

# DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

*Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone*

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



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

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## PARISH BULLETIN

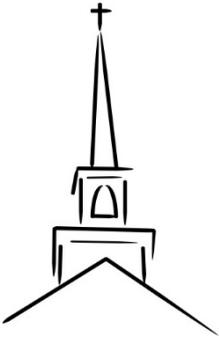
21st February 2021

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 28th February 2021

	Mornington	C/Service @ Mosgiel
10.00am	Mosgiel	D Phillipps
	Glenaven	C/Service @ Mosgiel
	St Kilda	TBA

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	12 noon	Mornington MWF	Mornington Church
26-28 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Otago Southland Synod	
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10am	Combined Parish Service	Mosgiel Church



**COMBINED PARISH SERVICE:** Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 10am at Mosgiel Church, 61 Gordon Road, Mosgiel. The Preacher will be the Rev Donald Phillipps. Please note, if we remain at Level One you are encouraged to bring a plate to share, if we are at Level Two there will be no refreshments served. Thank you - David

**FRIENDS OF THE CHAPLAINCY** - The Otago Tertiary Chaplains provide pastoral care, spiritual support, and educational resourcing to approximately 30,000 students and 4,800 staff at the University of Otago and Otago Polytechnic. If you would like more information about their work, or would like to join the **Friends of the Otago Tertiary Chaplaincy**, please visit: <https://www.otago-tertiary-chaplaincy.nz/friends-of-the-chaplaincy>

**MONTHLY MEETING of the MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** - Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 12noon at the Mornington Methodist Church. The Women's Fellowship is starting 2021 with a shared lunch for all at the Church on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. All members of the church are invited to attend this social gathering. Please bring a plate of savoury finger food to share. Delicious desserts will be provided by the committee.

### **WEST PAPUA UPDATE**

It is some time since I updated the Bulletin with news of the freedom struggle going on in the fraught country of West Papua - and not forgetting such a subject is entirely appropriate in the Bulletin since the Mornington congregation adopted that struggle as a social justice project at the annual meeting in 2019.

In many ways nothing has changed. Indonesia's illegal occupation of West Papua continues and it is a relentless process. For the indigenous population every incentive is in place to comply with the strict rules imposed by the Indonesian overlords. Any display of the Morning Star flag is forbidden and all local government, education and civil law is tightly regulated, especially in the larger centres of population. With harsh punishments for dissent it is not surprising there is a high degree of compliance.

That said, resistance to Indonesian control has stepped up, and the guerilla style of armed opposition that has harried Indonesian control of the vast rural areas has stepped up with significant loss of life on both sides. Their efforts are, of course, painted as illegal and treasonous by the Indonesians (as has every resistance movement in the long history of peoples rising to overthrow their oppressors. Inevitably such resistance has taken a toll - on both sides.

A significant development took place on Dec 1st, a declaration (off-shore) by the newly formed United Liberation Movement for West Papua of a West Papuan provisional government headed by leading dissident and Chairperson Benny Wenda. In "speak-politick", surely a virtual declaration of war against Indonesia! KR

*Thanks for reading. Continued next week.*

## **QUIET DAYS FOR SPIRITUAL RETREATS**

You are invited to a quiet time apart with God in the lovely environment of St Margaret's Anglican Church, 4 Seaview Terrace, Brighton. A brief sharing at beginning and end, then a silent time. You use the time and facilities as best work for you. Bring your own lunch. A koha is appreciated. Friday March 26, April 23, June 25, July 23, August 27 and October 22. You must register: contact Maureen Harley (021) 107 1401 or (03) 456 0573 or [maugernz@gmail.com](mailto:maugernz@gmail.com).



## **STORIES FROM THE MISSION**

### **Tokomairiro Community Hub:**

One client has met with me four times so far. They presented with their Grandmother and sessions have progressed to independent discussions and goal setting.

We have been making steady ORS improvements in each session keeping focused on goals that offer multiple benefits towards a better future.

These include;

- Feeling Free & Alive
- Independence & Freedom
- Meeting people and improvements in a better social life
- Getting involved in a hobby / passion
- Assisting with Family relationships.

This has been impressive considering the clients personal challenges. So they have now reconnected with support services and appear to be going well; arranged better access to medications and also re-established contact with community mental health teams.

Another client's goals was to obtain their learner licence. It was fantastic to be able to connect this client to the FREE local initiative from the Clutha's Mayor's office to assist youth with gaining driver licences. They collect them – feed them – spend a day Saturday going over the road code & take them home.

Collect them again on Sunday – feed them – go through some intense Q&A and test simulations & take them home.

Collect them on the Monday and take them for the official learners test and drop them home.

This was a positive outcome from attending a local inter agency meeting in Balclutha. So this client now has successfully passed their learner licence.



#### **FROM A REFLECTION GIVEN ON ASH WEDNESDAY**

I am not sure we need ashes or Ash Wednesday this year to remind us of mortality. Not in a year dominated by a pandemic, the reason why, even if I wanted to, I cannot mark you with ashes today. Traditional Ash Wednesday worship would require us to focus on the brevity of life and remember that none of us will get out of this life alive. Our ancestors in the faith, entered into a morose season of Lent via the awesome reminder that they came from dust and soon they shall return to the dust. Lent was a season of lament and repentance based on a particular understanding of what it means to be human. Since the 11th century most of Christianity has understood the human condition as that of those who have fallen from grace. But we live in a post-modern world. We no longer believe that Adam and Eve were the first humans. We read *Genesis* not as history but as myth. We understand that humans evolved over millions of years. There was no perfect human condition for us to fall from. What happens when you reject the theological construct of original sin? What happens when you embrace the idea that we are

fiercely and wonderfully made? What happens when you see humanity as originally blessed?

Once you open up Pandora's box you can't just walk back out of the room and pretend that the theory of evolution doesn't have something to teach us about what it means to be human. If we see ourselves as incomplete creations rather than fallen sinful creatures, how then do we deal with our mortality? Perhaps we can begin to express what it means to be human in terms that reflect our need to evolve into all that we were created to be. Perhaps the brevity and uncertainty of life can begin to wake us up so that we can seize each and every moment of this incredible mystery that we call life. All that we love and care for is mortal and transitory, but mortality is the very reality that can become the inspiration for celebrate life and to love. Ash Wednesday reminds us of our human condition of mortality. But we should also remember the reality of creation itself is transformed by death and is constantly renewing itself. Today we embrace the promise that in death we are transformed into a new way of living on within the MYSTERY that is the LOVE we call God. Trusting that here and now we are living in the MYSTERY, we delight in the knowledge that in this MYSTERY that is God, we share in eternity; eternity – that which has no beginning and no end. We are constantly dying, but we are also constantly living as we give particular expression to an aspect of the LOVE that is God.

This day, this moment is eternity for the MYSTERY is here, revealed in the wonders of creation; in the face of our neighbours, in the beauty of the earth, in the magnitude of the universe and in the miracles of sub-atomic particles. Yes, we are dust, but we are earthly dust, springing forth from a multi-billion-year holy adventure. Dust is the stuff of life. Dust it is the place of fecundity, of moist dark soil, and perhaps we are as various scientists are suggesting: "star-dust" evolving creatures emerging from DIVINITY's intergalactic creativity. We are frail, but we are also part of a holy adventure reflecting the LOVE that IS God over billions of years and in billions of galaxies. So, how can we fail to rejoice

in the colour purple, or pause in wonder at a baby's birth? How can we fail to enjoy the beauty of a sunset or the splendour of a mountain range? How can we fail to embrace the sorrows that surround us with love? How can we remain deaf to the cries of our neighbours, or the pleas of our enemies? Today is our wake-up call?

This is eternity; right here, right now!!! Let the ashes we receive be the ashes of transformation. Let the reality of our mortality awaken us to the beauty and the power of seizing the moment and living it to the fullest.

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Let the memory of your incomplete humanity awaken you to the wonders, joys, sorrows, pain and wonders of life. Embrace your MORTALITY! Embrace the dark recesses of MYSTERY, for in darkness we were formed in darkness new life is begun. Embrace life in the midst of the MYSTERY that IS DIVINITY beyond our knowing, who, is was, and evermore shall be our LOVER, BELOVED, and LOVE HERSELF Amen

David Poultney



**VANUATU**



**“Build on a Strong Foundation”**

A Service prepared by  
World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu

**WORLD DAY OF  
PRAYER**

**Friday, 5 March 2021**

You are invited to join in worship and fellowship at your local church.

Place **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MOSGIEL ALL WELCOME**

Time **1-30pm. AFTERNOON TER  
TO FOLLOW.**

Offerings will be used to support projects in Vanuatu and New Zealand, as well as to contribute towards local and international World Day of Prayer.