



From Our Vicar

Rev. Wayne Walters

Teach Us to Number Our Days Aright

Roslyn and I recently attended an aged aunt's funeral where Psalm 90 provided the text for the message. It is well known for its line about the normal life span of seventy years - or 'eighty if we have the strength.'

In its theme of the fleetingness of life, it includes the powerful prayer – 'Teach us to number our days aright -that we may gain a heart of wisdom.'

Having myself recently turned 65, my wife and I have reflected that we are now in the penultimate phase of our life. We can no longer ignore the fleeting nature of our own lives. What are the values by which we will choose to focus these remaining years? What will be the things we invest our energies in and what distractions that consume precious time will we put aside? What do we find truly life-giving, and who and what has God primarily designed us to be and do? How can we best flourish and help others to do so as well?

In Sunday's service and in Sunday evening's email I spoke that as a parish, we are also confronted with our fragility in terms of numbers, age and available leadership capacity. What is God saying to us? How can we best use the time and resources available to us for the ministry of God's kingdom in Beaumaris and beyond? What decisions made by us now will best serve future generations?

Or what are we prepared to commit ourselves to for the growth of this parish in the time remaining to us – however long God gives us the strength? People are already giving so much of themselves. What do we need to be or do differently to see a different outcome?

Crisis is both danger and opportunity. What is our danger? What is our opportunity? Questions to ponder as we pray and listen and seek the mind of God.

I look forward to gathering this Saturday (9.30am) for prayer together, for listening and sharing what we sense the Lord saying to us as a community of faith. I conclude with the final verse of the psalm...

*'May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us;
Establish the work of our hands for us –
Yes, establish the work of our hands.'*

God bless you,
Wayne

