



**Dear Friends,**

Some of you have just been added to the *Sunday to Sunday* (my mid-week email) mailing list – as we consolidate it with info from the new data base – so welcome! Please feel free to withdraw at any stage by emailing me directly [belinda@canbap.org](mailto:belinda@canbap.org) or the church office [office@canbap.org](mailto:office@canbap.org).

It seems wrong to be writing to you on Ash Wednesday about deadlines, but there are a few deadlines scheduled for today!

**Today (Wed 18 Feb) is the start of the online *Searching for Sunday* series discussion group – monthly (while the series lasts) on a Wednesday night at 7:30pm.** Tonight we'll be discussing the first two sections of the book, *Baptism* and *Confession*. If you would like to join us, please email me THIS AFTERNOON – [belinda@canbap.org](mailto:belinda@canbap.org) for the Zoom link.

**Today is also the last day to book in for Church Camp, 27 Feb to 1 March!** If you're keen to come (*and after last Sunday's video – who wouldn't be!*) you need to do two things:

1. Register that you are coming and would like to eat (\$40 for adults and \$20 for children under 12). [Click here to register today!!](#) The church can also arrange accommodation in 6 berth bunkhouses, so if you want to stay there – you're all done!
2. If you're not staying in a bunkhouse and need to book a campsite, you need to contact [Holiday Haven Lake Tabourie](#). Tell them you're with the Canberra Baptist Church group and they'll find you a spot close to our meeting/eating/games/puzzling area.

**Finally, yesterday was the deadline for Saturday's workshop (10am to 2pm in the Lounge) with Dr Joel Hollier (our Anniversary speaker this Sunday) but if you contact me by COB today we can squeeze a few more in!**

As I said, it seems wrong to write about deadlines on Ash Wednesday because Ash Wednesday, the invitation to confess sin, to experience forgiveness and to renew our commitment to following Jesus, is really about offering us a lifeline! And this lifeline is

available to us – not just once a year, on significant days in the church calendar – but whenever we call out to God.

This morning in our church morning prayer group (if you'd like to join us from time to time – we meet online @8am on weekdays - [Zoom link HERE](#); use the password 'Currie') we read Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18. We read it in the NRSV translation, and *The Message* version, and it was these words that really spoke to me:

*“Here’s what I want you to do [when you pray] ....Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense [God’s] grace.”*

*“Just be there as simply and honestly as you manage.”*

That’s helpful to remember, isn’t it? That it isn’t about fancy words. Or dramatic acts. It’s about being as honest and as present as we can muster in the moment. I am reminded of Mary Oliver’s poem (which I have shared before) titled ‘Praying’.

*‘Praying’*

*It doesn’t have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch*

*a few words together and don’t try  
to make them elaborate, this isn’t  
a contest but the doorway*

*into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice may speak.”*

— **Mary Oliver, Thirst**

*Grace and peace to you,*

*Belinda*