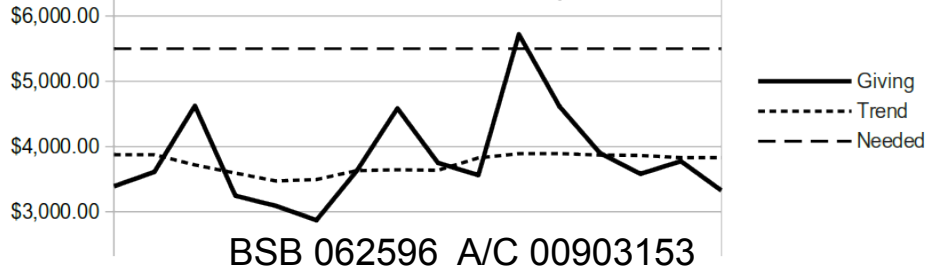


**Financials (NOTE Earmarked gifts NOT included)**



Thank you for your heart of giving and commitment.

**Birthdays this week**

Saturday Brett Davis



**Anniversary this week**

Wednesday Jono & Kat Jackson



**Thanksgiving service for  
Eric Gordon  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> @ 10:30am  
At Rivo church**

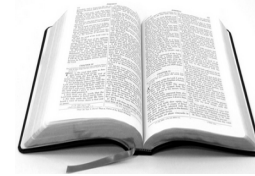
**Contacts**

**For Eldership contact and Pastoral Care:** [elders@rivochurch.com](mailto:elders@rivochurch.com)  
 Andrew Cowell: 0426 838 948 Linc Marlow: 0490 804 708  
 Phillip Gummerson: 0414 765 200 Dave Ward: 0414 929 946  
**For Deaconship matters:** [deacons@rivochurch.com](mailto:deacons@rivochurch.com)  
 Brett Davis: 0409 841 058 Stuart Waller: 0419 445 660  
**Kids Church:** Rhiannan Morsillo (rhiannan.cowell@gmail.com)  
**Youth:** Stuart Thomson 0408 820 630  
**Connect:** Warwick Gummerson (warwick@gummerson.com.au)  
**Facebook:** Jade Cowell 0450 508 947  
**Church & Building Bookings:** (rivochurch.com/church\_calendar.php)

**Connect**   
 News from Riverstone Community Church

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023

**Topic:** *A better story:  
Full Forgiveness*  
**Speaker:** Aedan Cowell  
**Chairman:** Phillip Gummerson  
**Creche:** Carol & Faith



**Next Sunday**  
*The Cross in  
Four Words:  
Freedom*

**The Sunday After..**  
*The Cross in  
Four Words:  
Justice*

**Sp:** Mark McCrindle  
**Ch:** Phillip Gummerson  
**Cr:** Chris & Lina

**Sp:** Josh Groenestyn  
**Ch:** Nathan Fredericks  
**Cr:** Rhiannan & Donna

**The Program (D.V.)**

**10:00am**  
 Church which includes:  
 Prayer and Praise  
 Creche  
 Worship  
 Kids' Spot  
 Communion  
 Preaching  
**\*\*LUNCH\*\***

[www.rivochurch.com](http://www.rivochurch.com)  
[www.facebook.com/rivochurch](https://www.facebook.com/rivochurch)  
 Visitors – go to [rivochurch.com/new](http://rivochurch.com/new)



# Prayer, Praise & News.

\* **Rhys & Rhiannan Morsillo** – A new baby to be born in May.  
**Pray** – For safe delivery.

\* **Auden Hearsey – Praise** – He and Jess are now home.  
**Pray** – That he continues to improve.



\* **Andrew Webb** – Battling cancer – Latest scans show that the cancer has metastasised throughout the chest, lungs and abdomen.  
**Pray** – For endurance, courage and a permanent cure.

\* **Dave Ward** – Small fragment of previous blood clot still near his heart.  
**Pray** – That the blood thinners dissolve the clot safely.  
**Pray** – That the procedure to correct heart arrhythmia can go ahead.  
**Praise** – For their first grandchild; Adaline Elara Ward born Friday.

\* **Dearne Gordon – Pray** – For his family as they farewell Eric on Tuesday.

\* **Christine Scott** – Ken and Christine had to cancel the May Seniors Camp.  
**Pray** – It means a lot to her that we continue to pray for her health.

\* **Dr Ken Elliott** – Australian missionary held by Islamic Jihadists in Mali.  
**Pray** – That he is returned to his wife and family very soon.

\* **Lionel Sardar** – Died Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – He is now with his Lord and Saviour.  
(He was mentioned in the 5<sup>th</sup> Feb newsletter)

\* **Ken Harding** – Speaking at Nowra this morning.

Easter Service

Next Friday

10am (normal time)

*“The Cross in Four Words: Forgiveness”*

Phillip Gummerson

## Why Pray? (Continued)

### 6. Prayer is Always Available

Another reason to pray is because prayer is always available to us. Nothing can keep us from approaching God in prayer except our own choices (Psalm 139:7; Romans 8:38-39).

### 7. Prayer Keeps us Humble Before God

Humility is a virtue God desires in us (Proverbs 11:2; 22:4; Micah 6:8; Ephesians 4:2; James 4:10). Prayer reminds us that we are not in control, but God is, thus keeping us from pride. *“Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”* -Matthew 18:4

### 8. Prayer Grants us the Privilege of Experiencing God

Through prayer we obtain an experiential basis for our faith. We do not ignore the intellect or reasons for faith, but prayer makes our experience of God real on an emotional level.

### 9. Answered Prayer is a Potential Witness

If our prayer is answered, it can serve as a potential witness for those who doubt.

### 10. Prayer Strengthens the Bonds Between Believers

Prayer not only strengthens our relationship with God, but when we pray with other believers, prayer also strengthens the bonds between fellow Christians.

Extracted from Focus on the Family