



# PARISH MESSENGER

## CHURCH OF ST. JOHN □ LAUNCESTON

### USUAL SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion: 8.00 a.m. Every Sunday. 10.00 a.m. First and Third Sundays. 7.00 p.m. Fifth Sunday.  
Morning Prayer: 10.00 a.m. Second Sunday. Family Service: 10.00 a.m. Third Sunday.

Evening Prayer: 7.00 p.m. Every Sunday except Fifth  
(The evening service is held at 7.30 p.m. during daylight saving months.)

## Rector :

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

## Assistant :

The Reverend David Lewis  
Telephone 31 4896

Organist : Mr. Lindsay O'Neill, F.R.C.O. (Ch.M.), A.R.C.M.

## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends at St. John's,

This month I would like to share with you a story from Russia which I came across recently.

It was Easter Day in one of Russia's large cities and only one Church remained open in it. Three thousand people of the Orthodox faith crowded to enjoy the service there. The Church was soon filled with worshippers and crowds gathered outside the church.

The committee of the Communist Party, knowing there would be a crowd at the church arranged a demonstration outside the church. Fire crackers were set off and a band played loudly in order to disturb the service.

The next day the Party ordered the population to come to the city square where party members spoke for hours, proving that "religion is the opiate of the people".

At the end of the talks, the chairman asked for comments. There was a sullen silence. Again the crowd was asked if they had any comments to make. After a long pause a voice came from the multitude. It belonged to a small thin man. "Yes, I would like to say three words".

The chairman motioned for the small man to come to the platform. "Three words will not hurt any one", said the leader, "so come up and say them".

The small man turned and faced the thousands of quiet people.

He looked over the crowd for a moment and then said distinctly, through the loudspeaker, "Christ is risen". As one, the thousands roared in response: "He is risen indeed".

The little man, of course, was seized and spirited away. The meeting was abruptly dismissed and the people quickly left the square. But they had had their Easter.

May our Lord make this wonderful season, which we celebrate this month, real in its message of hope, and joy for each of us.

Yours sincerely,  
HUGH GIRVAN.

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL

1. MOTHERING SUNDAY: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
2. Monday: 7.30 p.m. O.S.L.
4. Wednesday: 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion and Address.
8. PASSION SUNDAY: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Morning Prayer. 7 p.m. Evensong.
9. Monday: 2 p.m. St. Luke's Auxiliary.
10. Tuesday: 6 p.m. Men's Tea 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
11. Wednesday: 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion and Address.
12. Thursday: 7.45 p.m. Women's Guild.
15. PALM SUNDAY: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Family Service. 7 p.m. Evensong.
17. Tuesday: 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion. 8 p.m. Townsend Group. 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
18. Wednesday: 8 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
19. MAUNDY THURSDAY: 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
20. GOOD FRIDAY: 8 a.m. Passion Liturgy. 10 a.m. Family Service. 12 Noon — 3 p.m. Three Hour Devotions. 7 p.m. Passion Readings and Music.
22. EASTER DAY: 7 a.m., 8 a.m., and 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
25. ST. MARK'S DAY: (Anzac Day). 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
29. EASTER 1.: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Morning Prayer. 7 p.m. Holy Communion.

## MOTHERS' UNION

Our "Keep Fit Classes" have proved very popular. Come along girls — each Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Following the usual Wednesday 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion on April 18th we welcome everyone to morning tea in the Kindergarten Hall, particularly any of our elderly parishioners.

On 2nd May, we will be having a Morning Tea — funds to aid Mrs. Robinson, our State President, to attend Central Council Meeting in England in July.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 17th April. Don't forget the "covered-coathanger competition" girls. Supper hostesses — Mesdames Easter and White.

HOLY WEEK  
AND  
EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday —  
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.

Good Friday —  
8.00 a.m. Passion Liturgy.  
10.00 a.m. Family Service.

12 noon - 3 p.m. Three Hours Devotion — Speaker The Bishop.  
7.00 p.m. Passion Music and Readings.

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.

## MEALS ON WHEELS ROSTER

April 8th —

J. Roberts, H. Girvan, D. Lewis, L. O'Neill, G. Hill, J. Stevenson, P. Cranswick, T. White, W. Donaldson, D. Cox.

If unable to attend please advise M. Perkins. 'phone 31 3541.

## GROUNDS ROSTER

April —

7—G. Lillico, 14—B. Easter, 21—M. Perkins, 28—D. Lewis.

## WOMEN'S GUILD

The first meeting for the year was held at the Rectory commencing with a Communion service with fourteen members present. It was very pleasing to have two prospective new members with us in Mrs. J. Stevenson and Mrs. Peck. The President, Mrs. White reported on the Guild Conference held at the Campbell Town, and praised the amount sent by Guilds to the Roland Boys' Home. The project for all guilds this year will be Beresford House.

A notice from Glenview Home regarding their Annual Fair was received, and as we are unable to give manual help, it was decided to send \$20. The Guild will also be selling biros at 20c each to help with this year's appeal for the Blind and Deaf, these are available from the Rectory if you would care to help by buying pens.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Holyman, 8 Riverdale Grove, on April 12th, supper hostesses — Mesdames J. Stevenson and J. Sheldrick.



## HAPPENINGS

Our best wishes to Grace Watson as she leaves for Canada to stay for a while with her son Gayne.

Congratulations to Joy Piper (Le Fevre) on the addition of a new grandson to the family. Todd Ellis is the first child of Peter and Colleen.

Hope you saw some of the special events during World Development week in Launceston. I'm still staggered by the amount given by the churches for world development through the World Council of Churches — three hundred million (\$300,000,000) last year. It should be shouted from the housetops, not in boastfulness, but that the world might know that Christians do care.

Good to see our Mothers' Union entertaining folk from the Royal Society for the Blind and Deaf. Despite their handicaps those present joined heartily in the programme.

A shortage of teachers nearly closed our Sunday School, but Murray and Jenny Faulkner, students (from West Australia) at W.E.C. College, came to our rescue in the Senior Sunday School, and after some years absence Miss Isobel Oates returned to help in the Kindergarten.

Frank and Joan Ikin left for overseas last month. Their son Christopher married Lucia De Braun at Appeldoorn in Holland on March 6th. Frank's mother will celebrate her 94th birthday while he is with her in England.

Good news for parents of young children. Do you know that the service is now amplified to the choir vestry. If you have noisy children who embarrass you, listen in from the choir vestry.

Graham Thurley has been "touring" his West Australian parish with Bishop Witt. Maybe he has now heard of the mateship of the West, it's marvellous what they'll do for you. Last century on the W.A. goldfields wood was scarce and for one particular funeral the old digger's mates knocked together a coffin from some packing cases unloaded from a steam ship. As the mourners watched the coffin being lowered, smiles spread across the miners' faces. Emblazoned on the coffin was the instruction "Stow Away from Heat".

*Elizabeth Street*

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

In lieu of our usual meeting on Monday, April 9th, members will meet at the Cheese and Dairy Board rooms in George Street, for an afternoon which has been arranged in aid of the Hospital funds.

Mrs. Holyman paid tribute to the work and very loyal support of the late Barbara Benham and Dorothy Leonard, two of our very dear members who passed away recently. Our sincere sympathy has been extended to their families.

Our Button Day collections, including a donation of \$2.00 was \$63.67. Our grateful thanks to button sellers on this occasion. The next meeting will be held in the parish hall on Monday May 14th at 2.45 p.m.

### EASTER CHANGES LIVES

Easter is an annual reminder that God surprises us by acting beyond the limits of our own thinking and expectation. Those first disciples never imaged that God would raise Jesus to life. They never conceived that the death which seemed so final was only the prelude to a triumphant life. They never expected to be come men who turned the world upside down. But God acted and the whole situation changed as the Crucifixion gave way to the Resurrection and Pentecost.

In a recent pamphlet, Bishop Lesslie Newbigin tells how God, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, astonishes the missionary in his situation: 'He opens up ways that the missionary never expected, and when he does so, the missionary must follow. He chooses as his instruments people who would never have been selected by the missionary and when this happens the decision must be honoured. He makes out of very humble and insignificant people powerful witnesses in the face of hostile powers that daunt the ablest and most resolute Christian strategy. He uses apparently small and casual deeds and words to shake the powers of this world.'

What of our own situation? Do we believe God can deal with sin in our own life and raise us to new heights of living? Are we prepared for God to take us and use us beyond what we think is our own capacity? Do our prayers and actions and giving show that we look for God to act in a world overshadowed by death and aimlessness and hopelessness? Do we expect God to change lives and situations all over the world?

If we understand Easter, our lives will be transformed as we live and work with a God 'Who by his power within us is able to do far more than we ever dare to ask or imagine.'

(EPH. 3:20—J. B. PHILLIPS.)

— Ronald Marks

### WALK OVER . . . BUT APPEAL STILL OPEN

The New Guinea bishops and Archbishop Loane deserve a well-earned rest after their herculean effort over the Kokoda Trail. They did their part, now it's our time to act. Their task was to launch the appeal, ours is to bring it to fulfilment. Their effort cost them time and energy and maybe a drain on their health, all we are asked for is money.

Envelopes are available in the Church, or send in your gift to the Rector now, marked "Garamut Appeal".

The Bishops have finished their walk and opened the Appeal. Bishop Hand has visited our parish and by word and film shown us what it is all about. Last month's paper refreshed our memories, the Vestry has made a starting grant of \$250, the rest is up to us.

If we turn our backs now, 81 years of Australian Anglican mission-labour will be lost, if we respond, it will be fulfilled.

### THE LITURGICAL COLOURS

From time to time people ask what the colours used in church signify, and on what days they are used. This includes the colour of the priest's vestments, as well as frontals or hangings. Here is a brief note which will answer the question.

WHITE or GOLD is the colour of joy and happiness, and also the colour of purity. It is used on festivals of Our Lord, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and of the Angels. It is used for all Saints who are not Martyrs, Apostles or Evangelists, and is the colour of the ordinary days in Christmastide and Eastertide.

RED is the colour of blood, and also of fire (which is the usual symbol of the Holy Spirit), and on festival days of the Passion or the Cross of Christ. It is used for festivals of Martyrs, because they shed their blood for the Faith, and also for the Apostles and the Evangelists, who were so obviously aflame with the Holy Spirit.

PURPLE is the penitential colour and is used for the Season of Advent, and from Septuagesima to Easter. Some Vigils (that is days of preparation for a festival) are purple, and the Ember Days (except those which occur in Whitsunday), when we pray for the Sacred Ministry and for vocations to it.

GREEN is the colour of nature, and is used for days that have no other colour. This includes the Sundays and ordinary days after January 14th through till Septuagesima, and for the Sundays and ordinary days following Trinity Sunday.

BLACK is used as the colour for Good Friday, and in many places it is also the colour for services of the Dead.

In some parts of the world there are variations on this simple scheme, for instance in Spain it is common to use Blue for Our Lady, and at Salisbury, in England, Red is used for the last two weeks of Lent, but the above is the most widely used scheme.



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