

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

*This week Morning & Evening Prayer will be prayed in the Chapel*

**Monday to Friday**  
8.30am and 5pm respectively.

### MONDAY 11 May

**6.30pm** Old Vicarage Working Group meets in Dempster Room

### TUESDAY 12 May

**11.00am** Eucharist at Shenley Manor  
**12 noon** Eucharist in the Chapel  
**12.35pm** Staff meeting—Dempster Room  
**3.15pm** Liturgy Meeting  
**8.00pm** Illawarra Study Group at Keith's home

### WEDNESDAY 13 May

**9.30am** Little Seeds Playgroup  
**11.30am** Eucharist in the Chapel followed by BYO lunch in Dempster Room  
**7.00pm** Eucharist  
**7.30pm** Parish Council meets in Dempster Room

### THURSDAY 14 May—Ascension Day

**6.30pm** Eucharist in the Chapel followed by a meal out for those who wish.

### SATURDAY 16 May

**7.00pm** Indonesian Band Practice

## NEXT SUNDAY - 17 May 2015

### Easter 7

*Acts 1. 15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1;  
1 John 5.9-13; John 17. 6-19.*

**8am EUCHARIST**  
**Presider:** Helen Creed  
**Preacher:** Helen Creed  
**Readers:** Graham & Elisabeth Pratt  
**Intercessor:** Keith Dempster  
**Server:** Geoff Vincent  
**Euch. Asst.** Graham Pratt

### 10am SUNG EUCHARIST with Holy Baptism

**Presider:** Helen Creed  
**Preacher:** Helen Creed  
**Deacon:** Kuncoro Rusman  
**Sub-Deacon:** John Manton  
**Reader:** Wendy Way  
**Intercessor:** Barbara Fary  
**Servers:** Neicia Shaw (MC)  
James Moorhouse, Geoff Vincent,  
Sue Banting  
**Euch. Assts.** Sub-Deacon, Keith Dempster  
**Kidz@Church:** Clare Tomasov, Verona Lea

### 11.30am Open Forum

### 12 noon Regina Coeli

### 3.00pm INDONESIAN CONGREGATION -Kuncoro Rusman

### 6.00pm CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE—Keith Dempster



# CONTACT

## ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, CAMBERWELL Sixth Sunday of Easter—10 May 2015

My Dear Friends,

Once upon a time, we humans knew that life was ruled by the gods. (That makes us smile, we reckon we're so 'advanced' now.) You could please the gods with various sacrifices. But the gods were famously contrary, prone to outbursts of rage, or lust – as though they were themselves driven by invisible, irrational forces. It was all pretty tricky.

A bit later on, we got more sophisticated. We developed a kind of treaty, to make commerce between us and the gods more manageable. Even so, the gods were still capricious - and demanding. Living with the wild swings between being swept off our feet and being blasted in wrath was a bit like living with an abusive husband – the 'covenant' seemed impossible.

A bit later still, someone got the idea that this was because we were a rotten lot from the outset, having committed such a grave crime. No matter how hard we tried, we could never appease the god. The god, recognising how vile and helpless we were, came up with a fail-safe plan. Since our crime was so huge, and since none of us was capable of taking the necessary punishment, why not send a substitute who could cop it all for us - the 'only son'. The technical name is 'penal substitutionary atonement'.

It seemed like a good idea – probably was at the time – seemingly 'solving' some big questions. But there were consequences. When we humans are persuaded that we are fundamentally bad, that fosters an inflated sense of our power, a negative power which justifies some very nasty behaviours. And when we are persuaded that someone else has 'paid the price for all', that lets us off the hook of having to take real responsibility for ourselves. And when we are persuaded that we are special because of this bloody transaction, this can make us arrogant. And the god of such commerce is in fact a bloodthirsty child abuser.

Well, it was bound to happen, sooner or later, that people would become conscious enough to realise that this was morally questionable commerce, less than human. Many thus confidently concluded that the gods must be dead. Though as it turns out, the same energies previously invested in the old gods simply got transferred to all the modern 'isms', which now exercise the same arbitrary and brutal powers. And the 'death of God' did not stop the tide of bloody sacrifice – either by gun or by 'market forces'.

So we're between times. The old image of God no longer works. We have to find a new image. And though many may imagine we construct our own selves, in fact there is one who calls us into being - who calls us to abide in love, to love one another, who appoints us to bear fruit.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! David

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## THE SERVICE TODAY

**WELCOME! SELAMAT DATANG! WOMINJEKA!** We are glad to have you join us in the sacred liturgy. With generations of Christ's followers we are all welcomed around the banquet table of the Word made flesh—regardless of gender, race, colour, sexual orientation, social status or any other distinction. And you are warmly invited to join us for morning tea in the Rutherford Room following the 10am liturgy, and for an evening meal following the 3pm liturgy.

### 8.00am Eucharist

Presider: David Moore  
Preacher: David Moore  
Reader: Penny Galbraith  
Intercessor: Peter Forwood  
Server: Hans Ferdinands  
Euch. Assts. Penny Galbraith

### 9.00am Breakfast

### 10.00am Sung Eucharist

Presider: David Moore  
Preacher: David Moore  
Deacon: Kuncoro Rusman  
Sub-Deacon: John Manton  
Readers: Verona Lea  
Geoff Vincent  
Intercessor: Noela Manton  
Cantor: Judy Moore  
Servers: Geoff Vincent (MC)  
Robin Carter  
Alison Asquith  
Neil Nyholm  
Euch. Asst: Sub-Deacon, Neil Nyholm  
Kidz@Church: Andrew Porter, Georgina Porter

### 12 noon Regina Coeli

### 3.00pm Indonesian Eucharist

David Moore, Kuncoro Rusman

### 6.00pm Contemplative Service—

Keith Dempster

### Readings for the Day

*Acts 10.44-48; Psalm 98;  
1 John 5.1-12; John 15. 9-17*

**MIDWEEK PRAYER:** Our prayer life and spiritual vitality are greatly enhanced, and supported and strengthened, when we participate in the daily prayer of the church. Work and family commitments, and Melbourne traffic, may well prevent us from being able to participate, physically, with our faith community at St John's - but all of us can establish a practice of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer, or Compline, at home. The parish Journal of Prayer offers suggestions, and provides the daily Eucharistic Gospel reading. These daily 'offices' of prayer are one of the Anglican Church's great treasures, found in A Prayer Book for Australia. When it is possible to join with the community at prayer this is much to be recommended. Every weekday (public holidays excepted) your parish community offers Morning Prayer at 8.30am, and Evening Prayer at 5pm. Eucharists are offered every week on Tuesdays at Noon and Wednesday at 11.30am, on the first Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm, and the second Wednesday at 7pm. All are welcome! Perhaps you might find it possible to build at least one such opportunity into your week, or month even?

**SILENT RETREAT—QUEENSCLIFF—**  
Sunday 21 to Wednesday 24 June 2015—  
Accommodation at Whitehall Guest House;  
Sacred Space: St George's Church Queenscliff;  
Retreat Leader: The Revd Peter Martin, (Vicar,  
Anglican Parish, Borough of Queenscliff). Cost:  
Retreat, catering and accommodation (3 nights)  
\$300. Contact Parish Office 03 5258 4624 or  
paroff11@tpg.com.au. Registration closes 15  
June.

**THANK YOU** to all who assisted with Cake and Preserves Stall yesterday, Particular thanks to Diana and her team.

**ASCENSION EUCHARIST: Thursday 14 May—6.30pm.** Some may wish to enjoy a meal out together after the Eucharist.

**OCCASIONAL DINNER** arranged by the Men's Group for ALL parishioners. Our speaker is Dr Hugh O'Neill - architect and frequent visitor to Indonesia since living there as a volunteer many years ago - will discuss "Indonesia in the Twentieth Century". Our experiences in Australia in the last century are vastly different to those of Indonesia. The Dinner is on **Wednesday 20 May** at 6.30pm for 7pm. **Please reply by Friday 15 May**—list on noticeboard at back of church or email the office.

**ASYLUM SEEKER AND REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP.** There will be a meeting of the Group on Sunday 24 May at 11.30am in the Dempster room.

**REFUGEES: A PARISH CONVERSATION:** The Revd Dr Stephen Burns, of Trinity College Theological School, will lead a parish conversation on the topic of refugees on Sunday 14 June at 11.45am. Dr Burns has written a 'Grove' booklet on this topic - we will endeavour to obtain copies.

**NEPAL EARTHQUAKE APPEAL:** Anglican Overseas Aid is responding quickly to support efforts to help people affected by the Nepal earthquake. Your donations will help ACT Alliance partners in Nepal provide immediate emergency support including shelter, water, food, medical support and psycho-social activities. To donate: <http://anglicanoverseasaid.org.au/our-work/current-emergencies/nepal-earthquake-appeal> or via donations form at the back of the church.

**YEAR'S MIND:** We remember before God, Henry Jowett, Phyllis Wedlick, William Lambert, Edna Thompson, George (Bill) Alenson, George Oakenfull, William Jardine, Lois Branch, and Ida Ng, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**PARISH CENTRE BOOKINGS:** We need someone who is willing to take on the task of looking after our Parish Centre bookings. This involves taking and managing the various enquiries we receive, as well as managing the diary and liaising with outside user groups. Enquiries to the Vicar. Dawn Harvey has been undertaking this task for some years, and will be very happy to explain the role.

## FUTURE DATES

**Ascension Day Eucharist 14 May—**  
6.30pm . Some may wish to enjoy a meal out together after the Eucharist.

**Occasional Dinner—20 May—6.30pm** for 7pm. Speaker: Dr Hugh O'Neill. Please reply by 15 May. (See notice on this page.)

**Day of Pentecost—24 May—10am Family Eucharist. Wear something red !**

**Asylum Seeker & Refugee Support Group** meets Sunday 24 May at 11.30am.

**Refugees: A Parish Conversation—**  
**Sunday 14 June** at 11.45am in the Rutherford Room Speaker: The Revd. Dr Stephen Burns of Trinity College Theological School.