

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



Find us on Facebook: **Dunedin Methodist Parish**

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PARISH BULLETIN

1st December 2019

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER 2019

9.30am	Mornington	R Mitchell
10.00am	Mosgiel	M Hardy
11.00am	Glenaven	C Gibson
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Sunday 1st December – Carol Service at Radius Fulton Home 1.45pm
 Saturday 14th December – Christmas Carols at Taieri Court 2pm
 Tuesday 17th December – Mosgiel Social Event 7pm (Mosgiel Church)

ORDERS OF SERVICE & BULLETINS OVER CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Mission Office will be closed from midday Monday 23rd December with the Administration team returning to work Monday 13th January 2020. Could you please ensure that your Orders of Service over this period (the dates 15th Dec through to 12th Jan) are sent (bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz) no later than **12noon Thursday 12th December**.

The final bulletin for 2019 will be the 15th December edition and the first bulletin for 2020 will be 19th January.

Many thanks, Methodist Mission Administration Team



MOSGIEL FOOD BANK DRIVE

2019
Food Bank Drive

Monday 2nd Dec
6.00 – 9.00pm

Listen for the sirens
in your street - please
place your items in the
'Lions' trailer!



MOSGIEL we are singing Christmas Carols at Taieri Court on Saturday 14th December at 2pm.

MOSGIEL CHURCH FAMILY you are invite to our Christmas social event Tuesday 17th December 7pm to 9pm in the church. Please bring a party plate.

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE to welcome the VEIKOSO FAMILY to Mornington in recent weeks. They have expressed a warm desire to fully participate in our faith community, a sentiment which is just as warmly reciprocated. Mr Kanalapa Veikoso is a corrections officer at the Otago Prison, and he and his wife Lotu and their four children Tekiteki, Isileli, Veisia and Kanalapa bring with them a proud Tongan culture, as well a strong loyalty to the Methodist Church. The children were greeted with applause for two action songs, one an interpretation of Jesus in the home of Lazarus and the other a song/dance of love and contrition for their mother, Lotu.

Photos: 1. In the home of Lazarus, 2. A tribute to Mother.



TODAY, DECEMBER 1 marks the anniversary, December 1st 1961, when the West Papua nation officially declared its independence, raised its new Morning Star flag and sang its new national anthem. As we did last year, West Papua Action (Dunedin) is holding a brief commemoration of that event at the Peace Pole (Museum Square) at 12 noon, at which we shall raise the Morning Star flag in solidarity with the courageous people of West Papua in their struggle to regain their independence from their Indonesian oppressors.

TO DEMONSTRATE our commitment to our West Papuan brothers and sisters, people of Mornington Church (and other parishes) are invited to join this commemoration. A brief address will be given by Prof Kevin Clements of the O U Dept of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution. Transport from St Mary's Church to the Museum, and back to your home, will be arranged as required. KR



Client Support Services

Molly, a single mother of three in her early twenties, contacted the Mission in regard to a dispute with MSD over her benefit entitlements. From our initial phone conversation, Molly's methodical, thoughtful approach to finding solutions for her situation was evident; at that stage, there was nothing directly that Molly could do to influence the machinery of MSD to work, and so she instead used her energy and ingenuity to develop strategies and options which could support her family in the event that MSD did not act as rapidly as she needed.

Throughout, Molly demonstrated her resilience and problem-solving, as well as her focus on the wellbeing of her children. She remained patient through the process of waiting for a resolution, developing several contingencies for possible outcomes. Supported by the Mission, Molly was able to advocate for herself during her interactions with representatives from MSD and eventually gain a positive outcome.

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



By way of an Advent offering I am submitting a new idea so innovative and so startling that I can almost guarantee it will cause offence to some of my readers.

But no apology for that. The revered prophet who dared to imagine a new order breaking into the old tired religious establishment - "behold, I am making all things new!" - would have been in no doubt as to the offence his vision would call down on those whose world view was floundering in the morass the scribes and pharisees had made of the law of Moses.

The "new idea" is not really "new" at all. It's genius is as old as the ancient potocarps falling in the primeval rainforests of Aotearoa, there to decompose in nature's good time. But many a good new idea

requires fresh minds and refocussed eyes to see what for the rest of us has remains hidden. And this "new idea" is one of those.

I have a younger brother in Toronto who delights in sending me stuff he fondly hopes will shock.. But in this instance, he provided stimulus for this week's *Connections*. He emailed an article culled from a Portland Wa. newspaper dealing with a startling initiative in that city which can simply be described as "human composting." It tells how a group of entrepreneurs from different walks of life, doctors, architects, lawyers, funeral directors, clerics. financiers and even state legislators, have brought their resources together in a large city warehouse to offer human composting as a "natural" and "gentle" alternative to cremation or burial. The principals make no attempt to disguise their excitement at the prospect of being on the cusp of turning a "crazy idea" into a commercially viable project.

The scale of their proposals is impressive. Bodies will be placed in one of scores of reusable hexagonal "Recomposition Vessels" which are aerated and covered in wood chips to promote break-down.. These vessels can be stacked when not in use or arranged to demarcate space for a range of memorial rituals.

When the process is finished families will be able to take home all or some of the soil created (one cubic yard, or to put it in perspective, several wheelbarrows full) and it's anticipated a surplus will be devoted to reforestation projects in and around Portland.

The environmental benefits are many and varied. The natural organic reduction process is estimated to require an eighth of the energy needed for cremation, and it is calculated carbon savings are over a metric ton per person. The process also prevents embalming fluids from polluting ground water, while minimising the materials and costs of caskets headstones etc.

The new company has adopted the name *Recompose*. and just reading about it excites me. Judy is a compost freak as far as our own little garden is concerned. It is not a giant step to take the simple gardening compost principle and apply to our own total vulnerability at death.

Recompose has the potential to spread like wild fire, and it is not entirely a wild speculation to wonder which Dunedin funeral business will be the first to embrace the concept, whether in my lifetime or my childrens'? It is clearly a new idea whose time has come, and with the whole world desperately ready to embrace technology that saves scarce resources and reduces greenhouse gases, human recomposition is a no-brainer.

Yes, it's Advent, a time for bold announcements. St Paul was very good at them, among others 1 Cor 15. "Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall not all sleep; but we shall all be changed," Yes, it's a stretch, but a contemporary reading of much of scripture demands a stretch, and my point is to claim that Paul's vision of the defeat of death implies profound change, imagination, innovation. In this respect the *Recompose* people are certainly showing the way.

So when my turn comes, lay me on an aerated palate, surround me with wood chip, straw and other decomposting accelerants, and leave me to change as nature intends. Then spread me out to grow a lettuce, or two.

Ken Russell

Services at Mornington for December 2019–January 2020

Date	Time	Venue	Leaders
1 December (1st Advent)	9.30 am	St. Marys	
8 December (2nd Advent)	9.30 am	Mornington (with St Mary's congregation)	Rod Mitchell
8 December (2nd Advent)	7 pm	Mornington (combined Mornington churches' Carol Service)	Rod Mitchell and choirs
15 December (3rd Advent)	9.30 am	Mornington (Choir's Christmas Music programme)	Rod Mitchell and Colin Gibson
22 December (4th Advent)	9.30 am	Mornington	Donald Phillips
24 December	10.30 pm	Glenaven (Christmas Eve)	David Poultney and Rod Mitchell
25 December	10 am	Mornington (combined with Glenaven)	Rod Mitchell
29 December	10 am	Mosgiel (combined Parish)	David Poultney
5th January	9.30 am	Mornington	David Poultney
12 January	9.30 am	St. Mary's	
19 January	9.30 am	Mornington Presbyterian	
26 January	9.30 am	Mornington	