

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



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

Presbyters	Rev David Poultney	974 6172
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Parish Prayer Convenor	Elaine Merrett	489 7663 elaineross@xtra.co.nz
Pastoral Convenor Mornington	Susan Hamel	022 657 8303 sfh1959@gmail.com
Parish Office	bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz	466 4600

PARISH BULLETIN 23 FEBRUARY 2025

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 2 MARCH 2025

09:30am	Mornington	D Poultney
10:00am	Mosgiel	S Benson Hamel
11.00am	Glenaven	D Poultney

RADIO CHURCH

8.30 am	OAR 105.4FM	Rev David Poultney
	1575AM	
Live stream	oar.org.nz	

Please note you can now listen to RADIO CHURCH every Sunday on OAR 105.4FM, 1575AM or Livestream via oar.org.nz



UPCOMING event Dates

PARISH EVENTS COMING UP

26 Feb 2025	MMWF Luncheon, (89 Grendon Street, Maori Hill) 12PM
26 Feb 2025	Gibson Talks Series 2, (Mornington Methodist Church) 7PM
7 Mar 2025	View Strengthening Work (Mornington Methodist Church) 2.30-3PM
7 Mar 2025	– World Day of Prayer – see notice below for times and locations



Announcements

ORDER OF SERVICE & BULLETIN NOTICES

Order of Services sheets need to be sent by **Wednesday 10am**

Notices for the Bulletin need to be in by **Thursday 12pm**

Pick up for both Order of Service sheets and the Parish Bulletins will now be after 11am on Fridays unless prearranged.

Many thanks, the Parish Admin Team

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MORNINGTON CONGREGATION

If you have any pastoral concerns please contact

Susan Hamel (022 657 8303; sfh1959@gmail.com) or

David Poultney (022 350 2263; parish@mmsouth.org.nz).

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MORNINGTON CHURCH FINANCES NEED HELP.

Our ongoing expenses of insurance, rates, and electricity are not currently being covered by our income sources, previously from hall and church hire.

We only have enough in the cleaning fund to cover cleaning for March and April.

Donations (tax deductible) towards running of Mornington Church would be greatly appreciated. These can be made by Direct Credit via internet banking to:

Mornington Property

02-0800-0008617-000

Particulars: your name

Code: donation

Reference: cleaning or general

TAKE HOME POINTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council met this week, these are some of the key points

1. We look forward to the recommencement of the Gibson Memorial talks next week and encourage your attendance.
2. We anticipate hearing from the Parish Review Team soon following the review meetings on January 20th
3. We worked through a Parish audit tool that all parishes in the South Island Synod are completing.

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NEW SECRETARY FOR PARISH COUNCIL

After many years of careful and thorough work as Parish Council Secretary Fay Richardson has indicated an intention to step down this year. We are looking for someone to take over this role, if you would like to talk about it please contact David.

MORNINGTON METHODIST WOMENS FELLOWSHIP

The Committee will be providing lunch, and we ask you to bring along happy stories to chat about the holiday season and time in the garden. We look forward to seeing you all. Please call Andrea on **021 572 811** if you need transport.



The Gibson Talks, Series 2, 2025



We are delighted to announce that respected Ōtākau Kaumātua, Edward Ellison has accepted an invitation to present the first talk in Series 2 of the Gibson Talks on **Wednesday evening 26 February 2025** in the Mornington Methodist Church, cnr Galloway and Whitby Streets.

Please note the change in date.

Topic: ‘Ka mua, ka muri’, a Māori proverb meaning walking backwards into the future.

NOT TO BE MISSED 7pm Wednesday 26 February at Mornington Methodist Church. ALL WELCOME.

Koha admission

MORNINGTON CHURCH STRENGTHENING WORK

Chance to see what is happening. The Mornington Hall strengthening work is available to come and see just what is happening beyond the door.

On Friday 7th March at 2:30 to 3 pm the door will be opened and those who wish to can come and view the progress on this project.

If coming, please wear solid shoes for foot protection and ensure no loose clothing to catch on projecting materials.

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025

Mornington – Mornington Presbyterian Church, 16 Maryhill Terrace 7pm

Mosgiel – Mosgiel Methodist Church 1.30pm

NE Valley - North Dunedin Pacific Island Church, 162 North Road, NEV 7pm



CONNECTIONS

Greg and I read this reflection as a dialogue last Sunday and some of you asked for a copy, I thought I would include it this week and in doing so relaunch Connections after a dormant period.

Beatitudes for the 21st Century Becky Withington

Blessed are the marginalized, for they are extravagantly welcome in the culture of God. From the earliest descriptions of nomadic tribes of Israelites in the Hebrew Scriptures, hospitality has been a hallmark of the culture of God. In the desert, if you don't offer hospitality to people, they can die. Again and again, scripture urges God's people to care for the orphan, the widow, and the stranger. Jesus made it his life's work to seek out and lift up the "poor in Spirit," Blessed are the marginalized, for they are extravagantly welcome in the culture of God.

Blessed are those who care for the earth, for they promote a healthy, dynamic ecosystem that cares for us all.

We are the stewards of creation. We ignore that responsibility at our own peril,

and the peril of every living thing on this earth. Thankfully, people of all faiths and many who don't follow a spiritual tradition are awakening to this peril, putting everything from their money to their lives on the line. Those who care for the earth are truly blessed, and they are a blessing to all.

Blessed are the bold, for they see the culture of God manifest before their eyes.

Blessed are the meek, Jesus said, the humble, the gentle, for they will inherit the earth. Gentleness and humility are wonderful traits, and it's my prayer that those who display them will cease to be exploited by the boastful and belligerent; that they, the deserving, will inherit the earth.

Blessed are the empathetic, for they heal the brokenness of the world. *To heal the painful divisions of our world, to ensure that everyone has their basic needs met and mutual respect is the basis for all human relationships, we need to move beyond sympathy and compassion to empathy.*

Blessed are the inclusive, for they see through the eyes of love.

It is characteristic of human beings to shape our identities and our communities as much by what we are not as by what we are. We set ourselves apart by not demonstrating beliefs and behaviours that other groups do. Perceiving differences and similarities is a valuable survival skill but like many survival skills, its evolution lags behind many other areas of human development. We have to be awakened; we have to let go of fear and insecurity and the scarcity mentality in order to see through the eyes of love as the Christ did.

Blessed are those with integrity, for their hearts, minds, words and actions are one.

When we are in right relationship with God and one another, when right intention leads to right action, we are integrated. Our words and actions match our thoughts and feelings. I don't know about you, but for me this is a fleeting state of grace that I experience only sporadically. Most of the time I am conflicted. I lack the courage to take the action I think is right. I think things I would never say out loud. But those moments when my thoughts, feelings, words and actions are aligned feel sacred, holy.

Blessed are those who commit themselves to peace, for they disarm violence.

Violence is a commonly used tool of oppression and conquest. When people are oppressed and persecuted, when their homes and rights are taken away, they respond with anger – righteous anger, justified anger, but anger that often leads to retaliatory violence. From the time of their slavery in Egypt, God's people expected a warrior-king, an anointed one who would avenge them and secure their freedom by any means necessary. Like other great leaders throughout history, Jesus understood that violence only begets more violence. He called peacemakers blessed, and only by committing to strategies of peace can we end violence.

Blessed are those who organize, struggle and sacrifice for freedom and equality, for they bend the moral arc of the universe towards justice

Martin Luther King Jr. said the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice. He may have based it on words from a sermon by Unitarian Minister Theodore Parker who in 1853 wrote, "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe, the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but a little ways. I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. But from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice." Our eyes reach but a little way. We cannot see beyond the horizon to confirm beyond certainty the arc is bending, little by little, towards justice. Sometimes our current trajectory seems like a path that will hurtle us past the point of no return. If we want to live in a just world we must all do our part, we must all throw our weight against the levers of power to bend the moral arc of the universe towards justice.

Blessed are we in the amazing diversity of our ethnicity, age, ability, and orientation, for we make visible the glory of Creation.

What better way to show gratitude to the source of all life than to embrace and affirm all persons for their unique selves, to love all our siblings as ourselves, to look upon the endless variety of creation and declare with God that "it is good."