



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 13 April 2014

"Being the Gospel to all People"

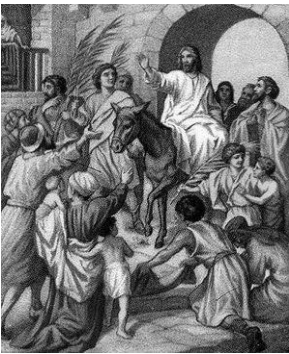
A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns.

Morning tea and is offered after the service today, so please stay and enjoy some time
with us.

Today's theme: "Palm Sunday"

Focus Scripture **Matthew 21:1-11**

Other Readings: **Psalm 118: 19-29**



Matthew 21:1–11 starts in the relative quiet of a hillside and ends in the middle of the main city of Jerusalem in shouting and a melee of palms and pilgrims. The reading is full of anticipation, drama, and contrasts. The disciples and the crowd lay down their cloaks for Jesus in a powerful gesture of adoration and self-sacrifice.

Matthew's gospel seeks to demonstrate how Jesus' life fulfills the Hebrew Scriptures. In Matthew 21:5, we hear echoes of Isaiah 62:11 and Zechariah 9:9.

Matthew 21:1-11 (NIV): Jesus' triumphal entry to Jerusalem

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

Please join us in worship on:

Maundy Thursday: 7pm in the Church on April 17th

Good Friday: 9:30 am in the Church on April 18th

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 20 April 2014

Theme: "Easter Day"

Focus Scripture: John 21:1-18,

Other Readings: Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43

Prayer Points: Please pray for: George Morrison with more recent complications from his surgery; Ray Chisholm with his illness; Dorothy Sinclair with her recovery after ankle surgery. Jeannine's uncle with cancer treatment continuing this week.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

If anyone is willing to help with the Maundy Thursday or Good Friday Service please let me know, I'd appreciate it. Thanks Lorraine

Preparing Ourselves for Easter

1 Worship Services: This year we have incorporated into Sunday worship a liturgy designed to help prepare ourselves for Easter. We move through the season of Lent with black Lenten candles and each week we have extinguished a candle so our light is slowly fading into darkness as did Jesus' life. On Good Friday the Christ candle will be extinguished as we recall Jesus death and suffering, to be relit on Easter Sunday as we celebrate the risen Christ and the transforming power of God.

The weekly liturgy offers a short time for personal reflection, followed by the extinguishing of a candle before we pray together. The Christian Education Team prays that this will be a time of blessing and spiritual renewal for you.

2 Lenten Worship Focus: At the front of the worship room is our Lenten display that is added to each week. It began with an attempting to remind us of a beach, sand, shells and drift-wood leading our eye to the deeper blue of the horizon. As Island people we do not live in deserts, in wilderness's that for instance enable us to quickly identify with Jesus desert wilderness experience or the more traditional Church Lenten language. We do have the wild expanse of the ocean, the freedom of the beach, the wave and wind scatterings along the shore... The prayerful hope is that we walk towards Easter mindful of the call of these six weeks to deliberately examine our inner self the image of the wilderness of our sea will provide a place for spiritual engagement between God and self. Coats, cloaks and palm branches are added this week to remind us of Jesus's entry into Jerusalem

Men's Group: The group is now meeting on Monday nights (7.00 – 9.00 pm) at 1/57 Mellons Bay Rd. We meet for a chat, a cup of tea or coffee, prayer and bible study. We are beginning the year with an exciting study of Book of Acts. Any new members are welcome. If you have any queries, please contact Bob Williamson, Ian Dittmer or Alan Vickers.

Website Serving Rosters Access: Website Serving Rosters Access: We have put the monthly rosters on the website: Click the "Login" link that is on the top left of the web site and

enter the username, rosters and the password john1-1. You will then see the Worship and Serving rosters under the Latest News menu item.

Trade Aid Stall: Thanks to all those who purchased items last week. Total sales were \$123. We are making a difference for many disadvantaged producers!

Mainly Music Team would like to share that Grace Corbett has stepped down from leading Mainly Music after 7 years. She has accepted part-time employment which precludes her from being available for us. We want to say THANK YOU to her – it has been a fantastic time of fun and sharing the Gospel with a pinch of worry for flavour ☺. Go well Grace and return soon please. So we have a prayer request for a new member of the MMTeam – and just maybe a new presenter please.

Real Life: This Sunday night (13th April) John Cowan's guest will be former Miss Universe and businesswoman, **Lorraine Downes**

AGE CONCERN - Money Matters, is the 3rd session in the seminar series “**Navigating the Health System**” being held on Tuesday April 15th at Howick Presbyterian Church, 11 Vincent St, Howick from 10am – 12.30pm. Staff from BNZ Security and Fraud Division will cover financial abuse and fraud amongst older people, and a speaker from Senior Services (formerly WINZ) will be covering entitlements and how to access them. Morning tea included. No cost but donations always welcome. Bookings essential – to secure your place, ring the Age Concern office on 279 4331 ext 800 or email sandya@accm.org.nz.

	This Week's Helpers (13 April)
Minister	Rev Lorraine Francis
Data Projector	Savesh John
Flowers	St Johns
H C set up	N/A
H C servers	N/A
Intercessor	Mavis Haigh
Morning Tea	Margaret Morrison, Betty Curd
Music	Youth band
Prayer ministry	Brenda Ryan
Reader	Joan Jones
Sound	Alex Francis Dittmer
Ushers	Nick & Olga Ferreira
Counting	Nick Ferreira, Peter Hancock
Welcome Desk	Dorothy Sinclair