



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

12th April 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 19th April

9.30 am	Mornington	Explorers Group
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Ungemuth
11.00 am	Glenaven	Explorers Group
11.00 am	Wesley	S Ungemuth
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

A VERY "SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to THELMA HOWISON who is celebrating her 96th Birthday Today. THELMA is a very regular worshipper of the Mosgiel Congregation. Congratulations & our love Thelma.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - I would like to acknowledge all those who were involved in the Walk of the Cross in various places on Good Friday, representing our Parish. From Mosgiel to North East Valley we had people to speak on our behalf. It shows our desire to be out there in the World to witness for our faith.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to * Mamaiz Horsfall, who turns 1 on the 13th!
 * Alice Hughson, who turns 1 on the 18th!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY also to Naomi Pole, who turns 51 on the 12th!

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - The April Meeting will take place on the 22nd April, in the Church Lounge at 2 p.m. The programme is "Women in War" - The Programme Committee people will give a talk about the tales - fact & perhaps some fiction? of women who did "their bit" during WWI. All Welcome to come along to hear this interesting talk. Please remember your small change for the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

OPEN EDUCATION: VAUGHAN WILLIAMS PART 2

On Wednesday, April 15, at 7.30, in Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, Professor Colin Gibson completes the story of Vaughan Williams' music for the Christian Church. The First World War had a huge impact on the composer, who served on the battlefields of France as a medical orderly. His rich music took on a new depth, and he continued to write for the church until his death in 1958. Plenty of music to watch and listen to, and a fine pre-session meal (ring Judy Russell, 4553727, for table bookings). \$5 koha for the talk, and \$15 for the meal.

SUCCESSFUL EASTER CAMP - The St. Kilda Tongan Methodist Church had a successful Easter Youth Camp with at least 30 young people and children. There were about 20 parents who were also willing to participate in the camp activities. The theme of the Camp was "Easter and Renewal of life". The camp was started on Friday afternoon and ended on Monday evening. The leaders of the Camp would like to express their thanks to Wesleydale Trust for its financial support.



EASTER EGG: A SYMBOL OF LIFE

Eggs have become icons for the Easter Season. Prior to Easter, we started to



see Easter eggs in the Super Market and Warehouse. They are noticeable because they are right at the door way as you enter in. Nobody could miss the appearances of Easter eggs and the temptation to buy them. My two daughters love Easter eggs because every time we go to the Super Market they want to buy them. They like Easter eggs because of their taste and their ability to nourish life. Easter eggs are not only for the purpose of

consumption but also for the purpose of creativity, which is a vital part of human life.

Before Easter, my two daughters were invited to join the students of the Pre-school where my wife teaches for a school evening fun activity. This activity was called 'Easter Egg Hunting'. They started the evening with a pot-luck dinner and then the Easter egg hunting began. Prior to the activity the staff of the Pre-school were hiding Easter eggs around the school grounds for the students to hunt. Parents and families were standing around and watching while the students hunted for Easter eggs. I could see joy on the faces of those children who were able to find Easter eggs as quickly as they could and also those who were able to find heaps. I could also see the disappointment on the faces of those who found few or no Easter eggs. The activity was simple and straight forward and the outcome was fun and educational. I am sure they all learned from this activity about fair competition and perseverance. They also learned about human interaction and sharing, which are unique parts of life.

Easter eggs can also symbolise protection and nurturing. They illustrate the life that the egg shell protects when a mother hen lays eggs. Before the chicks come out to enjoy their environment, they have to be in the eggs first. The mother hen lays eggs for the new life to develop and grow. Within the eggs these new lives are nurtured and protected for 21 days before they are hatched. The hard shell of the egg becomes their shelter and security. We know that there is life in the eggs when they are hatched and the egg shells are left empty. The empty eggs prove that there is new life to continue on. We see the chicks under the wings of their mother hen full of life and energy after leaving their egg shells. The egg shells gave them the opportunity to grow and develop. Apparently, eggs symbolise life.

When we look to the shape of an egg we see that it has an oval shape and it has no beginning or ending. There is nowhere on the egg that we can notice a beginning or an end. This shape symbolises the never ending circle of life and love. The chick inside an egg experiences life and love everyday of its development. Life and love represent something about God's attributes. God offers life everlasting and his love endures forever. This is

the kind of message we have from the Easter Season. Christ finally overcome hatred by his love and defeated death by his resurrection life.

Easter eggs are used by various communities to represent new life and new beginning. They symbolise the Easter Season and have an important theological meaning. We are told that the Christian customs relating to Easter eggs can be traced back as far as the early Christians of Mesopotamia, who stained eggs red in memory of the blood of Christ, shed at his crucifixion. Since this time the Christian Church has officially adopted this custom regarding the eggs as a symbol of the resurrection. When we buy an Easter egg, we find that it has an oval shape – chocolate with a hollow interior. This symbolises the empty tomb and the reality of resurrection life which we celebrate during Easter Season. This also reminds us about the message of the two angels who appeared to the women who first visited the body of Jesus. The angels said, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen” (Luke 24:5b) The stone which sealed the doorway has been opened and a new life has begun, for Jesus has risen from the dead. This is the good news that we celebrate on the first Sunday of Easter.

Because eggs symbolises the resurrection life, the Roman church drafted a blessing to express the vitality of eggs for the Easter Season. This blessing was first recorded in 1610:

“Lord, let the grace of your blessing come upon these eggs, that they be healthful food for your faithful who eat them in thanksgiving for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever.”

As Easter eggs symbolise the start of a new life so with our lives during the Season of Easter. Our Parish needs a new beginning with the Risen Christ who can give hope to those who seek companionship and company. We are an Easter people and our role is to give hope to those who live under the shadow of death and misery. Let us continue to enjoy the taste of the Easter eggs and also share with each other the joy and love that we experience from them.