

Easter 2022



Dear Friends,

If you have been able to join our services of worship lately, or the online/face-to-face Bible study, you will know that the ministry team are working with the theme 'Full to the Brim' over Lent and Easter. At first glance this didn't sound like a Lent theme. Lent is thought of as a time of discipline, prayer, fasting, giving to the poor and reflecting on who we are before God.

'Full to the Brim' has invited us to reflect on the abundant life-giving grace of God. The gospel readings during Lent remind us of this grace – the prodigal son who returns home, the fruitless fig tree given more care and attention in the hope of bearing fruit, Jesus as a mother hen who offers fierce love and protection, and oil lovingly and generously poured over Jesus' feet as an act of devotion. These powerful images remind us of a giving God, a gracious God, a loving God.

Jesus lived a full life clearly exhibiting God's grace and love. Jesus did this in the way that he noticed people on the edges; he welcomed and included people; he offered healing; he taught and helped people to see the world differently, to see the radical nature of God's kingdom, and to see the inclusive nature of the people of God. Sometimes Jesus' teaching and life might make us feel uncomfortable. We want to be welcoming and inclusive, but do we have to be so welcoming and inclusive? We are urged to step out of our comfort zones. It might mean that we have to change our thinking and even change some of our ways. Jesus was prepared to rock the boat, to challenge practices and ways of doing things in order to be more open to include and embrace the other. Jesus wanted to give life rather than deny life.

From Monday to Thursday in Holy Week, there will be an art installation in the Chapel (Room 1), which will be open between 9am-3.30pm each day.

You are invited to journey through at your own pace.

You will find poems, art and reflections that are filled with promises of God's abundant grace - helping us to connect in a creative way this Easter season.

Easter Services

Holy Week April 11, 12, 13 - 7.30pm
Maundy Thursday April 14 - 7.30pm
Good Friday April 15 - 9.30am
Easter Sunday April 17 - 10am

To take Jesus' ministry and teaching seriously will challenge our own living, it will challenge the life of our congregation and it will ripple out into our community as well. Jesus offered all he encountered, in word and in deed, an experience of God's transforming love and abundant grace. God offers us grace - grace that is undeserved, unearned, illogical and boundless.

'Full to the Brim' is an invitation into a different view of Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. Whether it be in our families, in our work place, in our local community, in our school, and yes, even in our church - we are encouraged, or more strongly urged, to pour out love and grace. We are being urged to live life, the life that Jesus promised, to live this life to the full and through that to impact the lives of others.

God's love and grace don't just come to us at Easter as we recall the cross and the resurrection. God's love and grace are there for us the whole year round. So, receive this grace and love as gifts from God. Allow the Holy Spirit to bear fruit in your life. Follow Jesus and live out your discipleship wholeheartedly each day.

God's grace, love and peace be with you.
Neil, Alanee, Di, Jemma and Joanne.

{ God of new life and new beginnings, you are forever inviting me into a deeper life - a life full to the brim with meaningful work, meaningful relationships, joy, beauty, awe, and wonder. Your resurrection is a reminder that new life is possible. As we move forward in this Easter season, give me the courage to build new life here. Amen.

Rev. Sarafi (Are) Speeef

Diary Dates

15 April

Good Friday Hot Cross Bun Morning Tea @ 10.30am

26 April

*"The Hub" returns for 2022
10am-12pm*

2 May

*Playgroup returns for 2022
10am-12pm*

30 April

Book Sale | 8.30am-4pm

8 May

Mothers Day Morning Tea @ 10.30am

14 May

7th Annual Walkathon | 8am-2pm

5 June

Pentecost Sunday

26 June

*Church Anniversary Celebration
Service at 10am followed by Lunch*

4 September

Fathers Day Morning Tea @ 10.30am

15 October

Church Fete | 8.30am-2pm

27 November

Annual Christmas Lunch

18 December

Living Nativity

The weekly bulletin will have more details on these and other events