



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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PARISH BULLETIN

6th May 2018

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 13th May

9.30 am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	G Davis & Mosgiel LMT
11.00 am	Glenaven	R Mitchell
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

Dates to remember:

9 May	7.30pm	Parish Council - Mosgiel
16 May	7.30pm	Open Education – Mornington

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: to be held in the Mosgiel Methodist Church on Wednesday 9 May at 7:30pm.

OPEN EDUCATION - On Wednesday 16 May, Professor Paul Morris from the University of Auckland comes to Dunedin and our Open Education programme to talk about his task of updating the National Statement on Religious Diversity. Yes, that's right: there is such a document which sets out our nation's view of the broad variety of religious faiths which are now present in New Zealand society, and lays out our rights as persons of faith, whether we are Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Confucian Chinese, Hindus, Sikhs or whatever. He is hoping to garner ideas about what such a modern document should enshrine, so your presence is important. Tell others about this visit and encourage them to attend. The talk is at 7.30pm at the Mornington Church, Galloway Street, and as usual it will be preceded by a splendid meal provided by Judy Russell at 6pm. There is a koha of \$5 for the talk and a charge of \$15 for the meal. Ring Judy (4553727) to book your place at the table, and remember the line from the hymn, 'For everyone born, a place at the table.'

SIOSIFA WILL BE ON LEAVE from Tuesday 8th to Monday 14th of May. While I am away, Rev Dr Rod Mitchell will be the contact person for any pastoral matter in the Parish. Thanks

CYCLONE GITA APPEAL - Finally, I got the total amount that the members of our Parish raised for the people of Tonga that were devastated by Cyclone Gita. You raised \$1, 870. I would like to thank you all for your generosity and compassion toward those who were badly affected in Tonga.

MOSGIEL COMMUNITY FOOD BANK is experiencing larger than normal numbers and would appreciate help with any of the following items: Soap, toothpaste, shampoo, tampons, sanitary pads (not toilet paper), milk powder, breakfast cereals and spreads. Many thanks.



LAST THURSDAY & FRIDAY we were privileged to be invited guests of newly ordained Catholic Bishop of Dunedin the Most Rev Michael Dooley it was a very moving occasion & we pray for a special blessing on the Bishop in his new roll.

PASTORAL CARE MORNINGTON - It is helpful to have a record of Church member's Addresses, Phone numbers, and email addresses for our Pastoral Care. If any of these have changed in the last 12 mths or if you are a new Church member would you please fill out the attached slip and hand to Beryl (Pastoral Convenor)

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Name / Names: -----

Address:-----

Phone number / numbers:-----

email:-----

THE OTAGO COMBINED CHRISTIAN GROUPS NETWORK is excited to be hosting a ball again this year! It is on 7pm-11.30pm Saturday May 19th, at Knox Church Halls, George St. Tickets are \$20.

All details can be found on the facebook event page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1688371551252917>

Invite your friends and we look forward to seeing you there!



STORY FROM THE MISSION

Hub user story:

I first discovered the Hub five years ago when I attended the antenatal breastfeeding class. Shortly after the birth of my son, I came back to the Hub to see the ladies at the breast room. They were so helpful that I decided to become a breastfeeding peer supporter myself. It was at that time that I became more familiar with the Hub and the range of activities and services on offer.

In the five years that have gone by, I have been a regular user of the Hub through the peer supporters group but I also attended a wider range of groups such as the Koru International Playgroup. My family got bigger and I now have 3 boys ranging from 4 years to 11 months old. They all enjoy coming to the Hub. We regularly make good use of the toy room, making special trips to the Hub even though we live in the north end of town.

The Hub is a wonderful friendly place to hang out and meet friends both for myself and my children. The people who work there are friendly, kind and always willing to help. The free exchange area for clothes and toys are wonderful in our busy materialism obsessed world.

All in all, the Hub is all a little oasis for Mums and bubs...and beyond. I am ever so grateful to all the people making it possible.

PUBLIC ISSUES FOR PARISH NEWSLETTERS & BULLETINS

6 – 13 May 2018 - The church is preparing our response to climate change by bringing a policy for climate justice to Conference 2018. Climate justice requires us to reduce pollution of the atmosphere as well as to strengthen policies for the fair sharing of wealth so that everyone can be part of the change towards stewardship of earth and atmosphere. Pope Francis has said, "If we damage the environment we damage the poor".

The Public Issues Working group has prepared a draft policy. We are inviting all bodies of the church to engage with this policy, as it affects the many aspects of church life, from theology and faith to financial investments, management of church properties and what goods churches buy. Climate justice involves us all in moving away from being part of causes of pollution to living well with the earth.

The Climate Justice Summary and the Backgrounder are with Parish Secretaries and at

http://www.methodist.org.nz/public_questions_network/pi_resources

Please let Betsan know what you think and how this policy needs to be amended for presentation as a Decision of Conference 2018.



HERE'S A QUESTION FOR YOU. What do comedian Bill Cosby and Cardinal George Pell have in common? Not much, you say. But then you remember with a start that you've been following this week's news, and you will add - of course, they're both facing sex charges, one in America and the other in Australia. Correct. In the case of the comedian he has already been found guilty and could (though unlikely) face 30 years in jail.

The 76 yr-old cardinal, has pled not guilty and will go to trial later this year.

This column has no interest in the detail of the charges, even less in the salacious nature of the evidence that has and will be brought into the respective court rooms. The gutter press has gorged itself from the Cosby case and will be preparing to further feast on the juicy prospect of a cardinal of the Church having to stand in the dock and answer to charges that are both demeaning and embarrassing to him personally, the Vatican where he holds high office, and the world-wide priesthood of the Church. The charges are serious and the stakes could not be higher.

What should interest all of us from these tawdry headlines is the cultures out of which it has been possible for both (relatively) elderly men to sustain such heinous behaviours for so long without detection in careers never far from the public eye. There is public incomprehension that charges are being laid from events 20, 30 years ago, and in a much wider context too, as many others in the same prominent professions find themselves on the sharp point of exposure.

So what are the cultures that have conspired to provide cover for predatory offending in these and other high profile cases that have come to light in recent years? We must respond in generalised terms for there are significant differences across the board, but overwhelmingly it is the culture that bestows overwhelming authority and trust on powerful men, and an entitlement beyond question.

The entertainment industry has a culture where stunningly successful men have been thrust into such untouchable prominence that the exploitation of vulnerable women is assumed as a 'right of passage'. The name of Harvey Weinstein comes to mind, but it is reliably reported from Hollywood sources that associated with his very public fall from grace was the demise of 71 other influential Californian men

in the same industry who saw the writing on the wall and in one way or another quit their powerful positions, or were summarily dismissed, to escape the fallout from Weinstein's demise.

And what about the Church? Nothing better to report there.

The Catholic Church is particularly vulnerable with its all-male priesthood and the mystique historically invested in the priest as the source of the Church's authority in the parish. The charges laid against Cardinal Pell are shocking enough, but given the backdrop of thousands of charges laid against priests in our generation, some may very well ask whether it is all that surprising that one who rose so far himself stands accused of the same predatory crimes. Just one (extreme) case comes from the Catholic Diocese of Boston, an investigation by the *Boston Globe*, where it was revealed that some 278 priests from that diocese alone had been or were being probed for sex related crimes in their capacity as priests, a revelation that led to the resignation of Cardinal Law, Archbishop of Boston.

So where is all this leading? Abuse in entertainment and church are only part of a much wider whole. Here in this country the lid has been lifted on widespread sexual assault and abuse by senior male staff in prominent law and accounting firms with women encouraged by the Me-Too movements coming forward with new-found courage to denounce their erstwhile bosses for taking advantage of their vulnerability as interns or juniors. These are stories the firms can hardly deny. Names have been named and there have been statements of sincere corporate repentance. Proud firms in damage control.

But of course the root of the problem goes much deeper than in the institutions where errant men have been exposed in the full glare of public scrutiny. There are well honed assumptions at the heart of all European style cultures where the all-powerful male has run rampant for longer than any of us can remember and nothing underpins those

assumptions with greater ardour than the teachings of the evangelical wing of the Christian Church. Their literal and selective reading of the Bible, devoid of the insights gained from scholarly contextual criticism, constantly reinforces male headship as fundamental in Christian community. "It's God's will. It's what the Bible teaches etc" The extreme of this is Gloriavale, but may we be spared from the many degrees below.

A classic case of this pervasive influence is at the heart of what has become known as the Israel Folau affair. A recent convert to a pentecostal Church, Australian rugby star Folau has quickly become known for his public avowal of his new-found faith and when asked what was his attitude to gay men playing professional rugby his response was unequivocal, "they're going to hell." Just as unequivocal was the response of his wife, sharpshooting Silver Ferns netballer Maria Folau. "I always support my husband," implying she has no view of her own.

It is impossible to ignore the influence of pentecostal Christianity on rugby, and rugby's audience. Their finger pointing to a heavenly influence on the scoring of a try, their kneeling on the pitch in prayer before and after a game, convey some very wrong messages. It is superficial, intensely subjective, and takes no account of the other side. Their influence on the kids of our nation cannot be underestimated and I worry for it.

So what can we do in our small corner? Not much in the wider sphere. But let's hold firm to the truths we embrace as a faith community, advocating a Jesus theology of love, grace, inclusion and justice for all. In the wider context we are not much more than a tiny outpost, but not so tiny we don't count.

Ken Russell