

# 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**

<b>Presbyters</b>	Rev David Poultney	974 6172
	Mobile phone	022 350 2263
	Office phone	466 3023
	Office email	<a href="mailto:parish@mmsouth.org.nz">parish@mmsouth.org.nz</a>
<b>Parish Stewards</b>	Mrs Jan Stewart	473 9141
	Ross Merrett	489 7663
<b>Tongan Steward</b>	Mr Kaufusi Pole	455 0096
<b>Parish Prayer Convenor</b>	Elaine Merrett	489 7663 <a href="mailto:elaineross@xtra.co.nz">elaineross@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Pastoral Convenor Mornington</b>	Susan Hamel	022 657 8303 <a href="mailto:sfh1959@gmail.com">sfh1959@gmail.com</a>
<b>Parish Office</b>	<a href="mailto:bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz">bulletins@mmsouth.org.nz</a>	466 4600

## PARISH BULLETIN 27 APRIL 2025

### WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 4 MAY 2025

09:30am	Mornington	D Poultney +
10:00am	Mosgiel	H Watson White
11.00am	Glenaven	D Poultney +

### RADIO CHURCH

8.30 am		Fr Vaughan Leslie
	OAR 105.4FM	
	1575AM	
Live stream	<a href="http://oar.org.nz">oar.org.nz</a>	

**Please note you can now listen to RADIO CHURCH every Sunday on OAR 105.4FM, 1575AM or Livestream via [oar.org.nz](http://oar.org.nz)**

## UPCOMING event Dates

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### PARISH EVENTS COMING UP

3 May 2025 A ROCHA Dunedin, Dunedin City Baptist Church 9.30AM - 11.30AM

7 May 2025 Mornington Leader's Meeting, Mornington Church 7.30PM

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### A ROCHA DUNEDIN

**WHEN:** Saturday May 3rd 2025, 9.30am - 11.30am.

**WHERE:** Dunedin City Baptist Church, 19 Main Road South, Concord, Dunedin.

**WHAT:** Restoration planting, community gardening, weed releasing, food, fellowship, and prayer together.

**BRING:** Gardening gloves and spades if you have them, strong footwear, a friend.

A Rocha is an international Christian "Care-for-Creation" organisation.

Many of you will be familiar with the land belonging to DCBC, on the left of the Southern Motorway as you've just come over Lookout Point. DCBC has significantly transformed the lower section of property over the last 5 - 8 years, and you may have noticed the thriving regenerative plantings along the stream at the bottom. Within these plantings, but not visible from the road, is also a meditative prayer walk.

A Rocha Dunedin and DCBC are now partnering to work on this very publicly visible site in a number of ways that bear witness to care for creation, and gospel hope for the healing of creation. The staff of DCBC have described the partnership prospect as "a blessing."

**Join us on Saturday May 3rd, for a church working bee and morning tea, to explore restoration progress so far and hopes for the future.**

**Mornington Leaders' Meeting** will meet at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7 May, in the Church. Please let Richard Cannon know if you have anything you want discussed at the meeting.



## Quo Vadis – Where Are You Going? What I would Love to Ask the Next Pope.

Can you count back over the New Zealand Prime ministers over the course of your lifetime, or American Presidents – that might be easier as they tend to be in office longer.

What about Popes, how many have come and gone over the course of your life?

I am 59, when I was born Pope Paul VI was the head of the Roman Catholic Church. Popes stick around for a while though they do not come into office at least until they are well into mid-life. John Paul II was 58 when he emerged from the second Conclave of 1978. Pope Francis was the fifth Pope in my lifetime.

In two or three weeks a sixth will be announced by a plume of white smoke and he will emerge on to the balcony of the Apostolic Palace over St Peter's Square No doubt we will take a momentary interest though we may well never have heard of the new Pope until then.

With impeccable timing Sky Movies is about to show *Conclave*, about the machinations of Cardinals gathered to elect a new Pope. We trust the real process will be rather more wholesome.

Why have I decided to use this space to talk about the Papacy? After all we are heirs to the Reformation and for a long time, even into our living memory the divide between Roman Catholics and Protestants was stark, really only beginning to change under Pope John XXIII in the early 1960s.

In this Bulletin there is a letter from the President of our Church, it is natural to offer a message of consolation to friends who are grieving, and this message has been conveyed to the Roman Catholic Bishops in this country. It is also natural to speak well of someone who has died, to praise their qualities and contributions.

I would add to that. Not so long-ago Popes had the trappings of monarchy, that began to slip away in the 1960s. The Papal Tiara – or Crown – is now in a museum. Francis let go of the last trait of it, even electing not to live in the Papal Apartments but in the Guest House, he was, he said, not the owner, he was just passing through.

While the ordination of women remains a distant prospect Francis separated some significant roles from the requirement to be ordained and more and more women are exercising significant roles at every level of the Church. As a Gay man I was horrified, and angered, when pope Benedict XVI described homosexuality as “an intrinsic moral disorder.” Something which sounds rather close to psychopathy. Perhaps I really am “*mad, bad and dangerous to know.*” Francis early on when asked about people in same sex relationships said, “who am I to judge?” He later authorized priests if not to perform or bless same sex relationships then to bless men or women in them. This may seem like a fudge, but it is a huge shift in a fairly short time frame.

Francis spoke for the poor, for the dispossessed, for the planet itself. There is no better summary of the Christian duty to care for the Earth than Francis's encyclical “*Laudate Si.*”

You may have heard how he spoke almost every day to the Roman Catholic Priest in Gaza during the present conflict.

We might think his influence is an internal matter, but Francis's influence was much wider, so will his successors be.

Putting aside matters of Roman Catholic doctrine the person becoming Pope often speaks in ways which express a wider Christian faith, ethic and concern. We can only hope and pray for someone to emerge who will follow in the way Francis led

David Poultney



# The Methodist Church of New Zealand

## Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

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22 April 2025

Moe mai rā e te Pāpā Francis, e okioki atu rā ki tua o te ārai. E tangi ana mātou i Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, mō te matenga o tō koutou rangatira tapu, a Pope Francis. E mihi ana mātou mō tōna oranga kaha ki te whakahaere i ngā mahi o te Rongopai, me te whakakotahi i te ao whakapono i runga i te aroha, te atawhai, me te rangimārie.

It is with deep sorrow and heartfelt respect that Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa - the Methodist Church of New Zealand joins the global community in mourning the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. Pope Francis was a shepherd of remarkable compassion, humility, and courage. His life and ministry have left an indelible mark on the world. He reminded us all of the centrality of love, mercy, and justice in the Christian journey, and he embodied the Gospel call to care for the poor, the marginalised, and the Earth itself.

Ko ia he rama i te pō, he rongoā mō te hunga rawakore, he rangatira i whai tika, i whai pono. Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis reached across denominational lines, building bridges where there were once barriers. His ecumenical spirit and commitment to dialogue brought Christians closer together in our shared calling to be instruments of peace and reconciliation. His voice for social justice, climate action, and indigenous rights resonated with the kaupapa of Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa, affirming our shared calling to serve with respect and integrity.

In Aotearoa New Zealand, we give thanks for the ways in which his leadership inspired us to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. His example encourages us to continue working toward a more compassionate and inclusive world. As you mourn the loss of your beloved leader, we pray for God's comfort to surround the Roman Catholic community, and for strength and guidance as you discern the path ahead. May the legacy of Pope Francis continue to shine as a beacon of faith, hope, and love in our world.

E te Pāpā, kua wehe koe i te ao nei, engari kāore koe e warewaretia. Ko tōu manaaki, ko tōu aroha, ko tōu kaha ki te tautoko i ngā hunga rawakore me ngā hunga pātea o te ao, ka mau tonu hei tauira mō ngā whakatupuranga kei te haere mai. Haere atu rā, e te Pāpā, haere atu rā. Haere, e te rangatira, moe mai i te korowai aroha o te Atua.

*J A Rountree*

Te Aroha Rountree  
Perēhitini o Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa  
President of The Methodist Church of New Zealand.