



As Messy Churches across Australia celebrate the birth of Jesus in messy and creative ways, my prayer is that many people may be drawn deeper into the true meaning of Christmas. May your experience, and that of your Messy Church community, of Advent 2015 be filled with much grace, peace and joy!

Chris Barnett

## "When is the next Messy Church?"

This is a question we now often hear from children coming to Messy Church. For us, last year was one of reviewing how we could best engage more families with the Gospel. When the concept of Messy Church was suggested, a small team of interested people was formed to investigate whether this was a possibility for our congregation. As a consequence of a resounding positive response, our journey of experimentation and implementation of Messy Church began. The result of this initial groundwork has been the establishment of Messy Church as an integral part of our outreach to the local community. At our monthly gatherings we have a regular attendance of between 60 and 85 people, the majority of whom are not currently members of our congregation. Children bring parents because they are excited about Messy Church, parents are enthusiastic and positive about experiencing church with a difference. Above all, we know God is directing this activity and we are excited and encouraged by the way in which God is so richly blessing this work.

Bayside (Queensland)

## Engaging denominationally

In addition to individual congregations engaging with Messy Church, more denominations around the country are intentionally exploring Messy Church as a deliberate strategy for congregational planting. For example, recently in Victoria around 30 people gathered to hear stories of growth and renewal associated with Baptist Messy Church expressions. Organised by the Baptist Mission Catalyst Team of the Baptist Union of Victoria, the event was resourced by Beth Barnett and Judyth Roberts in their respective Messy Church capacities [[Read more](#)]

To explore the possibility of initiating a similar event for your denomination in your state, please e-mail [judythroberts@gmail.com](mailto:judythroberts@gmail.com) or [chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au).

## Baker Ross Resources (Australia)

Baker Ross are expanding and now have a website for shipping to Australia! To access their great arts and crafts materials, create a "Messy Church at [your church]" account, explore what is available and use the BRF10 voucher code to receive a 10% discount on any purchases. Go to [Baker Ross for more information](#)



VIC: Chris Barnett  
[chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au)

NSW/ACT: Judyth Roberts  
[judythroberts@gmail.com](mailto:judythroberts@gmail.com)

TAS: James Oakley  
[kids\\_families@riverlinks.net.au](mailto:kids_families@riverlinks.net.au)

SA & NT: Jenny Carver  
[carverjen@adam.com.au](mailto:carverjen@adam.com.au)

WA: Brenton Prigge  
[brenton.prigge@wa.uca.org.au](mailto:brenton.prigge@wa.uca.org.au)

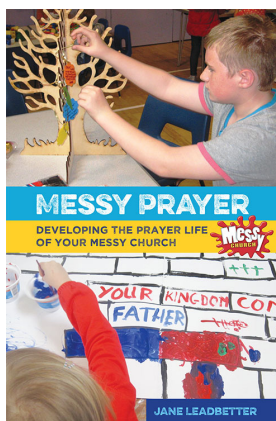
QLD: Sue Taylor  
[taylor.susanne.coral@bigpond.com](mailto:taylor.susanne.coral@bigpond.com)

# Messy Prayer: Developing the prayer life of your Messy Church

Written by Jane Leadbetter, *Messy Prayer* will both equip your Messy team for prayer and encourage others to pray as well, within and outside the Messy Church context. *Messy Prayer* contains ideas and tips for using prayer in Messy Church and other multi-age contexts.

Available through BRF on-line, you can also view sample pages and download the templates as a PDF – go to [Messy Prayer](#).

PS. And also check out the great ideas on the [Messy Church Prayer Pinterest page](#)



## From the Messy Church Australia Blog

- *Encouraging intentional spiritual conversations*

How can we be intentional about starting conversations, asking people about their story, their dreams? Messy Church is a space for people to come together and experience God in community. One challenge is to be more intentional in the experiences we provide and the conversations we share in... [\[read more\]](#)

- *Strategies for growing and sustaining your Messy Church team*

As I spend time with Messy Church leaders it is apparent that the main focus of energy in their team meetings is to plan the program for the next Messy Church gathering...[\[read more\]](#)

## Food for thought

We all know that the family meal is an endangered species in most homes nowadays, and therefore Messy Church's inclusion of this element is distinctly countercultural. It's not without good reason that most of the major religions in the world have opted to pass on the heart of their faith story via some sort of festival meal, where all ages are gathered and all contributions welcome. If we are serious about nurturing faith and growing disciples in Messy Church, then the sit-down meal is definitely one of the first places to explore what this means in practice...[\[read more\]](#)



## Messy Church Directory

It is astounding to realise the extent of the utilisation of the Messy Church on-line Directory. Around 1200 people a month are using the search option and there are 6500 views of individual church directory listings each month! They could be looking for your Messy Church! Are you registered? It is totally free and you only need to complete an online form and press 'submit'.

PS. There are now over 3000 registered Messy Churches world-wide and the 3000th officially registered church was in Warwick (Queensland)!

## A Prayer for Messy Church Leaders

God,  
Help us remember that the recycled construction models will disintegrate, the balloons will burst, the writing in the sand will be brushed away, the decorated biscuits will vanish in the twinkling of an eye  
and the fridge magnets will fall apart.  
The sound of a song or story will dissipate into thin air.  
Meal after meal will be cooked, eaten and forgotten.

But what goes into these experiences – the love, discernment and prayer, the kindness, generosity and sacrifice, the joy, wisdom and yearning for God's kingdom ...

These are things of Christ, of eternity, and it is through these invisible means that we will all be transformed and healed and saved.  
Amen.

[from [Messy Church Australia blog](#)]

