



Weekly Newsletter
Sunday 6 April 2014

"Being the Gospel to all People"

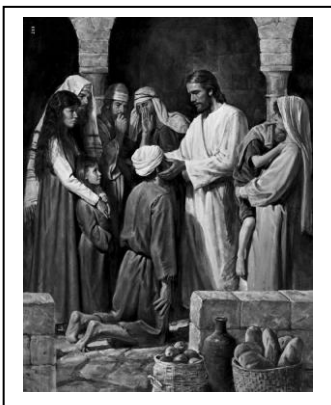
A very warm welcome is extended
to all visitors to St Johns.

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

Today's theme: "Raised up"

Focus Scripture John 11:1-45

Other Readings: Psalm 130



Martha's final words echo those of the one whose sight was restored in John 9 – that Jesus is the Messiah. Within this discussion, the ideas of Messiah and Jesus as Life and resurrection are clearly linked.

Jesus then issues three commands. Everyone has a task to do. Jesus calls Lazarus back to life, but it is the community that rolls away the stone and unbinds Lazarus from the trappings of death and releases him.

John 11:32-45 (NIV):

When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Therefore, many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.

NEXT WEEK: Sunday Worship: 13 April 2014

Theme: " Palm Sunday"

Focus Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Other Readings: Psalm: 118:1-2, 19-29

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 starting Monday.

CHURCH NOTICES AND EVENTS:

Daylight saving started today.

Preparing Ourselves for Easter

1 Worship Services: This year we have incorporated into Sunday worship during Lent and at Easter a liturgy designed to help prepare ourselves for this key time of the Christian year. We are moving through the season of Lent with lit Lenten candles but each week we are extinguishing 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. A walking stick for a blind person is added this week to remind us of the man who was given his sight by Jesus....

3 Lenten Studies: Lenten studies booklets are available for those who wish to use them for their own personal or family devotions.

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: We have put the monthly rosters on the website: Click on the "Login" link on the top left of the web site and type in the username and password. You will find the rosters under the "Latest News" menu item. Contact Jeannine for the username and password.

Our House:- This Monday 6 April from 9.30am for approximately 1 hour, followed by morning tea. Let's work on keeping our house clean together.

TRADE AID STALL OPEN THIS SUNDAY After church today, there will be a stall selling a range of Trade Aid's products including coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and dried fruits.

END OF FINANCIAL TAXATION YEAR: 31 March 2014 For those who make their "OFFERINGS" using the St John's "ENVELOPE" System, Sunday March 30 is the last Sunday to have your "OFFERING" included in the receipt total for your 2014 "ENVELOPE" donations rebate claim. For those who make their "OFFERINGS" using the "ONLINE" banking system, Monday March 31 will be the last day to have your "OFFERING" included in the receipt total for your 2014 donations rebate claim. "DONATIONS REBATE RECEIPT" It is planned that individual member receipt's for the financial year ended 31 March 2014 will be available for collection with your new year's envelopes on Sunday April 6. If anyone requires clarification, advise or assistance regarding this important event, please contact Jeannine 534 2305 or Peter Hancock 535 5355

Quiet Day On Saturday April 12 from 1 - 5pm Chris Skinner will lead us in worship, music and quiet reflection on the theme of "Christ with Us: Stepping into Holy Week" This will be an opportunity to help us prepare ourselves for Easter. Cost \$10. Signup sheet in foyer or contact Loas on 533 0670

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 (6 April) John Cowan's guest will be Greg Boyed.

State of St John's financial position at the 28/02/2014 Comments (February):

- "Free Will Offerings" for the month of February exceeded Budget by \$232.46.
- "Free Will Offerings" for the seven months [year to-date] are short of Budget by (\$7,897.66).
- As at the 28th of February we had managed to clear all outstanding invoices and to return the final \$500.00 of the \$1,000.00 borrowed from the Roof Fund at the end of December to assist with cash flow at that time.

February 2014	Actual	Budget
EXPENSES	12,117.62	16,768.00
INCOME	14,578.49	14,977.00
SURPLUS or (DEFICIT)	2,460.87	(1,791.00)

Please continue to pray for our ongoing financial situation while continuing to give thanks to our wondrously gracious LORD for the gifts that he bestows upon us here at St Johns.