

## SERVICE TIMES

### Sunday Services

8am traditional

10:30am family contemporary

**Wednesday Services** 10am

**Wooli Services TBA.** Currently on hold



OUR MINISTRY UNIT CONTACT PERSONS FOR INITIATING THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS ARE:

Francis Kean and Revd Jenny Parker

The **Director of Professional Standards** Number is: **1800 370 757** for matters of a sexual nature. E-mail [dps@graftondiocese.org.au](mailto:dps@graftondiocese.org.au)

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INSPIRED BY GOD'S GRACE -WE SEEK TO SHARE HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE

## WEEK BEGINNING SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST

Some years ago, I was recommended to read a book that was different from anything else I had read before. I am well versed on leadership in a church environment, but this was something different. It included vocation with personal goals and development. It was titled: The Art of the Long View by Peter Schwartz. The concept of the book was simple: how to play the 'long game'. No, I'm not talking golf; I gave my clubs away. I'm talking about life and how we go through it, and how we survive the speed bumps that we encounter.

One definition of the long view refers to any strategy with a long-term goal of gaining the upper-hand. In other words, we know from history when we look back through our lives, there is a pathway leading to where we are.

We can plan to a certain extent, the future we aspire to. We can go to university to get our degree and become the vet we always dreamed of being. But what does it look like when we leave the long plan to God?

For some, the concept that God governs our long game is uncomfortable. But our comfort in our life journey involves how we endure.

Joseph is the champion in life endurance. Left for dead, sold as a slave, imprisoned, yes he faced the lot. Last week we were in Genesis 37, today is chapter 45. Within these chapters, we hear of how Joseph went from hated brother to second in command in a foreign country.

Joseph was not bitter for what transpired. I believe he got the gist of the long game, as God revealed the opportunity to save the nation of Israel. He is the depiction of champion of the long game.

What can we learn from him? 1. dig in and look for the best out of every opportunity. 2. things may be totally different when the sun next rises. 3. don't carry a grudge into a new day. 3. put your trust in God and trust in His long view.

If you haven't, please read the chapters of the Bible that cover the journey of Joseph. It is a story of hope and promise for a man who dreamed.

Give God room in your long game and move where He takes you, with Grace. Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCE & READINGS

They cried out in fear, but Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.' Matthew 14.26–27

### READINGS:

Genesis 45:1-15

Romans 11:13-32

Psalm 124

Matthew 15:21-28



*'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?'*

## THIS WEEK WE PRAY FOR:

### Our Nation:

That our nation will work together, amidst border closures and curfews, to work as one country, keeping our neighbours safe in our comings and goings.

### Prayer points:

- Somalia's parliament is considering a bill that would allow child marriage and would allow forced marriage as long as the family gives their consent.
- The unrest in Lebanon as Parliament approves sweeping powers for the army
- The MV Wakashio, a bulk carrier and its catastrophic oil spill off the coast of Mauritius
- The world death toll from COVID-19 exceeds 750,000
- Millions of children in India have no access to computers or internet during coronavirus isolation, thereby have no access to education
- Data from Brazil's space agency suggests fires in the Amazon are on track for a seven percent increase over last year

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

### KIDS MUSICAL PLAYTIME:

We are taking things one day at a time, so the Kids Musical Playtime will be back soon. Keep an eye on our website or Facebook age for restart dates .

### NOTICES IN BRIEF



Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a project of Samaritan's Purse.

It partners with local churches in developing nations to reach out to children by providing gift-filled shoeboxes and bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

After receiving shoebox gifts, many children are also invited back to participate in The Greatest Journey – an evangelism and discipleship program.

Will you join with us this year to help us reach more children with gift-filled shoeboxes for distribution to children in the developing world?

Please see Narelle and Francis Keane for more details and to get your kit.

Thank you to all who have prayed for the SRE teaching at South Grafton Public School. I finally made it there and so pleased to have done so.

This was the most amazing opportunity to meet with students and staff alike, as we explored the concept of having a heart for God.

I left them with the catch phrase:

**God looks at the heart, not the haircut.**

What I meant by this is, God doesn't give interest or opportunity based on our appearance but what is happening in our heart. Looking forward to the next session. –Rev. Tim.



## READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK:

**EXODUS 1.8-2.10**

**ROMANS 12.1-8**

**PSALM 124**

**MATTHEW 16.13-20**