

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays	10.30am	Morning Worship
Tuesdays	9.00am	Prayer Meeting
	10.00am	Little Treasures
	5.15pm	Kingsquad (Yrs 3-6)
Wednesdays	8.30am - 12.00pm	Friendly Bean Café
	2.00pm	Ladies' Fellowship
Thursdays	8.30am - 12.00pm	Friendly Bean Café
	7.00pm	Housegroup (Church)
Fridays	10.30am	Fellowship Group (Church) – <i>Alternate Fridays</i>
	7.00pm-9.00pm	Powerhouse (yrs 7-11)
Saturdays	9.00am	Who Let the Dads Out? – <i>3^d in the month</i>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

4	Members' Meeting
25	Palm Sunday – All Age Service
29	Maundy Thursday (6:30pm)
30	Good Friday (10:30am)

According to the Gospels, Jesus was seen that day by Mary Magdalene, and was seen for 40 days afterwards by the disciples. Christians call this the Resurrection and they believe that God raised Jesus from the dead as a sign that He accepted Jesus' sacrifice for the redemption of sin and that humankind is forgiven and will have eternal life.

Holy Week is important as it reminds us of God's sacrifice of his Son, and also God's love for his people. We can learn much about Jesus through the last week of his life. Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. It celebrates God raising his Son Jesus from the dead, as well as the destruction of the power of sin and death forever. It symbolises the opening of Heaven with the gift of eternal life to everyone.



To know Christ and to make Him known

March 2018

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.
Isaiah 43:18-19

Welcome to our service. We pray that you will meet with God here. There is a loop system in use, just turn your hearing aid to the 'T' position. Children are welcome to stay in the service or go out to Sunday School, which is held downstairs. You are warmly invited to stay for coffee or tea after the morning service. If we can help you in any way, please don't hesitate to ask – we are here to serve you. Do please sign the visitors' book before you leave.

Prayer



- The local ward by-election
- Those around the world suffering homelessness, poverty and oppression. Refugees desperately seeking shelter and peace.
- Leaders who have huge responsibility as they make decisions that affect millions.
- Our Lenten disciplines and preparations for Easter
- Our local community and all those who serve us in any way.
- Our neighbours who may be struggling in loneliness, despair and darkness..that we may get opportunities to help and support them and show God's love

From the Manse:

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
*Blessed are those who know themselves truly,
for they have seen themselves as God sees them.*

Socrates may have said that 'an unexamined life is not worth living', but I find myself wondering more and more whether the journey of discipleship in Christ is primarily a journey into the love of God, which takes shape in our lives as we learn to see ourselves not as we want to be seen, and not as others see us, but as God sees us.

The challenge here, is that God sees us with the unflinching gaze of love, and we so resist the idea of being loved.

We live with such suppressed guilt, such internalised self-hatred, that the idea of being loved, of being truly forgiven and accepted, is as alien to us as our long lost childhoods.

And yet God loves us, and forgives us, and when we learn to see ourselves as God sees us, we discover purity in place of pain, and find the face of God in the midst of our complex existence.

A Prayer for Lent

God of all love, teach us to see ourselves as you see us, so that we may learn to see and love others as you see and love them.

Forgive us for those times when we privilege ourselves above the needs of others, for those times when we turn our gaze inwards and ignore the world around us.

Help us instead to be alert to your world, in all its beauty and energy, with all its pain and suffering. May we rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Amen

CONTACT US!

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WHAT IS HOLY WEEK?

During Holy Week Christians remember the last week of Jesus' life. It includes several events:

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter Sunday. It is the first day of Holy Week and celebrates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem riding on a colt, often referred to as a donkey. Crowds of people greeted him, throwing palm branches on the road. Some churches give out small crosses made from palm leaves, as a reminder of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and his death on the cross. Some Christians keep these in their homes all year as a symbol of their faith.

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter Day. On Maundy Thursday, Christians remember when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples, breaking bread and drinking wine, now known as the Last Supper. Christians remember this event by sharing bread and wine – Holy Communion. It is a reminder that Jesus sacrificed his life for mankind. The word Maundy comes from the command given by Jesus at the Last Supper, that we should love one another. At some church services the priest washes the feet of 12 people to commemorate Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper.

Good Friday is the Friday before Easter Sunday when Christians remember Jesus' crucifixion. During Good Friday services, they reflect on the meaning of the crucifixion and the central message of Christianity. This message is that through his death on the cross, Jesus atoned for the sin of mankind which came into the world when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, and through Jesus' sacrifice mankind is reconciled with God. The main service on Good Friday often takes place between midday and 3 pm. In many churches it takes the form of a meditation based on seven sayings, or last words, of Jesus on the cross, with hymns, prayers, and short sermons.

Easter Sunday marks Jesus' resurrection. The Gospels record that after Jesus was crucified, his body was taken down from the cross, and placed in a cave. The cave was guarded by Roman soldiers and an enormous stone was put over the entrance, so that no one could steal the body. On Sunday, three days after the crucifixion, Mary Magdalene followed by some of Jesus' disciples visited the tomb to find that the stone had been moved and Jesus' body had gone. *(Continued overleaf)*