



# 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
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	Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell	453 3310
<b>Parish Stewards:</b>	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	John Hardy	472 7377
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<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

5th May 2019

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 12th MAY 2019

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER

7 May	1.30 pm	Mosgiel Women's Fellowship
8 May	7.00-9.00pm	Faith Thinking 2019
8 May	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting
12 May	12.30 pm	Pot-luck Lunch after Glenaven Service

**MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - Tuesday 7th May  
1:30pm in the hall lounge, our speaker will be Erin O'Loan from  
Methodist Mission Southern speaking about Independent Information  
Service. **ALL VERY WELCOME.**

**FAITH THINKING 2019 - 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)

**DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH COUNCIL** meeting to be held at St Kilda  
Methodist Church on **Wednesday 8 May** at 7:30pm.

**SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MAY AFTER GLENAVEN** there will be a simple pot-luck  
lunch at 12.30 at the Watson/White home, 5 Cairnhill Street, Maori  
Hill, Phone 467 2936. All welcome, with friends or family members.  
Please, if possible, park in Cannington Road.

**OVER RECENT WEEKS** we at Mornington have been pleased to host  
members of the Gibson family. But last Sunday week their numbers  
were such to constitute an unmistakable presence, especially with John  
Gibson adding a vigorous,  
though very welcome,  
contribution to the hymns  
on the grand piano. The  
visits were broadly intended  
to coincide with Colin's 87th  
birthday..Photo: (left to  
right) Ronan, John,  
Desmond, Jeanette, Philippa,  
Colin, Marcus.





## Love in a Time of Hatred – Thoughts in a Time of Atrocity

New Zealand is slowly recovering from the previously unimaginable outrage which happened in Christchurch on the 15<sup>th</sup> March.

It was apparent then that this was the latest in a sequence of attacks. We think of the murder of nine African Americans by a young white man in a Methodist Church in Charleston and the eleven people murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh again by a young man identifying as a white supremacist.

On the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> March, as news came in at the Mission Office in Teviot Street, one member of staff said she hoped this was “*some American*” who did this. It was an Australian but the fact the killer is a foreigner gives me not one shred of comfort. Clearly he needed an infrastructure of support here and one does not have to listen too long to talk radio to find coded echoes of sympathy.

In the days following I was struck by the utter silence of New Zealand First, a party which has made its mark by stirring discomfort about “none traditional” immigrants had the wisdom to keep silence if not the grace to repent.

I did not think for one moment Christchurch was the cap on a list of atrocities, since then we have seen the murder of over 200 people in Sri Lanka, mostly Christians at worship on Easter Day, and a shooting at the Chabad Synagogue in Powey, San Diego.

Early on it was claimed the Sri Lanka killings were retaliation for Christchurch, the savage irony is Christchurch had nothing to do with Christianity, whatever white supremacists might say about Christian heritage, and had everything to do with racial prejudice. The victims in Sri Lanka were overwhelmingly Sri Lankan.

Of course too through all this there have been episodes of violence in parts of Africa and the Middle East generally of Muslims against Christians but sometimes of Christians against Muslims. There has also been violence and repression by Buddhists against Christians and Muslims in South East Asia and by Hindus against Muslims and Christians in India.

Sometimes there is a clearly a racial or ethnic element to attacks, the Muslims Rohingya , for example, are seen by other Burmese as Bengali interlopers despite being in Myanmar for two hundred years. In southern Thailand Muslims are often ethnic Malays and their loyalty is questioned. It was ever thus perhaps. But we need to feel a way forward, a way in which the boundaries between groups are places for respectful encounter not for fear, paranoia and the walls of our prejudice.

One such way is described in his book *The Dignity of Difference* by Jonathan Sacks, in his role as Chief Rabbi of the Commonwealth he attended the memorial service at Ground the victims of 9/11. He writes about hearing the fine words and noblest sentiments of many faiths but being confronted it was religion at its worst that brought them here. He describes religion as ambiguous, and challenges those of us who practice it to practice the best of it, not the worst.

I leave you with some words from the *Charter for Compassion*, which call upon us to do just that by using compassion as our goal and the way we interpret our religious traditions.

*The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there ....*

*It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity....*

*... Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.*

David Poultney