

April 74

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. Fourth 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, B.Mus., F.R.C.O. (Ch.M.), A.R.C.M.

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear friends at St. John's,

The familiar phrase of a prayer we often use, "to give, and not to count the cost," is truly Christian, for it sums up in a few words the good news of God's concern for ourselves and our fellows.

What man could never do for himself, God did, and God paid the cost. At Christmas, we rejoiced in the birth of the Christ-Child, but what did coming into the world in that way cost God's Son? His ministry of love and compassion was misunderstood, and it led to the Cross of human death. The crucifixion of our Lord was the cost of love. It was paid by God. The resurrection on Easter Day was the triumph of God's love, yet through the ages it has meant so little to so many. In rejection and disbelief, the cost of love is still there, and it is God who pays. We like to think of God's love, but in its exercise God has given, and in His Sin, has not counted the cost.

Holy Week and Easter are not to be passed by lightly. They bring into focus the cost of divine love, and in so doing, pose a simple age-old question, "Is it nothing to you all you who pass by?" (the title of this year's Three Hour Address). The Christian faith is not a matter of ethics, or doing good, it is not a matter of benevolence of good will. Its essence is the acceptance of God as He is and in what He has done, and its method is simple response to God's love.

Love has no real meaning except in personal terms. God is personal, and we are persons, that is why He loves us, and we are capable of loving Him. When there is no sense of personal concern, there can be no real love, and duty or compulsion are poor substitutes.

For the Christian Holy Week is necessarily a solemn time, but wonderfully satisfying. We may not share the sufferings of our Lord, but at least we can care about them. Good Friday is a holy day, because Christ paid its cost. To claim it as a holiday is selfishness, not love. And how can we hope for the life to come, or speak of life beyond the grave, if the Resurrection, which alone makes it possible is ignored? Real Faith knows we cannot pay the cost, but it gives in token, because the shadow of the real is all that we can pay, and it is that which God accepts.

There is a tremendous, and increasing, pressure on Christian people to empty holy seasons of their observance, and an unobserved season soon ceases to have any meaning. The answer, of course, is to make observance real. It may mean the sacrifice of personal pleasures — but then there was little pleasure for Jesus on the cross. It may even mean unpopularity and misunderstanding — but the resurrection was not a popular report for our Lord's foes on the first Easter Day.

God has given, may a blessed Holy Week, a holy Good Friday, and a joyous Easter, be ours who are asked not to count the cost.

Your brother and servant in Christ Jesus,

Hugh Girvan

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Tuesday —
7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
Wednesday —
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
Maundy Thursday —
7.30 p.m. Commemoration of the Lord's Supper.
Good Friday —
8.00 a.m. Passion Liturgy.
10.00 a.m. Family Service.
12.00-3 p.m. Three Hours Devotion.
Conductor:— The Rev. H. H. Condon.
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.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

3. Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
4. Thursday: 7.15 p.m. Holy Communion.
7. PALM SUNDAY: 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.

8. Monday: 2.45 p.m. Hospital Auxiliary.
9. Tuesday: 6 p.m. Mens' Tea. 7.30 p.m. Holy Communion.
10. Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion. 7.30 p.m. Vestry.
11. Maundy Thursday: Commemoration of the Lord's Supper.
12. **GOOD FRIDAY**: 8 a.m. Passion Liturgy. 10 a.m. Family Service. Noon-3 p.m. Devotions. 7 p.m. Passion Music and Readings.
14. **EASTER DAY**: 7 a.m., 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
16. Tuesday: 8 p.m. Mothers' Union.
17. Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
21. **EASTER 1**: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Holy Communion. 7 p.m. Evensong.
24. Wednesday: 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion.
25. **ST. MARK**: 8 a.m. Holy Communion.
28. **EASTER 11**: 8 a.m. Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Family Service. 7 p.m. Evensong.

WOMENS' GUILD

The March meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Page and sixteen members were present.

A report of the Northern Guild conference, held at Beresford House, was given by our President. Those present at the conference were able to see the

newly decorated "St. John" room, a pleasing Guild project.

Mrs. H. Gatenby was with us for the first time, and we wish her a long and happy association with the Guild.

A knitted jumper for Roland Boys' Home was received from Mrs. Peck.

We have again received wool from Coats Paton and would be grateful for offers from members to knit it for us. If you can help please phone Mrs. White (2 4130) or Mrs. Harris (31 2332).

After the close of our business meeting members enjoyed a "Beetle Evening" and \$16 was raised for funds.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Watson, 11 Gloucester St. Members are asked to note that because of the Easter Holidays this meeting will be held on April 4th.

MOTHERS' UNION

Our next meeting will be held at the Rectory on April 16th, and a "Hoby-tex" demonstrator will be our guest. Come along and have fun, you will be welcome. Supper hostesses are Mrs. M. Easther and Mrs. K. Atkins.

Following the 10.30 service of Holy Communion on Wednesday 10th April, all senior parishioners and past M.U. members are invited to join us for a "cuppa" in the Kindergarten Hall. Anyone requiring transport please phone 44 2928.

Don't forget the "Beetle Evening" at the Rectory on Tuesday, 30th April, at 8 p.m.

CRECHE. Mrs. Piper is again available to care for little ones during the 10 a.m. service on the first Sunday of the month. Please take your child to the Choir Vestry.

MEALS ON WHEELS ROSTER

April 14th — Easter Day.

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|-------------------|-------------|
| I. Routley (duty) | L. Jones |
| R. Cartledge | D. Lewis |
| M. Easther | G. Lillico |
| A. Ford | L. Nicholas |
| H. Girvan | M. Perkins |

Any driver unable to attend please phone Ian Routley, work 31 6666, home 44 4936.

We still need more helpers for our Meals on Wheels roster on the second Sunday in each month. If you can help, please phone Ian Routley.

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

Members of the Auxiliary will meet in the Parish Hall on Monday, April 8th at 2.45 p.m. Afternoon tea hostesses will be Mrs. Swinnerton and Mrs. Gardiner.

Our President, Mrs. Holyman, who recently went to Melbourne for medical care, gave us much pleasure by taking the chair for our meeting.

Miss Malley Bennett has been a patient in St. Luke's. We are happy to know that she is now home again.

One of our loyal and valued members, Mrs. Wyn Targett, has moved to Hobart. She will be greatly missed.

A combined Auxiliary Morning Tea will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Room, "Strathlea," Allanvale Rd., on Wednesday, April 3rd, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

The lovely garden of "Strathlea" will be open for visitors, and a cordial invitation to attend is extended to all parishioners. There will be stalls and a charge of 50c will include morning tea.

Proceeds from the morning will help furnish the patients lounge in the new wing of the hospital which we are anxiously waiting to see completed, for it is greatly needed.

Please help us to furnish the lounge in St. Luke's, your Church hospital.

NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST

On the Sunday after Easter, the Rector will welcome to the staff of St. John's the Reverend H. D. Ikin, at present Rector of Campbell Town.

Mr. Ikin will come to St. John's in a part time capacity, but will bring a wealth of experience to the team ministry.

As a boy he was a member of the Holy Trinity Church Choir. He later attended Christ Church Congregational Church and there met his wife, the former Lynette Rose.

After training in Melbourne for the Congregational Ministry and gaining the L.Th. of the Melbourne College of Divinity, Mr. Ikin ministered in Queensland

in 1950 Mr. Ikin was ordained into the Anglican ministry and since then he has ministered at New Town, Bruny Island, Ulverstone and Campbell Town.

His coming will build St. John's Staff to three again, and bring to the parish a wise and loving priest.

Tell me Sir . . .

CAN YOU PROVE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS TRUE

Yes, if Jesus did not rise from the dead, one or two things must have happened.

Either (a) our Lord's Body remained in the tomb and the Christians wilfully went about telling lies and saying that He had risen from the dead. This is impossible, for had the Body been left in the tomb the Romans or Jews would immediately have produced it to prove that the Christians were telling lies and that their religion was false. This did not happen, therefore the body did not remain in the tomb.

Or (b) if our Lord's Body did not remain in the tomb, it must have been taken out. Now who would do this?

The Christians? If the Christians took Jesus from the tomb so that they could go about spreading the legend of the Resurrection, why were they willing to be persecuted and die rather than deny their belief in the Resurrection? A man does not die for what he knows to be untrue. The Jews or the Romans? If these enemies of Christianity had taken the Body of Jesus, would they not immediately have produced it when the apostles went about preaching that Jesus had risen from the dead? They did not do this surely because they could not.

Thus, if neither the Christians, Jews or Romans took the Body of Christ — and there was no other group who would have been interested — surely it was impossible for the Body to have been taken out of the grave.

Now, if as we have seen it, it was impossible for the Body of Christ to have either remained in the tomb or be taken out by people, the only alternative is that It came out Itself — in other words, It rose from the dead.

Other points which may help us are as follows:—

(i) The religion of Christ is a religion of sincerity. It seems hardly likely that such has been founded on a lie.

(ii) St. Paul said: "If Christ be not risen, your faith is vain". But our faith is not vain, as it has lasted and is still with us after 2000 years.

(iii) The early Christians — who, after all, were nearer to the events than we are — thought it to be so certain that they gave up their old and established custom of worshipping God on Saturday and made Sunday their Sabbath, because Christ rose on this, the first day of the week. Thus His resurrection is not just a pious hope. It is a proven fact.



HAPPENINGS

Undoubtedly the biggest happening of the month was the Festival of Light. Many of St. John's folk, both young and older, joined in the great procession of witness and thereby were prepared to "stand up and be counted."

Hope you have seen our latest chosen twins. Mark and Anna have brought great joy to John and Jan Stevenson, and admiration from the parish family, including yours truly.

Followed up my Queensland Flood Relief Appeal challenge from last month and now find that St. John's sent \$549. Well done.

Even better was our Christmas Bowl effort. For the first time we topped one thousand dollars with \$1,028.70. A wonderful effort.

Don't forget our Lenten Appeal. Drink cans and/or envelopes are still available. The continuing missionary work of the Church overseas still needs and deserves our help through self denial.

The tragic death of Mr. Cotton, Helen Thurley's father, brought Helen and Graham back from the West, and an unchanged Graham happily happened to be staying at the Rectory on the night of the mens' tea. Naturally Graham attended, and at short notice became the speaker.

How much "good news" does the media let us hear. Dr. John Court came from the Flinders University to speak about the "Festival of Light" at the "Premiers Breakfast." Reporters were there, but not a word of it from the press, radio or TV.

David Lewis took some of our boys to a Church of England Boys Society camp at Turners Beach. Now it seems that the long defunct St. John's C.E.B.S. may live again.

You have to be smart and with it to get this one but, — have you heard of the hippie guru who refused Novocain while having a tooth pulled because he wanted to transcend dental medication?

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