



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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Presbyters:	Rev. Siosifa Pole	455 2923
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	477 3700
Parish Stewards:	Mrs Hilda Hughson	487 6226
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Pastoral Convenor	Beryl Neutze	476 7447
Mornington:		

PARISH BULLETIN

16th April 2017

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 23rd April

9.30 am	Mornington	C Gibson
10.00 am	Mosgiel	E Merrett
11.00 am	Glenaven	C Gibson
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

THE APRIL MEETING OF THE METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP will take place on the 26th April in the Church at 2 p.m. The Guest Speaker will be Rev Dr Rod Mitchell & his subject - "The Stories We Live By". All welcome to our monthly meetings & hear some very interesting speakers. See you there.

MOSGIEL LEADER'S MEETING to be held in the church lounge on Tuesday 18 April at 7:30pm.

THE GIBSON PRESENCE was unmistakable at service last Sunday. For one thing they comfortably filled the front row. And then again, when John Gibson sits at the grand piano to partner his Dad, the hymns take on a whole new tempo. Fantastic! Thanks



John and Colin. And what was the occasion? Youngest daughter Philippa is on one of her occasional visits from the UK, and the family came from far and wide to celebrate the visit with Jeannette & Colin. Photo - Marcus, Jeanette, Philippa, Colin, Shona and John.

OPEN EDUCATION: AN EVENING WITH JONATHAN LEMALU

Open Education is excited to present an evening with the great New Zealand international singing star, Jonathan Lemalu. We will be asking Jonathan what is it like to live such a life of constant rehearsals, performances and travel, how a famous artist keeps up standards and manages his family life, and much more. Mornington Methodist Church, Galloway Street, Wednesday 19 April at 7.30pm. A koha of \$5 (or more if you wish to give to Syrian refugee families). The usual pre-session meal catered by Judy Russell, at 6pm, \$15. Ring 455 3727 to book your seats.

A VERY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETING to Thelma Howison who celebrated her 98th birthday on Thursday 13th. What a great achievement! With our love & prayers, from all your Church Family.

PASTORAL CARERS MORNINGTON: You are invited to meet over lunch at Fuschia House 5 Lees St after church on Sunday 7th May @ 11.00am. We will review our groups, and ways we can best support our church community and each other. Your attendance is important but if unable to come please notify Beryl. Transport is available if needed.

SWEET ADELINES NATIONAL CONVENTION

Dunedin Town Hall April 20 – 22.

Programme details –

THURSDAY APRIL 20 – 8 p.m. Dunedin Town Hall.

Welcome and Official Opening. Entry FREE.

A short programme featuring the Christchurch City Chorus, who will present their 15 minute dance package that won them the 5th place in the international competitions in Las Vegas last year. (Our Dunedin girls, Lynley Kloogh and Robyn Abernethy joined with Christchurch for this competition)

FRIDAY APRIL 21 – 12 noon Dunedin Town Hall - Quartet Competitions. (Robyn is singing in this competition in a quartet called 'Diversity'. GO ROBYN & DIVERSITY!) Entry \$30 and \$15.00 for seniors and under 25.

FRIDAY APRIL 21 – 5.30p.m. Octagon (St Pauls Cathedral if wet)
Mass singing by competition entrants. Free performance.

SATURDAY APRIL 22 – Dunedin Town Hall – 12 noon – Chorus Competitions. The Dunedin Chorus, under the direction of Robyn, are singing in the small chorus competition - (a small chorus is up to 30 singers plus the Director). GO DUNEDIN!! Entry \$30 and \$15.00 for seniors and under 25.

If you want further information ask Robyn or Lynley.

A little bird has told me that the Revelry Quartet will be busking round Dunedin during the Convention – if you see them see if you can work out which one you will know – a clue – look for a young lady that strongly resembles Sharon Connor!!!

ANNUAL LEAVE - I am taking one week Annual Leave, starts from Tuesday 18th to Monday 24th of April. While I am away, Rev Rod Mitchell will take the administrative task in the Parish. Rod's number, 477 3700. Thanks, Siosifa

THANKS - To those who participated in the Lenten Bible Study series. We were blessed by these studies every week during the Lent Season. May these studies continue to make positive influence in our lives as we continue our journey in Easter Season.

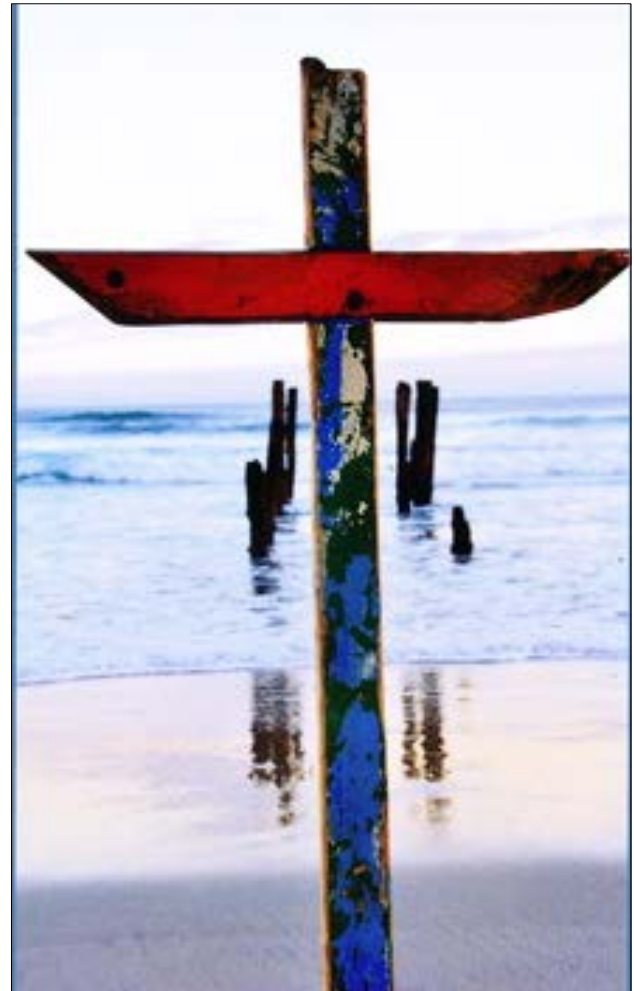
COMBINED PARISH SERVICE - Just a reminder, that we will have a Combined Parish Service on Sunday the 30th of April, at Mosgiel Methodist Church, 10am. Please bring a plate for our morning tea after the service.



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Next Step Training: It can be very challenging for students to attend their course and be focussed when they attend, particularly when there are a range of issues going on for them. One student has no stable accommodation, has poor sight that needs addressing, and does struggle to take their medication regularly. All these factors combine to make it incredibly challenging for this student to be consistently at course and to be in a mental place to be involved in learning. This often requires several support people working together to be able to help a student work through the issues to get to a place where they are able to start achieving their goals. In this case, Pania, the NST co-ordinator, the Youth Wellness support person are working together with the student making a plan to create stability with the student.

If you would like to support the Mission's work with a donation, please visit www.givealittle.co.nz and search for The Methodist Mission.



The Lampedusa Cross has established its presence among us, all messy-coloured and unlovely and improvised and salvaged. Nothing shiny and brassy from Lampedusa; only the impulse of a village carpenter to attach together two unassorted beams from wreckage bestrewing his island coastline, telling evidence of human tragedy upon tragedy. The Lampedusa Cross tells its story to those who will listen - of broken families caught in the crossfire of a civil war they do not comprehend, their small chances of escape imperilled in the fragile craft offered by unscrupulous entrepreneurs only too pleased to make a fortune from their misery and vulnerability. Connexions Apr 9

So how does the Lampedusa Cross speak to us on this Easter Sunday beyond the most vivid and unavoidable witness of the Cross itself - indisputable witness to mans' inhumanity to man?

Last week's *Connexions* posited three ways that immediately spring to mind. 1. *the salvation view*, a transaction for eternal forgiveness for those who truly believe. 2. *the badge of sorrow*, humanity's weeping for goodness destroyed in innumerable situations of mortal tragedy.

3. *the investment for peace* in the face of belligerent evil, the quiet courage in the 'prince of peace' who never ceased to believe the values he embraced would survive beyond his death. *Last week's article*

promised a fourth interpretation of the Lampedusa Cross as an Easter motivation. Here it is.

It sometimes pays to follow up on a news item to gain additional perspective. So it was when I googled this weeks reports of terror attacks on two Egyptian Coptic churches; St Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria and the Mar Girgis Church in the Nile town of Tanta, both celebrating Palm Sunday. To date 49 have died and many more have suffered grievous injuries. In each case, Islamic State has claimed responsibility.

Neither event is especially significant given the frequency of such bombings make them almost daily events somewhere in the world. But in a momentary film clip on TV1 I caught sight of an image that remains a vivid memory - a big crowd of angry shouting Egyptian Christians gathered in solidarity immediately after the attack on their church. Lifted shoulder high was one of their number brandishing a wooden cross, as if to say - 'they can destroy our churches, but they cannot destroy the faith this cross stands for!' But that was not all. A little further googling revealed something else, missed in TV1's coverage. The crowd of Coptic men, several hundred of them, were not the angry rabble they may at first sight have appeared to be. A short video clip revealed a truly moving happening. The men, in perfect unison, were reciting the Nicene Creed in Arabic.

Have in mind the situation of Christians in Egypt. They are less than 10% of the population, and if reports are correct, under constant discrimination, even persecution, by the Moslem majority. Their Cathedral had just been attacked and some of their number killed by Moslem extremists, but the first response of those Coptic Christians, under the banner of a hastily acquired cross, was to go into the streets to reaffirm the creed, such a prominent feature of their Sunday liturgy. Pure and simple, it was an act of defiance that the nation of Egypt could not easily ignore.

The Lampedusa Cross, like so many crosses before it over many centuries of Christian witness, carries a clear message of defiance, resistance, opposition, dissent. This cross declares unequivocally 'you people from Libya and other places who heartlessly exploit the vulnerability of refugees - you are wrong, and the judgement of God, and your peers, is upon you.'

But don't get me wrong. I am not suggesting, even for a moment, approval of the militant crosses carried over the hearts of the Crusaders who plundered and killed "the infidels" in the land of Jesus, forever bleeding the image that early Moslems formed of Roman Christianity. Nor am I commending the harsh and uncompromising cross in the theology of evangelical denominations competing for the souls of remote villagers in the rain forests of New Guinea and West Papua.

The steel core of resistance in the Christian cross, against evil and for the good, is not to be confused with the militant proselytisation of biblical fundamentalists in every corner of the world.

The Cross of Jesus is, and always was, a sign of love's uncompromising resistance. Martin Luther King once declared, "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." His was resistance of a different time and culture, but it is well known the great freedom champion was mightily inspired by the resistance model he saw in Jesus of Nazareth. It was Dr King and his movement for black rights that made 'passive resistance' fundamental to black protest, a Jesus-like policy if ever there was one.

Jesus wasn't crucified because he was a super awesome guy that quietly went around asking people to please be nice to each other. He was crucified because secular and religious authorities alike saw him as a threat to their power and influence.

The cross in one form or another confronts us every time we sit ourselves comfortably (o yeah?) in Church, and the very familiarity of its presence can insulate us from the imperative of its authority over and among us. Maybe if we were Coptic Christians in Egypt or United Methodists in America, the sheer gravity of events in our nation, whether as the target of Islamic State or as the recipients of Donald Trump's egotistical executive orders, would better attune us to look into the heart of the cross to discern the call to resistance.

It's Easter. The joy of the day is undiminished, even if we greet it in different terms and understand it more mythically. But this Easter we have Lampedusa. Look hard, and remember from whence its timbers came. Condemn the injustice and oppression that filled its boats, and uphold the strong desire of our Italian carpenter through his workmanship to resist the cruel forces, and with his crosses engage the world. Allow Lampedusa to influence you, and let holy resistance become your spiritual practice.

Aotearoa - New Zealand has no special claim on the title Godzone, even if Fred Dagg sometimes gave the impression it has. Get out there as Easter people, resist what is wrong in our society and embrace what is good. And as Erin Brockovich said to weary Christchurch insurance victims this week "never give up."

Ken Russell