



REACHING OUT

Sunday April 6, 2025

9:00 am at Emmanuel Anglican and Uniting Church

Anglican tradition led by Fr. Jacques Jefferies

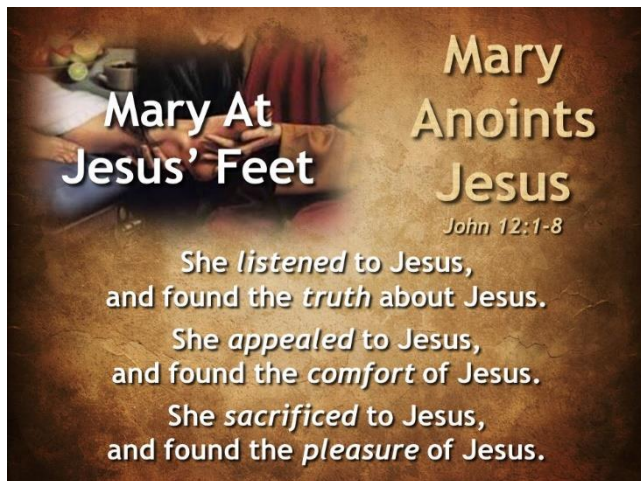
No service at Kergunyah Uniting Church

Bible Readings for Sunday April 6

Lent 5

Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 1-8

Mary Anoints Jesus



Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 'Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?' (He said this not because he cared about the

poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, 'Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.'

John 12: 1-8

Bible Readings for Sunday April 13

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Philippians 2: 5-11; Luke 19: 28-40

Praying For One Another 2025

In the Uniting Church Presbytery of North East Victoria.

Congregations in the Presbytery are called to pray for one another each time they meet. By naming each other in prayer we enhance our pastoral support with each other, in God's company. This invitation builds our faith linkages every year. This week we pray for the congregations of **Numurkah** and **Nathalia-Picola** beginning Sunday, April 6.

Coming Events

Wed April 9, 8:30am

10:30am

Fri April 11, 9:30am

Grounds and Maintenance

Morning Tea and Fellowship

Craft group meets at Emmanuel

Food Relief Assistance

The Felltimber Community Centre has passed on their thanks for the food relief program of donated nonperishable food items such as pasta, rice, tinned tomatoes, any type of soup or pasta sauce. These items can be placed in the basket at the rear of the church on Sunday and will be collected each Wednesday with vegetable garden produce. This will help in some small way to assist those needing food relief.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME

Rev Leonie Findlay

PRAYER

Lord, during this Lenten journey we hear the challenge to all of us who would follow you to take up our cross and follow you.

While we might hear your words Lord, part of us pretends we have not heard your voice or what it means. Forgive us Lord, for our arrogance, as deep down we know what that call means. While we might sense the cost; we struggle with the potential consequences.

Lord, give us the humility and grace, to follow you in obedience and truth.

Thank you for the promise that as we travel this path, no matter how challenging it may prove to be, you will be our companion along the way.

In the name of Christ, we pray.

AMEN

A REFLECTION

Many would suggest that the Lenten season is a time of 'giving away or laying aside.'

However, scripture tells us that it is a time of taking up.

In Mark 8: 34- 38 Jesus says to those following him that to be a true follower they are required to '**take up your cross and follow him**'.

To those who heard Jesus and to those who have heard him ever since, this is truly a shocking challenge. In our present experience the cross has been sterilised. It is no longer a symbol of rejection, humiliation, suffering and death. Rather it is an ornament worn around the neck or occupying an altar. Many times, it stands proudly on the spire of a church.

At the time Jesus walked this earth the cross was a form of suffering and execution used primarily for the worst of the worst criminals, those who society totally rejected and wished dead.

As Jesus made his way to Jerusalem and ultimately to his death, he had an occasion to challenge those who heard him with the reality of what being a follower or disciple would mean.

While we are not able to speak for all those who followed him, it was only after his death, resurrection and the visitation of the Holy Spirit, that his disciples truly understood what the cross meant. Indeed, many of them experienced such a death.

But what about you and I?

For each of us, the challenge of the cross will be different and even individual. Whatever it maybe it will have one thing in common. The cross is costly. To pick up and carry our cross requires the gift of grace that only God can give. The gift we need and is available to us is costly, costly grace.

Knowing this why do we look for grace that is cheap?

There was a time when appliances, furniture and other such things were built to last.

The carpenter took great pride in his handiwork.

But things have changed, and goods are now made with a finite life expectancy.

Many want to experience an ongoing encounter with God while not being prepared to pay any price.

Yes, Jesus paid the price, and we can live in the freedom that this affords us.

However, there is still a requirement that we take up and carry our cross.

BLESSING



May the Christ who died for us enable us to carry our cross as he carried his.

May the Christ who died for us help us to die to self so that we may live for him and those around us.

May the Christ who walks with us show us how to walk with others.
In Jesus name.

AMEN

Emmanuel Roster

April 6

Elder on Duty: Rod Clutterbuck
Reader: Ted Stabb
Prayers: Carol Harris
Early Word: Carol Harris

TV Screen: Harold Cover
Usher: Ted Stabb
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

April 13

Elder on Duty: Carol Harris
Reader: Rod Clutterbuck
Prayers: Carol Harris
Early Word: Carol Clutterbuck

TV Screen: Ted Stabb
Usher: Ted Stabb
Organist: LouAnne Stabb

Ministers of the Word & Other Contacts

UCA: Rev. Leonie Findlay
0419 990 358
lfindlay03@bigpond.com

Anglican: Fr Jacques Jefferies
02 6024 2129 or 0434 063 069
stjohnsw@bigpond.net.au
[weekly RDO: Friday]

Emmanuel Pastoral Care: speak with an Elder or Warden
Emmanuel Prayer Chain: give requests to Betty Saggars on 0427 761 044
Address: PO Box 435, Wodonga 3689
Reaching Out: Items to Harold Cover 02 6024 7929 hcover@bigpond.com
or LouAnne Stabb 0419 644 769 stabb@iinet.net.au by Wednesday.

Lenten Studies

Presbytery North East Victoria Lent Studies - Live Lent together

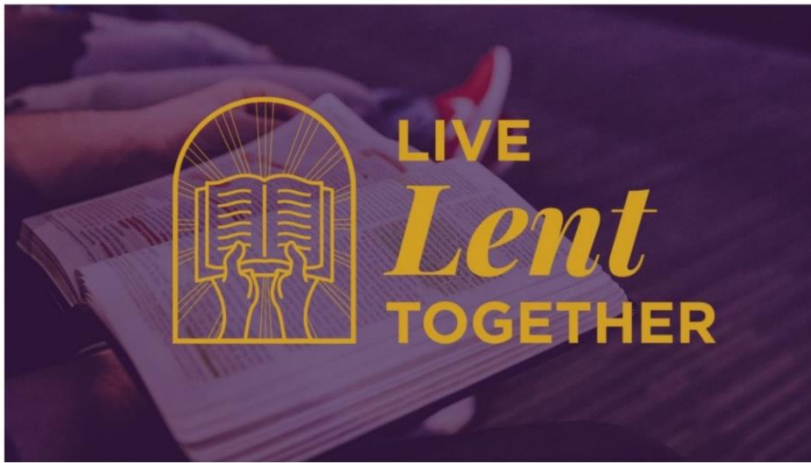
We thought it would be good to have some Lent studies this year. We are only doing four studies, so it is not too heavy a commitment. The studies will be run on Zoom as in the past. You can join from home or get a group together. We will break into groups (either virtual or the groups who have gathered) and look at the Lent readings from the following Sunday. The attached pamphlet gives more information. Please promote to your congregations, and we look forward to seeing you. PNEV is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82707917123?pwd%3D%3DKsEuLGaC4AevavEvk6bPaGBcl4Aakr.1&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw2hwltJ_kaF3w8lm5-zle9r

Meeting ID: 827 0791 7123

Passcode: 156301



Presbytery of North East Victoria
The Body of Christ from across the region, meeting to worship, pray, study, learn and do business.

**Bible studies based on
Lent readings
Studies offered by Zoom
Join from home or gather
with others**

Being Fruitful - Tuesday 18th March 2pm or Wednesday 19th March 7:30pm
Being Found - Tuesday 25th March 2pm or Wednesday 26th March 7:30pm
Being Faithful - Tuesday 1st April 2pm or Wednesday 2nd April 7:30pm
Being Fulfilled - Tuesday 8th April 2pm or Wednesday 9th April 7:30pm

Questions to Scott Leslie scottuniting@gmail.com or 0403 756 724

**Tuesday afternoons at 2pm
or
Wednesday evenings at 7:30
(the same study offered
twice at different times)**

Prayer of the Week

World Council of Churches

The Balkans - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia



3 June 2018, Novi Sad, Serbia: Sunday service in the Eastern Orthodox Cathedral Church of the Holy Great Martyr George. On 31 May - 6 June 2018, in Novi Sad, Serbia, the Serbian Orthodox Church was as one of the host churches of the Conference of European Churches General Assembly. Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

We give thanks for:

- the rich legacies that this area has long embodied
- those who kept both the people and their faith alive during years of repression
- those pursuing peace and reconciliation between the different ethnic and religious groups
- the resurgence of the ecumenical witness of churches in recent years.

We pray for:

- a continual healing of historic memories and pains that have been mutually inflicted
- those who continue to experience marginalization and injustice, especially the Roma
- religion to be a means of healing rather than of further separation and exploitation
- the nurturing and sustaining of pluralistic societies in the Balkans