

3:23), those united to Christ by faith have the sure and certain hope they'll share in it again (5:2).

In Romans 8:17–30, glory marks the fullness of our redemption in Christ. Believers will be glorified with Christ (v. 17). Glory will be revealed in us (v. 18). And all creation will enter the freedom of the glory of God's children (v. 21). Paul structures this passage about our future glory around three groans: creation groans (v. 22), God's children groan (v. 23), and the Spirit himself also "intercedes . . . with groanings" (v. 26). All this groaning drives us toward Paul's conclusion in verse 30: "[These] he also glorified." It follows that the groaning Paul has in view—creation's, the Spirit's, and ours—is a groaning for glory.

We groan when we encounter sin and brokenness. We groan when we face bodily sickness, weakness, and death. We groan when relationships are strained or broken, or when we see those we love struggling. We ache for an end to pain. We long to be made whole and set free. We're groaning for the day we'll see, share in, and shine with God's glory as he intended. But how do we get from groaning to glory? Paul's answer is the Holy Spirit. Paul writes, "The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought" (8:26). By "weakness," Paul means the struggle he's been describing throughout Romans 7 and 8. We're people under grace, raised with Christ, and adopted as God's children. But we're also subject to corruption and live under the subverting influence of the flesh. We're torn between two worlds. Redeemed, but still awaiting the fullness of our salvation.

This weakness is why we groan. We don't know how to get from present weakness and afflictions to our glorious inheritance. We don't know what to pray for, but the Spirit does. He who is the first-fruits—the guarantee of the glory to come (v. 23)—also prays for our glory with "groanings too deep for words" (v. 26). We may not know how good could come through our pain. The Spirit does. He intercedes in accordance with God's own character, nature, and purpose. Then he works to bring it about.

Right after Paul tells how the Spirit intercedes for us, he gives us the wonderful promise of Romans 8:28: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

The Holy Spirit's intercession is active and effectual. He takes up "all things" we experience—even our wounds, disappointments, frustrations, and setbacks. In his hands, they become tools to accomplish God's good and loving designs. God uses each trial to conform us to the Son's image (v. 29) and to bring us to eternal glory, life, and joy (v. 30).

As we grow in years, we also grow in groaning. But with those groans comes hope. Hope that God has determined to share his glory with us. Hope that the Spirit is at work in our lives to bring it to pass. He hears every groaning for glory and translates each one into effectual, active intercession—our very best prayers.



St Laurence's Anglican Church Barraba  
52 Fitzroy St Barraba  
Phone – 6782 1037  
Email – office@barrabaanglican.org  
Website – barrabaanglican.org

*Clap your hands O peoples. Shout out with loud songs of joy [Psalm 47.1]*

### **26<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 – Ordinary 13**

#### **Today**

**1 Kings 22:41-53** (p 568)  
Proverbs 3:1-18 (p 987)  
2 Timothy 4:1-8 (p 1855)  
Matthew 10:26-42 (p 1511)

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> July**

**Galatians 1:1-9**

### **When Groaning Is Our Best Prayer**

TGC - June 19, 2022 by Donnie Berry

Groaning isn't exactly praying, but it can be a deep longing for redemption and wholeness. And though such groans may be wordless, yet in God's loving hands they may become our best prayers.

The older I get, the more I groan. Not just sore-knees-and-achy-back groaning, though that is real. But inward groans that come when I run up against my own stubborn tendencies, or when I sin against my wife and kids. Wordless groans when I watch my kids wrestle with shame, heartbreak, or rejection. The groaning ache I feel when I encounter betrayal, tragedy, or a devastating diagnosis.

The groaning feels deeper these days, and I don't think I'm alone. Paul tells us that groaning is common to believers on this side of the resurrection: "We ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly" (Rom. 8:23).

Groaning is a normal part of the Christian life. It's also a gift. In Romans 8, we see how groaning draws us into Christ's unfolding story of redemption. We discover that groaning is a means by which we, God's children, realise the fullness of our share in Christ's glory.

We are made for glory. This truth is at the heart of Paul's gospel in Romans. For the apostle, God's glory is his character and nature revealed *to* and *through* his image-bearers. Men and women were created to see and to share in it, to share in God's life, beauty, and joy. Though humanity has exchanged and fallen short of God's glory (1:23;

## A guide for our prayers during the week

### Monday

Our diocese and the gospel

- Bishop and Dean
- Other parishes
- Another Year of evangelism

### Tuesday

Our church and the gospel

- Children and youth
- Families
- Seniors

### Wednesday

Our community and the gospel

- Covid19
- SRE
- Youth Group

### Thursday

Our nation and the gospel

- Prime minister
- State and local government
- Religious Freedom legislation

### Friday

God's world and the gospel

- Islamisation
- War and poverty
- Barnabas Aid & Open Doors
- Compassion - Lillian

### Saturday

Ministry and the gospel

- Link missionaries – James & Steph
- Link parish – St Anne's Ryde
- Wardens and Parish Council
- Vicar

## Dates to Remember

Today	Bereen at 11.30 am
10 July	Woodsreef at 11.30 am
16 July	Working Bee
17 July	Parish Council meeting
23 July	Lighter Fuel, Armidale
25 July	Hans Kuneen visit to Barraba
5-6 August	CMS Mission Encounter
21 August	AGM
3 September	New Life Conference
23-25 September	Synod

	Today	3 July
<b>Greet</b>	Greg	Julia
<b>Lead</b>	Daniel	Dean
<b>Read</b>	Daniel, Greg, Lee	Dean, Alison, Peter
<b>Prayers</b>	Dean	Dale
<b>Counting</b>	Dean & Hamilton	Julia & Will
<b>Sunday Club</b>	Jenni & Dale	
<b>Morning Tea</b>	Alison & Jenni	Penny & Sue
<b>Church Cleaning</b>		Dale
<b>Mowing</b>		Greg & Trevor

Join us for **CMS Mission Encounter**, August 5-6 in Tamworth to learn more about God's saving work in the world and how you can be involved. This year's speaker will be Stuart Coulton:

Stuart worked as a lawyer prior to ordination as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. After more than 15 years in pastoral ministry he joined Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC) full time in 2002. He lectured in Church History, Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Theology, and was appointed Principal in 2012 – a role he served until his retirement in 2020. Stuart is the author of *Hitting the Holy Road* (IVP, 2011) as well as a contributor to the recently published *10 dead guys you should know* (ed. I. Maddock, Christian Focus, 2021). He and his wife Pauline have three adult children & six grandchildren. In retirement Stuart and Pauline help care for their 6 grandchildren and Stuart also preaches and mentors several pastors.

<https://www.cms.org.au/qnsw/missionencounter2022/>

### Direct Debit Giving Information

**Account name:** Barraba Anglican Church

**BSB:** 932-000

**Account No.:** 11685 (add S3 if transferring from RAB. Omit if not)

**Reference:** Offertory