

Nambour Retirement Village Services

NO VILLAGE SERVICE DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

CHURCH	37-39 Coronation Avenue Nambour QLD 4560 opposite Nambour State College
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**THE
BIRTHDAY
BOOK FOR
THIS WEEK**

July
29 Valerie Zwart

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
VALERIE!!!**

Minister & Pastoral Care

Rev Ian Stehbens 0477 160 578

Additional Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

Eva Donaldson 5441 3381

Congregation Chairperson

Ian Woodward 5441 1069

Church Council Chair

Rev Ian Stehbens 0477 160 578

Church Office: 5441 1135

PO Box 1100, NAMBOUR, Q 4560

Office: most Tuesdays and Thursdays

AFTER 9AM to 2PM

Jimmy 0411 314 306

Service Roster

FOR TODAY

26th July 2020

**SEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

Minister: Rev Graham Warne

Music: Jenny and John Thomas

Readers: Marion McDonald, Jim Stewart

Prayers: Eva Donaldson

Data Projector: Christine Bowden

Sound system: Peter Bowden

Offering: Retiring offering will be in
place until further notice

Welcome: Ian Woodward

No Morning Tea

Attending worship confirms that you do not have COVID-19, or symptoms associated with COVID-19, or awaiting results from a COVID-19 test, or have been to a designated 'hotspot', or have not been in contact with any known or suspected cases of COVID-19, or that you have been in contact with anyone who has travelled from overseas in the past 14 days. You are aware that people aged 70 and over, and people with chronic medical conditions are at a greater risk of serious illness by involvement in public group places.



Nambour Uniting Church

9AM Sunday Worship Service

We are called to be evidence of God's
love breaking into the world

Sunday 26th July 2020

We accept all who gather to worship in peace,
with an invitation to pray and reflect in the
Prayer Chapel at any time our Church is open.

May the peace of the Lord be with you

Welcome to Sunday Worship

Rev Graham Warne will lead us in worship

Life of Joy Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33 & 44-52

If one of our main tasks as a church is to make disciples, I suggest that one of the effective means by which God does this is by the joy evident in the lives of Christ's people. Paul listed joy as one of the fruits of the Spirit. The call to rejoice comes through the New Testament something like seventy times. From John 15:11 we hear Christ's desire for his joy to be in us and for that joy to be complete, and in Matthew 13:44 we hear Jesus say that the joy of living each day within God's realm is worth getting rid of everything else to have it.

Do we come across as a particularly joyous people or do we cling to our grumbles and grouches? Are we too preoccupied with declining numbers to see where God is creating, healing, challenging, renewing lives today? Are we immobilized by fear of what people might say, by fear of failure, by fear of rejection, by fear of change? Are we overwhelmed by what we call the state of the world, news items telling of terrible things going on in the world? Have we simply adopted a defeatist attitude? People everywhere are seeking happiness for themselves and their children: "I just want him/her to be happy".

In Christ, by God's Spirit, there is a joy that goes beyond superficial happiness: joy in the very depths of our souls. Have we experienced, amid all the pleasures of life, this depth of joy: the joy that remains whatever our circumstances, the joy that goes beyond youthful exuberance, the joy that is linked to assurance, contentment and peace with God? A joy that is not dependent upon success? Let's pray for true joy to be evident in our congregational life and in our own individual lives.

Rev Ron Potter piulapublications.com

“Unconquerable!”

(or “Victory in the Superlative degree!”)

Note: the difference a little preposition can make!

The preposition *in Romans 8, hyper*, is a superlative, meaning “above and beyond” .

Now, our confidence is grounded in the very nature of God, who has come to us as a Trinity of three.

1. **The Spirit is the means** by which God comes to us; *“The Spirit helps us in our weakness”(v. 26).*

First notice that we are *not promised immunity* from suffering. Being a Christian does not enclose us in a protective bubble which prevents us from suffering adversity or misfortune or disaster. What we are promised, however, is an inner reinforcement and strength to deal with it! Paul uses a compound word here which means “to come alongside another to assist”... “strive alongside another to help”.

Essentially, God comes **alongside of us** in our times of struggle and weakness, giving us the power to endure it. This is a work of the Spirit.

2. **The result** is that “**God** causes everything to work together for good” (v.28). There are times when we struggle with that word “everything”. Everything is all embracing; nothing is exempt or excluded! Absolutely nothing! So then, **whatever** may come upon us - COVID 19, Big C, financial loss, whatever: we have the assurance that God is alongside of us, by his Spirit, working **with us** to bring good out of our struggles, and redeeming our disasters. God brings positive purpose into our toughest calamities.

So then, we are “*more than* conquerors through Him who loved us”. (v.37) Not only can we positively endure adversity, but can actually find blessing in it! *“The power which robs misfortune of its sting and transforms it into a blessing is the power of love”* (INT p.532)...

Then in case we missed it, Paul repeats, “Nothing in all of creation can remove us from that love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!” (v. 39).

3. **The ultimate purpose of it all** is found in the person of **Christ**. God's purpose is that in all of these we may become more Christ-like, being conformed to the image (*eikon*) of Christ (v.29). Christ came among us so that we could see what sanctified humanity could be like. The whole purpose the Spirit's work within us through adversity, is to transform our ordinary lives into the likeness of Christ's perfection. Can you imagine that?

What does it mean to be “predestined”?
([Slide of XPT train](#))

So then, we are more than conquerors! YES indeed, but not in any triumphalist, arrogant sense; but with reverent humility and a deep inner confidence that, regardless of what happens to us, as the 14th Century Mystic, Julian of Norwich said, “*All shall be well!*”!

Lectionary
THIS WEEK
26th July 2020
Seventh Sunday
After Pentecost
Matthew 13: 44-52,
Romans 8:26-39.

Service times
THIS WEEK
Sunday 26th July
9.00AM Nambour
Service time
next week
Sunday 2nd August
9.00AM Nambour