



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

18th December 2016

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 25th December

9.30 am	Mornington	S Pole
9.30 am	Mosgiel	S Ungemuth
9.30 am	Glenaven	Combined at Mornington
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

CHRISTMAS CAROLING Sunday 18th Dec leaving Mornington Church at 6:30p.m. Join the walking choir, singing a selection of Christmas songs new and old at 8 residences. Come and enjoy sing in wide open spaces and enjoy the company of fellow choristers while ambulating across the rise and fall of Mornington. Bring a plate and enjoy a bit of talk and a nibble and drink after exerting all that effort.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - Just a reminder that the Christmas Eve service will be at the Glenaven Methodist Church. It will start with supper at 10.30pm, the service starts at 11pm. We are looking forward to a joyful service and also good support from the wider Parish. Please bring a small plate for food for the supper.

Parish Links **MOSGIEL METHODIST CHURCH NEWS**

LEADERS MEETING

Our last meeting of the year was held at the home of Earlene Owens and was followed by a 'pot luck' Christmas supper. Spouses and partners were also invited. It was a very pleasant evening. Once again we enjoyed each other's company and delicious food.

ADVENT STUDY

We are currently attending an Advent study group, sourced and organised by Siosifa. The group is held at Mosgiel Methodist church on Wednesday evenings. The study material provides plenty of food for thought, and provokes interesting discussions.

SERVICE TIMES

At present we are considering a change of start time for our Sunday services. A later time might allow the more elderly and people from outside Mosgiel to attend our services. It is important to us that they be given the opportunity to be picked up and delivered home from services if they so wish.

INTERACTION WITH OTHER CHURCH GROUPS IN MOSGIEL

We continue to communicate and interact with other churches and congregations in our area. It is felt that The Spirit is definitely at work in Mosgiel.

OUR SINCERE GOOD WISHES TO ALL FOR PEACE AND JOY AT
CHRISTMAS TIME

ADVANCE NOTICE

“Turning Towards Life: Renewing Ourselves as we Work for a Sustainable Planet”.

During March 2017 the Dominican Sisters of Aotearoa New Zealand area bringing two speakers to New Zealand. They will be in Dunedin 23-25 March 2107 as well as Oamaru and Invercargill.

Margaret Galliard and Sharon Zayac both have a long involvement with movements for ecological justice and the spirituality that sustains in the work for a more hopeful future for earth and its people. In Dunedin they will offer a programme on the evening of Friday 24 and Saturday 25 March at Holy Cross called, “Turning Towards Life: Renewing Ourselves as we Work for a Sustainable Planet”.

Margaret and Sharon could also be available on the Thursday 23 or the morning of Friday 24 if any group would like to meet with them. They can present to faith-based and other groups. They would be available and interested to speak with senior school students, teachers and active groups.

If you are interested in having one or both of these women meet with a group, please address enquiries in the first place to Sandra Winton swinton@clear.net.nz.



SIX MORE WESLEY CLOSURE PHOTOS





EAST TAIERI CHURCH
www.etchurch.co.nz

MOSGIEL MEMORIAL RSA

Christmas Lunch

At the Mosgiel RSA

Doors open at 11.45am and food will be served at 12 o'clock

Christmas carols will be sung and there will be surprises for all!

Food and drinks will be free.....just bring yourselves along and enjoy the lunch!

(Please note no alcohol will be served)

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Prison Literacy and Numeracy: Recently a young man in a pre-release class at OCF was stopped from coming to his classes by Corrections staff because he had been rude to a volunteer tutor. It turned out that the person he was rude too had asked him to read out loud in front of others in his unit. This young man does have poor literacy skills and he had gotten very upset at the request.

His case manager approached one of our tutors to say that he had really enjoyed our first class and was keen to carry on with the course. At the tutors suggestion, some 1-1 tutoring time was arranged, to give him the opportunity to complete the goals of the course which included writing up a new CV. After one 1-1 session, he was given the chance to return to the class, and he continued with the group to complete the course with no problems.





SHALL WE CONSIDER our blessings as we hurry towards Christmas. ‘What blessings?’ you grumble, as we watch a world sliding towards chaos and division,

as Trumps and Putins take over the reins of power, as refugees pour out of ruined cities towards the razor-wire barriers that other countries put up to keep them out. What blessings? as we learn of the increasing poverty of the poor in our nation, and hear every day of a new act of senseless violence towards children, wives, shopkeepers, the elderly, even our international tourists. Yes, blessings. I do mean blessings.

Now you can’t have in mind anything from a book so out of date with modern reality as the Bible! After all, who in the secular world we inhabit gives a toss about such an other-worldly idea as a blessing? Yet there are rather more than 100 verses in that collection of ancient writings, referring to blessings— from God’s distribution of blessings on those who variously trust and obey him, to biblical fathers like Jacob who bless their children as a form of passing on an inheritance, and to Jesus’ much more famous list honouring the poor in spirit, those mourning the dead, people thirsting for justice, those who are humble, those who show mercy, the peacemakers, and those persecuted ‘for righteousness’ sake’. No, I don’t mean any of those verses from a distant past, though some of them are surely still resonant among Christians at least.

I have in mind something much more recent. On the first of November, this year, Pope Francis (of increasingly blessed memory) has proposed that there should be added to the canon of scripture—how dare he add anything to that perfect and final Word of God!—six new beatitudes for the modern era. He did so while celebrating Mass on All Saints Day with 15,000 Swedes in a giant stadium at Malmo at the conclusion of a ground-breaking ecumenical visit to Protestant Sweden. In his address the Pope highlighted the lives of two Swedish female saints (gender-significant, surely) saying that their best description, their ‘identity card’, was to be found in the list of Beatitudes from Jesus’ Sermon on

the Mount. New situations require new energy and new forms of commitment, he said, and then offered his own new set of blessings:

- Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others, and forgive them from their heart.
- Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized, and show them their closeness.
- Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover him.
- Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home (the earth).
- Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others.
- Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians.

Now, I could ask for a little tweaking of the list; perhaps adding to the final papal Beatitude a blessing for those who work towards greater understanding and acceptance of other faiths—though no doubt the Pope had in mind the great schism between the Roman Catholic church and the Protestant reformers who brought into being the Lutheran Church and a host of other denominations, like our own. Or possibly the seemingly unbridgeable rupture between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox churches of the East.

But in the true spirit of the Christmas season, let me not sound ungrateful for a remarkably brave statement from the leader of millions of Christians.

And what drew this list to my attention was not its deficiencies or omissions but its **connection** with our own little local parish of Methodists. Have you spotted it? Yes, I mean, the third of the Pope's beatitudes, *Blessed are those who see God in every person and strive to make others also discover him*. Yes, I know, you will properly object to the 'him', but isn't it astounding that the motto adopted by our Parish several years ago anticipates Pope Francis' words. *Blessed are those*

who see God in every person. Amen to that! And do I hear a clapping of tiny hands from the manger?

Colin Gibson

*I owe this information to an article in the December issue of that excellent Catholic magazine *Tui Motu*, a file of which is to be found in the foyer of the church at Mornington.

WORSHIP SERVICES - DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017

Christmas Eve, Saturday 24th December

11.00 pm – Glenaven, with supper at 10.30 pm

Christmas Day, Sunday 25th December

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven)



Sunday 1st January

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington (combined Mornington Churches)

11.00 am – St Kilda

Sunday 8th January

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington at St Mary's Anglican

Sunday 15th January

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Morn/Glenaven combined at Mornington Presbyterian

Sunday 22nd January

9.30 am – Mosgiel

9.30 am – Mornington (combined with Glenaven)

Sunday 29th January

10.00 am – Glenaven (Parish Combined Service)