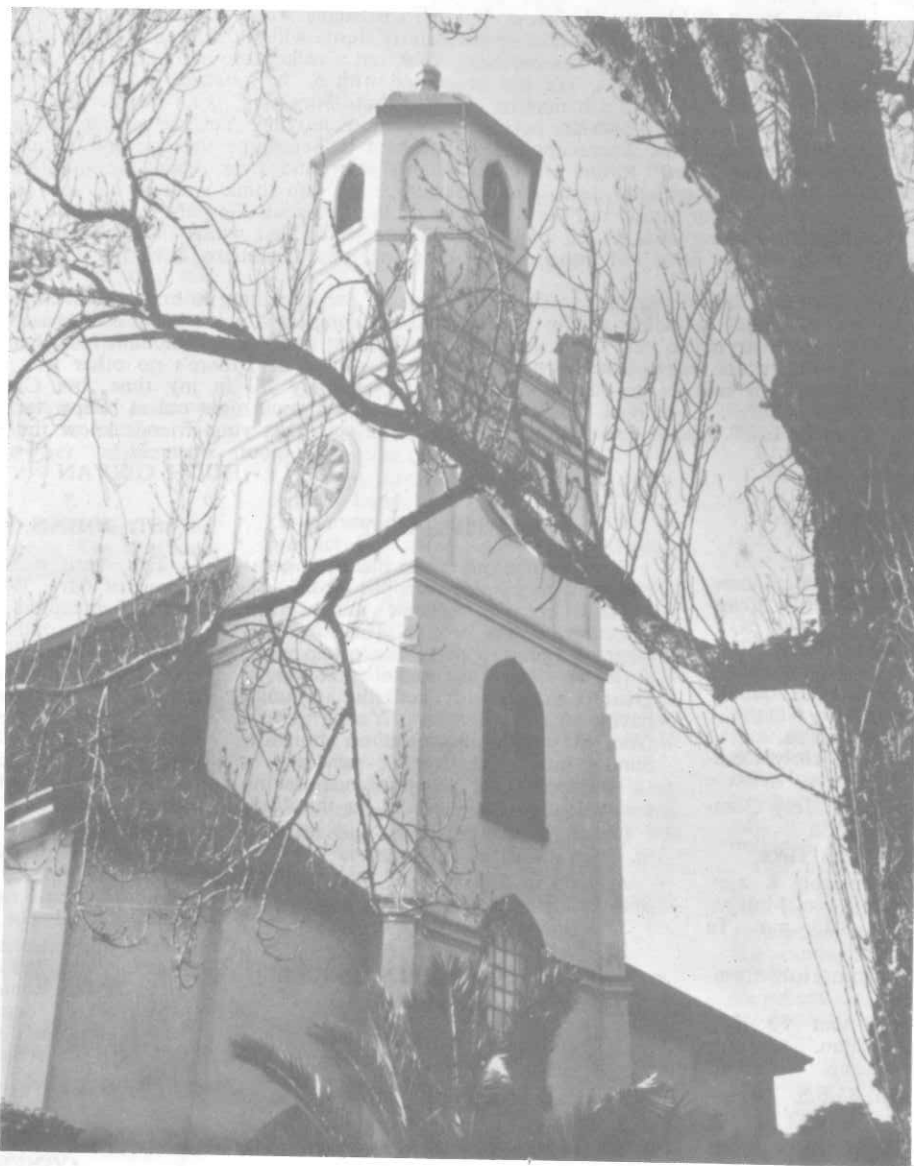


May '92

PARISH MESSENGER



CHURCH OF ST. JOHN □ LAUNCESTON

Rector:
Rev. Hugh Girvan, S.B., St.J., Th.L., Dip. C.C.A.C.
Telephone 31 5218

Assistant
The Reverend Graham Thurley, Th.L.
Telephone 31 4896

Organist: Mr. Lindsay Hutchinson, B.A., L.T.C.L., A.Mus.A.

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends of St. John's,

During the last three weeks I have visited a number of churches in other states. In most I saw some reference to the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" which some of you attended here in Launceston while I was away. I have read the words and feel that some comment is in order.

The music of "Superstar" has a beat that pleases many, but the Jesus it portrays, while he may be a superstar, is not the Lord of Life whom Christians worship. "Superstar" Jesus is shown as a weak, temperamental and unsure leader, hardly the person who has inspired millions to follow him. Throughout the text is far from that of the Bible. It perpetuates many of the common misunderstandings, so often voiced, which give an entirely wrong understanding of the Christian faith.

If our faith deals with ultimates, and I believe that it does, then any debasing of those truths in order to "get with it" is a denial of God's revealed plan for man's salvation. We must change with the times in many things, but there is no such thing as a "Swinging Gospel".

Further the text of "Superstar" finishes at the cross, but all Christians are now keeping the season of Easter which proclaims that the cross is not the end, and any presentation of the life of Jesus without reference to the Resurrection is necessarily incomplete. This is so not only because all the story has not been told, but also because a refusal to acknowledge the Resurrection—the supernatural—restricts the whole of the text. We are presented with a "half baked" Jesus.

I have listened to the music and I agree that it may be claimed that "Superstar" is an artistic portrait, in musical drama, of the humanity of Jesus. In it there are passages which are beautiful and quite moving. Yet the strong beat music cannot hide the uncertainty of Webber and Rice, the authors. There appears no attempt to determine the question, which Christ himself put to his followers, "Whom do you say that I am?" Rather the choir chants over and over again the question "Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Who are you? What have you sacrificed? Jesus Christ Superstar do you think you're what they say you are?"

In "Superstar" there may be catchy music, but there is little of the Christian Gospel. This is my concern. I find so many, both old and young, who think they know what it's all about and have rejected that which they have never really tried to understand. Perhaps this is our fault. Clergy have not done enough teaching, and Christians have not taken seriously their role as "the People of God".

What tears at my heart is the knowledge that so many are seeking for something to bring them satisfaction, but they bypass the Christ who does satisfy. "Things" including catchy Pseudo-religious songs, will never bring lasting satisfaction. We taste them and then go on with the rat-race of trying to beat our neighbours to the next fount of satisfaction. It's all so pointless and endless.

Years ago I learnt a song which began "there's none but Christ can satisfy, there's no other way for me". This I have found to be true. More clothes, new cars, bigger shacks and catchy songs may fill in my time, but Christ, the Jesus of the Gospels, offers me the "Way of Life". I am glad that so many many had a good night out at "Superstar", but I know that this is no substitute for the "Lord of Life". Please do what you can to make sure that your friends know the difference.

Yours sincerely,

HUGH GIRVAN

CALENDER FOR MAY

May—

- 1 **Feast of St. Philip and St. James.**
- 3 **Wednesday:** 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 7 **Easter V:** 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
- 8 **Monday:** 2.45 p.m. Hospital Auxiliary.
- 9 **Tuesday:** 6 p.m. Men's Tea.
- 10 **Wednesday:** 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
- 11 **Ascension Day:** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.45 p.m. Guild.
- 13 **Saturday:** Youth Group Hike.
- 14 **Sunday After Ascension:** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Mattins. 7 p.m. Evensong. 8.15 p.m. In Betweens.
- 17 **Wednesday:** 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 21 **Whitsunday:** 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong. 8.15 p.m. Youth Group.
- 23 **Tuesday:** 7.45 p.m. G.F.S. Townsend Group. 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
- 24 **Wednesday:** 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
- 27 **Saturday:** 7.30 p.m. Youth Group.
- 28 **Trinity Sunday:** 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Family Service. 7 p.m. Evensong. 8.15 p.m. 20 and Overs.
- 31 **Wednesday:** 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.

YOUTH GROUP

Since Easter the group has been combining with young people from St. Aidan's on the second and fourth Saturdays in the month. This step was taken in order to make the group more attractive and to make possible a greater variety of activities through having greater numbers. Young people from St. John's also meet on the third Sunday after the evening service.

This month, the group intends making a day trip to Liffey Falls on the 13th.

On the 27th the group will meet in St. John's Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Anyone in 2nd year at High School, or over, is welcome to join us.

MEALS ON WHEELS ROSTER FOR MAY

1. J. Stevenson
2. H. Girvan & R. Girvan
3. M. Easther and M. Puttman
4. J. Green and Lady James
5. L. Hutchinson and A. Rutland
6. J. Roberts and David Atkins
7. P. Cranswick
8. Mr. Cornish and B. Easther
9. Miss S. Brownrigg and M. Perkins

Anyone who finds that they are unable to attend, please notify M. Perkins, 'phone 31 3541.

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN'S GUILD

The April meeting was held at the home of Mrs. White, 16 Wyett Street, with 16 members in attendance. It was decided to contact Coats Patons once again, regarding wool to knit garments for Roland Boys' Home, also for babies of unmarried mothers. If there are any parishioners who would be willing to help with knitting this wool, it would be very much appreciated. Wool may be obtained by contacting Mrs. Harris, 'phone either 31 2332 or 44 4166.

The stall held on voting day was most successful resulting in an amount of \$43.00 raised. We would like to thank all those who helped and contributed goods for the stall. Thank you.

The May meeting will be our Annual Meeting and will be held on Thursday 11th, at the home of Mrs. Palliser, 3 Wyett Street, beginning at 7.45 p.m. Supper hostesses will be Mrs. Palliser and Miss B. Stevens.

CONFIRMATION

Those adults or children interested in Confirmation preparation should contact the Rector by 14th May



HAPPENINGS

If "variety is the spice of life", then we have had some spice from the pulpit during the past month. Seven different preachers during April. Test your memory and see how many you can name.

* * *

Anzac Day and I remembered "The Soldier's Prayer" written by Sir Jacob Asley "Lord, I shall be very busy this day. I may forget Thee, but do not Thou forget me." A good prayer for all of those who lead a hectic life.

* * *

Two remarks made after the Easter Carol Service. "Like King's College Cambridge", and "Glad I came—it made me feel nearer to God."

* * *

Must be my nostalgic month. As I went to vote I noticed one of our men raking the autumn leaves from the church lawns and remembered George Wyndham's words: "Party politics leave me cold, but the countryside of England makes me glow."

* * *

Best wishes to Miss Jessie Andrews as she leaves for a visit to Europe. We may expect to see her again next October.

* * *

So many children and babies at the Mothers' Union Morning Tea that one mother suggested special children's tables next year.

* * *

The Rector, while on holiday in Adelaide, attended an organ recital given by our friend Lindsay O'Neill. I notice that Lindsay is also to give a recital in St. Andrew's Church, Brighton, Victoria. Nice to know Lindsay is inspiring music lovers outside Tasmania.

* * *

Congratulations to Greg Atkins on gaining the Queen's Scout Award.

* * *

Two new arrivals I missed recently. A son, Damen, to Mr. & Mrs. John Bonney, and a son, Keith Philip, to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Donaldson.

* * *

Which reminds me of the time the Rector was shaking the hand of a young father as he left the Church. "In your sermon today, Rector", said the young father, "you spoke of a baby being a new wave on the ocean of life." "Ah yes," beamed the Rector benevolently. "Well," continued the father, "don't you think 'a fresh squall' would have been closer to the truth?"

Elizabeth Street

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

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will be held in the Lecture Room at the Hospital on Monday, May 8th, at 2.45 p.m. Afternoon tea hostesses: Misses M. Bennett and V. Andrews.

On behalf of the President of St. John's Auxiliary, Mrs. Holyman, I would like to thank our members and friends for their help and generous support on the combined Auxiliaries morning tea held at the lovely old home of Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Room, "Strathlea", Newnham. We were delighted to see so many of the parishioners of St. John's. Proceeds on the day were \$300.57, several small donations since received made a total of \$305.57. With the approval of the Hospital Board, this will be donated towards the furnishing of the proposed patients lounge down stairs. Mrs. Holyman welcomed to our meeting two new members, Mesdames Cornish and Nolan.

E. M. Palliser, Hon. Sec.

POP GOES THE BIBLE

J.B., a record-industry mogul: "You all know why we're here."

Staff: "Right, J.B."

"Religion is in, protest out. Right?"

"Right, J.B."

"We have to move fast. We can't do the seven last days of Christ, because those English kids beat us to it with J.C. Superstar. We can't do a Mass, because Lenny Bernstein's got that market cornered. But that's the kind of product I'm after. I want a heavenly voice, and I want a message."

"Well, J.B., we have here a property called the Messiah. It's got everything going for it, starting with a steady, 230-year track record. It has a Christmas section and—get this—an Easter section too. How can we miss? And listen. There's a Pastoral Symphony for the country-and-western crowd. Set it to rock and—"

"Boys and girls, I buy it. Just keep the beat and the chord changes simple. And don't forget to put a cross on the jacket cover."

— Time —

(Cynical, but typical of the current approach to Christian things—Editor)

MOTHERS' UNION

Our afternoon meeting in April was very pleasant as some of our older and former members were able to join us.

Please note the change to the fourth Tuesday, 23rd May, for our next meeting. This is to avoid coinciding with the school holidays. Members are asked to bring along gifts for the Overseas Sale to this meeting. All souvenir items sell well, e.g., tea towels, hanks, rulers, paper serviettes with Australian designs, koalas, knitted goods.

Supper hostesses: Mesdames Roberts and Smith.

CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK OF PRAYER

15th to 19th MAY
12.45 to 1.15 p.m.

PATERSON STREET
METHODIST CHURCH

also

8 p.m. WEDNESDAY, 17th

TO SWING OR NOT TO SWING

Some Thoughts Worth Pondering

(Extracts of a talk given by Mr. Ian Tyler, Special Commissioner of the Royal School of Church Music in Victoria)

Concern is being felt right round the world about the winds of change which are blowing through church music. Over the centuries we have refined our worship in word and music, but today there are many who would sweep all this away in the name of modern progress and replace it with primitive rhythms, chatty talk to the Lord and a decided lack of depth of spiritual meaning. In this great age of enlightenment, we find ourselves unable to make progress with our own culture without difficulty and so there are those who would have us fall back on the more primitive cultures of the under-privileged peoples of the world.

I believe our worship should grow out of what we are. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I thought as a child, I worshipped as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things. The modern world believes it has come of age. Has it? Have we? Do we worship in the full strength of our maturity? Or do we prefer to carry on in a childish, primitive pattern? Just how deep is our maturity, our sophistication, our supposed coming of age? The current popular obsessions of the present generation with primitive rhythm, sensational dress, unkempt appearance, wilful misbehaviour, selfishness and insensitivity to the needs of others—is this a coming of age, or is it simply characteristic of over-indulged spoil children?

Our maturity should be marked by some degree of emotional and intellectual development, by some degree of perception in depth and disregard for the merely superficial, by a certain stability of character. If our worship is to reflect our maturity, why then the pre-occupation in our church with the frivolous and superficial? Why do we hear of jazz services, rock masses and balloons on the altar? How can that sort of thing satisfy the deep spiritual hunger which is the root cause of all the unrest and unhappiness in the world today? I believe it is high time that the Church should remember who She is, and who She serves, and that She should stop following strange gods and vain idols. Perhaps then She might make a greater impact on modern society. Man's chief end is still to glorify God and enjoy Him for ever.

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