

Saint Mary's Newsletter: April

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 842761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



SERVICES FOR APRIL

Friday April 3rd:

10am Stations of the Cross service

Sunday April 5th:

10am Easter Family Communion

Refreshments - Sally-Ann Riddell

Sunday April 12th:

10am Family Communion service.

Refreshments - Brenda Stobie

Sunday April 19th:

10am Praise Service.

Refreshments - Valerie Crowther

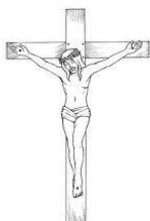
Saturday April 25th:

10am ANZAC 100 year service
Gordonton Hall & Cenotaph.

Sunday April 26th:

10am Family Communion.

Refreshments - Karen Boyer



Parish Office Hours

The Vicar is available at the church each Friday, 9am to 2.30pm in vestry/office. Please feel free to drop in! The church is also open for prayer and quiet reflection.

Notices:

Stations of the Cross: A brief contemplative service - Good Friday 10am at St Mary's.

Children's Church/Junior Youth: Due to School holidays, there is no Children's Church / Junior Youth during April. There will still be activity sheets with chocolate! 😊

Youth Group (Year 9+): In the new Term we are teaming up with the Oaks Youth Group: Meets Fri 7pm at Oaks Church Gordonton. The Campbell brothers will be there to help our youth connect.

ANZAC Service: Please bring a plate. We need at least 4 volunteers to read out names from the roll of honour - please see the vicar

Bead it! A new prayer group coming for men and women - with a literal twist! See Trish Smithson or Sally-Ann Riddell for details.

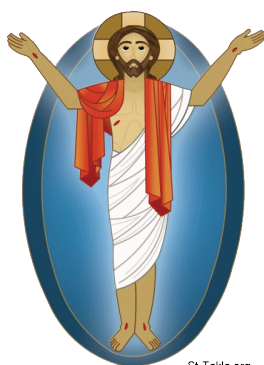
Parish Bank Account:

02 0410 0103053 00 Thanks for your weekly A/P contributions to keep our Parish running!

The Resurrection: The hinge of our Christian Faith

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is central to the Christian faith. It is mentioned over one hundred times in the New Testament. It was the main point for each sermon in the Book of Acts. Without it there is no Christian faith. Paul said the resurrection is important to the believer for a number of reasons. He said that Christian preaching is empty if Jesus did not come back from the dead. The faith of the believer is worthless if Christ is not risen because he is the object of the faith. In addition, Christ, is not whom He said He was. Had He not risen, He would have been a liar. The apostles would also have been liars for testifying to a resurrection that did not occur. Furthermore, there is no forgiveness for anybody's sin if Christ did not rise from the dead. Those who have died believing in Christ would have had no hope. If hope in Christ is limited to this life, Christians are to be pitied above all people. Thank God they are not!

The resurrection is also important to the identity and mission of Jesus. First, the resurrection is important to His identity. The resurrection is the demonstration that Jesus indeed is the Son of God. The resurrection is also important to His character. Jesus would not have been a true prophet had He not come back from the dead as He predicted that He would. It is important to Jesus' ministry. If He did not come back from the dead then His ministry would have ended in defeat. Finally, it is important to His message. The centrality of the Christian message is that Jesus died and then came back from the dead. If He did not come back from the dead then there is no Christianity. Consequently we see that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is absolutely crucial to the Christian faith.



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An Easter Scripture for you:

Matthew 20:17-19

17 Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them,

18 "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death

19 and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"



Building Fund Update:

So far we have approx. \$11,000 in the Building Fund. Vestry have appointed Richard and Sally-Ann Riddell as heading the Building Committee

This Month in Christian History:

1992: Worshippers celebrate the Russian Orthodox Easter in Moscow for the first time in 74 years, due to the collapse of Communism.

On April 9th, Lutheran Pastor and Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was martyred by the Nazis