

Kirwan Uniting Church

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We aspire to be a people of God led by the Holy Spirit, to practice and spread the love of Jesus Christ!



Welcome

We welcome all visitors with us today and pray your time with us will be a blessed one. Stay for morning tea after the service!



9 AM:

Communion Service

Preacher: Peter Ireland

Bible Readings:

- Acts 10:44-48
- Ps 98 1
- Jn 5:1-6
- Jn 15:9-17

This Week:

Monday - House of Jonah

Tuesday - Fellowship

Wednesday - Bible Study

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

It was great being able to bring the Word last week at our Worship Service! Thanks so much for all your great responses and words of affirmation following Worship, my family and I were greatly encouraged and we feel that this is just the start of what God will do at our church. There were 'teething' issues with the microphones and the sound system, but we will address these as we grow together in the ministry. I am grateful to those of you who brought these issues to my attention – after all, we cannot correct these if we do not know what is going on.

I want to encourage you all, that if there are other concerns or suggestions regarding worship, please feel free to let me know or you can discuss it with your pastoral care person who will pass it along. It is important that we are able to share any of these 'teething issues' as they come up and work through them as a community. As I thought about last Sunday's Worship, I wanted to share this reflection with you while I am away at Presbytery.

That is such an interesting phrase... 'teething issues', logically it comes from when children are developing teeth during infancy. As a father of six, you can imagine, I have experienced many and varied teething issues with my little ones. Situations where the pain was so much, we needed to apply a numbing agent or painkillers, physically reach into their mouths to peel back the gum and encourage the little milk teeth to punch through – or even placing plastic protectors on our crib and other furniture as their need to chew caused the baby to gnaw at the furniture. I'm putting 'teething issues' in quotes here because this does not describe what is literally happening in our church. It is not as if the congregation is suddenly growing incisors... but with the coming of a new minister, there is always a transition period. That is where I think this term finds its definition – in the transition that a child goes through from milk food to chewable food.

In 1 Corinthians 3, Paul is addressing the division in the Corinthian church – they were also going through 'teething issues', but not questions about technology or style. Rather, they were dealing with a division because there were various leaders, and the Corinthians were confused who to follow:

"I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it." 1 Cor. 3:1-2

Here, Paul is using the figure or actual teething issues to explain the importance of discipleship in the church. We can have discussions around style and Service format and there is space there for flexibility and culture building, but the Corinthian church was dealing with matters that were much more serious than these. They were divided about the message that was preached among them, but the substance of the message was fundamentally the same – the Gospel of Jesus. Yet, because of personalities and style, the church was divided and had stopped following Christ. Mature disciples understand that Christ is the core and heart of the living breathing Christian community. We gather around that love and ask that we each prioritise Christ at work in us, among us and in others.

Teeth become a necessity as children grow, their mother's milk is no longer sufficient to support the growing human body and they need to diversify their diet. Here is where we have another expression, children 'cut their teeth' - they need to hone their use of their teeth (and stop chewing on furniture).

This too can apply to our discipleship, and this has been an emphasis of my ministry for many years. As a church planter I work with disciples of various backgrounds, languages, and who found themselves in different places on the Christian journey. Yet, it was almost universal that we hone in our discipleship together in order to fully serve the Lord, be it as new Christians or mature Christians.

My prayer and hope is that as we grow as a community, as a family under Christ, we will hone our discipleship – learning from each other and growing together. I have much to learn from you, I have to learn about life and the rhythms of life here in Townsville, we are blessed with many gifted teachers, preachers, pastoral caregivers, and leaders and I look forward to learning from your experiences and knowledge – but I also ask that you be open as a community to hear and learn also. In this way, may we all grow together!

Blessings

Rev. Esteban

NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

Due to some technical issues, we will be moving from www.facebook.com/kirwanuc to www.facebook.com/kirwanuniting - we will be closing down the previous page soon so stay connected by liking and following our new page

SERMONS ONLINE

Esteban's Sermon from last week 'Jesus our True North' is now available on his Soundcloud, visit www.soundcloud.com/esteban-lievano. Future sermons will be available at this link also, apologies for the sound quality – we will remedy this in the near future.

PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS

- We thank God for answered prayers for many of our members who have had medical procedures in recent weeks. Please continue to uphold them in your prayers in their convalescence.
- Kem and Esteban are grateful for all the prayers for their family as they settle in Townsville, and particularly for answered prayer in finding spots for their five school-aged children at Townsville Christian College.
- Please pray for the Presbytery Meeting at Mission Beach this weekend, for our Minister and his family who will be attending, for Revs. Christy Allen and Garry Hardingham – Carpentaria Presbytery Ministers and all those who will be participating at this significant event in our region.
- Pray for David Brooke-Taylor who will be travelling for a procedure this week and Anne in her recovery.
- Pray for our Elders and Church Council meeting in the next fortnight

If you have any prayer points please contact Sheila van Prooije or Helen Beck and these will be passed on to our Minister and Prayer Teams.

HEARING AID LOOP

We have a Hearing Aid Loop set up in the church, we highly recommend using this service to help in hearing during the Worship Service. Just switch your hearing aid to the T frequency.

Roster - 12 May 2024 Mother's Day	
PREACHER:	Kemeri Leivano
GREETER:	Sheree Bugden
OFFERING:	
ANNOUNCEMENTS:	Kathy Reid
MORNING TEA:	KUC Men
FLOWERS:	Pam Kennedy
EVENING SERVICE	Peter Ireland

MINISTER'S CALENDAR



Due to the Public Holiday and in lieu of his time at Presbytery, Esteban will not be in the office this week, for pastoral concerns please contact him on the details below.

Thursday: Service Prep
Esteban's Days Off are Friday and Saturday.

Rev. Esteban Liévano

Minister of the Word – Uniting Church in Australia

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ONLINE GIVING

You can give your offerings online via this QR Code or at the following bank account details:

BSB: 334040

ACC: 553871199



2024 UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

TBA	Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
15 JUNE	Escape Academy
JULY	Walk Your Way to Christmas Day
3RD AUGUST	Launch Party!!!
OCTOBER	Double Donations
JULY-DEC	Table for Stable
9-10 & 16-17 NOV	Garage Sale Trail
ALL YEAR ROUND	Containers for Change

**O sing to the LORD a new song,
For He has done wonderful things,
His right hand and His holy arm have
gained the victory for Him.
The LORD has made known
His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness in
the sight of the nations.
PSALMS 98:1-2**