

DUNEDIN METHODIST PARISH

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz



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PARISH BULLETIN 30 NOVEMBER 2025

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY – 7 DECEMBER 2025

9.30am	Mornington Church	David Poultney +
10.00am	Mosgiel Church	Elaine Merrett
11.00am	Glenaven Church	David Poultney +

RADIO CHURCH

8.30am	OAR 105.4FM	Amy Armstrong Catholic Diocese of Dunedin
	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

Services at Mornington can be watched on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@morningtonmethodist1598>



UPCOMING event Dates

PARISH EVENTS COMING UP

1 December Morning Star West Papua Flag Ceremony, Octagon, 5PM

150th Anniversary of Methodism in Mornington.

September 10, 2026, marks the 150th anniversary of the opening of the first Methodist Church in Mornington.

We would like to celebrate this over the weekend of 12-13 September 2026, and this will require some organisation. If you would like to join the organising group, please let Richard Cannon know.

Take Home Points from Parish Council

1. We welcomed the Rev Ian Boddy to the meeting, Ian will be working on a .75 basis during his time here
2. We encourage the Parish to responsible giving and to care over the use of resources.
3. You are warmly invited to the leaving party for David and Darren, which will be a bring a plate on January 9th at 6pm
4. We thank Fay Richardson for her many years service as Secretary of Parish Council, we have not as yet been able to appoint anyone to the role and warmly encourage expressions of interest.



Our annual Dunedin “**Raising of the Morning Star West Papua Flag**” public ceremony will take place at **5pm** on **Monday 1st December** in the **Octagon**. All members of our Parish and wider communities are warmly invited to attend this half-hour event. December 1st marks the first time the Morning Star flag was raised in 1961, a day of declared independence from the Netherlands.

For more information, please contact

Greg Hughson 027 212 1048

Suzanne Menzies-Culling, suzanne.menziesculling@gmail.com

Co-Convenor West Papua Action Otepoti.

MISSION SOCK FUNDRAISER



🧦 A simple gift that warms more than feet this Christmas. 🧦

Our Sock Fundraiser has hit a chord, gifting fun socks to residents for Christmas. We are so grateful to everyone who has already bought or donated socks to support this kaupapa. If you haven't had a chance yet, there's still time to join in.

We have new stock in.

Each pair of socks purchased helps bring a little extra warmth and comfort to those who need it most this Christmas. They also make lovely gifts or stocking fillers — a simple way to share joy and kindness.

If you'd like to buy a pair (or help us sell a few more), please get in touch — we'd love your support.

Julie

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O Come O Come Emmanuel- A Challenge to Theology and Justice

We have come to the first Sunday of Advent again, and on this day we have often sung O Come O Come Emmanuel. This ancient Advent hymn comes from the Liturgy of Vespers – Evening Prayer - used in the Roman Catholic Breviary for the last week of Advent.

It is evocative and beautiful; it is also troubling for two reasons. One of Theology and one of Equity and Justice.

The first has troubled me for some time, it represents a secessionist theology. Depicting the Jewish people as living “in lonely exile here / Until the son of God appears” perpetuates the idea that Jews’

relationship with God is broken because they “didn’t accept” Jesus as their Messiah.

While this belief lingers among Christians the mainstream Protestant Churches and the Roman Catholic Church have moved on to an appreciation of Judaism as not redundant or dead but as a living Covenant.

And now for Equity and Justice. When we hear in this hymn the name Israel do we make a mental connection between the name of the Jewish people and the name of the State of Israel. Whatever the justification for Israel to have acted in the wake of October the 7th in the wake of the capture of some Israeli citizens and the murder of others we overwhelmingly believe the conflict has long since become disproportionate.

I confess at times to feeling conflicted, on my father’s side my family has Jewish connections, and while yes there is a difference between anti Zionism and anti Semitism at times the public conversation has been blurred. It has pained me to see friends repost in social media repeats and reworking of the ancient blood libel (a malicious folk tale from Europe that Jews killed Gentiles to use their blood for ritual purposes) and memes about Jewish conspiracies.

For all that the present government of Israel has acted in ways which have alienated good will and isolated that country. Our Church has called upon the Government to recognize Palestine as a State and advocate on the international stage for a two State solution

So, what to do with O Come O Come Emmanuel? Last year we tried an alternative version and this year I have found another.

It reflects a desire to resist both Antisemitism and a militant Zionism that sees no space for the other. It does this while seeking to maintain a connection to Christians who came before us in the cadence of a familiar and beloved tune. Instead of perpetuating deep-seated hate and Christian supremacy, it challenges us towards joining God in solidarity with the world’s oppressed. The plight of the people of Gaza is at the centre of this hymn.

May our worship songs plant in us a deep desire for justice and spark our action towards a future where all peoples, all religions live in mutual relationship and respect. DP