



**Trentham
Anglicans**
at St Johns

FAITH | FAMILY | FOR OTHERS

**Easter
2023**

Christ is risen!

What a powerful, wonderful and inspiring proclamation! It is the sacred mysterious truth at the very heart of the Church's theology. At the same time it is an incredibly difficult intellectual idea to fully embrace isn't it? Consider this: Have you ever struggled to explain your belief in the resurrection? If we got really honest are we willing to accept that this proclamation seems absurd? It certainly seems that this is what a majority of people around us think. Let's face it having and confessing faith in this incredible proclamation can be very difficult.

I believe the reason it is so difficult for people to embrace the resurrection is because for centuries the Church as an institution, Catholic and Protestant has tried to be the exclusive owner, explainer and gatekeeper of what the resurrection is and who is in and who is out. In other words we have turned the mystery of the resurrected Christ into a systematic theological concept that is mostly focused on trying to reconcile a literal interpretation of the Bible with the reality of people living on Earth in order to establish a spiritual and social authority and create the proper institutional hierarchies to organize the theological movement and hold people accountable for following the religious rules they created. We don't have to look far to see examples of how the Church has placed loyalty and fidelity to the established theology, rules and traditions above the goal of being in a dynamic, life-giving soul healing, hope inspiring partnership with the Living Christ.



But perhaps the biggest issue we face in wholeheartedly embracing the living Christ here and now and having full confidence in our resurrection proclamation is that we are too hung up on the ancient Jesus that we miss the very thing that made Jesus special. The Christ. The living Word.

I will forever see Jesus as my greatest hero, my human exemplar of the greatest illustration of what a human totally surrendered to the Christ looks like. “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” But we must understand the Jesus’ last name was NOT Christ. It was Jesus bar Joseph of Nazareth. But the Christ is, was and always will be bigger than Jesus. This is why we are the Body of Christ not the Body of Jesus, We are not Jesusians, we are Christians! I believe that this mutually exclusive commitment to ancient Jesus and the idea that even though God says he loves us, He just can’t stand us unless we are “covered in the blood of Jesus” or be thrown into hell is let’s face it, is a pretty horrific image and theology that most people reject not because of the devil’s deception but because it just doesn’t make sense! But what if this theological war was never really God’s intention? What if “Christ is risen” actually means that there is an eternal, loving, creative power available to all of us that helps us to rise above all the pain, fear, death and hurt and destruction that life on this crazy, amazing planet throws at us. Perhaps a better proclamation could be “Christ is rising” meaning that our faith is not in some static ancient story of a man from long ago but a living dynamic spiritual reality that Jesus’ surrender constantly reveals to the world? Christ is rising!

Andy

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SOME REGULAR ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

You can find up-to-date information about parish activities on our website. Some of what happens regularly:

Whanau Funday is for everyone of any age group. We have a range of fun activities each time —last month was karaoke and a games evening, with a BBQ at Trentham Memorial Park planned for a fine Friday coming up. See the website or notices at the hall or in the newsletter in for more details.

Kidzstuff happens on Sunday mornings in term time, except where there is an All Age service. The team of teachers offer a programme to meet the needs of children at school.

Home Groups are a great way to explore questions, build friendships & pray for each other. For Lent, we have had extra groups running, but there are groups meeting year round, including:

Tuesday 2pm 1/25 Ward Street **Thursday 7pm** 158 McLeod Street

Monthly Services are held at Fergusson Rest Home on the 3rd Thursday of the month and at Summerset Rest Home on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

SOME SPECIAL DATES TO BEAR IN MIND

Good Friday Stations of the Cross (full Easter timetable is on back page)

You are all invited to come and journey with us from the Garden of Gethsemane to Jesus' burial in the tomb. The dramatized reading of the Passion story starts under the trees near the Moonshine Road entrance to the church and moves around the **graveyard**. You are most welcome to join us for **hot cross buns** and a hot drink in the Hall at the end of the Stations. If it's wet, the Stations will be in the Hall.

Ezee Meals

On Thursday **6 April**, Ezee Meals will be open, and deliveries made, instead of on Good Friday. Otherwise, Ezee Meals continues its usual Tuesday and Friday morning 9.30am—Noon hours. Meals can also be ordered over the phone (04 528 9223) for delivery on Friday mornings within Upper Hutt.



Anzac Day Service (Tuesday 25 April)

Anzac Day will be commemorated at the Lychgate, Upper Hut's earliest Anzac memorial, at **11.00am**, followed by a cup of tea or coffee in the Hall.

Many Thanks to all those who support our work in building faith, building a parish family and reaching out to others in our community.

If you would like to contribute financially, the Trentham Parish Bank account is ANZ 06 0773 0009875 00.

Please put name and 'Giving' as reference, & email us your address.

EVENTS OVER HOLY WEEK AND EASTER		
Sunday 2 April	10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service
Thursday 6 April	7:00 pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper and footwashing in the church
Good Friday 7 April	12 noon	Stations of the Cross in the churchyard followed by hot cross buns in the hall
	2:00 pm	Liturgy of the Passion in the church
Easter Sunday 9 April	10:00 am	Easter Eucharist with the renewal of baptismal vows in the church