

Rev Maile Moitika Minister's Message **Moving towards Lent**

As we continue our journey in the Epiphany Season, we are now encouraged from the stories that we have come across, the reading of the book of the law by Ezra to the Jewish Community enhance their understanding. We affirm that God acts in our best interest and we can see that our responsibility is to care for one another. The call of Jeremiah over nations and kingdom to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant. As we going closer to Lent, we can now see clearly and examine our relationship with God. Are we maintaining a good relationship with God and others? Maybe there are more things to be done like Jeremiah call before we *build* and *plant*.

Tonga is extremely fragmented and sailing is very much part of life for the people in the outer Islands. I come from the third largest island and later in my life I used to sail few times from our Island to the main Island. Kids out of their curiosity usually ask questions to their elders during those voyages. They want to know how to use sails and sometimes the wind goes against them and it will slow down the journey. But one of the main questions they often asked, with no island to be seen only birds flying around looking for fish to eat. Food is ok for them, but where do they have the water to drink? The answer would be something like this – “The birds have to fly a little higher into the sky into a thin layer of steam floating around that level. When they reach that level, then their thirsty will be satisfied. I don't know how accurate these explanations to the kids during the journey, but when we are moving into Lent Season and the transfiguration will be the last reading of this Epiphany Season. We are reminded of the mountain top experiences of the inner circle of Jesus. Maybe they have been taken by Jesus for special treat. This is the last revelation of Christ before we enter the new Season of Lent. We have to remember that the voice speaks to the disciples and us too. “A voice came from the cloud, saying, “This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him.” Christ is the ultimate One to listen to.

Like the birds in the open oceans, we have to come up to a level where God's wonders could be seen and also to nourish our deep spiritual hungers in this life journey. We have to move out into the deep to find a good catch. When we live in the shallow, we don't expect to catch anything. Lent is a Season of preparation and discipline ourselves so that when we arrive at Easter Sunday, we become new people, people who have been transformed in the grace of God. And be always ready to be sent out with the message of hope.

Rev Maile

SOLITUDE



Our generation has seen some spectacular demonstrations of courage, physical endurance and emotional resilience in some of the most lonely places on earth.

One cannot but be impressed by the emotional fortitude of people such as Francis Chichester, Kaye Cottee or Jesse Martin who sailed their small craft around the world single-handedly. Apart from the sailing and navigational skills required to pilot their craft across the seas, was the challenge of being alone, totally alone, in the vast empty spaces of the ocean, for a prolonged period of time. Their greatest enemy was not really the sea but loneliness. They were on their own!

But perhaps the most outstanding of all was an Apollo 11 astronaut, Michael Collins, alone in his small mother craft “*Columbia*” orbiting the moon while his colleagues (Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin) were exploring the moon’s surface.

1 Worst of all were the periods of time he was behind the moon, in total darkness, and out of communication with earth base.

One cannot conceive how frightening such a situation could be – cut off from all other human contact, totally alone in a small space capsule in a vast, dark, empty space. Is this absolute loneliness?

I am indebted to theologian Paul Tillich for the insight which differentiates solitude from loneliness.

continued next page ...

1 Tuesday, 22 July, 1969 (Australian time) as reported by *The Courier Mail*.

2 Paul Tillich, *The Eternal Now*.

2 Tillich points out that *loneliness* is a matter of being painfully alone while *solitude* ... is a matter of being alone, joyfully.

In other words, loneliness is not a matter of physical isolation or alone-ness. One person may feel utterly lonely in the midst of a crowded room, while another may be quite content with his/herself without another human being in sight. There is no-more-lonely place than being in an exam room, surrounded by others, yet completely isolated from them. Silence brings its own sense of being alone.

Loneliness or solitude are not physically induced states but rather describe inner states of mind or soul.

There have been many times when I have been totally alone: in a small boat miles from shore; on top of a mountain looking down on the rest of the world; on an isolated beach with no other human within sight; or on a bush track in a remote tropical island. In each of these situations I have been physically alone, yet quite content with myself, enjoying the experience of “being there”, surrounded by nature’s beautiful space. At such times I do not think necessarily deep thoughts, or explore deep philosophical questions of existence, but simply rest content at “being”. This is solitude, simply enjoying one’s existence just as it is!

Perhaps the perfect example of solitude is the description of Jesus, being alone on a mountain, in communion with himself and his God. The record simply states, “and he was there, alone”, in perfect solitude.

3 Sometimes in the solitude I may pause to reflect how insignificant a creature I am, when surrounded by a vast empty space.

At such times I am humbled by a reminder of my human finitude, and caused to wonder that the Creator of such vast space should have any concerns for me, as Charlie Brown put it, “little ol’ me”. The blessing of solitude is that it forces you back onto your own inner resources to that which is primary and fundamental to your existence as a person.

There are times when we need to be alone, to look into the mirror of our own soul, and see ourselves as we really are.

³Gospel of Matthew 14:23

Rev Graham Warne

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF
FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE**

This land on which we live and worship is God’s land
and God’s Spirit dwells here.

We acknowledge the Kabi Kabi people, traditional custodians
under God of the Sunshine Coast and its hinterland.

We pay our respects and pray for their elders and all their descendants.

We are thankful that we can share with them
in our community and nation.

We reaffirm our commitment to care for the land
and participate in the reconciling journey,
for God requires this of us.

DAILY PRAYERS

Roads

Since we last met in our Nexus Journal Prayer time
we have all travelled different roads.

DAY 1

Our God of the rough roads, we come today as part of a world that is disturbed and frightened by the Coronavirus - in its many different forms. The numbers grow each day and we fear its closeness to us. Many people have been forced out of their usual routine, compelled to isolate, away from their families, others have lost their jobs and they are facing an unknown bleak future. We pray that you will be with us all as we journey along these rough roads.

Lord, let your empowering love and peace be with us all, giving us your loving assurance and peace

Bless us all, Lord, and make us a blessing to others.

DAY 2

Our God of the busy roads, we pray for people in their daily work-a-day lives - people we know, people we pass in the street and people whom we shall never meet - all busy, perhaps even too busy to spend time with you. But you know them, each and every one. We confess we struggle to see beyond the daily needs of everyday life.

But you know us all, and we ask that you open our minds, open our eyes and change our thinking and understanding.

Lord, let your empowering love and peace be with us all, giving us your loving assurance and peace.

Bless us all, Lord, and make us a blessing to others.

DAY 3

Our God of the quiet restful road, we pray for those who are taking time out and are seeking more of your presence in their lives, and those who have rest forced upon them through changed circumstances beyond their control.

Be with them, Lord, so they know you are there no matter what.

We pray for those in their later years who want to rest a while and who might feel the weight of illness and pain, of death and dying. May they know the comfort of your healing touch. Ease open all hurting eyes and hearts, Lord, and shine your light in our darkness, so that faith may flourish even in the midst of anxiety and sorrow.

Lord, let your empowering love and peace be with us all, giving us your loving assurance and peace

Bless us all, Lord, and make us a blessing to others.

DAY 4

Our God of the road that seems to have no ending. We pray for those who are lonely and depressed, fearing the road that stretches out endlessly ahead.

Father, today we pray for all who are going through difficulties that make belief hard: for those who are suffering physical and mental illness, that they may feel the comfort of your healing touch; for the bereaved, that they may know your presence as they walk the valley of the shadow.

Lord, let your empowering love and peace be with us all, giving us your loving assurance and peace

Bless us all, Lord, and make us a blessing to others.

DAY 5

Our God of the road with its ups and downs - its hills and valleys. We pray for our congregation and all the people it embraces in its outreach. Guide us through our ups and downs and let your loving assurance and peace enfold us all.

Some days that road will have joy in its step. Let us rejoice with those who are rejoicing and share that joy as a gift from you.

We pray for our children who bring joy and challenge into our lives.

Other days that joy will be missing, but may they all have your assurance that their road reaches you and they are wrapped in your love and peace.

Lord, let your empowering love and peace be with us all, giving us your loving assurance and peace.

Bless us all, Lord, and make us a blessing to others.

DAY 6

Our God of the smooth road with its signs and guide lines, steering us in the right direction, avoiding wrong turns and accidents. We thank you for the wisdom and guidance you give us through your sacred word of old, and through your people in every age.

Be with us as the road leads us home. Bless our families and loved ones so they may know your love and peace. Be with them wherever their road is taking them in the days ahead.

Be with all of us we pray so we may follow where your leading takes us.

Lord, let your empowering love and peace be with us all, giving us your loving assurance and peace.

Bless us all, Lord, and make us a blessing to others.

DAY 7

Blessed by your loving assurance and peace, may all our different roads lead us closer to you. Our listening God, you hear us when we come before you - ever open and aware of our needs, no matter who we are.

We pray for those people who feel they are not heard, be with them and awaken others to a deep understanding of their needs.

We pray for people everywhere who do not know your love and perhaps struggle even to share the love of their fellow humans.

Our God who comes to us with embracing arms to share our tears and joy, we thank you for the privilege of sharing the tears and joys of others

Be with those who don't have a shoulder to cry on- and those who have just too many tears. Give us your understanding to share their tears along with their joys.

Loving God, may your understanding and love enfold us all and give us the courage and strength to reach out to others in love.

Lord, Let your empowering love and peace be with us all, giving us your loving assurance and peace.

Bless us all, Lord, and make us a blessing to others.

Minister

Rev Maile Molitika 0425 378 174

Pastoral Care Ministry

Rev Graham Warne 5478 9747

Eva Donaldson Lay Co-ordinator 5441 3381

Nambour Congregation Chairperson

Ian Woodward 5441 1069

Church Council Officers

Ian Woodward - Chair

Helen Staines - Secretary

Lyn Metelerkamp - Treasurer

Lynn Blackwood-Troyahn

Property & Compliance

Church & Office: 5441 1135

37 Coronation Drive NAMBOUR QLD 4560

PO Box 1100, NAMBOUR, Q 4560

Office: open most Tuesdays and Thursdays

9.30AM to 2PM Jimmy 0411 314 306

Mary Burnett Presbytery News

Dear Presbytery Members,

The Mary Burnett Presbytery, at its special meeting on Saturday the 9th October in Kingaroy, discerned to call **Pastor Graham Huth as the Presbytery Minister** for the Mary Burnett Presbytery starting in February 2022.

Please pray for Pastor Graham and his wife Ann-Louise as they finish ministry at Aitkenvale Uniting Church and prepare to take on this new role in the life of the church. We thank you for your prayers for the JNC and for the process as a whole.

The Induction Service of Pastor Graham will be at
Nambour Uniting Church at 7PM on the 11th March 2022,
everyone is invited to attend.

Our next Mary Burnett Presbytery meeting is at Nambour on the **12th March 2022 at Nambour Uniting Church from 8AM to 5PM**. Our last Presbytery meeting decided to hold over the PRC and Standing Committee nominations until the March meeting this year. As such I have attached the nomination forms to this email. PRC and Standing Committee meet 6 times per year, usually on the 2nd Thursday of each 2nd Month. (December is 1st Thur. and April depends on when Easter is).

As of July, Peter Mortimer will be standing down as presbytery treasurer. We will need to elect a new treasurer at this meeting so they can shadow Peter for a few months before taking over. As treasurer, you will automatically be a member of the standing committee.

Please prayerfully consider if you can take on one of these important roles in the life of the Presbytery. Contact Kylie for nomination forms. Please send your nominations by 24th February to Kylie at Presbytery.

Blessings and Peace, Kylie Aalbers 0417 509 433

admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

Administration Officer MARY BURNETT PRESBYTERY

The **NeXus** between our mission and our spiritual power is the gathered congregation. While God comes to us by His Spirit thus transforming us by his grace, we are drawn into precious fellowship with each other.

As a congregation gathers for worship, it is being strengthened, then sent out again for a missional purpose. In times such as these, this copy of **Nambour NeXus** is provided so that you may have resources to assist you in your personal or household worship of God, to assist you in growing your faith, and to encourage your concern and prayers for others.

THE PSALMS

At the centre of the Bible is the book of Psalms, this is a great collection of songs and prayers which expresses the heart and soul of humanity. In reading them, we see a whole range of human experiences, honestly poured out from true feelings reflecting a dynamic, powerful and life-changing friendship with God. The Psalmists confess their sins, express their doubts and fears, ask God for help in times of trouble, and praise and worship Him. We hear believers crying out in their depths of despair, and also singing to God in their heights of celebration; however, we witness them sharing honest feelings with God.

There are five main themes in the Psalms:

PRAISE – Explanation: Psalms are songs of praise to our God as Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. Praise is recognising, appreciating, and expressing God’s greatness. Importance: Focusing our thoughts on God moves us to praise Him. The more we know Him, the more we can appreciate what he has done for us and what he is doing for us.

GOD’S POWER – Explanation: God is all-powerful and always acts at the right time. God is sovereign over every situation. God’s power is shown by the way he reveals himself in creation, history and His Word. Importance: When we feel powerless God can help us. God’s strength can overcome the despair of any pain or trial. We can always pray that He can deliver, protect, and sustain us.

FORGIVENESS – Explanation: Many Psalms are intense prayers asking God for forgiveness. God forgives us when we confess our sin and turn from it. Importance: Because God forgives us, we can pray to God honestly and directly. When we receive his forgiveness, we move from alienation to intimacy, from guilt to love.

THANKFULNESS – Explanation: We are grateful to God for his personal concern, help, and mercy. Not only does God protect, guide, and forgive us, his creation provides everything we may need. Importance: When we realise the benefit from knowing God, we can fully express our thanks to Him. By thanking God often, we develop spontaneity in our prayer life.

TRUST – Explanation: God is faithful and just. When we put our trust in God, He quietens our hearts. Because God has been faithful throughout history, we can trust in Him in our times of trouble. Importance: People may be unfair and friends may desert us, but we can trust in God. Knowing God intimately drives away doubt, fear, and loneliness.

Through the Psalms, the writers have risen from their depths of despair to new heights of joy and praise as they have discovered the power of God’s everlasting love and forgiveness. Let the honesty of the Psalms guide us into a deep and genuine relationship with God, Amen.

Reference; Life Application Study Bible, Psalms.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

FEBRUARY 2022

PLEASE CLICK ON THE READING LINKS BELOW
TO ACCESS THE VERSES OF THE DAILY BIBLE READINGS
ON THE VANDERBILT LECTIONARY WEBSITE

Tuesday, February 1, 2022: [Psalm 56](#); [2 Kings 5:1-14](#); [1 Corinthians 14:13-25](#)

Wednesday, February 2, 2022: **Presentation of the Lord**

[Malachi 3:1-4](#); [Psalm 84](#); [Psalm 24:7-10](#); [Hebrews 2:14-18](#); [Luke 2:22-40](#)

Wednesday, February 2, 2022: [Psalm 56](#); [Jeremiah 1:11-19](#); [Luke 19:41-44](#)

Thursday, February 3, 2022: [Psalm 138](#); [Numbers 20:22-29](#); [Acts 9:19b-25](#)

Friday, February 4, 2022: [Psalm 138](#); [Numbers 27:12-23](#); [Acts 9:26-31](#)

Saturday, February 5, 2022: [Psalm 138](#); [Judges 3:7-11](#); [Luke 4:42-44](#)

Sunday, February 6, 2022: **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

[Isaiah 6:1-13](#)); [Psalm 138](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#); [Luke 5:1-11](#)

Monday, February 7, 2022: [Psalm 115](#); [Judges 5:1-11](#); [1 Corinthians 14:26-40](#)

Tuesday, February 8, 2022: [Psalm 115](#); [1 Samuel 9:15-10:1b](#); [1 Timothy 3:1-9](#)

Wednesday, February 9, 2022: [Psalm 115](#); [Isaiah 8:1-15](#); [Luke 5:27-32](#)

Thursday, February 10, 2022: [Psalm 1](#); [Jeremiah 13:12-19](#); [Acts 13:26-34](#)

Friday, February 11, 2022: [Psalm 1](#); [Jeremiah 13:20-27](#); [1 Peter 1:17-2:1](#)

Saturday, February 12, 2022: [Psalm 1](#); [Jeremiah 17:1-4](#); [Luke 11:24-28](#)

Sunday, February 13, 2022: **Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

[Jeremiah 17:5-10](#); [Psalm 1](#); [1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#); [Luke 6:17-26](#)

Monday, February 14, 2022: [Psalm 120](#); [2 Kings 24:18-25:21](#); [1 Corinthians 15:20-34](#)

Tuesday, February 15, 2022: [Psalm 120](#); [Ezra 1:1-11](#); [2 Corinthians 1:12-19](#)

Wednesday, February 16, 2022: [Psalm 120](#); [Jeremiah 22:11-17](#); [Luke 11:37-52](#)

Thursday, February 17, 2022: [Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40](#); [Genesis 43:16-34](#); [Romans 8:1-11](#)

Friday, February 18, 2022: [Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40](#); [Genesis 44:1-17](#); [1 John 2:12-17](#)

Saturday, February 19, 2022: [Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40](#); [Genesis 44:18-34](#); [Luke 12:57-59](#)

Sunday, February 20, 2022: **Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**

[Genesis 45:3-11 & 15](#); [Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40](#); [1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50](#); [Luke 6:27-38](#)

Monday, February 21, 2022: [Psalm 38](#); [Genesis 33:1-17](#); [1 Corinthians 11:2-16](#)

Tuesday, February 22, 2022: [Psalm 38](#); [1 Samuel 24:1-22](#); [1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33](#)

Wednesday, February 23, 2022: [Psalm 38](#); [Leviticus 5:1-13](#); [Luke 17:1-4](#)

Thursday, February 24, 2022: [Psalm 99](#); [Deuteronomy 9:1-5](#); [Acts 3:11-16](#)

Friday, February 25, 2022: [Psalm 99](#); [Deuteronomy 9:6-14](#); [Acts 10:1-8](#)

Saturday, February 26, 2022: [Psalm 99](#); [Deuteronomy 9:15-24](#); [Luke 10:21-24](#)

Sunday, February 27, 2022: **Transfiguration Sunday**

[Exodus 34:29-35](#); [Psalm 99](#); [2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2](#); [Luke 9:28-43](#)

Monday, February 28, 2022: [Psalm 35:11-28](#); [Exodus 35:1-29](#); [Acts 10:9-23a](#)

CHURCH EMAIL

nambouruca@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/nambouruniting.church

YOUTUBE CHANNEL

[nambouruca.youtube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnambouruca)

WEBSITE

nambouruniting.org.au

2022 Sunday Services are available on the Nambour Uniting Church Website and youtube

The website also contains Mission Possible photos, word study, reflections, stained glass windows and more

Thanks to Don Heaton for recording our Services, and Ian Brown for our great website