

Saint Mary's Newsletter: March

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday 6th:

10am Family communion Service

Refreshments - Karen Boyer

Sunday 13th:

10am Family communion Service

Refreshments - Cath Denby

Sunday 20th:

10am Palm Sunday Praise Service.
Donkey rides for children & junior youth! AGM after the service

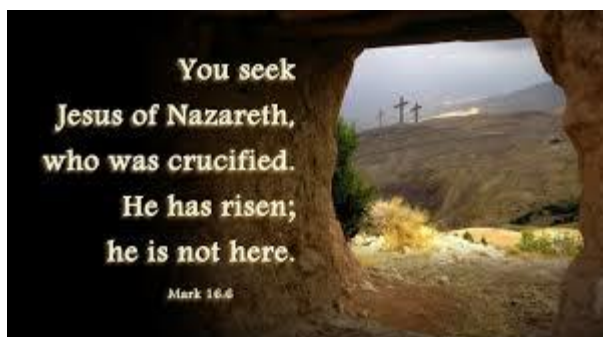
Refreshments - Brenda Stobie

Friday 25th:

10am Good Friday: Stations of the Cross

Sunday 27th:

10am Easter Sunday Family Communion



Palm Sunday Service: Sunday 20th
please bring along palm fronds - or failing that, some ponga branches! Kids will have donkey rides on Lucilla, as they recall the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Good Friday 25th Feb: 10:00AM. We mark this special Holy Day with a Stations of the Cross service. This is an emotional service where we both journey with, and encounter Jesus, in what he went through for us.

AGM: Immediately after the Palm Sunday service 20th March. It is always brief, and held along with a cuppa. Please fill out a Nomination Form if you wish to serve on vestry - located on the Welcome table

Children's Church/Junior Youth:

This month -Children's church/Junior Youth is on the 6th and 20th. The 6th they will be making Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday service, and 20th is Donkey rides!

Youth Group (Year 9+): Combined churches youth Meet Fridays 7pm at Oaks Church Gordonton.

A LESSON FROM PAUL ABOUT HUMILITY All of us have experienced

periods of devastation, of times “in the desert” in our own life. Times when the spiritual landscape around us is hot, barren and dry. Sometimes, it lasts a day or two, sometimes it lasts a month or more. Sometimes it lasts years. As an example of someone for whom this time of wilderness lasted years, take the apostle Paul. He received a revelation from God on the road to Damascus and believed in Jesus for eternal life. According to Acts 9:20, he tried to start a ministry to his Jewish brethren there. It says he was winning arguments and debates with them. He had studied well. He knew his Bible. But all that happened was that he almost got killed. So he went to Jerusalem, and the apostles there wouldn't trust him either. But he went out and again tried to start a ministry to the Hellenistic Jews in Jerusalem, but again, the only thing that happened was that he kept making people mad. So finally, the apostles had to get rid of him, and they sent him off to Tarsus. The account of Acts 9 is very humorous. It is after they sent Paul away that the church began to prosper (9:31). You can imagine what Paul is feeling. Jesus Christ told him on the road to Damascus that he was going to be used greatly by God, but every time Paul tried to be used by God, all he did was cause problems and so was sent away. And so what did Paul do? Well, he served, quietly, in a church, in the wopwops of Tarsus. For 14 years he was there. He was unknown. He was unrecognized. People forgot about him. He probably began to think that God had forgotten about him too. But God had not forgotten. God sent Paul to Tarsus to teach him humility. To teach him how to get victory over his temptation of pride. That is why he writes in 1 Corinthians 8:1 that knowledge puffs up. In Damascus and Jerusalem, he had all the knowledge, but he had not learned love. His knowledge had made him proud, but God wanted him to learn love also. Now Paul would never say that knowledge is unimportant. His writings and letters clearly indicate that we should all get as much knowledge as we can. But arrogant knowledge, prideful knowledge, knowledge without love is a dangerous thing. And so God put Paul on the back burner for 17 years in order to teach Paul how to speak the truth in love. And when, after 17 years, Paul had learned this lesson in the wilderness of Arabia and backwaters of Tarsus, God said to Paul, “Okay, now you are ready to be used.” And Paul did turn the world upside down for God.

Parish Giving

Please consider giving to the parish via Automatic Payment. Did you know that St Mary's has to pay for our Vicar and all other costs of running a Parish, as well as giving a proportion to the Diocese? Please help us to be sustainable by giving via Automatic Payment. It is an easy way to give and is useful for the parish in running its budget. The Parish Bank Account is:

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This Month in Christian History:

22nd March: The Council of Nicaea (325) decided that Easter would be observed on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox (21 March). This reckoning means that Easter, in any given year, will not occur earlier than March 22 nor later than April 25.



Healing & Confession:

Should you require prayer for healing, please indicate to the vicar at the altar rail during Communion so anointing with oil can be given. The confidential act of Reconciliation/Confession (see page 750 of the Prayer Book) is also available on Friday's at the church 9am – 2pm

Hall Building Fund:

So far we have raised approx. \$26,000.00 in the Building Fund towards a new church hall! This is from a Golf Tournament, two Christmas Fairs, and donations ☺