



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

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

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<b>Presbyters:</b>	Rev. David Poultney	974 6172
	Mobile	022 350 2263
	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	453 3310
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	John Hardy	472 7377
	Ross Merrett	489 7663
<b>Tongan Steward:</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
<b>Parish Office:</b>	David: <a href="mailto:parish@mmsouth.org.nz">parish@mmsouth.org.nz</a>	466 4600
	Katrina: <a href="mailto:admin@mmsouth.org.nz">admin@mmsouth.org.nz</a>	
<b>Parish Prayer</b>		
<b>Convenor:</b>	Elaine Merrett: <a href="mailto:elaineross@xtra.co.nz">elaineross@xtra.co.nz</a>	489 7663
<b>Pastoral Convenor</b>		
<b>Mornington:</b>	Beryl Neutze	476 7447

## PARISH BULLETIN

**14th April 2019**

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2019

9.30 am	Mornington	Rev David Poultney
10.00 am	Mosgiel	M Hardy
11.00 am	Glenaven	Rev David Poultney
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### DATES TO REMEMBER

17 April	7.30 pm	Open Education – Mornington
18 April	7.00pm	Holy Thursday - Mosgiel
19 April		Good Friday
24 April	2.00 pm	Mornington Women's Fellowship
3 May	7.00-9.00pm	Practical Meditation



## **ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS – CHANGE IN DEADLINE TO ADMIN OFFICE**

With Easter and Anzac Day falling in the next two weeks, all bulletin notices and Orders of Service will need to be into the Admin early. Can you please ensure that all Orders of Service and Bulletin notices relating to Sundays 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April **are sent no later than 9am Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April and 9am Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April.**

## **OPEN EDUCATION**

Following the sensational first Open Education session (which raised \$1000 for the Muslim community) comes What's Happening on the Front Line, an exciting update on new social justice projects from our Mission. Let's bring ourselves up to date on the brand new programmes being developed by our own MMS (Methodist Mission Southern). See you at **Mornington Methodist Church**, Galloway Street, **Wednesday 17 April, starting at 7.30pm.** Koha \$5. Preceded at 6pm by our usual excellent meal provided by Judy Russell (\$15). Sign in at Mornington or ring 455 3727 to book your place.

## **LENT BIBLE STUDY**

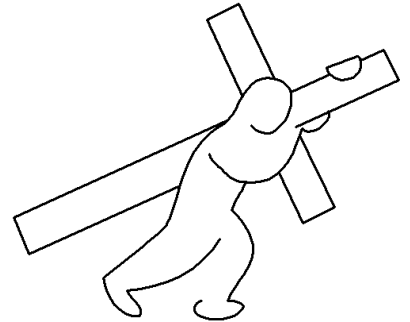
We continue our Lenten Bible study at 7pm on Wednesday meeting at Ross and Elaine Merrett's home, 40 Forth Street, Mosgiel. We are looking at the DVD and book Holy Week for Beginners by Amy Jill Levine.

**HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE** - Thursday at 7pm, we will begin in the hall at Mosgiel with a shared light meal, please bring a plate, in which we will remember the Last Supper before we move into the church for a vigil service of readings, reflection and quiet. If you would like to read on Thursday evening please let David know.

**THE MORNINGTON GOOD FRIDAY WALK** begins at 9.30am at the Anglican Church before progressing to Mornington Methodist at 9.45am, the Presbyterians at 10.10am and finally the Roman Catholic Church at 10.30am. Refreshments will be served there afterwards.

**MORNINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** invites you to attend "Saint Matthew Passion" by J.S. Bach On Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2019 from 2.00pm – 4.30 pm. Admission is free.

**TAIERI WALK OF THE CROSS GOOD FRIDAY** at 8:45am. Starting at St Mary's walking to Church Street Presbyterian Church then to Memorial Park car park, next corner Factory Road & Gordon Road, next stop Anzac Park, finally at ST LUKE's for our Good Friday Service at 10:00am. Please feel free to join in at any stage. Service followed by HOT CROSS BUNS and a Cuppa.



**MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** Our April meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th April at 2 p.m., in the Church Lounge. The Guest Speaker will be Chloe Hawken who will speak about her involvement and the work of "Bellyful" which is the New Zealand part of our Special Project for this year. It will be a very interesting talk as Chloe is a very good speaker. Please remember the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

### **WEST PAPUA ACTION      Nduga Refugee Appeal**

Following the deaths of Indonesian workers on a road dividing the rain forest and gardens on which the residents of the Nduga region in the Highlands of West Papua are dependent, the Indonesian military blitzed the region causing hundreds to flee to the Wamena area where they are living a tenuous life as virtual refugees. They are totally dependent on the local community and any external support that can be raised.

Wensilaus Fatuban of West Papua who visited NZ last year and recently visited Wamena, is appealing among his New Zealand contacts for support for this refugee group, who are in danger from the Indonesian authorities beside living a day by day precarious existence. Some of us who remember Wensilaus may wish to respond to this appeal.

The account for donations is Kiwi Bank no. 38-9000-0084954-00 under the names of CD Easte & MF Leadbeater.

Please designate donations as "West Papua Appeal."

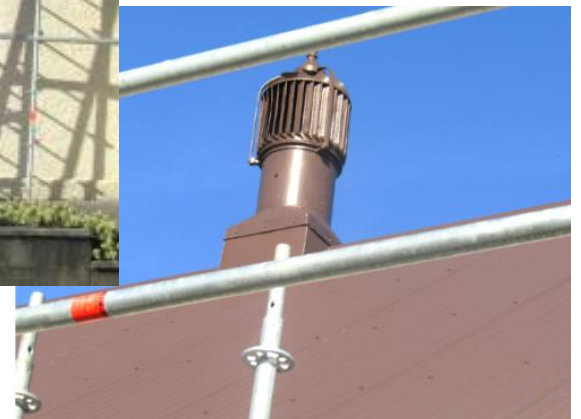
Note: West Papua Action Dunedin has contributed \$100 to this appeal and other West Papua Action groups in NZ are known to be similarly contributing.

### **MISSION'S HUB CLOSURE**

After long providing a much-valued community service—a warm, welcoming environment to stop in for a cuppa, free tables with lots of items for adults, children and babies and quiet warm room for children to play in—the Mission's Hub is to close at the end of June, due to a change of funding circumstances which occurred in the middle of last year. The Hub staff offer a special thank you to members of the Mornington Methodist Church Women's Fellowship, the Peninsula Women's Institute and the Spinners and Weavers Group for knitted items which were given to support those in need.

### **MOSGIEL CHURCH**

Progress is quite slow on our new roof but in the end it will look very nice.



This is our 1885 air conditioner still running smoothly.

**FAITH THINKING 2019** - These courses are jointly organised between the Theology Programme and some Dunedin Churches, and supported by Continuing Education at the University of Otago.

### **Taster For Biblical Greek**

Dr Katie Marcar, Teaching Fellow in Biblical Studies, Theology Programme, University of Otago

*Wednesday 17 April, 7:00pm – 9:00pm*

Burns 7, Arts/Burns Building, Albany Street, University of Otago

THIS IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT A DISTANCE

Please contact [Theology@otago.ac.nz](mailto:Theology@otago.ac.nz) for details

### **The Inner World and Its Workings:**

#### **Attention to our inner life of Prayer with the help of Ignatian Spirituality**

Father Mark Chamberlain, University Chaplain and Priest, Holy Name Parish

*Wednesday 8 May, 7:00pm – 9:00pm*

*Wednesday 15 May, 7:00pm – 9:00pm*

*Wednesday 22 May, 7:00pm – 9:00pm*

Burns 7, Arts/Burns Building, Albany Street, University of Otago

Each Course costs \$20. Please register online

at [www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation](http://www.otago.ac.nz/continuingeducation)

### **MEDITATION: NEW COURSE – 8 Sessions**

#### **Starting May 3<sup>rd</sup> 7-9pm**

Come and share in this wonderful opportunity. If radical spirituality is in the hands of the people over 60 years of age, here is the opportunity to make a contribution to building a better world. Our focus will be on practice, using the best practices from as many religious traditions as we have access to.

We will be drawing on material found in the book: *Practical Meditation – A simple step-by-step Guide* by Giovanni Dienstmann.

**Contact Rod Mitchel 4533310 or Colin Gibson 4536662**



*"I give you a new commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you."*

**John 13:14-17**

*"Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will."*

**Letter from Birmingham Jail, Martin Luther King**

In August 1963, three years before I was born, Martin Luther King wrote a letter from jail in Birmingham Alabama, over 6000 words longhand, responding to a public statement of concern and caution issued by eight white religious leaders of the south.

King had been jailed for protesting racism and racial segregation in Birmingham, Alabama, in defiance of a judicial ruling against "parading, boycotting, trespassing, and picketing".

Conditions in the jail were bad by a further order of the judge; King had no mattress, no light, and was denied access to his constitutionally-mandated phone call.

The racism and racial segregation King was protesting included legal requirements for discriminatory hiring, and legally mandated segregation in public and commercial organisations. Birmingham's population was 40% black, but there were no black police officers, firefighters, sales clerks, bus drivers, bank tellers. Black secretaries were legally prohibited from working with white professionals. Black unemployment was 2.5 times that of white, and average income for white people was more than double that of black workers.

Yet despite this, eight white religious leaders came together to write a public statement of concern advising that King had acted *unwisely*. That his movement was *untimely*. That the protests he led involved *outsider*

*agitators*. And suggesting that rather than protest, his movement should seek to *negotiate* with the very guardians and originators of the bigotry and discrimination he sought to overcome.

King's response is now the defining statement on the importance and value of protest:

*First, I must confess that over the last few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizens Councillor or the Ku Klux Klanner but the white moderate who is more devoted to order than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says, "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically feels that he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by the myth of time; and who constantly advises the Negro to wait until a "more convenient season."*

Following the white supremacist shooting in Christchurch last month, Pākehā New Zealand has been presented – to an hopefully unavoidable degree – with the evidence of our own “White Citizens Councillors and Ku Klux Klanners”: the terrorist and his associates, but also the Hamilton (and other) City Councillors, that Australian Senator, and various others in our lives and in our media who have sought to blame the victims, who have blamed immigration, who have said some version of *well he [the terrorist] went too far but he does have a point*. And implied that he is *a victim too*.

Happily, in the weeks following the shooting, a significant number of Pākehā, almost all of them “moderates”, joined publicly and privately in expressing a wholehearted and utter rejection of the terrorist's actions and philosophy.

That does not mean, however, that the repudiation of white supremacism in New Zealand is now complete, never for it to raise its head again.

Just last week the National Party killed a provision for Ngai Tahu to have a place as of right on the Canterbury Regional Council.

The Hamilton Councillor who referred to immigrants as “scum” is still in post.

Māori and Pasifika youth still have double the unemployment rate of Pākehā youth.

“Unconscious bias” by teachers against Māori and Pasifika children is still the largest contributor to their lower rates of NCEA achievement.

There is still strong public opposition to Māori getting anything more than cents in the dollar for their lost lands and other Taonga.

Newspapers still headline offenders’ ethnicity but only if they are brown.

The Prison population is still more than 50% Māori and Pasifika – double their proportion of the general population.

Rates of arrest, conviction, and imprisonment for the same crime are still much lower for Pākehā than any other racial group.

Gun control, no matter how sensible or needed, will not change any of these statistics.

So, if you attended a vigil, signed a condolence book, offered prayers of love and support for the victims of the Christchurch shootings, donated to givealittle pages, left flowers at Al Huda Mosque, well done.

But the work is not done. It will be easy for all of us to slip back into “the absence of tension” that allows the racial disparities and injustices that permeate our society to continue.

As Holy Week starts, let us remind ourselves that achieving MLK’s *presence of justice* will take effort, it will take Pākehā moderates continuing to stand up and continuing to demand better of ourselves, it will mean all of us taking the side of those who are discriminated against as if it were our own.

Surely, this is the very least of what means to love as Christ loved.

Have a blessed Easter.

**Laura Black**