

# THE VINES



## *Church in your pyjamas!*

**AIM:** The **Saturday Edition** is to provide you with extra resources to assist in your reflection of the Sunday Service and add to your connection with others.

Communication is like the giant trees that intertwine their roots to maintain rigidity. Our communication links us also and makes us stronger to withstand hardship.

## **SPECIAL 4 WEEK FOCUS ON “KNOWING GODS’ PRESENCE”**

David Mac will be doing a 4 week block on “*Knowing God’s Presence*”. Last week “*Presence in Isolation*”, this week “When You Pray..”

Another way to describe what David Mac is doing is to help us grow our “Inner man or woman.”

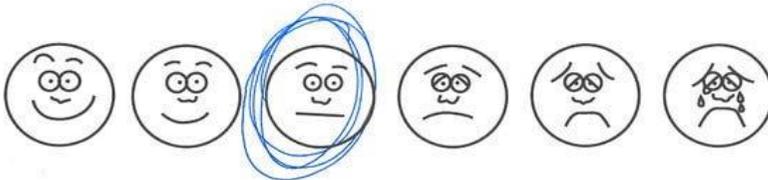
In a similar way that push ups and physical exercise build our outer body, so too we are wanting to build our faith, emotional resilience and overall spiritual well-being.

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“The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has an on-line series titled “**Exploring Prayer**”. There are five short talks, the first about 8-9 minutes, the second to fourth vary slightly, each a little more than 10 minutes, the fifth about 4 minutes. Here’s a link - <https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/exploring-prayer>. An idea for watching these could be to watch one a day from Palm Sunday through to Maundy Thursday.”

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## **How are you feeling today???**



**KEEP a JOURNAL to write down your reflections.**

# Material to help unpack Sunday

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## HOPE in a Time of Disaster WK#7 “Comfort comfort”

### Accounts of PALM SUNDAY

**Matt 21:1–11, Mark 11:1–11, Luke 19:28–44, & John 12:12–19**

- Q. What sort of tension do you notice from earlier chapters, as Palm Sunday looms?
- Q. Jesus had emotions, he wept for Lazarus and got angry. Does this make it easier to connect with Jesus?
- Q. Jesus had faith in the Father, is there anything you connect with from the below reading?

### 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3 – 5

*“<sup>3</sup>... Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. <sup>5</sup>For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.” NIV Bible*

### PRAYER (excerpt) from Jon Humphries Prayers

“You are always there for comfort and help,  
whether we call on it or not.  
You are always calling us onward in hope,  
whether we listen or not.  
You are always the giver of compassion and comfort,  
whether we accept it or not.  
You are not the cause of our troubles or sufferings,  
whether we believe it or not.”

What have you connected with?

If you had a diary what faith reflections would you add?



## **“When you pray...”**

### **Matthew 6:5-15**

Last week I posed the question, "How do we connect with our inner selves and the God who is Present within?" One obvious answer to that question is, Pray!

Jesus seemed to have an expectation that we would pray! In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount [Matthew 5-7], when he talks about prayer [6:5-15], he doesn't say, How about praying? or Why don't you try praying? or Why not give it a go? He says, "When you pray ...".

"When you pray ..." – it's there three times and with the expectation not that we might or could pray, but that we will. And Jesus encourages us, when we pray, to find a quiet corner of the house, close the door, and pray to our Father in that place where only the Father can see what's going on. There is a very clear implication in Jesus' instruction that when we do go into the quiet place, we will find a deep connection with God, present with us in that space.

Jesus' says to those listening, "This, then, is how you should pray ..." and he teaches them what we know as The Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is almost completely God-focused: Our Father ... your name ... your kingdom ... your will (on earth as in heaven) ... the gift of food ... forgiveness ... don't let us be tempted ... deliverance from evil. It's all God's doing and takes the focus from ourselves, turning the focus almost completely to God. I say almost, because there is something that we need to do: forgive those who sin against us.

The Lord' Prayer provides us with an opportunity to turn completely to God with the realisation that life is about God and not me. This prayer could be a good starting place to "connect with that Presence that is within me" as mentioned last week. Pray it slowly - a line at a time, allowing some stillness between each line. And when you feel your time is over, pray the prayer again ... on behalf of all of humanity.

Blessings

David Mc

**THIS  
PAGE  
NEEDS  
CONTRIBUTIONS  
WHAT DO YOU  
HAVE TO SHARE?  
250 WORDS MAX**

**NOTE:**

**Thanks for all those who contributed names for the Weekend Edition.**

**WE will continue to trial options.**

\*\*\*This week you can view the Sunday Sermon on line again:

The Vines website address: [www.thevinesunitingchurch.com](http://www.thevinesunitingchurch.com)

Go to that address and click on "Podcasts"

Or, you can click on the link: <https://thevinesunitingchurch.com/podcasts/>

**Thanks to Andy Roberts and the Worship team for their dedicated work on this!**

**Remember OUR key MESSAGE:**

*"Phone a Friend and Choose Life"*

'Cos you can't catch the virus over the phone...

But you can pass on God's love!

