



Mountview Uniting Church Mitcham

Nurturing our people in the Christian faith and reaching out
to the local community in the power of the Holy Spirit

Sunday 29th March 2020

Lent 5A

Lent A season of preparation and discipline that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the Church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship. This season is the traditional time to prepare for baptisms and confirmations to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday, or during the season of Easter.

Notices

Mountview's Temporary Closure

As most should be aware, worship services at Mountview are not being held as a result of Government restrictions during the Coronavirus pandemic. This closure is of unknown duration and could easily continue for some months. Some of the details of these restrictions are changing rapidly, but it is not expected that the blanket ban on worship services will change. It has been said that restrictions will be reviewed monthly with the first of such reviews occurring late in April. The ban therefore includes Easter services. Weddings and Funerals are also severely curtailed, but again the details may change. Our Property Booking Officer, Eddie Short, has been in touch with all our tenants to advise them of our situation and most of them have decided to forego their programs. We are grateful to Eddie for his diligence and for being such a good ambassador for the Church.

Keeping in Touch

During our time of forced closure, we need to be aware of one another's wellbeing and our Pastoral Partners will endeavour to keep in touch with us and especially with those who have particular issues or are feeling isolated. Please do not hesitate to contact your Pastoral Partner if you have a special need. We will continue to publish a weekly notice sheet and Tina has graciously agreed to provide worship resources for inclusion each week. She has also produced an order of service which can be used for a home communion. (Editor: This will be sent in readiness for next Sunday, which is usually Communion Sunday.) We have also invited those who lead our Prayers of the People to share their prayers with us via the notice sheet. The notice sheet will continue to be provided as an email attachment to those who have an email account and will be posted on the Church's website. For those who do not have the internet, we will endeavour to drop a copy into your letterbox or post it to you. Our Multimedia folk are examining other ways for keeping in touch via (for example) video conferencing. Those who regularly chat with their grandchildren on a tablet or computer will know how valuable this is for maintaining a relationship. If you have a particular preference for a communication method or a worship resource, please click Reply and our notice sheet editors will collect your requests.

Centre 81

Our outreach ministry drop-in centre is closed during the pandemic. Help, however, is available via the Centre 81 phone service (9873 1726) which is frequently monitored. Jill Kidd has advised that *"if any of our Mountview family knows about anyone in their circle of friends or family, who could use a helping hand by way of a food parcel, either contact me directly, or access the answering machine, and I will follow it up from there"*. Thanks Jill, and your Committee, for maintaining this important service to our community.

Stations of the Cross

Last Sunday's special service was a wonderful reminder of the significant events leading to Easter. We offer our thanks to Jo Menger Leeman, her family and helpers for their leadership of this event. We also acknowledge the part played by Hendrix Cram for his hesitant but eventual cock crow and Jubilee Menger for her impromptu 'liturgical dance' during the final recorded song and video. It was a shame that many of our members had already decided to 'self-isolate' on this day; they missed a memorable treat. Perhaps it was significant that this service was the last at Mountview for a while as it traced the final days of Jesus' ministry. But we are a 'resurrection people' and so, although saddened by our need to temporarily close, we are also heartened by the Easter message that resurrection leads to new things in the power of the Spirit.

"Contact"

The April edition of "Contact" will be available shortly and we are making arrangements for your copy to reach you. Its co-editors, Margaret and John Williams, have announced that this is the last edition of Mountview's magazine under their editorship. We warmly acknowledge their dedicated work on this bi-monthly over a great number of years. Of course, if someone would like to offer to keep this or an alternative communication method going, please let your willingness be known. Church Council plans to do a bit of lateral thinking on possibilities for the future, noting that our future membership in a Cluster might also suggest something.

Offerings

Those who use the open plate or envelopes for their free-will offerings will be inconvenienced by our temporary closure of worship services and the Church will find things are difficult if its income decreases. Our expenses will not stop during this period of closure; we will still be paying Tina as she continues to write weekly worship resources and continues her pastoral work; fixed expenses such as insurance and municipal charges will also continue. So, we suggest that you consider becoming a direct debit giver so that your regular contribution to Church expenses can continue. If that is your wish, then please contact David Rowe who will assist you to make the change.

Geoffrey Willis, Secretary, Mountview Church Council

Lectionary Readings

This Sunday:

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8: 6-11 John 11: 1-45

Next Sunday: (Palm Sunday)

Isaiah 50: 4-9(a) Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Philemon 2: 5-11 Matthew 21: 1-11

Prayer Cycles

Rostered members for 'Prayers of The People' - please email your prayer (for your upcoming Sunday) to multi-media@mountview.unitingchurch.org.au by 6 PM Thursday of that week, if possible

This Sunday: John Gerrand

World: The Balkans: including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia

Ecumenical: St Philip's Catholic, Blackburn North

UCA: Bayswater, Ferntree Gully, Scoresby; Tanderra (Uniting AgeWell)

Next Sunday: Rhonda Goodall

World: Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania

Ecumenical: St Timothy's Catholic, Forest Hill

UCA: Boronia Road; Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

Lawn Mowing Roster

March: Peter Cox and Kelvin Ward

April: Dennis Cooper and Don Bain

Mountview Contacts

Please see our website for all our contact details: www.mountviewuca.org