



Welcome Again to All Our Readers

Welcome to our second edition of the new electronic newsletter. Hopefully there was some interesting reading and on line readers were able to follow some of the links in last Sunday's edition. I did have a weird moment when I imagined some of our hard copy readers pressing the link on their page and wondering to themselves what all the fuss was about as nothing much was happening!

Bible Readings for April 5, 2020

Isaiah 50:4-9a The Suffering Servant

Philippians 2:5-11 He emptied himself, taking the form of a servant

Matthew 21:1-11 Jesus enters the holy city of Jerusalem

Just to clarify that the "Sami" who made the offer to do shopping for people last week was Sami Ighaniyan not Sam Rai the Youth Co-ordinator though we are sure she would help out too if she was able!

Contact Ray for more info on this



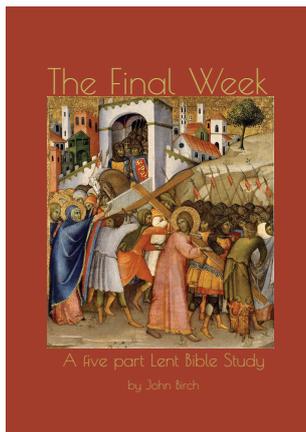
Palm Sunday

Back in the days when crowds of people could

gather a swarm of festival goers turned out to welcome Jesus of Nazareth as he made his arrival to the holy city of Jerusalem. Some turned up with green branches cut from local trees and some (only John's gospel tells us) had palm fronds. The cry of "Hosanna" cut through the air.

Originally "Hosanna" was the cry of oppressed and occupied people for freedom and hope, a cry of revolution. There is a whole theology in that one word, a cry wrung from the heart, that is best translated as "Save us!" In this time of pandemic it is a cry being made by people in literally all countries on earth at present. What do you think those first century Palestinians were shouting at Jesus to save them from. And how would you answer that same question for yourself? (cont on page 4)

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of **Holy Week**. For those who get this news-letter by email there will be an attachment with the material we were using for Lenten Studies. This is a series of reflections based on events in the final week of Jesus life. It would make a good daily devotion during Holy Week. If you receive a paper copy of the news-letter you can contact Ray for a copy of the Lenten studies.



Local staff

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While you will not be arriving at worship at the wrong time it is still worth knowing

5 Apr 2020 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

When local daylight time is about to reach Sunday, 5 April 2020, 3:00:00 am clocks are turned backward 1 hour to Sunday, 5 April 2020, 2:00:00 am local standard time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on 5 Apr 2020 than the day before. **There will be more light in the morning.**

If you can get hold of a palm frond you can make yourself a palm cross. These are often handed out to the worshippers at Palm Sunday services. You could use yours as a visual aid in your devotions over the Palm Sunday weekend. Here is a link to watch a video on how to make it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBQk41VWkx8> making a palm cross

Update from Samita Rai - Youth Centre Co-ordinator

As the coordinator of Sunshine Youth Space, I am working from home and I am contactable on my work mobile phone. Sunshine Youth Space is still engaging with the youth and other service providers using digital modes of communication. I am currently offering these programs

- #Iambored program: Youths can submit their works to Sunshine Youth Space which will be posted on our social media

- Youth Business Network (unofficial name). Due to the postponement of Sunshine Youth Market, I am offering the youths, who had registered for the event, free advertising on Sunshine Youth Space's and partner organisation's social media to market their wares. I will be extending this invitation to the public soon

- Human Trafficking/forced marriage workshop: The face to face workshop was cancelled and the presenter will be running this electronically, most likely through Zoom. I am still in the process of arranging the logistics.

- Slavery Free Easter Egg. Sunshine Youth Space is supporting the campaign through social media to encourage buyers to purchase child slavery free Easter eggs



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The church site at Sunshine is now closed to all meetings and groups. Uniting have moved their emergency relief program to the

Wesley site at Footscray

and Trudi who administered it at our site is now working from there.

During the week Uniting arranged for the Sunshine site to be sanitised and there will be another clean when we re-open to the public.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rdrcHLIs5c> skit guys on palm Sunday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4xcFb251io> Chuck knows church

And for anyone who last week enjoyed Ian Ferguson's reflection on the dry bones and his photography and experience of ministry in the bushfire recover area here is another for Palm Sunday



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GkeLermtn44&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR02wQzLAZBfX8iPuhywF9gZbg4q7SiTMdvZ-o6HFBpDVWSDoGbbHyEgt2E>

A New Way of “Going to Church”

A lot of Uniting Churches are doing “live streaming” of their Sunday worship services and you are encouraged to go on-line (or watch it later). The best way to find out which congregations you can “go to church” at is to go to the Synod web site by clicking the link below

<https://victas.uca.org.au/>

then look for “Resources” at the top, and click on COVID-19 Worship Resources, then scroll down to Churches online. Could be an ideal opportunity to see what others are doing and maybe getting some ideas for Sunshine Uniting when we resume.



N. T. Wright is the Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at the University of St Andrews, a Senior Research Fellow at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University and the author of over 80 books, including *The New Testament in Its World*. This article appeared in Time magazine with the provocative title

Christianity Offers No Answers About the Coronavirus. It's Not Supposed To

Here is the final paragraph

"It is no part of the Christian vocation, then, to be able to explain what's happening and why. In fact, it *is* part of the Christian vocation *not to be able* to explain—and to lament instead. As the Spirit laments within us, so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities, new acts of kindness, new scientific understanding, new hope. New wisdom for our leaders? Now there's a thought.

And you can read the whole article here https://time.com/5808495/coronavirus-christianity/?fbclid=IwAR09amqIOCVyYvicmVhm6I_yD4hlgT0Bgsvq82axJIGCPXQ9_dKo37MZD_H0

Palm Sunday Reflection cont from page 1

And that is the conclusion of the new look news letter. Look in your electronic mail boxes next Thursday for the Easter edition. Unfortunately it is most likely Aust Post will not get the paper copies to those readers until after Easter

By the time of Jesus the word hosanna had become a cry of jubilation, of celebration, a shout of joyfulness, as if God indeed had already, or was in the midst of answering the prayer. I imagine t will be many many months before that cry is again in society. But it will again be heard.

It only took a few days for the crowds to switch from crying "Hosanna" to the shouts of "Crucify him." So, yes, the risk of Holy Week is that we'll take a peek at Jesus' actions and think, "Hmm, this doesn't look much like salvation to me."

He chooses for his visual aid in his elaborate piece of street theatre an agricultural animal, not a weapon of war; it is the equivalent of riding a tractor, not a tank.

Jesus spent his entire ministry arduously redefining kingship, power, authority. He refused to win people's hearts and minds by using the forces of warrior angels that the gospels imagine were secretly at his disposal. He turned aside attempts to lure him into taking up the kind of coercive authority associated with domination and empire; he took on instead the burden of our suffering and our sins. Ray Gorman