

Dear Beloved,

May you all have a very blessed week leading up to Easter and I hope I'll see all of you sometime in the next week.

Blessings

Wendy

Parish AGM Today followed by picnic at Norris Park

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Palm Sunday Picnic Today 12.00 - 2.00

After AGM at Norris Park. BYO drinks and chairs

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Easter Services at Cooma

6th April 8 pm Maundy Thursday

7th April 10.00 am Good Friday

9th April 10.00 am Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday Adaminaby

Sunday 9th April 3.00 pm

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Combined Easter Services

Saturday 8th April 11 am Jerangle

Saturday 8th April 3pm Bredbo

Saturday 8th April 5.30pm Nimmitabel

Sunday 9th April 11.30am Numeralla

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Morning Tea after the Service in Cooma On 2nd and 4th Sundays
please volunteer for the roster.

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Autumn Open Garden Day 16th April

Please pot plants up now and

give Nella any donations towards cost of the raffle prize and other expenses

Tickets are on sale at the Fabric Salon

Cakes, slices or sandwiches are needed for the Garden day

Please speak to Sarah Wall at church or ring 6452 1618 and leave a message if you can provide a plate of food.

Food can be delivered to the church hall on the morning of the 16th April.

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Midweek Services every Wednesday at 9:30

all Welcome

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Please volunteer for the roster, well in advance.

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Prayer and Praise

Wendy

Edith and Colin Mayhew

--

Glenn Fletcher .. for his recovery

our wardens and Parish Councillors

--

Bernie and Gayle as they grieve for Bernie's Mum

--

Scott's wife Jennie.

Jenni Roberts

in Yallambie.

--

Liz Pirie

Leanne Lowery

Mary Mitchell

--

Peter & Julie Harris from Bredbo

all congregations in Nimmitabel

--

The New Catholic priest

Father Mark Croker

as he ministers from Bombala

through to the mountains

--

for each other

that we may be

salt and light

in this community

--

People everywhere

who are living

through war or disasters

of every kind.

2 April 2023

Hymn TIS 333 All glory Praise and honour

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

Sentence

At the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2.10–11

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer of the Day

God of all, you gave your only begotten Son to take the form of a servant, and to be obedient even to death on a cross: give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus that, sharing in his humility, we may come to be with him in his glory, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 50.4-9a

⁴ The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. ⁵ The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away. ⁶ I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷ Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. ⁸ He who vindicates me is near. Who then will bring charges against me? Let us face each other! Who is my accuser? Let him confront me! ⁹ It is the Sovereign Lord who helps me. Who will condemn me? They will all wear out like a garment; the moths will eat them up.

Psalms 31.9-18

⁹ Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble: my eye wastes away for grief, my throat also and my inward parts.

¹⁰ For my life wears out in sorrow, and my years with sighing: my strength fails me in my affliction, and my bones are consumed.

¹¹ I am become the scorn of all my enemies: and my neighbours wag their heads in derision.

¹² I am a thing of horror to my friends: and those that see me in the street shrink from me.

¹³ I am forgotten like one dead and out of mind: I have become like a broken vessel.

¹⁴ For I hear the whispering of many: and fear is on every side;

¹⁵ While they plot together against me: and scheme to take away my life.

¹⁶ But in you, Lord, have I put my trust: I have said 'You are my God.'

¹⁷ All my days are in your hand: O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors.

¹⁸ Make your face to shine upon your servant: and save me for your mercy's sake.

Philippians 2.5-11

⁵ In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: ⁶ who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matthew 26.14–35

¹⁴ Then one of the Twelve – the one called Judas Iscariot – went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and asked, ‘What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?’ So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

¹⁷ On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, ‘Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?’ ¹⁸ He replied, ‘Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, “The Teacher says: my appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.”’ ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When evening came, Jesus was reclining at the table with the Twelve. ²¹ And while they were eating, he said, ‘Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.’ ²² They were very sad and began to say to him one after the other, ‘Surely you don’t mean me, Lord?’ ²³ Jesus replied, ‘The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born.’

²⁵ Then Judas, the one who would betray him, said, ‘Surely you don’t mean me, Rabbi?’ Jesus answered, ‘You have said so.’

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you. ²⁹ I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.’

³⁰ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus told them, ‘This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.”’ ³² But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.’

³³ Peter replied, ‘Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.’ ³⁴ ‘Truly I tell you,’ Jesus answered, ‘this very night, before the cock crows, you will disown me three times.’ ³⁵ But Peter declared, ‘Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.’ And all the other disciples said the same.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

Response Jesus, Son of David, let us follow in your way. Let us walk with you to Jerusalem

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Jesus said: Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matthew 11.28

Prayer of Approach [Let us pray.]

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Invitation to Confession

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.** The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn TIS 348 Ride on

OFFERTORY

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Loving God, we thank you for this world of wonder and delight. You have given it to us to care for, so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty. Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that when we turned away from you, you sent Jesus to live and work as one of us, and bring us back to you.

He showed us how to love you and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that as he approached Jerusalem.

Jesus accepted the praise of the people. And trusted you with his life.

He personified faith in you, And showed us how to live, in humility and grace.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away our sin, all that keeps us from each other and from you.

He frees us from hate and fear, from all that destroys love and trust.

Lord our God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who believes in you, with all the saints and angels, we rejoice and praise you, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood. On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, 'Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said,

'This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread. The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen

Prayer after Communion

God our help and strength,
through these holy mysteries
confirm our faith

that by the death and resurrection of your Son
we may walk in the way of salvation.

God our help and strength, through these holy mysteries confirm our faith that by the death and resurrection of your Son we may walk in the way of salvation.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

Hymn TIS 351 Lift high the cross

Blessing

Grant, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen**



So here we are at Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday, but our readings are definitely Passion Sunday. In fact, the set Gospel for today is the whole Easter story as told by Matthew: from Judas deciding to betray Jesus, Passover, the Garden, the betrayal, the arrest, trial, Peter's denial, the crucifixion, through 'my God my God why have you forsaken me', to his death, the curtain being torn in two, an earthquake, people coming out of their graves and "the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'".

Then the women watching, Joseph asking for the body and placing it in the tomb through to Pilate ordering that the tomb be guarded. Plus, a lot that I have left out. I decided to spare you the whole reading as we will have much of it next week so today, we just read Judas' decision and the Passover.



Jesus entered Jerusalem from Bethany where he had lately raised Lazarus from the dead and all those people who had seen him do it and all those people who they had told, rejoiced and cried 'Hosanna to the King.' Jesus let them, he rode the donkey on purpose, he let the people have their day. The authorities were not pleased. Jesus went to the temple, turned over the tables of the money changers. The authorities were not pleased.

Jesus preached day after day in the temple, lots of parables against the authorities. The authorities were not pleased. Jesus went to dinner with ordinary people, with sinners, he allowed a woman (Mary, Lazarus' sister) to waste money on expensive perfume and wipe his feet with her hair (very shameful). Neither the authorities nor Judas were pleased.



Judas liked money, he carried the common purse for Jesus and the disciples and sometimes helped himself. This woman spent all that money that could have gone into the common purse, was he really worrying about the poor? That money was gone, he decided he could replace it by betraying Jesus. Judas went to the authorities, and they came to a mutually satisfying arrangement.

It wasn't just about the money, it may also have been angry disappointment at the fact that Jesus, having caused such a stir in Jerusalem, was now talking again about his death, instead of planning the great moment when he would take over Jerusalem and become King. Maybe Judas had been cherishing all sorts of plans for what he would do when the kingdom came. Who really knows Judas' motives, we certainly don't and peering down that murky well for too long might reflect back things we really don't want to see.



So, the disciples prepare the passover. The last supper is usually depicted with Jesus and the twelve apostles seated at a long table, but this is historically inaccurate. Passover was celebrated at a u-shaped table with all the participants reclining on benches around the table. It was always a family affair so all the disciples, the men, women and children who travelled with Jesus, would have been involved. For the Jews this was the highlight of the year better even than our Christmas dinner. A wonderful feast with a prescribed script in which they remembered their ancestors being rescued from slavery in Egypt.



Jesus is of course the leader; The sorrow of his approaching ordeal was overlaid with the sorrow of betrayal. All this, which is so strange to many in the modern world, would have been second nature to the disciples but as Jesus lead them in the familiar ritual he drew the meaning of the whole meal on to himself. He offered a new direction thought which for those who followed him and came to believe in him, took passover in quite a new direction, which has continued to this day.

When we say that Jesus died for our sins we don't just mean that in some high flown abstract sense. We mean that what put him on the cross was precisely the sins that we not only commit but wallow in. "It isn't me, is it master?" Only when you've said that it might well be you, can you appreciate what it meant for Jesus to sit at that table with them, with Judas too. Or what it means that he has promised to share his feast with us as well.



The heart of the matter is reasonably straightforward, though none the less breathtaking. Jesus was drawing into one event centuries or more of Jewish celebrations. The Jews had believed for some time that the original Exodus pointed to a new one, in which God would do at last what he had long promised; he would forgive the sins of Israel and the world, once and for all. Sin, a far greater slave master than Egypt had ever been, would be defeated in the way God defeated not only Egypt but the Red Sea. And now Jesus, sitting there at this Passover was saying, by what he was doing as much as by the words he was speaking: this is the moment. This is the time and its all because of what is going to happen to him.

Jesus actions at the last supper was, the equivalent in symbolic action of those sayings about the son of man being handed over, and giving his life as a ransom for many. Identifying the bread and the wine with his body (about to be broken and spilled in death) and inviting his followers to share it and find in it: the gift of forgiveness of sins, of new life, of God's kingdom has given this action a power beyond words. A power to touch and heal messy lives and tell the world.



This meal points back to Christ's life on earth when he made God's openness and acceptance real by eating with sinners. His love is shown in the miraculous meals shared with all.

This meal points forward to its fulfilment in the kingdom of God. It anticipates the joy of the Messianic banquet, but also pointing to Jesus time in the life of the church, which celebrates the messianic feast and the kingdom of God by anticipation. Every communion is a promise of the final victory.



This meal points inwards as call to self-examination. We must ask 'Is it I, Lord' every time we come. Every communion is a time of soul-searching and rededication.

This meal points upward, to the heavenly realm where the risen and exalted Christ is enthroned. The symbols of the body and blood point beyond themselves to the time when Christ will come again.

The meal points outward to the whole church and the world. This meal is shared with all believers and gives us the faith to carry Jesus message beyond our fellowship.



After the meal they sing a hymn and go to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus reveals that the rest of the disciples will also desert him. Jesus was like a man walking in a nightmare. He knew they would all desert him. He could see the cup as though it was right before his eyes. Not the cup he had spoken about and given them to drink, at the Last Supper. This was the cup he had mentioned to James and John, the cup the prophets had spoken of. The cup of God's wrath. The cup he had come into the world to drink.



He didn't want to drink it. He badly didn't want to. He had looked into the darkness and seen the abyss. Jesus knew the scriptures and perhaps our readings from the Old Testament comforted him as he prayed: I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. ⁷ Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame. From Isaiah and the Psalm: ⁹ Have mercy upon me, O Lord, for I am in trouble: my eye wastes away for grief, my throat also and my inward parts. ¹⁴ For I hear the whispering of many: and fear is on every side; ¹⁵ While they plot together against me: and scheme to take away my life. ¹⁶ But in you, Lord, have I put my trust: I have said 'You are my God.' ¹⁷ All my days are in your hand: O deliver me from the power of my enemies and from my persecutors. ¹⁸ Make your face to shine upon your servant: and save me for your mercy's sake.

He begged his father not to bring him to the point of going through it, but he also knew that he had to go through. He accepted his Father's will.

In these last few days before we celebrate Easter let us examine ourselves and bring ourselves to worship him who loves us so much.