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WATCH SPECIALISTS &
JEWELLERS**St. John's Parish Messenger**

Monthly News from the Mother Church of Launceston, Tasmania

No. 235

APRIL, 1971

Rector:

Rev. Hugh Girvan, S.B., St.J., Th.L., Dip. C.C.A.C.
Phone 2 3186

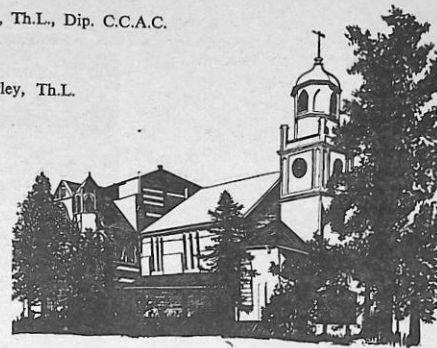
Assistant Priest:

The Reverend Graham Thurley, Th.L.
Phone 31 4896

Parish Sister:

Miss Jenny Shaw, Th.L.

Organist:

Mr. Lindsay O'Neill,
F.R.C.O. (Ch.M.), A.R.C.M.
Phone 31 2998**FROM THE RECTOR**

Dear Friends of St. John's,

You will read these lines as we begin again to seriously consider the meaning of the Easter Season.

What a thrilling time it is, if we come to it year by year, as Christians should, seeking to enter anew into the wonder and joy and the power of it all.

Easter, of course, is a paradox. The tomb was empty, the "Body" of Jesus was therefore crucially involved in His Resurrection. Yet, in the Gospel narratives we find him appearing in different places at the same time, passing in and out of closed doors, and finally disappearing forever from the earthly gaze of His disciples. Here, then, is a non-bodily Presence which is yet so real that it cannot be described in other than bodily terms.

He is a bold man indeed who is entirely dogmatic over what exactly happened at the first Easter. But this we KNOW—that over Him who offered Himself in perfect obedience to the will of God death had no dominion, sin had no claim on Him, evil never got the best of Him, suffering never soured Him, and, in the end, death could not possibly hold Him.

Easter says that He is alive—alive for example, in the way that electricity and energy are alive, only infinitely more so.

Easter says too, of ourselves, that when we look only inward and are self-engrossed, we die. But when we love, forget ourselves, lose ourself, we live.

Easter says that when we are helpless and cannot measure up, there is Someone greater than ourself who helps us. As St. Paul expressed it, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Easter says that time cannot take away the things that are most precious to us, that in a holy mystery God is the beginning and end of all things—and in the midst of this life which involves so much suffering as well as joy, there is the One who came and lived among us, died for us, and now lives in us.

For as St. Paul states "the truth is that Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised." Thanks be to God.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH GIRVAN.



Happenings

Notice the Rector will be the speaker on the A.B.C.'s "By The Way" at 10 a.m. on 5th, 6th and 8th April.

* * *

Am told Joy Piper (Le-Fevre) and her husband Charles caught lots of fish on their honeymoon. Yes, they bought them at the local "cish and fips". Charles caught them, Joy threw them to him.

* * *

Lots more young girls offering for the choir. I hear the attraction is the "dolly" which Lindsay O'Neill is still carrying.

* * *

Our Wednesday discussions have been a tonic for those attending. Our leader Dr. Victor Pippett certainly knows the right medicine.

* * *

Congratulations are in order for the Tom Whites on the addition to their family. A very beautiful daughter-in-law, Robyn, by name, who captured the heart of their son, Peter. They were married in St. John's on 27th March.

* * *

Recent visitor Peter Jones, who first came to St. John's when his father arrived from England to rebuild the organ, was delighted to be able to show his English bride Margaret the Visitors' Book entry of 10/8/1960, made when the Jones family arrived in Launceston. Peter later sang in St. John's Choir and is now a Youth leader in his parish in Sydney.

* * *

The Max Easthers are spending five weeks holiday in Victoria. Last year Max drove his daughter's car around Melbourne, but this time he has taken his own chariot. I hear he hopes the Tassie plates will help when he mixes it with the mainland traffic.

* * *

High praise from Mums when they tasted what was left of their Mothering Sunday Simnel Cake. Not to be wondered at really. The Chef was Bob Williams.

* * *

One of our golfing clergy, badly beaten by an elderly parishioner became rather depressed. "Cheer up," said the parishioner, "Remember, you win eventually. You'll be burying me someday."

"Yes," said the Rector. "But even then it'll be your hole."

Elizabeth Street

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

- 3 Saturday, 7.30 p.m. Youth Group.
- 4 **Palm Sunday**, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Holy Communion. Sunday School children will attend and then leave for their lesson in Sunday School. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 5 Monday, 2.45 p.m. St. Luke's Hospital Auxiliary. 7.30 p.m. Order of St. Luke.
- 7 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 8 Maundy Thursday, 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
- 9 **Good Friday**, 8 a.m. Litany and Ante-Communion. 10 a.m. Family Service. 12 noon - 3 p.m. Three Hours Devotion. 7.0 p.m. United Service.
- 10 Eastern Even.
- 11 **Easter Day**, 7 a.m. Holy Communion, 8 a.m. Holy Communion (Choral). 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 13 Tuesday, 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
- 14 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 18 **Easter I**, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Holy Communion. Sunday School. 7 p.m. Evensong. 8.15 Youth Group "Coffee Shop".
- 20 Tuesday, 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
- 21 Wednesday, 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 23 Friday, 8 p.m. Rural Decanal Conference.
- 25 **St. Mark—Easter II**, 8 a.m. Holy Communion, 10 a.m. Family Service.
- 27 Tuesday, 7.45 p.m. Townsend G.F.S.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY—
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

GOOD FRIDAY—
8.00 a.m. Litany and Ante-Communion.
10.00 a.m. Family Service
12 noon - 3 p.m. Three Hours Devotion
7.00 p.m. United Service

EASTER DAY—
7.00 a.m. Holy Communion
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (Choral)
10.00 a.m. Holy Communion
7.00 p.m. Evensong

Communion for those confined to home or hospital will gladly be arranged upon request to the Rector.

CHURCH FLOWER ROSTER

18th April - 6th June, 1971

EASTER DAY—Any ladies in the Parish who could give some time on Easter Even in preparation for the Easter Festival your help will be greatly appreciated. If you are unable to give time and have flowers these too will be a great help, they could be left at the Church or if you would like someone to collect them please let us know at the Rectory and we will arrange this.

Church

18th April—Mrs. White
25th April—Mrs. Watson
2nd May—Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Easter Jnr
9th May—Mrs. Cornish
16th May—Mrs. Robinson.
23rd May—Mrs. Targett
30th—Mrs. Easter Snr.
6th June—Mrs. Page

Chapel

18th April—Mrs. Crawford
25th April—Mrs. Girvan
2nd May—Mrs. Smith
9th May—Mrs. Greuber
16th May—Mrs. Thompson
23rd May—Mrs. Watson Jnr.
30th May—Mrs. Higgins.
6th June—Mrs. Deavin.

Please keep this list for reference.

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild held their first meeting for the year on 9th March in St. John's Hall, after first attending a service in Church. It was a most successful meeting with a year's syllabus planned, 'action' being the keynote.

One of the first jobs for the year was to replace the worn out vacuum cleaner in the Church with a new industrial type Nilfisk. This was made possible by the President, Mrs. White, and her marvellous helpers supplying morning and afternoon tea during the Labour Party Conference which was held here recently, and raised over \$200.

Our thanks to Mrs. Page for offering to treat some beech leaves for use in the church during the winter months when flowers are scarce.

The next meeting will be held on 15th April, at the home of Mrs. White, 16 Wyett St.

DO WE KNOW THAT JESUS REALLY LIVED?

Apart from the historical books of the New Testament, there is a small but significant body of independent evidence. Tacitus, the historian, writing of the period of Nero has this to say: "Nero . . . punished . . . a class . . . who are commonly called Christians. Christ, from whom their name is derived, was executed at the hands of the procurator Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius . . ."

There are several other examples of near-contemporary, or first century writers, in which early Christianity is commented on (the letters of Pliny and Trajan are good examples) by pagans. They take the historical existence of our Lord for granted, and since they were in many cases hostile to Christianity, it would have been to their advantage to have demonstrated that its founder was a figment of the imagination, and they could've done so, far more easily then than at any time since. The question then, as now, was not "did Jesus really live?", but "What does his life mean?"

POSTAGE STAMPS

YOU CAN HELP BUILD UMBAKUMBA CHURCH WITH YOUR USED POSTAGE STAMPS...

Umbakumba is on Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

A Church building is needed on Umbakumba where the Aboriginal people can worship.

The stamps you bring to St. John's will be washed and sorted and then auctioned. The money from the stamps goes towards the building of the Umbakumba Church.

PLEASE HELP WITH THIS PROJECT.

ST. JOHN'S AUXILIARY TO ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday, 5th April, at 2.45 p.m. Afternoon tea hostesses: Mrs. Gardener and Mrs. Swinerton.

Many thanks to our Button Sellers on "Hospital Button Day", the sum of \$138.00 was received — this was excellent — we do appreciate the willing help of these ladies.

On Mothering Sunday members made and distributed posies to hospital patients.

Members please note that our meeting has been advanced one week on account of Easter.

MOTHERS' UNION

The next meeting of Mothers' Union will be held on Tuesday, 20th April, commencing with a service in the Chapel at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Piper will conduct a Creche on 4th April at the 10 a.m. service.

Supper hostesses—Mesdames Clark, Watson Snr. and Piper.

Office-bearers as from last month's Annual Meeting are: President — Mrs. A. Roberts, Secretary—Mrs. N. Ayers; Treasurer—Mrs. L. Watson.

PARISH MESSENGER

Donations to the Parish Messenger help us to defray the cost of printing, postage and distribution together with the "Church News". Donations may be given to the Clergy or Church Wardens.

The following donations have been received: Mesdames Bush \$1.00, A. R. Hammond \$1.00, F. Cox \$2.00, E. Rule \$1.00, Donaldson \$1.00, Miss Bennett \$2.00, Messrs. A. Thollar \$5.00, V. Newton \$2.00, A. Newton \$2.00, R. J. Young \$1.20, E. Harrison \$2.00, B. Tarrant \$1.00, Huxtable \$2.00, Johnson \$2.00, Anon. \$2.00, \$1.00, \$2.00.

HELP FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Numbers are slowly growing again in our Sunday School, but we lack the kind of aids and equipment that will help keep the children's interest.

To raise extra funds the teachers want to hold a Jumble Sale. To do this we need your help.

If you have anything suitable for a Jumble Sale will you please leave it at the Rectory as soon as possible. Children's clothing is in great demand.