationship with, isn't it? They may worry, I sent that message hours ago, why hasn't he/she replied yet?

It may be tempting to treat prayer like a one-way subscription; God's word to us is there with many unread messages and few replies on our behalf. However, what God is inviting us to, is not a subscription but rather a two-way genuine relationship shaped by loving communication. Communication is key in any relationship and most definitely in our relationship with God, both individually and corporately. Tim Kellor in his book, 'Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God', writes that prayer is one of the primary ways that we experience a real, personal relationship with God. He exhorts us to pray in a way that combines Biblical truth, disciplined practice and spiritual experience for a genuine and transformative relationship with God.

'Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.' (Psalm 27:7-8)





Coming up this month on **May 16th is the Jumbunna Prayer Day**. This is a day organised by Bishop Paul Barker for the churches in our local area to come together in prayer. It is being held at GWAC, and you are invited to come along at any time during the day from 8am to 6pm. **At 10am, the session will be led by myself and others from GWAC. I hope to see you there!**

THIS SUNDAY (3rd MAY): CHANGE4CHANGE

Please bring your Change4Change jars this Sunday. Thank you for your generous contribution towards the Education Assistance Project (Mission of Truth Church, Surabaya). Alternately, you can also donate online with following details:

- Account: Glen Waverley Anglican Church, BSB: 033009, Account No: 108940
- Reference: change4change

THIS SUNDAY (3rd MAY): SNACK MUSIC AT 10.30AM

Special guests: SNACK MUSIC! This is an all-in service (no Spark that day) - a great day for inviting friends with kids / grandkids.

Afterwards GWAC will provide a BBQ lunch, and we invite you to bring a plate to share of salad or dessert.



WOMEN'S BREAKFAST: SATURDAY 9th MAY

We'll be celebrating Mother's Day with a delightful Women's Breakfast, filled with fellowship, inspiration, and delicious food! It will be a morning of encouragement, uplifting conversations and fun for women of all ages.

- When: Saturday 9 May, 9am, Fellowship Area
- Delicious breakfast: Catered for, Barista Coffee
- Cost: \$15/ person (pay on the day- EFTPOS (preferred), Cash
- **RSVP: Closed**





JUMBUNNA PRAYER DAY: SATURDAY 16th MAY (8AM – 6PM)

Join church members from outer southern and eastern suburbs at GWAC and pray together for the Society, Churches, Diocese, Clergy, Kingdom Growth, End to Global Conflict, and for God to be at work. Come for an hour that suits you, with each hour of prayer led by a different leader from the parishes participating. **Note: GWAC's session, led by Rev'd Maria will run at 10am.**

TRIVIA & COMMUNITY NIGHT: SAT 30th MAY, 6PM – 9.30PM

30 MAY	6PM DOORS	\$15 TICKETS	ALL WELCOME
<h1>TRIVIA NIGHT</h1>			

530pm onwards
Sausage Sizzle
Cans and hot drinks
Lolly Bags
Games
Balloon Animals
Face Painting
Silent Auction

Our big Ignite Youth Fundraiser for 2026 is back again! Please start booking your tickets and gathering your people for tables for our very important Ignite Youth Fundraiser.

This year, there's going to be a **BBQ** to give you some time to mingle beforehand, **lollies, cans, facepainting, games in the hall**, you can check out the **silent auction** and donate to it as well and you can also bring your usual big picnics to share with your table once the trivia begins. Plus, **this year, there will be a bake sale!**



Bring filled container to GWAC on Sat 30th May 530pm onwards

Get excited! Please contact Amanthi Lynch to contribute to silent auction donations and bake sale:

a.lynch@gwac.org.au. Bookings can be made this Sunday (3rd May) after all three services: If you require help booking your tickets, please





see Amanthi after the three services this week and she will assist you in purchasing your tickets. This week only!

Here's the link to get your tickets: [CLICK HERE](#). And here's the **Facebook event invite to share and pass around to your social network:** [CLICK HERE](#)

Silent Auction:
Brand New Items
Vintage Items in good condition
Services
Bring to GWAC before Sat 30th May
and place on Amanthi's desk

IGNITE (YOUTH MINISTRY): TERM-2

Ignite Youth is back for Term 2! Please grab your programs from our notice boards. For our Bible Content this term our youth will be looking at the topic: **'Fearfully and Wonderfully Made'** which is inspired by the most beautiful poem in Psalm 139 and Chapter 1 of a book by Sam Alberry 'What God has to say about our bodies'. Both well worth the read! This week's topic will be "Your body is a gift."

Ignite will also be heading to **VCYC, 15-17th May** which will be a wonderful weekend away at Belgrave Heights with great Bible talks, worship and more!

Please consider attending our **Trivia Night** for 2026! This is an important fundraiser for our youth ministry and really helps us! It's also a wonderful night of fun and festivities!

Amanthi Lynch and Ignite Youth Leaders

SPECIAL

JOIN A GWAC TEAM: MUSIC • AUDIO • VISUALS • LIVESTREAM

Where do you fit in? We're looking for people to serve in:

- Music: singers & musicians (drums, keys, guitar, bass)
- Audio: help create a great sound mix
- Visuals: run slides & adjust lighting
- Livestream: operate cameras for our online community

No experience needed— training is provided. It's a great way to grow and serve alongside others. Interested? Speak to Roger after the service, or email

r.nicholson@gwac.org.au, or fill a Connect Card.





BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION SERVICE

We warmly invite you to join us for a special Baptism & Confirmation Service

- 5PM Service, Sunday, 21st June

Preparation Classes: Preparation for baptism and confirmation will begin on

Sundays from 24th May, 3:30 PM. If you are considering baptism or confirmation, or would like to know more, please fill a Connect Card.

CONSIDER CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Are you considering whether you are called to serve God through vocational ministry? Please let a GWAC Minister know if you are keen to attend an evening session held in Melbourne on **Tuesday 12th May** which is encouraging people in our Diocese to think about future Christian ministry.

DON'T MISS!

Mondays at 1.30pm (except public holidays): Easy Does It (EDI)

EDI runs at GWAC on Mondays, 1.30pm, in the Hall (stadium). The cost is \$5 with a cuppa included. It is run by a physio. All are welcome!

Train Your Brain (TYB)

Just a reminder that TYB is on May 2 (this Saturday), 9.30am - 12noon (registrations, 9am).

- Topic of the Month; "The Myth of the Middle Ages".
- Speaker: Rev'd Nathanael Thierry

Saturday 9th May: 'Crafts of Care' - Knit, Sew & Craft Afternoon

- 1.30 - 4pm. Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 at GWAC
- Includes creating knitted shawls, beanies and knee rugs and sewing pocket prayer quilts to support GWAC's Pastoral Care ministry. See church notice board for more details. All welcome!

Thursday, 28th May: Mother's Union & Friends

- **May: Two Truths and One Lie**- a bit of fun following our worship, followed by afternoon tea.





- **June:** would you like to get acquainted with Rev'd Nathanael and his wife Genovah? They are our guests on 25th June.

Contacts: Lynn 0403 053 079, Robin 0419 611 085

Friday Mornings: Prayer Meeting (With Breakfast)

Please join us on Fridays in Meeting room 1 & 2 from 7am for toast, muffins, hot drinks, and PRAYER. Come when you can and leave when you must.

Friday Night Craft Group: Term-2

- Fridays: 1st, 15th & 29th May, and 12th & 26th June.
- 7.00 pm until late, Fiona's place at 14 Clitus St, Glen Waverley
- Bring anything you'd like to work on – knitting, crochet, sewing, paper craft, etc.
Looking forward to seeing you tonight – pop in whenever you are free for a cuppa and a piece of cake.

Lost Property

The Lost Property trolley is overflowing! Please check the trolley in the Fellowship area. Any items remaining on Wed May 8 will be taken to an Op Shop.

FINANCE UPDATE

Income & Expenses: Oct25-Mar26	
	\$
Income	\$529,075
Expenses	\$559,031
Shortfall	(\$29,956)

There is a year-to-date shortfall of \$29,956 at the end of March. The shortfall is higher than budgeted, mainly due to





offerings and property income being less than expected. The shortfall should reduce following **Gift Day, which will be held in June.**

Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity to the life and missions of GWAC.

MANDARIN SPEAKING COMMUNITY: MAY

REGULAR MINISTRIES & FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Let's Learn English (LLE) Class

Every Sunday: 12.30pm – 1.30pm, Meeting Room 1& 2

Brothers' Fellowship

Every Wednesday, 7pm–9pm, in Meeting Room–3 (except school term hols)

Contact: Sean Hsien, Anthony Zhao, Zhao Weidong

Sisters Online Living Water Fellowship

Every Thursday from 7pm to 8:30pm (closed during school holidays)

Contact: Ginger Chen, g.chen@gwac.org.au

Brothers and Sisters Combined Fellowship

3rd Thursday of every month, 7–9 pm, Meeting Room–3 (closed during school holidays)

Contact: Ginger Chen, g.chen@gwac.org.au

LIFE CONNECTION GROUPS (closed during term holidays)

Joshua Group

2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, 11:45pm – 3pm, in Meeting Room–3 or Chapel

Samuel Group

2nd Sunday of each month, after the 10.30am Sunday Service, in the fellowship area

David Group

3rd Week of each month, after the 10.30am Sunday Service, in the fellowship area

Jacob Group

1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, 12:30pm – 2pm, in Meeting Room–3 or Chapel





SUNDAY PRE- SERVICE PRAYER MEETING

Sunday 9:45am–10:15am Meeting Room 3

Contact: Ginger Chen, g.chen@gwac.org.au

VOLUNTEER LEADERS TRAINING

2nd Tuesday of Each Month at 7:30pm online (time may change)

Contact: Ginger Chen, g.chen@gwac.org.au



WORSHIP SERVICES IN MAY

Sunday Services

Forgiveness Sermon Series			
3 rd May	Luke 15:11-32	Our repentance, God’s forgiveness	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry
10 th May	Matthew 18:21-35	Forgive as you have been forgiven (interpersonal relationships)	Speaker: Bre Wilkinson
17 th May	Matthew 7:1-6	Are there times when we shouldn’t forgive?	Speaker: Maria Brand
24 th May	<i>To be confirmed</i>	Psychological aspects of forgiveness	Speaker: Grant Bickerton
31 st May	Col 3:12-15	Forgiveness transforms communities	Speaker: Geoff Folland





Wednesday 10am Service: The Wednesday 10am Service's [Bible reading & sermon](#) are livestreamed weekly.

Series: Joy in the Lord (continued)			
6 th May	1 Thess 4: 13 – 18, Revelation 7: 9-17	Joy in Hope	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry
New Series: The Trinity			
13 th May	Matthew 6: 6-13	Father	Speaker: John Harrower
20 th May	Acts 1: 1-11	Son	Speaker: John Harrower
27 th May	Acts 2: 1 – 21	Holy Spirit	Speaker: Maria Brand
3 rd June	Deut 6:4, Matthew 28: 16-20	The Triune God	Speaker: Nathanael Thierry

Blessings,

Maria Brand | Lead Minister (Vicar)

