



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

[www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz](http://www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz)

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## PARISH BULLETIN

31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2013

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013

9.30am	Mornington	K Russell
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Pole
11.00 am	Glenaven	K Russell
11.00 am	Wesley	S Pole
1.00pm	St Kilda	Comb. Wesley
6.00pm	Broad Bay	S Pole

### DUNEDIN INNER CITY MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION RADIO CHURCH

Each Sunday morning a pre-recorded service of worship is offered to our wider community by members of the Dunedin Inner City Ministers' Association.

Shut-in folk, people in rest-homes, in hospital, travellers and anyone else who cannot attend church services can tune in to:

Otago Access Radio 105.4 FM, or worship with us online via [www.oar.org.nz](http://www.oar.org.nz) each Sunday morning from 8.30 am – 9.00 am.



### MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1:30pm in the church hall all welcome.

## COMBINED DUNEDIN CHURCHES – RESURRECTION SERVICE

With Guest Speaker – Justin Duckworth. Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 7.00pm, Regent Theatre. Entry Free. Offering taken.

### COLIN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY

Members of the Parish  
are warmly invited to a Party  
celebrating **Colin Gibson's 80th birthday.**



Come along for a night of fun and nostalgia.  
**Saturday April 6, 7pm at Mornington Church**

No presents. Supper Provided. Spread the word

### ST. KILDA YOUTH EASTER CAMP

The St. Kilda Youth are having their Easter Camp at St. Kilda Church Hall this year due to financial constraint and also travelling expenses that some families are struggling to cope. Thanks go to the leaders of St. Kilda Church and their parents for their moral and financial support.



### PRAYER REQUEST

It is through prayer that we get in touch with those who face hardship in life. I appeal that we should be prayerful for those who are sick and lonely during this time of Easter. May they have strength from the Risen Christ to overcome their misfortune.

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank all those who took part in the Walk of The Cross this morning.

Surely, your participation testifies to our longing for a visible sign of unity in our diversity. It is a marvelous occasion to bear witness to the Power of God's love that united our local churches to walk together as companions who help one another.



## PASTORAL CARE

Just a reminder to all our Congregations of our role to provide pastoral care to those who are in need.

Please contact Marion Kitchingman if you have any Pastoral concern in your Congregation. Marion will consult with our minister for a way to deal with your concern.

### STORY FROM THE MISSION

As Approach was starting for the year, our Coordinator was chatting with one of the students in a conversation just to catch up on how the break had been for him.

The student commented that Christmas had been a stressful time for him. But they had remembered some of the discussions and information that had happened in the Stress unit standard class with Elaine, and so he put some of the strategies into practice and found them to be really effective. He expressed his gratefulness about Elaine's class being able to help him reduce the impact of the stress at that time of year.



Ken Russell writes - *I had begun preparing an article for the Easter bulletin when I read the following article from **TALKING CENTS** forwarded by Greg Hughson. It covers a number of key issues from the New Zealand scene and puts them into the context of the traditional Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Because it's all very relevant and timely, and with Greg's encouragement, I'm submitting the article for our Easter reading. A very happy Easter to all our Parish friends.*

**Christ has died, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!**

***Talking Cents** is an ecumenical group charged by the Anglican Diocesan Council to promote an alternative to current economic and political thought, and to encourage debate within the church. This article is contributed by Peter Bargh, from the Social Justice Council of the Diocese of Auckland.*

We are already a quarter of a way through the year and the signs of doom and gloom are already clear to see!

The Global Financial Crisis continues to meander interminably onwards. Conflict between local and central government continues, particularly for Auckland on issues such as housing and public transport. Mismanagement and misdirection is the overwhelming news coming from both business and government sectors.

One only need look at the example of Solid Energy. In 2008 Solid Energy was a successful, profitable coal mining company that was diversifying into wood pellet production and biofuels. Since then it has gotten hugely into debt and proposes fracking and lignite mining as ways forward. Solid

Energy was one of four companies the government intended to privatise; however, it is no longer on the agenda due to its poor performance.

A variety of factors have contributed to the company becoming less profitable and now being in nearly \$400 million debt. One lowlight of the decline has been Don Elder, who has led Solid Energy into this debt, continuing to draw a salary estimated at \$1.3million. Solid Energy also presents a tangled mess of government and business practices especially as the level of Cabinet interference, designed to draw higher dividends from the company, becomes clearer.

Cheap coal has hurt Solid Energy however it has wider consequences for New Zealand as well. Coal is one of the main contributors to anthropogenic climate change. Although no single weather phenomenon can be attributed to climate change, as New Zealand's climate warms drought will become more commonplace.

The significant drought this summer has seriously affected primary. This has reinforced the message that not only is New Zealand susceptible to global changes in commodity prices but global climate change can affect us as well.

All in all it has been an apt Lent – Lent after all is not about joy, but of preparation and privation. It was mirrored outwardly by our drought-stricken country "giving up rain for Lent." The bleakness of this situation may be appropriate for Lent as we journeyed towards the cross and death of Jesus

Lent leads to Holy Week that in turn culminates in the festivities of Easter where the great hope and truth of Christianity is revealed: out of darkness comes light; from despair hope appears; and, from death new life is offered to all.

At a time when it is easy to bemoan the challenges facing the Church and the world Easter reminds us that as Christians our calling is to be hopeful people.

*A New Zealand Prayer Book – He Karakia Mihinare o Aotearoa* renders the 7<sup>th</sup> verse of Psalm 37 as “do not grieve at the prosperity of those who follow evil purposes.” Rather the psalmist urges us to “trust in the Lord and do good.”

And, indeed, good is being done in both the Church and the world.

Often signs of hope arise during times of concern, and it is fitting that the Pope elected during Lent chose the name Francis, after Saint Francis of Assisi – one who truly embraced poverty. Pope Francis went on to declare that there ‘should be no have-nots.’ A spirit of concern for the poor, and a focus on the ills of the world is something to celebrate.

The suggestion that the Church may be taking issues of poverty and inequality seriously is reassuring after allegations of corruption and money laundering have plagued the Institute for Works of Religion, more commonly known as the Vatican Bank.

In New Zealand, more than 18,000 people have joined together to take legal action against what they claim to be excessive bank fees, a sign of hope that people are prepared to stand up against over-pricing.

The living wage movement continues to build momentum following the announcement of the living wage rate of \$18.40 in February. TONZU, a Henderson based Tofu maker, became the first New Zealand employer to sign up to the living wage, noting that it will cost them more than \$30,000 a year to do so. For their six employees this will mean on average a \$100 a week pay rise. The living wage provides ‘workers and their families the basic necessities of life.’ John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, in his Christmas challenge to British business described the living wage as reflecting the ‘Christian Virtue of Hope.’

A top down approach, following consultation, which is seeking to plan for long-term affordable housing in Auckland, can be seen in the Auckland Unitary Plan. This is part of the wider Auckland plan which sets ambitious goals for tackling housing affordability, controlling suburban sprawl, improving public transportation and other strategies for making Auckland more liveable across the board. It includes huge improvement in public transport, part of a wider clean energy plan that is designed to stimulate the economy with smart, green jobs. (Incidentally, President Obama has announced that ‘the United States must shift its cars and trucks entirely off oil.’)

The March edition of *Talking Cents* outlined ‘three problems to address while we campaign for living wages.’ These are: low hourly rate; over

pricing of commodities; and, excess housing costs. The commitment of companies like TONZU to pay a living wage marks a welcome move towards responding to the low hourly rate, and in challenging banks over substantial fees there is a sign that New Zealanders are also trying to relieve the second burden, that of over pricing.

The Auckland plan is designed to make not only housing more affordable but the entire way of life for Aucklanders more sustainable environmentally and economically.

In Lent people may give things up, or take things on in order to better follow Jesus who gave up everything for the sake of the world. In Easter, we are challenged anew to proclaim the Good News. It is therefore appropriate that as we live out our message of new life that we also discern and celebrate where new life is present in the world.

April falls entirely within the Easter season and corresponds with the start of the new financial year. *How will the realities of the New Zealand economy deal justly with the "new poor" - miners deprived of their livelihoods, workers deprived of their jobs, families with seriously diminished incomes. Is there any real "Easter hope" for these people to counteract their current disillusionment? Much of the answer to that in our New Zealand context will be measured by the extent to which the resources of the nation are released and shared in a manner foreshadowed by the man called Jesus.*

***Easter - a time for the birth of new hope.*** *But for whom? And in what manner? The heart of Jesus' mission has a compelling 21st century relevance "to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free. Luke 4:18*

*It's time to speak. Time to act in Aotearoa/New Zealand.*

- *abridged and edited.*

