



Crookwell Uniting Church

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”



July 2026

What Would You Like God To Give You?

How do we measure success?

As we look around us, the answer that seems ubiquitous is the accumulation of material things. The size of the bank account, the comforts of circumstances, or even the influence we wield. The old saying that “whoever gets the most toys wins” still seems to be the yardstick by which we measure worldly success.

Yet, as American author and nature photographer Michael O’Neill states, “if you give up the precious time doing the things you love, with the people you love, simply to acquire toys, you’re wasting a whole lot more than just

money.” In this month’s readings, we will explore the alternatives to material riches, most starkly in the book of 1 Kings, where we encounter a young King Solomon who has just inherited a massive responsibility.

In a dream, God appears to him with a most extraordinary offer of what we may now define as a blank cheque. God asks Solomon, “Ask what I shall give you.”

For many of us, such a request could be a temptation to shower ourselves with, if not riches, then comforts. Perhaps even more humble wishes such as good health, happy children

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From the main street to the paddock.*

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and grandchildren, community safety – all very noble things that make up the humanity of life.

When Solomon is asked, he too does not think of requesting what our society (and his) mark as signs of accumulated success. He does not ask for the defeat of his enemies, or even a long and healthy life.

Instead, Solomon looks at his own limitations and prays for something internal: “Give me the wisdom I need to rule your people with justice and to know the difference between good and evil.” *1 Kings 3:9*

Solomon wasn’t asking for God to alter the world around him; he was asking for the spiritual maturity to navigate it faithfully.



Centuries later, theologian Reinhold Niebuhr penned a prayer that has since comforted millions around the world – the Serenity Prayer.

Beginning with a request for grace to accept the things we cannot change, and the courage to change the things we can, Niebuhr draws on the story of Solomon to crucially add “the wisdom to know the difference.”

God’s response to Solomon was to grant the extra blessings of “both wealth and honour” and “a long life” *1 Kings 3:13-15*

Solomon recognised his greatest asset was to have the spiritual clarity to see what matters. It is the ability to look at a complicated situation and say “This part belongs to God. I will rest,” as well as “This part is an opportunity to make a difference, so I will act.”

As we navigate our own lives, perhaps there is wisdom in turning off the constant noise of our culture.

Let our daily prayer be simple – grant us the wisdom to see God’s hand at work – a gift far greater than any riches.
- Matthew

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July Roster

JULY 2026	WORSHIP LEADER	ELDER/PRAYERS	BIBLE READER	STEWARDS	
5/07/2026	Margi	Gill	Gale Collins	Joi & Reta	
12/07/2026	St Barts				Communion
19/07/2026	Kate	Bret	Louise	Bret & Louise	Jerrara
26/07/2026	Christine Jamieson	Joi	Ron	Lyn & Margi	

Crookwell Community Centre

Did you know that the Crookwell Community Centre can assist with Centrelink support?

Instead of travelling to Goulburn, or spending hours on hold, our Community Centre has trained staff who can assist with matters related to unemployment, study allowance, aged pensions, and more.

For more information, including opening hours, and services available, give them a call on 4832 1953.

Worship & Readings

Sunday 5 July

9:30am Crookwell

Readings: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67;
Zechariah 9:9-12; Romans 7:15-25;
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday 12 July

9:30am Crookwell

Readings: Genesis 25:19-34; Isaiah 55:10-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday 19 July

9:30am Crookwell

2:30 pm Jerrara

Readings: Genesis 28:10-19; Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday 26 July

9:30am Crookwell

Readings: Genesis 29:15-28; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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A Beginners Guide To Prayer

For many of us, especially those who have grown up outside of a formal worship setting, stepping into prayer for the first time can feel a bit like trying to speak a foreign language without a dictionary. We look at people who have been praying for decades and assume there is a secret formula, a specific posture, or a set of holy words we need to memorize to get God's attention.

But the truth is much simpler: prayer can be just a conversation. You don't need a formal religious background, and you don't need to perform. If you are wondering how to start, or what to even say, here is a simple guide to help you begin. Think of the word **P.R.A.Y.** as a gentle roadmap for your daily chat with God.

When you first sit down to pray, you may at first find yourself distracted. You might start thinking about what to buy at the supermarket or a noise outside. Don't panic, and don't feel guilty—this can happen to anyone. When a distracting thought pops into your head, you don't need to fight it. Just acknowledge it, hand it to God

and gently steer your focus back. Prayer, like anything worthwhile in life, takes practice, and it takes time to train. The important thing is to make a start. Here is a way how:

P – Praise: Start by looking up. What are you grateful for today? A beautiful morning, a good cup of coffee, a kind neighbour? Tell God you are thankful for who He is and what He's made.

R – Repentance: This doesn't have to be major. Be honest and sincere about where you messed up today—a sharp word, a selfish thought, a moment of worry. God already knows, and He loves to forgive.

A – Ask: This is where you bring your needs. Pray for your family, your friends, our town, or your own anxieties. Nothing is too big or too small to bring to Him.

Y – Yield: The hardest but most beautiful part. Take a deep breath, quiet your mind, and let go of trying to control the outcome. It's saying, *'God, I trust you with my day.'*

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