

RESPOND



Blacktown Regional Uniting Church A Coming Together of Blacktown & Grantham Heights

Sunday 21st May 2023

Dear Friends at Blacktown Regional Uniting Church,

I am so looking forward to being with you at Blacktown this Sunday. Baptisms of little children tell us that in the big moments of their lives, people look to God for reassurance and a blessing. Our very presence as a church in the midst of our community reminds people of the things that are eternally important. What an amazing privilege we have to bear witness to the love of Jesus! What a joy to welcome these families!

John and I have missed Blacktown and all of you. However I have followed your news in the Respond and continued to pray for you all.

I was so excited after all your dreaming and hard work to see Blacktown and Grantham Heights Uniting Church become one congregation a few weeks back. Congratulations Pam Neale-Justins and John Cameron and all of you! I am also very delighted that Rev Dr Raymond Joso has accepted the call to be your Minister of the Word. Now everything is in place for you to step into your new future.

I pray that together you will shine the love and hospitality of Jesus evermore brightly in this growing vibrant city that people from many nations around the world call home.

*May the love of God surround
you always, the passion of Jesus
inspire you and the wisdom of
the Spirit guide you!*

Blessings,
Laurel



Our Mission Statement

"We are called to be a welcoming people, who love God and actively live out the teachings of Jesus in our community".

Mother's Day Morning Tea

What a delightful morning last Saturday for the Mother's Day Morning Tea was. With the Boys Brigade boys taking our beverage orders & all the wonderful men who waited on us hand and foot. We were so spoiled. The men even left the kitchen spotless at the end of this wonderful morning!



Our special guest speaker was Pastor Lyn Graham. Lyn was chaplain at Mayflower Nursing Home, but is now at West Epping Uniting Church. She spoke on her other job with Disaster relief, and about her involvement with the fires that swept through the east coast a couple of years ago, and the floods we have suffered since. She worked in the fires south of Wollongong & with the floods in the Hawkesbury area.

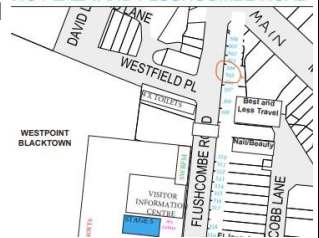
She spoke about the devastation people go and are going through still. There are usually different organizations that help with paperwork, clothing, etc, but often the people in these areas need people with a listening ear. This helps them mentally to have someone to listen to them not to tell them or advise them but to listen. (no matter how many times they tell you the same thing). Often people need to talk about what they have been through or are still going through.

Many thanks to all who came and all who helped with this special morning tea.
Yours in Christ, Doreen Hallett

NOTICE BOARD

Saturday 27th May Blacktown City Streets Alive Festival
Blacktown Regional Uniting Church Ladies Fellowship will be participating with this wonderful event, with a Market Stall. Come on down during the festival on Flushcombe Road, across from Westfield Place at site number 305

BLACKTOWN CITY FESTIVAL
STREETS ALIVE AND PARADE DAY
AREA MAP 3
VIC PLAZA AND FLUSHCOMBE ROAD



Combined Pentecost Service
For Blacktown & Grantham Hts Ctrs
Sunday-28th May 9.00am at the Blacktown Centre

A combined service of Blacktown Regional Uniting Church will be held to worship and celebrate Pentecost Sunday together. Morning tea served afterwards, a plate to share would be appreciated. We look forward to worshipping & celebrating together!



Boys' Brigade State of Origin Night
Wednesday Evening 31st May 6.30pm



The Boys' Brigade will host the
State of Origin footy night at
Blacktown Centre auditorium



MEETINGS

Shared Church Council Meeting
7.30pm Monday Evening via Zoom

PRAYER POINTS: *We Are A Praying Church*

Please pray for:

- *the families and friends of Elva Seymour as they grieve.
(Thank you to everyone who assisted at the funeral service)
- *Wendy and John Cameron and family as they continue to grieve.
- *Annathaie and Jeffrey and their ongoing health struggles.
- *Rev Dr Raymond Joso –our new minister who will commence ministry here on 1st July.
- *the Leadership of our new Blacktown Regional Uniting Church as they navigate the many administrative areas in our coming together.
- *those who have newly come to worship with us –that they will feel welcome. Make sure you go and say hello!
- *our Mullauna residents as they face ongoing health needs.
- *some more volunteers to help with the cleaning roster at our Blacktown Centre
- *the many families who come to our Hands and Feet ministry at our Grantham centre...that they will feel the welcome of Jesus
- *all those who serve at Presbytery and Synod and the multiple areas they are responsible for as a foundation for ministry and mission .
- *the unrest in Somalia
- *the families affected by the tragic bus crash in Melbourne, where so many children were hurt, and where some remain in hospital.
- *the continued unrest between Russia & Ukraine
- *all of us as we seek to be God's welcome and safe place as an intergenerational , intercultural community who follow Jesus



Prayer Network: Are you, or someone you know, in need of prayer?
Please contact our Prayer Chain by calling
Joyce on 0408 978 890 or Shirley on 9671 1395.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

* BC = Blacktown Centre GHC = Grantham Hts Centre *

Date	Time	Loc	Type of Service	Minister / Preacher
21 May	9.00am 12.30	BC	Worship Service Tongan Lang. Service	Rev Laurel Barr Amanaki Kiteau
21 May	9.30am	GHC	Holy Communion Reader: Jennifer Reynolds	Rev Noreen Towers Elder: Joyce Doust
28 May	9.00am	BC	Combined Pentecost Worship Service BC GHC Tongan	Wendy De Vroom

Grantham Hts for Regular Sunday Worship Service 9.30am is available on Zoom
Dial in details Phone: 8015 6011 Meeting ID: 827 3669 7872 Passcode: 289406
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82736697872?pwd=eXMvdFo0dXBjSnVOZ3lON3QrZWxmUT09>

Blacktown Sunday Services available for viewing via our webpage
<http://www.blacktown.unitingchurch.org.au/>

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Monday	10 to 12noon	Painting, Folk Art, Card Making, & Knitting *During School Terms	BC
	7.00pm *1st Mon /mth	Ladies Evening Fellowship *First Monday each month	
Tuesday	9.30am GHC	Silver Threads Group at Grantham Hts Centre Board Games, Indoor Bowls, Morning Tea	GHC
	2.30 to 4.00pm	Bible Study	BC
	6.30 to 8.30pm	Girls' Brigade *During School Terms	BC
Wednesday	9.00 to 10am	Community Garden	BC
	11 to 12noon	Exercise Group	BC
	7.00 to 9.00pm	Boys' Brigade *During School Terms	BC
Thursday	10am to 12.30	Craft Group	BC
	2pm to 3pm	Hands & Feet, free food & vegies	GH
Saturday	9.00 to 10am	Community Garden	BC

CHURCH CONTACT

Church Office Tues 10am-2pm Wed to Fri 10am-4pm	59 Bungarribee Rd Blacktown	02 9831 4121 email:bucoffice@gmail.com blacktown.unitingchurch.org.au
After Hours Pastoral Care	Jean Ireland	0408 631 648
Church Council Chairperson	Pam Neale-Justins	0422 370 778
Church Council Secretary	John Cameron	0405 981 216