

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



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PARISH BULLETIN 15 October 2023

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 22 October 2023

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|----------|------------|----------------|
| 9.30 am | Mornington | R Mitchell |
| 10:00 am | Mosgiel | H Watson White |
| 11:00 am | Glenaven | TBA |

MORNINGTON WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

Warmest gratitude from the Mission to the Mornington Women's Fellowship for their thoughtful and generous gesture of the Mother's Day Booklets presented to our Young Mum's Transition House. It is a wonderful source of inspiration for our young mums. Your love and support of all our transition house youth make a meaningful difference in their lives. Thank you for your kindness and commitment to our services.

NZ Faith Leaders Call for Peace in the Middle East

A Statement

As the conflict continues to grow in Gaza and Israel, members of the regional interfaith councils and faith leaders throughout Aotearoa-New Zealand, unequivocally condemn the violence and ask for prayers for peace from all walks of life for the violence and the fighting to stop.

Inevitably when conflicts like this erupt in flashpoints around the world, tensions rise at home, and so we ask people from all faiths, to protect the sanctity of each other's places of worship and the ability to practice in peace and safety.

We send our healing love to our Muslim, Jewish and Christian brothers, and sisters in the Middle East and to their families and friends here in New Zealand as they come to terms with more loss, pain, and worry.

We ask New Zealanders to counteract all forms of hatred and violence through forgiveness, understanding the other, love, and compassion and by supporting the National Interfaith Peace service which will be held next Thursday evening at 7:30pm online.

There Will Be a National Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace

19 October 2023 07:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87852804660?pwd=dFhIb1N4NEEycjJxSW12bHUrSEQvZz09>

Meeting ID: 878 5280 4660

Passcode: 786314

AN INVITATION FROM KNOX CHURCH.

Knox Church is hosting an evening service to celebrate the music of Colin Gibson at 7pm on the 15th October. In congregational hymns, choir music and readings, the words and music that are Colin's legacy will be shared during the evening. This will be followed by supper in the Gathering Area. You are all most welcome to join us.

If anyone would like to join the combined choir there is a practice on Wednesday the 11th, 6.30 to 8pm in the church or Gathering Area - entrance at the back of the church. On the Sunday evening a practice will be held from 5.30 - 6.30pm before the service at 7pm. The service will be live streamed.

ANIMAL ARK PETTING ZOO

Invite to ALL in the parish. Aim to get over 1000 years of methodists at the ARK.

ON Sunday 12 November, If able and interested, please bring yourself and others, if possible, to the Animal Ark petting Zoo out at 18 Dukes Road Mosgiel for an enjoyable gathering. There are chairs and tables to rest on while interacting with the various domestic mammals and birds at the facility. If you can bring a member of a younger generation, children, grandchildren or someone with a youngish mind that would be great. The hope is to get enough individuals there so that our collective ages will exceed 1000 years of Methodists aboard the ARK.

Assembly time is 2:00pm. with the adding up of ages at 3:00p.m. Cost per person is \$10 and \$1 for a bag of pellets which the mammals will eat.

For those less mobile parking close to the access gate can be arranged.

Please advise Cam Weston on 021 995 130 if you are coming and/or if you need transport assistance.



Confessing our shared humanity

'What if we could be honest about our pain?' asks film/theatre director and lawyer Rosemary Riddell in her memoir *To Be Fair: Confessions of a District Court Judge*. Not perhaps the question you'd expect from one of our judges, considering the impersonal way in which they are supposed to address the law.

From the first chapter, 'Mental Health', Riddell makes it clear that her 'confessions' go beyond the details of hearings she attended in 14 years of sitting on the bench. A book written initially for her own reasons – to 'let go' the experience of a 'demanding and difficult job' – has broadened to include a critique of society, canvassing the 'thorny issues of poverty, family violence and racism' that underly many of the cases she has heard. She does not, however, distance herself from that society, and its underbelly; any problems discussed are collectively owned – they are not just the individual's but 'ours'.

Riddell writes with a sense of 'the unexpected' which is inherently theatrical, bringing events to life. Half a page into the mental health chapter, for instance, we are in comic territory. As we were warned in the preface, 'Sometimes ... I have wanted to stuff my gown in my mouth to stop from laughing helplessly at what goes on.' Equally, when there is grief, doubt, regret, or the

shock of a family tragedy, this judge is not slow to respond. She quotes the late Justice Fogarty as saying the human quality he most admired was humour ('it binds us together'); yet because of the particulars of one case relating closely to his own background, Fogarty was 'known to choke up while sentencing a man on fraud charges'. Riddell herself describes, on several occasions, driving home from work, 'barely able to see the road in front of me for the flood of tears.'

To expose such emotions is a brave thing for anyone to do, but what she's describing is, after all, 'out of hours'. Riddell is well aware that on the job she must think logically and dispassionately... 'taking all the facts and law into account.' The book covers a wide range of subjects, from the classic 'custody tussle' to witness reliability, from revenge to whakama [shame] and restorative justice, from stress and how to manage it, to that thorniest of questions, 'Is it hard to decide?'. While obviously the judge must present a passionless mask in court, she can analyse and agonize all she likes in private – and has to, because every decision is hard, 'at times immeasurably so'.


When you hear of the complexity of most cases involving children, or the effects of punitive legislation like the Three Strikes Law, you understand the full force of Riddell's last-page statement: 'Judges are only human.' You also understand why she has included a few bad jokes to leaven the earnestness. On the sober side, her willingness to enter into people's lived experience furthers the aim of social cohesion. Humour, she suggests, can free us from a sort of communal dread; and pain honestly expressed becomes shared pain.

In describing one psychiatric patient, declined discharge from hospital by her decision and leaving the court without protest, she remarks: 'Every time they go... I think it could be me. The circuitry in the brain gone awry, a head injury or a cataclysmic life event

from which there's no coming back.' She feels on a level with defendants as well as with lawyers and judges, demonstrating a persistent belief in equality, despite the hierarchical system she has inherited. Cases heard in the Family Court and criminal court, Riddell argues, are not as different as they seem, because complainants and defendants were brought up in the same society, many of the latter suffering from harmful influences on their growth and development that the former were lucky to escape. Lamenting the lack of diversity among lawyers, Riddell lists many ways (anti-racism seminars, marae visits) in which they could broaden their knowledge of how other people live – if they wanted to.

Judges, she says, are after all grounded in the same humanity, with the same 'struggles and triumphs' as everyone else. It is an important step to try putting yourself in someone else's shoes.

– Helen Watson White



2023

Interfaith Peace
Gathering
Tues 17th October
Quaker meeting house
15 Park St
ALL WELCOME
7.30-9pm

Dunedin Interfaith Council
Info : 027 212 1048

THE INTERNATIONAL PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe