



# Dunedin Methodist Parish

*Finding Good in everyone    Finding God in everyone*

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

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	John Hardy	472 7377
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## PARISH BULLETIN

21<sup>st</sup> April 2019

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019

9.30 am	Mornington	Rev Rod Mitchell
10.00 am	Mosgiel	Rev Donald Phillipps
11.00 am	Glenaven	Rev David Poultney
1.00 pm	St Kilda	TBA

### DATES TO REMEMBER

24 April	2.00 pm	Mornington Women's Fellowship
25 April	10.30am	Anzac Day Peace Ceremony
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 same week, 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 Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April is **sent no later than 9am Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April.**

**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."

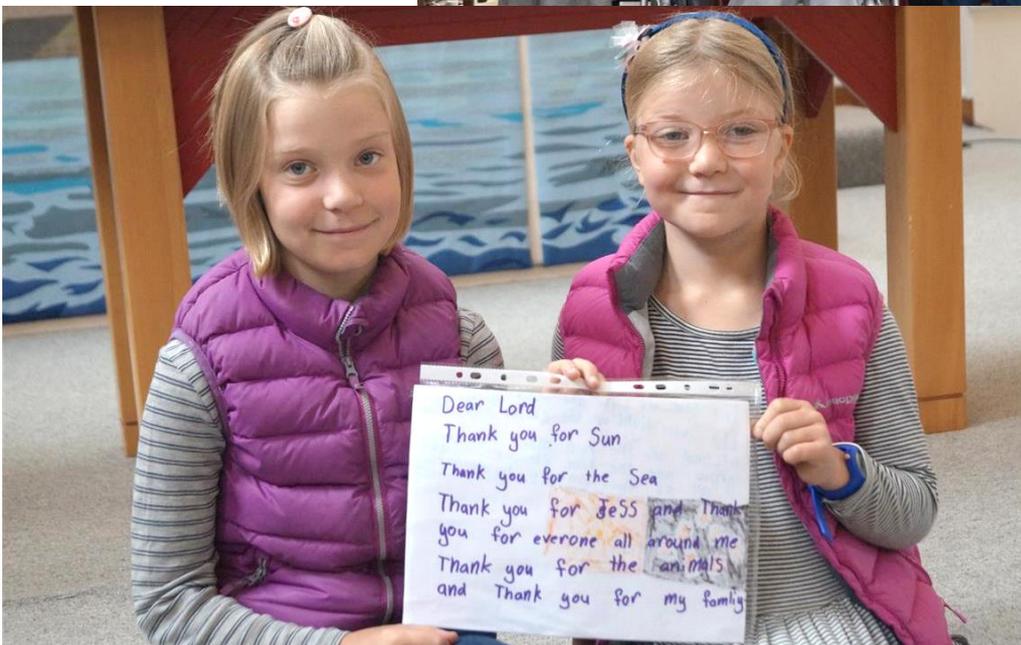
Note: West Papua Action Dunedin has contributed \$100 to this appeal and other West Papua Action groups in NZ are known to be similarly contributing.

## A PRECIOUS MOMENT IN LAST SUNDAY'S MORNINGTON SERVICE

came when the choir unexpectedly returned to their position to sing a 5-verse prayer song inspired by prayers from ANNABELLE and JULIET WILSON a Sunday or two before, and presented to Colin Gibson.. Meantime, with typical attention to the childrens' initiative, Colin put the words into a thankyou song. It was a doubly precious moment for the girls' grandparents Andrea and Eldon Mosley. Here are verses 1 and 5

1 *Thank you for the sun, and thank you for the sea,  
and thank you for my eyes and ears,  
and thank you, Lord, for me. . . . .*

5 *Thank you for the rain that makes the grass to grow,  
the flowers, the fruit, all Nature's world,  
because you love us so.*



# ANZAC DAY PEACE CEREMONY

**25th April, 10.30am**

*At the Peace Pole in the  
Otago Museum Reserve*



*To remember all the casualties of war  
and their hopes for lasting peace*

**All Welcome**

**Hosted by Dunedin Quakers  
and The National Centre  
for Peace and Conflict Studies**

## ŌTEPOTI YOUTH TRANSITION

**HOUSE:** A busy month for YTH.

We have planted our new no dig gardens with some winter veg

and harvested some very nice cucumbers. Our potatoes in a bucket are yet to flower but we are hopeful of a good crop before the first frost. There are also tomatoes on the vines ready to ripen. There are currently 5 residents all busy with course or school. The last resident from our first intake is planning to leave us in March to move into private rental accommodation. We are looking forward to Congratulations cake and giving our best wishes for the next part of their journey.



**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.

### **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**



Life and Death, Joy and Sorrow, Pain and Pleasure, Despair and Hope, are twin opposites that co-habit human existence. They are the ingredients of the Easter story. They don't come in equal measure nor do they always visit contemporaneously. But almost inevitably, when one intervenes in a human situation, it is not difficult to perceive whispered evidence of the other not far away.

There was not much joy or hope for Parisians this holy week as they witnessed the "unbelievable" images of their beloved Notre-Dame Cathedral being consumed - "unbelievable" because it had stood there for 800 years resisting every conceivable force that might have done it harm. Even the Nazis, with all their malice, left it virtually untouched, its priceless assembly of relics, statues, artworks, stained glass and assorted memorabilia among France's most prized possessions.

Along with millions of others captivated by the images of the Cathedral halocaust I grieved for France, its troubled cosmopolitan people, and above all the Catholic community. I heard President Macron describe Notre-Dame as "part of us" and sensed the total despair gripping the nation. I wondered what possible whisper of hope could make itself felt from among the ashes, and please God, let it not be too crass or corny.

Was I so conditioned by the close proximity of Easter that the gospel's tiny whispers of hope leapt out at me. First was a report that a brave fireman had let himself into the sanctuary where the relics are kept and rescued the portion of Christ's crown of thorns of which the Cathedral has played host for centuries. I am no believer in relics, positively sceptical in fact, but in a rare moment of empathy I found myself wondering what that piece of news could do for the grieving Catholics of France. Of all things to be

rescued, the Crown of Thorns, and only four days before Good Friday! Methinks the symbolism could hardly be lost. Not unlike, I should say, the image for Methodists of young John Wesley plucked as "a brand from the burning" at Epworth.

And then there was the singing among the spectator crowd, low-key, spontaneous, which it is said lasted well into the night. Not for the first time, when words were choked and opinions seemed not to matter, songs of faith and hope find ready voice. So it was at Notre-Dame on its darkest day. The legacy of that quiet hope-laden singing will sustain for many a month as the assessors and planners go about the grim business of deciding what can be restored from the smouldering ruins, and the clergy are left wonder what can be salvaged of the faith community that called the Cathedral their house of God.

And then again - as the first images were shown on screen of the charred interior. I was gobsmacked to see something I did not expect to see in such sorry scene. Right above the place of the high altar was a bright shiny cross. It had escaped the fire. It was not a crucifix but a protestant empty cross, gleaming while surrounded by smoke and blackness. It was to me, a spectator on the other side of planet Earth as powerful an Easter message as ever I could wish. The gleaming symbol of the risen Christ in the smoking ruins will not have gone unnoticed. I can see it now in my mind's eye, a resurrection experience for Notre-Dame and its people if only they have eyes to see, as surely they will.

Our own national tragedy, only five weeks ago, has left a legacy equally as capable of conveying death-life choices into the future of our small island nation. As television continues to play its role of rehearsing those awful scenes, and their aftermath, there are surviving images we should continue to cherish. There was the dignity and courage of our Moslem community even when they were grieving deep inside. Equally, the remarkable outpouring of the non-Moslem community towards a people whose religion and language they did not understand, and whose customs

and appearance were perceived as alien. The wall of flowers said it all. Barriers were broken down. Ties of kinship were established with a speed that only such as the terror of the Mosque shootings could have prompted. And many other factors, not least a Prime Minister moving with aroha amongst the stricken community, hugging touching and reassuring at will, a Christ-like figure, a woman of quiet authority and grace, whose hour has truly come.

By the grace of God, the same marvellous ability of Easter to summon joy from the ashes of sorrow is abounding as we meet in our small corner so soon after France's day of fire. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

*Ken Russell*