LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

SUNDAY
15/11/2026

25th Sunday After Pentecost

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CABOOLTURE AND BRIBIE ISLAND



Upcoming Worship Service Times @ St Paul's

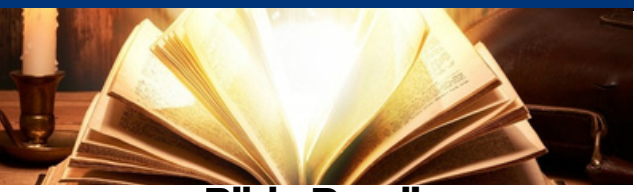
THIS WEEK

Sunday, 15th November
Caboolture @ 9am

NEXT WEEK

Sunday, 22nd November
Bribie Island @ 8am
Caboolture @ 9am

Monday, 23rd November
To Be Advised



Bible Readings

This Sunday	Next Sunday
Zephniah 1:7,12-18	Ezkl 34:11-16, 20-24
1 Thesslnns 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46

When you think about God looking at you, what expression do you imagine on his face? Disappointment? Impatience? Perhaps you wonder whether he notices you at all.

The answer can shape more of your life than you realise. If God seems distant or irrelevant, it becomes easy to leave him out of everyday decisions. If you expect criticism, you may hide your failures or hesitate to use the gifts he has given you. Even faith can begin to feel like an effort to avoid disappointing him.

This week's readings bring those assumptions into the light. Zephaniah challenges people who expect God to do nothing. Jesus tells of a servant whose fear leads him to bury what he has received. Amid these searching warnings, Paul points to the foundation of our hope: Jesus Christ died for us so that we might live with him.

At the cross, we discover God's heart. He sees our sin clearly and gives himself to save us. His forgiveness gives us courage to come out of hiding, face what needs to change and love the person beside us.

Two questions runs through this week's sermon and devotions: What am I assuming about God here? and What does Jesus show me? These are questions to carry into moments of worry, failure and opportunity—and into the way we encourage one another.

What's On at St Paul's



UPCOMING MONTH

Heavenly Father, bless every gathering this month and draw us closer to You and to one another.

Each Tuesday From 1pm	**Bible Study** Exploring the previous Sunday's readings and sermon in depth.
Thursday 24th November 11am	**Ladies Fellowship - Caboolture** **Christmas Break-up**
Thursday 26th November	**Bible Study - Bribie Island** **FINAL STUDY FOR 2026**
Wednesday 2nd December 6:30pm	**W.I.P.** An evening of craft, games and chatting for women of all ages
Thursday 3rd December 9:30am	**Ladies Fellowship Bribie Island** A regular gathering for women featuring faith, fellowship, friendship and encouragement.

LOOKING AHEAD

Advent Celebrations

Sunday 29 November 2026

St Paul's Caboolture

Let's celebrate the beginning of Advent together!

St Paul's Caboolture

Ladies Fellowship

End of Year Christmas Break Up Luncheon

24 November 2026

HISTORY BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

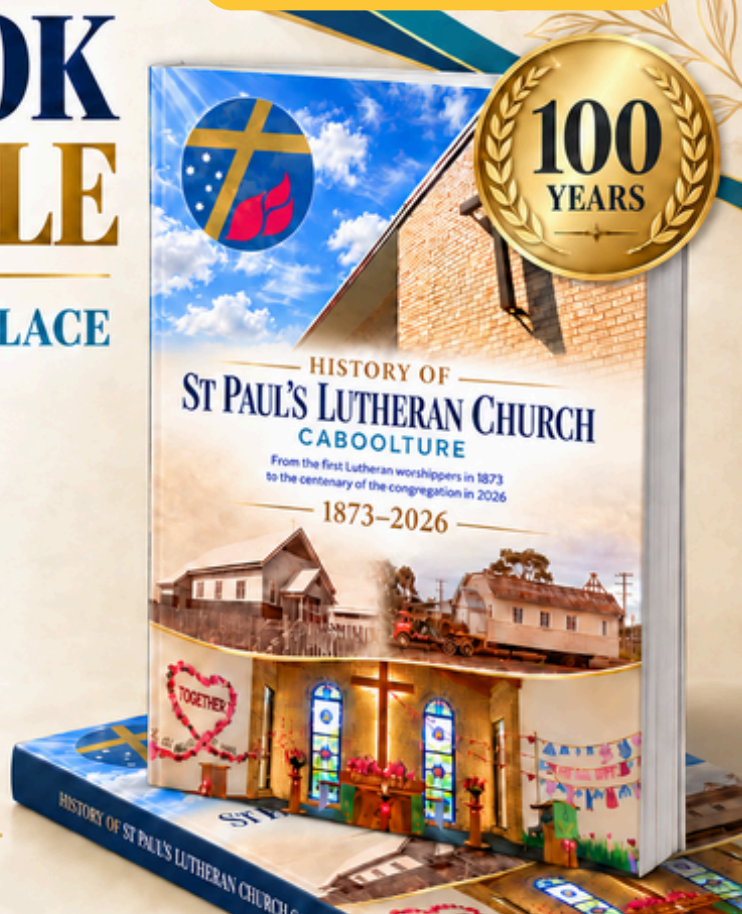
A CENTURY OF FAITH, PEOPLE & PLACE

Take home the story of St Paul's Lutheran Church Caboolture—a richly illustrated journey from the first Lutheran worshippers in 1873 to the congregation's centenary in 2026.

Through photographs, records and shared memories, meet the people, milestones, ministries and places that have shaped our life together.

A meaningful keepsake for members, families, former members and friends—honouring the past, giving thanks to God and carrying the story into the future.

$15 EACH



Advent Celebrations

Sunday 29 November 2026

St Paul's Caboolture

Let's celebrate the beginning of Advent together!

9am • Worship



10am • Morning Tea & Cross-generational Craft Activities



11am • Carol Singing



12pm • Advent Lunch



Bring a Christmas Salad and/or Dessert to Share.

Sausage Sizzle will be provided.

Have a favourite carol?

Please send your carol song requests to the office by **25 November.**

Intergenerational Ministry

CASTING CALL!

NO MESS TOO GREAT

Our Intergenerational Christmas Eve Skit



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Would you like to join us in this year's Christmas Eve skit?
Contact Pastor James if you would like to take part.

We need people of all ages who know that families can be messy—especially over the Christmas season—and who would love to speak hope into that mess for others.

YOUNG SHEPHERDS, SHEEP & ANGELS WANTED!

Help fill out the nativity and lead the singing of a couple of carols.

Come and be part of the story!

St Paul's Caboolture

Ladies Fellowship

End of Year Christmas Break Up Luncheon

All people are welcome
to join the festivities and fun!

Monday
24th of November

From
11am

St Paul's Aged Care Village Hall



Black Dog Institute

ONE FOOT FORWARD

The walk for mental health



Swimming
49 km
of 50 km

Running / Walking
97 km
of 100 km

Cycling
144 km
of 150 km

So close... and still going!

I wasn't able to finish the full 300 km in the month, coming agonisingly close. As of this week, I've managed to all but complete this mammoth task.

Life itself can feel like a marathon sometimes, especially when the Black Dog is barking constantly, not allowing any other sound to be heard. The bright side is that while we are still here, we can still face tomorrow. And tomorrow is always an opportunity to continue on and to complete those things we have struggled with.

I may not have finished the whole 300 km in the month I had set aside, but because I have made it to today, I have the opportunity to still finish the task.

I thank everyone who has supported me through the Challenge—your support has helped me make it to today. And because of your support, **I will be finishing the last 10 km this coming Saturday.**

A message about mental health

My own experience with poor mental health has taught me that the journey can be long and hard. But I'm still here – proof that it is possible to make it to tomorrow. You can **too.**

- ✓ **Talk to each other about how you're really going.**
- ✓ **Seek medical care and support when you need it.**
- ✓ **Remember – you're not alone.**

Support my challenge

If you would like to still support my challenge please **click the link or use the QR code.**

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA | QUEENSLAND DISTRICT

ALC
AUSTRALIAN LUTHERAN COLLEGE
LEARNING FOR LIFE

Called to Explore



Discovery Day

A day of discovery,
discernment and possibility.

Monday,
30 November 2026

Nazareth Lutheran Church Hall
12 Hawthorne St,
Woolloongabba

9:30am – 1:00pm

The Day

9:30 – 10:30am	Session 1
10:30 – 11:00am	Morning tea
11:00 – 12:00pm	Session 2
12:00 – 1:00pm	Lunch – together with current ALC students from Qld.

LUNCH PROVIDED BY ALC.
for all participants and current students.

Explore theology, ministry, mission and where God might be leading you.

From 1:00pm – Opportunity to explore more for both prospective and current ALC students.

FAITH | THEOLOGY | MINISTRY | MISSION | DISCERNMENT

To register (FREE), please contact EA to the Bishop, Bronagh Quinn: bronagh.quinn@qld.lca.org.au or 07 3511 4049
RSVP by 26/11

Come and explore what might be next for you.

Work in Progress



An evening of creativity, conversation and connection.

Whether you're halfway through a knitting project, have a scrapbook gathering dust, enjoy sewing, painting, puzzles, or simply want to spend time with others, **Work in Progress** is for you.

Bring along an unfinished project, learn a new skill from someone else, play a game, or just come for a chat and a cuppa. There's no pressure—just a welcoming space to encourage one another and enjoy good company.

For women of all ages.

1st Wednesday of every month

Create. Connect. Encourage.

Next get-together: | **Wednesday 2nd of December @ 6:30pm**

Bribie Island

Ladies Fellowship

Faith • Fellowship • Friendship

First Thursday of every month

All women welcome!

For the address, please contact Linda
0431 570 299

Next fellowship time:
3rd December @ 9:30am

Bible Study

Fourth Thursday of every month

A relaxed, friendly group for **all ages** to explore the Bible, grow in faith and discover **God's great love** for you.

Led by
Pastor Michael Braunberger
Currently studying
the **Gospel of John**

3 Elizabeth Batts Court,
Banksia Beach

All welcome!
Come as you are.
Everyone belongs.

Hear. Learn. Grow. Together in God's Word.

Next Bible Study to be held on:
FINAL Study for 2026
26th November @ 1:30pm

GIFT & GIVING • NOVEMBER

Dorothee Orphanage

A celebration of joy. A reminder of belonging.



Christmas 2025 • Panzi, Bukavu, DR Congo

On Christmas Day 2025, the children at Dorothee Orphanage gathered for a celebration filled with laughter, dancing and games. They shared a festive meal and enjoyed the company of people who came to celebrate with them.

The team described it as a day when the children felt loved and accompanied, with the pain of being orphaned or abandoned no longer at the centre of their experience.

Visitors included Cameroonian students from UEA and the ihelp team. Their presence and support helped make the day special.

Tabitha Home of Hope and Peace offered heartfelt thanks to St Paul's Lutheran Church, Caboolture, for its generous support through A Most Perfect Love Foundation.

For the team, this celebration was part of a continuing commitment: restoring hope, rebuilding dignity and helping children grow towards a stronger future.

Let's help this work of hope and care continue.

HOW TO GIVE

Place your donation in the Gift & Giving bag at the front of the church, or give by online banking.

Westpac
BSB: 034-640
Account: 169299
Reference: GandG

Story & photo: Tabitha Home of Hope and Peace | tabithahomeofhopeandpeace.org



NCLS research | 2026 National Church Life Survey

LIFE TO The Full

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

St Paul's Lutheran Church • Caboolture & Bribie Island

BRIBIE ISLAND
Church Code: LA310303

CABOOLTURE
Church Code: LA310301

Please allow about 20 minutes.

WEREN'T ABLE TO ATTEND?

Please request a survey form or go online at:

attendersurvey.ncls.org.au

and include the code listed above.

Every response helps us understand our church life and better serve our communities.

Belonging to Christ; we grow, connect and thrive; to serve others. | **2026ncls.org.au**

A visit, a chat, a moment of prayer

†

You don't have to walk alone.

Would you appreciate a home visit, a listening ear, prayer or Holy Communion? Whether you're going through a difficult time or would simply enjoy a friendly chat, we'd love to hear from you.

We have a caring team ready to visit and support those in need, and anyone who would simply welcome a visit.

Home visits • Pastoral support
Prayer • Holy Communion

If you would like a visit, or know someone who would welcome one, please get in touch.

Contact Pastor James

0473 461 506

You are always welcome to reach out.



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

GROW GROUP

BIG QUESTIONS. REAL FAITH. GROWING TOGETHER.

For young people in Years 6–12 and their parents & grandparents

TEENS

- Got questions about God?
- Wondering what faith has to do with your life?
- Bring your questions. Explore what Christians believe.

PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

- Want to help your children or grandchildren explore the Christian faith?
- Share what faith means to you and grow together.

Discover the great things God has done for us in Jesus.

A place to ask, learn and grow together.

FORTNIGHTLY SESSIONS • BEGINNING IN 2027

Not your traditional "Confirmation Class"!

These sessions replace the "Confirmation courses" of the past and previous "Step Up to Communion" lessons. If you would like to prepare for baptism, confirm your faith, receive Communion for the frst time, or simply learn more about the Christian faith and God's love, this is for you.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Please provide the young person's name, school year and a parent or carer's contact number.

Complete the registration form on our church website, or email Pastor James Leach: james.leach@lca.org.au

Learning together. Growing together.

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

What Do You Imagine God Thinks of You?

Explore how knowing God through Jesus shapes the way we live.

Tuesday • 1pm
In the church

Come, reflect and grow together.

For a copy of the Bible study, please contact Pastor James or collect one from the church entrance.

SAVE YOUR STAMPS



Stamps for Mission

Small stamps. A world of difference.

Your used postage stamps help share the love of Jesus through LCA International Mission.

Nearly $550,000 raised so far!

Stamps are sold to support pastor training, Christian education, and care for children and communities.

1 SAVE
Keep the used stamps from your mail.

2 COLLECT
Ask family, friends and workplaces to save theirs too.

3 GIVE
Pass them on to Stamps for Mission.

Every stamp you save can help God's mission grow.

Find stamp receivers and preparation tips:
lcamission.org.au/join-gods-mission/stamps-for-mission/

LYQ

Lutheran Youth of Queensland

YOUR SUMMER STARTS HERE!

LYQ Holiday Camps • Summer 2026–27

Make new friends. Find adventure. Grow in faith.

JUNIOR BLAST

14–18 December 2026

Years 3–6

SENIOR BLAST

14–18 December 2026

Years 7–11

SUMMER KIDS

11–15 January 2027

Years 3–6

SUMMER CLW

Christian Life Week

11–15 January 2027

Years 7–11

All four camps: Luther Heights Youth Camp, Coolum

School years are based on 2026.

Outdoor fun, team challenges and space to explore Christian faith — with caring leaders and a place to belong.

Come along for an unforgettable summer!

Explore camps & book:

lyq.org.au/holiday-camps/

Scan to find your camp



Monday: Let God speak first **Zephaniah 1:7, 12**

It is possible to decide what someone thinks of you before they have said a word. A brief reply feels like annoyance. A missed invitation feels like rejection. Soon, you are responding to your assumption rather than the person. Something similar can happen in your relationship with God. Perhaps unanswered prayer has left you assuming he is uninterested. Perhaps an accusing voice from your past has shaped your expectation that he is always disappointed. In Zephaniah's day, people had settled on an assumption: God would do neither good nor harm. They expected nothing from him, so they saw little reason to listen. Into that settled certainty comes the call to be silent before the Lord. Silence makes room to hear something beyond your own conclusions. You can bring your disappointment, questions and fear into that space. You do not need to tidy them up first. Then listen to Jesus.

See him drawing near to people who are ashamed, overlooked and struggling.
See him going to the cross for sinners–including you. Your feelings deserve attention.
But they cannot tell you everything about God. Let Jesus show you the Father's heart.

- What do I instinctively assume God thinks of me?
- Where might that assumption have come from?
- What does Jesus show me that I need to hear again?

Father, quiet the voices that keep me from hearing you. Help me bring my assumptions into your light. Through Jesus, teach me to know and trust you. Amen.

Tuesday: When your security feels fragile **Zephaniah 1:14–18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–3**

An unexpected bill. A medical appointment. A conversation that changes your plans. It can take very little to disturb the security you have worked hard to build. Saving, planning and caring for your health are worthwhile responsibilities. Yet gradually, you may begin asking them to do more than they can. A healthy account balance starts to feel like a guarantee. A settled family becomes proof that everything will be all right. Zephaniah says that silver and gold cannot deliver people from God's judgment. Paul warns that declarations of peace and security cannot control the arrival of the Lord's day. These words expose the limits of what you can arrange for yourself. You cannot purchase forgiveness, prevent every loss or place the future under your command. God does not ask you to pretend those limits are comfortable. He calls you to trust him within them. Jesus entered the uncertainty and suffering of human life. Through his death and resurrection, he has dealt with the sin and death that no amount of planning can overcome. You may still need to make the appointment, prepare the budget or ask for help. You can do those things knowing that your deepest hope rests in Christ.

- What needs to be going well before I feel safe?
- Am I asking a good gift to guarantee something it cannot?
- What might trusting Jesus look like within one unresolved concern?

Lord Jesus, you know how easily uncertainty unsettles me. Help me act responsibly without expecting my plans to save me. Hold me in your promises when the future feels fragile. Amen.

Wednesday: What has fear buried? **Matthew 25:14–30**

"I was afraid." The third servant's explanation is painfully recognisable. He believed his master was harsh, so he buried what had been entrusted to him. Fear can make inaction feel sensible. You could offer to help, but someone else would probably do it better. You could contact a lonely person, but the conversation might be awkward. You could speak about faith, but you might not find the right words. The gift remains buried while you wait to feel completely ready. Jesus' parable takes that response seriously. The servant's fear does not remove his responsibility. What he received was entrusted to him for a purpose. Yet Jesus does not tell you to rescue yourself by becoming fearless. The one speaking this warning is also the Saviour who goes to the cross for you. You can bring him both your fear and the excuses you have built around it. Notice that the faithful servants received different amounts and the same commendation. You are not required to live someone else's life or produce someone else's results. What has God placed within your reach? A little time? A listening ear? A practical skill? Someone who trusts you? Faithfulness can begin with a small step while your hands are still trembling.

- What am I holding back because I am afraid?
- What does my fear suggest I am assuming about God?
- What is one faithful step that fits my actual circumstances?

Jesus, forgive me for the times I have used fear to excuse withholding love. Help me trust your mercy and use what you have given me. Give me courage for the next small step. Amen.



Thursday: Let "for you" reach your heart **1 Thessalonians 5:9–10**

You may find it easier to believe that God forgives other people. You know your own history too well. You remember the promise you broke, the resentment you keep returning to and the words you wish you could take back. Perhaps you approach God expecting him to say, "Again?" Paul gives you somewhere else to look. Your hope rests in Jesus Christ, who died for us so that we might live with him. Jesus died for you. That promise does not minimise your sin. The cross shows its seriousness. But it also shows how far your Saviour has gone to rescue you. He carried the judgment you could not escape and rose again to give you life. You can stop making your defence. You can name what you have done without pretending it was harmless or deciding it is unforgivable. In Baptism, God joined you to Christ. In absolution, his forgiveness is spoken to you. At his table, Jesus gives his body and blood for you. These gifts give faith something firmer than today's feelings. When you wonder what God thinks of you, return to the Saviour who gave himself for you. His mercy gives you somewhere to stand and courage to begin again.

- Is there a failure I keep defending—or treating as beyond forgiveness?
- What changes when I truly hear "Jesus died for me"?
- Which of God's promises do I need to return to today?

Lord Jesus, thank you for giving yourself for me. Help me confess honestly and receive your forgiveness. When shame speaks loudly, bring me back to your promise. Amen.

Friday: Faithful in the life you have **1 Thessalonians 5:4–8; Matthew 25:19–23**

It is easy to imagine being more useful to God in a different season. When work settles down. When the children are older. When your health improves. When you have more energy or confidence. But the life you have today is already a place where faith can bear fruit. Paul calls believers children of light, then urges them to live in faith, love and hope. Their identity comes before the instruction. They belong to Christ, and that belonging shapes how they wait for him. Faith brings your needs to God. Love notices the person beside you. Hope keeps looking towards Christ when the outcome is uncertain. That might mean doing an unnoticed task with care. It might mean apologising without knowing how the apology will be received. It might mean praying from an aged-care room or accepting help you wish you did not need. The servant entrusted with two talents was not asked to produce five.

Your circumstances and limits are real. They do not place you beyond the reach of God's purposes. Jesus has given himself for you. You do not need to turn your day into an audition for his approval. Receive his mercy, notice what lies before you, and take the next faithful step.

- Am I comparing my usefulness with someone else's?
- What opportunity to love is present in my life today?
- How could hope in Christ change the way I approach an ordinary task?

Faithful God, help me receive the life and opportunities you have given me.
Keep me from comparison and discouragement.
Let faith, love and hope shape the way I live today. Amen.

Saturday: Help someone see Jesus clearly **1 Thessalonians 5:9–11**

Sometimes another person helps you believe what you already know. You have heard that God cares, but grief makes him seem distant. You know about forgiveness, but shame makes it hard to receive. You believe Jesus is faithful, but you are tired. Then someone sits beside you. They listen without rushing. They pray when you cannot find the words. They remind you of a promise that has become difficult to hear. Paul follows his assurance of salvation through Jesus with a call to encourage one another and build each other up. God's promises are gifts we can share. Encouragement does not require you to explain why suffering has happened. You do not have to promise that everything will soon improve. You can acknowledge pain honestly and speak of the Saviour who has entered it. Perhaps the most helpful beginning is: "Would you like to tell me how things have been?" As you listen, return to the week's question: What am I assuming about God here, and what does Jesus show me? The person beside you matters deeply to him. Your small act of care can help them hear his promise again. The Lord who is coming is the Saviour who gave himself for you both. Together, you can place your future in his hands.

- Who has helped me trust God during a difficult season?
- Who might need patient encouragement from me?
- What can I truthfully say about God's care without making promises he has not made?

Father, thank you for the people who have helped me see Jesus clearly.
Make me attentive to someone who needs encouragement.
Give me patience to listen, wisdom to speak and love that follows through. Amen.

Growing FAITH at home

PROPER 28

YEAR A

Encourage others to use the gifts and talents God has given them

GrowMinistries
LCA CHILD YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
where love comes to life

www.growministries.org.au

Week beginning Sunday the 15th of November

CONVERSATIONS

Share your highs and lows, or respond to the following:

1. What helps us use our talents? What stops us from using them?
2. In what ways are you using your talents to serve God? What does God promise to those who use their talents well (see Matthew 25:29)?

BIBLE READINGS

Read the following Bible readings throughout this week. Talk about what words or phrases stand out for you.

S	**Matthew 25:14-30**	Parable of the talents
M	**Luke 19:11-26**	A king and his servants
T	**1 Peter 4:7-11**	Using our gifts
W	**Romans 12:4-8**	We have different gifts
T	**Judges 4:1-7**	Deborah
F	**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**	The Day of the Lord
S	**Psalm 90:1-12**	The power of his anger

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Encourage one another and build each other up.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11A

CREATIVE RESPONSE

The apostle Paul says "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Spend some time this week affirming and encouraging one another.

For instance, you may wish to finish these sentences for each household member:

"A talent I see you have is ..."

"One thing I really appreciate about you is ..."

"Something I'd like to encourage you in is ..."

"I felt very proud of you when ..."

ACTION RESPONSE

Think of a person in your church or community who is developing or using their God-given gifts and talents, and whom you would like to encourage as a household.

Write them an encouragement note or prepare an encouraging gift for them.

MEALTIME PRAYER

For food and drink
and happy days we
offer up our thanks
and praise. Amen.

PRAYER

Lord God, teach us to wisely use all the time we have, help us to be faithful servants who make the most of your gifts. Amen.

BLESSING

Child of light, may
God bless you with
faith, hope and love,
this day and always.



St Paul's Lutheran Church

65 Smiths Rd, Caboolture 4510

Email: stpaulscab@gmail.com

Ph: 5330 3353

www.stpaulscaboolture.org.au

Pastor James Leach

Mob: 0473 461 506

Email: james.leach@lca.org.au

www.youtube.com/@StPaulsCaboolture

www.facebook.com/SPLCCaboolture



Lord God, govern our hearts by your Holy Spirit.
Make us mindful of the end of all things
and the day of your just judgment.
Stir us up to lead holy lives, and let us live with you forever.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.



Please pray for...

Health & Wellbeing, Recovery: Sue Ancell, Glenys Creevey, Clare Dopking, Marie Nicholson, Cynthia Schulz, Peter Thamm, Leanne Maroske, Geoff Stapleton, Ross Krieg, Wendy Riekstins, Ann Diment, John Smout, Dianne Kleidon, Gwen Horsfield, Robert Keller, Jan Maroske, Val Siegle, Sean Giblin, Ann De Berg, Leslie Smith

