

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

11th October 2020

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 18th October 2020

10.00 am	Mornington	D Poultney / VP
10.00am	Mosgiel	C/Mornington
10.00am	Glenaven	C/Mornington
1.00pm	St Kilda	TBA

DATES TO REMEMBER

Today - 4.00 pm – Explorers - Lounge/Church
 Tue 13 October - 1.30 pm - Mosgiel MWF - Hall
 Sun 18 October - 10.00 am - Joint Service, Vice President of MCNZ Visit
 Wed 21 October - 7.30 pm - Open Education - Mornington Church
 Sun 25 October - At close of service - Mornington AGM

EXPLORERS - Today at 4pm we welcome Mino Cleverly, a Samoan graduate of the University of Otago Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, who has recently returned from Samoa and is keen to talk to us about the effects of climate change as he personally has experienced them. Everybody is welcome: if necessary we will hold the session in the Church, otherwise in the Lounge.

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - Tuesday 13th October at 1:30pm in the hall. Michael Wood is our guest speaker who will speak about the Gideon Bible Society.

GAMES NIGHT - Please keep this night free: Friday 16th October, 6:30 pm in the Mosgiel Methodist Church hall. All parish welcome; please bring your own food - takeways, or food of your choice.

JOINT SERVICE - There will be a joint service on Sunday 18th October, 10am at Mornington. We gather together to welcome Nicola Grundy, a former member of this parish, a former director of the Mission and now Vice President of the MCNZ. She will be accompanied by her husband Peter.

OPEN EDUCATION - Our final Open Education session for the year brings the Vice-President of the Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand—our own Nicola Grundy—to Dunedin to reflect on the state of our Church as she has come to know it in the course of her two-year Vice-Presidency. Come along and support Nicola and Peter as they return to their home territory. No pre-session dinner (we hope they will resume next year). Proceedings from our usual koha of \$5 will be given to the Mission to support its ambitious programme of social assistance. Join us in the Methodist Church, Galloway Street, at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 October.

RECITAL NEWS - Rhiannon Cooper invites her friends to attend her two end-of-the year singing performance-examinations. Both are held in Marama Hall: the first on Tuesday 20 October at 2pm (a concert of Handel songs). The second on Wednesday 28 October at 7pm (a concert offering a wide range of songs). Rhiannon is a brilliant singer at the beginning of a stellar singing career. Come along and support her.

MORNINGTON CONGREGATION AGM Mornington Congregation AGM
The AGM will be held at the close of the service before the final benedictions on Sunday October 25th. A booklet of the reports are available in the foyer for you to read beforehand.

MINI CONFERENCE - I have just been asked to attend this year's 'mini' Conference and will be away from the parish on Sunday 8th November. I am scheduled to take the Mosgiel service that day. Elaine Merrett has kindly agreed to swap with me so she will take the service that day and I will take the Mosgiel service a week later, which I had scheduled as a Sunday without a service for me. Thanks David

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE 11th - 18th October 2020

Everyone is warmly invited to attend our annual Dunedin Interfaith "Peace prayer and reflection" gathering to be held at the Quaker meeting house 15 Park St, Dunedin on Wednesday 14th October from 7.30-9pm. Please bring a small vegetarian contribution to supper. This event is organised by the Dunedin Interfaith Council and will be facilitated by Rev Greg Hughson. Prayers for, and reflections on, peace will be shared from members of at least ten world religions. Afterwards, the wisdom shared will be collated and made available for further prayer and reflection. For further information please ring Greg on 027 212 1048

DUNEDIN INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Week of Prayer for World Peace

14 October, 7.30 pm

Quakers Hall, 15 Park St, North Dunedin



*People of all faith traditions or none,
are welcome to attend*



STORY FROM THE MISSION



Literacy & Numeracy - OCF

It is great to be back to level 1 now and be able to speak with our students without wearing masks. This makes a lot of difference with the ILN class where we have a couple of ESOL students working to improve their English.

The past month has been really encouraging for some of the learners who have attended our classes, with graduation taking place last week. We were very fortunate to be able to attend and see them receive their certificates.

There are a couple of learners coming up to the end of their sentences, who are very excited to be moving on with their lives. The feedback from them have been a real highlight over the past week, stating how class has been an encouraging and supportive experience for them during their time in prison.

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



TWO ELECTIONS

Two elections in the space of three short weeks is enough to titillate the political sensors of the most ardent students of the political landscape, even without the bizarre factors that have catapulted one such contest from the realm of ordinary to extraordinary.

JACINDA v JUDITH - You may not agree that next Saturday's NZ election is in any way extraordinary. By one view it is just another of those bland electoral events that come along with boring regularity every three years

and call upon us, the public, to confirm what the polls have already told us to expect. .But by any measure there are a number of standout features to this election that rate special attention.

First and foremost is the Jacinda phenomenon. By world standards this hyper-slim mum with the unkempt tresses has won standing on the world stage for herself and for New Zealand. I am a regular viewer of CNN where the Jacinda image is regularly flashed on the screen along with the heavyweights of the current news scene. Jacinda does not shine in the hurly burly of an election campaign. Jousting is not among her natural talents, but where empathy, goodwill and conciliation are called for she is there in spades with initiatives that attract international attention. Jacinda is carrying Labour on those slender shoulders through to the next term of Government, but there are limits to what one woman of her finely tuned sensitivities can go on giving at the highest level and it is to be hoped that Labour will find a way of supporting and enabling the best of the best in her to avoid the burnout that has consumed others before her.

Alongside Jacinda in the election campaign two other names stand out. On the rise is Judith Collins, who since her elevation to the National leadership has transformed her attack-dog reputation into a much more amenable suite of charm, shrewd political discernment and a sharp tongue. It is Labour's good fortune that National left it so late to release the real Judith Collins, and the ongoing contest between two such ill-matched women in 2021 and beyond is a prospect to be savoured.

On the way out is Winston Peters. Even he, the pimpernel of NZ politics, seems doomed to a crushing defeat at the polls, a verdict that he with his characteristic bullishness will find a bitter pill to take. New Zealand First has been deemed to be irrelevant in the 2020 election and Winston goes down with the ship. I will not be alone in mourning the demise of one of the most colourful, dogmatic and irrepressible voices in our political story. Farewell Winston and thanks for the ride.

Let's never underestimate the importance of our little democracy on the world stage, if only for the fact we truly are a democracy, while so many others we are compared with have cast off all semblances thereof. Thanks mainly to Jacinda & Co we lead the world in the Covid19 battle - a fact never to be forgotten as we cast our little votes.

Donald Trump v Joe Biden. Has there been a day in the recent news of the world when the Donald hasn't grabbed the headlines in some bizarre manner? The man is totally self-obsessed and devoid of even a vestige of empathy with another human being. The Covid toll in the US is staggering, the responsibility for which is laid squarely at the feet of the President - whose words at every step of the way return to condemn him. And now, irony upon irony, he himself has fallen victim to the dreaded virus.

There is no more apt commentary on what drives this president towards re-election than the Yeo cartoon in the ODT last Wednesday. Not yet fully discharged from hospital, Trump is seen masked, waving to his supporters in the back seat of his heavily armoured car, and behind the wheel a familiar covid molecule thinly disguised as a curly blond chauffeur.

The message is clear enough. Sick as he was, Trump was as strongly driven as ever to respond to his adoring entourage. He was still the trump card, and as he said a day later, he now had "understanding" of the virus.

Haha! He was beating it as everyone could see, and here was nothing to fear. 200,000 plus Hahas!

And as if to reinforce the message, on his return to the White House the great man stood for an age, rigidly saluting in the evening light, no mask, the defiant leader.

Never in living memory have Americans been confronted with such a demanding election. All of the evidence points to the need for a huge and decisive swing away from cherished party lines. The national impulse becomes more insistent by the day. Trump must go! For Republicans the imperative is cruel - to break ranks as they have never done before. For Democrats - to get out and vote as they have never done before. Nothing less will defeat Trump and with him the confounded system of the electoral college that got him elected in the first place. On present polling they just might achieve both.

O yes, and then there is Joe Biden. Not by any means a strong candidate, Biden has both kept his end up and his nose clean. If elected he will be a one-term president with a vice president in Kamala Harris who has potential to raise the bar on the presidency for generations to come. A well performed black woman, intelligent, coherent and visionary, if Biden the octagenarian plays his cards right he could see Harris installed as president just before the next election with the prospect of a six year term ahead of her. Such is the as yet unspoken assumption shadowing Joe Biden's current bid, and it's a rare glimmer of hope behind the morass of rivalries, animosities and fears that cloud the current election scene.

Two elections. Oceans apart. Little in common apart from a mutual concession to the highest of democratic ideals and an unspoken commitment to fair play. Thankfully for our election, despite occasional spats and disagreements, we can assume democracy will be well served. For our friends in America, that assumption no longer applies - which only adds to the savour of our watching further unprecedented developments before Nov 3.

Ken Russell