

Newsletter

25th April 2021

Anzac Day

Sunday's Reading: John 10:1-10

Ps. Andrew Everson will bring us the word this week.

Some Prayers of the people

- Pray for safety on the roads as people return from school holidays.
- Give thanks that Rosalie Hinch came through her operation successfully. Pray for a speedy and full recovery for her.
- Pray for the Barnabas Fund who helping those fleeing Islamic violence in northern Mozambique, ¾ million people have being displaced. The Barnabas Fund are working with Christian partners in Pemba to provide Epap (a special protein porridge) to these hungry and malnourished people. If you wish to help by donation, contact on 0738061076 or 1300365799.
- Pray for those who are unwell, having tests and awaiting results that God's healing hand will be upon them.
- For our government dealing with supplies and allocation of the covid19 vaccine. Give thanks for our safe country and that we are truly blessed where we live.
- There are many who are coping with difficulties and really appreciate the support of the congregation with the "Tithe a tin Pray a packet" outreach, thank you.

Notices

Tom Golding will be speaking on Saturday May 15th at 94 Woolwash lane Stewarts Range (Trevor Barnett's place)

BYO Bible and chair

9.30am Session 1 "Mt Sinai is our past".

10am morning tea

11am Session 2 "The New Covenant is our Present".

12.30pm Lunch BBQ lunch meat supplied please bring a salad or dessert

2pm Session 3 "Mount Zion is our Future".

3pm afternoon tea

RSVP May 10th to Trevor (0407390565) or Sue (0473201347)

Marriage Course

We will be holding the Marriage Course in June.

The updated Marriage Course has new teaching content, creative short films, global stories, and expert insights –hosted by Nicky & Sila Lee.

7 episodes of the Marriage Course:

- Strengthening Connection
- The Art of Communication
- Resolving Conflict
- The Power of Forgiveness
- The Impact of Family
- Good Sex
- Love in Action

We are looking to hold this over 7 Thursday evenings in Wesley Hall. Meal and refreshments included.

Attached is a link to a short video giving an introduction to this course:

<https://youtu.be/qba2wYpXgUs>

Contact Andrew 0417 811 773, Simone 0425 809 760 or Robbie 0455 663 556

Name tags: As our congregation is growing, please wear your name tags as this will help people get to know each other and also help with remembering names. Please let Lois or Teresa know if anyone requires a name tag.

End of Month luncheon: This Sunday at 12noon at Billy Mac's

Prayer Chain

The church has a prayer chain for those who need prayer during an emergency or crisis, the Initial contact people are Julie Wylie (87623812) or Julie & Kevin Cooke (87620732, 0428620733).

Please call the contact person and your prayer request will be forwarded on. We encourage you to share any answer to prayer that you feel you can to the prayer chain as encouragement to them.

Can you help with Crèche? In recent years our church has had an influx of younger families. A creche was re-introduced as a way to bless those young mothers by giving them some time to enjoy being part of our service while knowing their children are being well cared for and safe. If you are able to help with the creche as part of our roster, can you please let Oriel know.

Mid-Week Bible reading

Matthew 5:1-16

5 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ² and he began to teach them.

The Beatitudes

He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Salt and Light

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

There is such a lot of things in this world to get angry about! Every day we see examples of outrageous violence and oppression, much of it in overseas countries directed against Christians in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. And increasingly in the West, vilification and sometimes the law is directed against Christian people who take a biblical stand on many issues, the value of human life, the family, marriage, and sexual

ethics in particular. And often this is in opposition to the modern narratives which corporations, elites and governments now take to be the new orthodoxy.

We see our news media fixated on promoting division, trying to force human division based on race, sexuality, gender, and politics. Everything is politicized, everything is sexualised, and the hypocrisy and lack of balance almost seems designed to say one thing – if you are a Christian, you are a bigot, and we hate you.

And it is easy to respond to this kind of thing by nurturing feelings of hatred in return.

Don't do it! Don't give in to the temptation to respond like that. If you are feeling saddened, vilified, and angry at what you see on the ABC or SBS, or what you may read on Crikey.com or the Guardian or on social media, don't let it get to the point of hatred. Know that God is still in control.

Instead, take the time, to read again Jesus' words from Matthew 5, the Sermon on the Mount. Read it slowly.

Often each line of the Beatitudes is taken to mean something distinct and different. But I think that the whole of verses 1-12 are teaching the same thing – respond to everything and everyone with calmness, compassion, and love; just as Christ did. Do what God commands, always! But do it without abusing anyone, insulting anyone, or hating anyone. Being meek, mourning at injustice, hungering for righteousness, being merciful, seeking peace, and yet experiencing persecution, either directly or vicariously because one of our brothers or sisters is oppressed is probably a good summary of Jesus' experience and the Jesus' way.

Ultimately God is in control and we will only ever overcome with grace.

Andrew