

Easter 2022

Have you ever had the experience of planning for your life to go one way, only to have events and circumstances beyond your control push you in another direction altogether? That is, of course, a rhetorical question! We've all had that experience - sometimes in ways that are simply irritating, and sometimes in ways that can be deeply traumatic.

As I write, the world watches in horror as the escalating conflict in Ukraine pushes us ever closer to a global confrontation. The food and energy shortages caused by that war are already being expressed in protests and riots around the world, and more will surely follow. Unprecedented flooding in Australia has devastated communities already reeling from the damage caused by last year's unprecedented flooding; while in our own country preparations are underway for the wildfires which will inevitably follow a summer predicted to be significantly hotter than usual. The sixth wave of a global pandemic is firmly underway around us, fueled by a yet more contagious variant which swept first through Africa, Europe and Asia.

Three years ago, little or none of the news that shapes our world today would have been imaginable. And yet this is now the reality we share!

There is, however, another reality we share too. This Holy Week we will share again a story with many parallels to our own time... a story of the anger, hatred, self-interest, and betrayal that led to the undeserved death of an innocent man. We will remember the lessons of this story... of how intertwined and interdependent people's lives really are; of how everyone's decisions and actions affect the lives of those around them; and of how society's collective failures punish the vulnerable. We will grieve the memory of Good Friday, just as we grieve the memory of the millions whose lives have been lost in the turmoil of the last thousand days.

But... we will also remember that the story of Holy Week was not defined by the sadness and horror of Good Friday, but by what came next! And we will remember that the same is true today.

Not because the miraculous events of Easter assure us that everybody eventually gets their fairytale ending - but for something far more profound. There is a light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it. There is a life that came into the world... the life of God... and God is with us still. The same life-giving, divine creative love that swept through Jesus' tomb, that swept through Jesus' first followers, that energised and inspired a community to strive for lives of justice and peace... flows among us still. And the same healing of the world is the hope and vision and reality on which we build our lives.

For people's lives really are intertwined and interconnected, with God, and with each other. The choices we make every day for hope over fear, for love over hate, for compassion over indifference, powerfully shape the lives of those around us. The reality we celebrate everyday - that Christ is Risen, and that there is nothing in all creation that can keep us from the life and power of God's love - is our constant assurance that the future holds all the promise and potential of God's Kingdom. That hope is a powerful and life-changing gift. May it inspire the choices we make today, tomorrow, and everyday as we share that gift with the world.

A blessed and life-giving Easter to you all.  
Fr Doug



## EASTER 2022

Here we go again! Just as I thought the real spring would arrive, we are hit with a last “hurrah” of Mother Nature’s winter. Last week I sat at my front door with my tea and a short-sleeved shirt reading while soaking up some much-needed sunshine. It is here, I thought, and began thinking about what to plant in my little garden this year.

Then this past weekend we were socked in again. High winds with snow meant white-out conditions and some of our highways were closed. Temperatures plummeted again, with windchill down to -20! And within no time 5-6 inches (12? Centimeters) landed on my back patio. Getting to church on Sunday was fun – I couldn’t see the edge of the road, let alone one traffic light to the next. Thank heavens I haven’t put my summer tires on yet! But it did make for a couple of quiet days.

We have also been thrust into a world reminiscent of over 60 years ago – it was said then and needs to be said again – never again. Our prayers are for the vulnerable, the victims, those who have been displaced. And for the families that have been separated. Our hearts grieve with those who have experienced great loss.

It has felt as if we are living Lent in a very real way. We continue to practice social distancing, mask wearing, sanitizing, all in the effort to keep ourselves and others safe. Our habits have had to change and adapt as we face new social norms. It can feel as if we must look at others with suspicion and caution. Yet if we follow Jesus’ teachings, we realize that we actually are caring for each other. 1st John says: “Beloved, let us love one another”. And our actions are to back up those words.

That is what Jesus did as he journeyed through Holy Week to Good Friday and then to the resurrection on Easter Morning, out of love for us, he took on our nature, becoming one of us, and then making that final and eternal sacrifice for us. Because of his love for us, we are people of resurrection. Even when we go through trials and difficult times, we have a vision of the eternal before us. We are able to see the bigger picture and know that we can rest in God’s love and presence.

Easter is joy. Easter is passion and love. Easter is power unlike anything we have ever seen. But we can experience it in relationship with Jesus and with each other. Reconciliation is possible because of that power. People are brought into relationship because of that abundant love and grace.

We are all on that road to resurrection. For some it is bumpier and more winding and hillier than others. But we are all on a journey, and we journey together. As we approach that day may we prepare our hearts in readiness, to be able to say:

Alleluia, the Lord is risen. The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Happy Easter! Rev. Sharon+



## **Wardens' Letter to Parishioners for the Easter Newsletter 2022**

As we reflect on last year's Easter's submission from the Wardens it is interesting to remember that in the spring of 2021 we were adjusting to the impact of COVID-19 from 2020. Our major focus was in making plans for our vaccination appointments. Little did we think then that another year later the pandemic would still be affecting our lives!

However, with the increase in the number of those vaccinated and the decrease of infected cases, restrictions are being lifted and we can hope for a brighter future and begin to resume many of our daily activities and social interactions with family and friends once again.

The pandemic continued from 2020 to affect the protocols and procedures directed by the government and Diocese for the operations within the Church and our parishes. Modifications had to be put in place which included the closure of the Church and implementation of livestreamed worship services (which thankfully are continuing).

This also affected our finances and without having fundraising opportunities and rental income for the Church we have a sizeable deficit.

With the acquisition of a new tenant in the Rectory and resumption of the above, it is our goal to significantly decrease that amount by the end of this year. We have always welcomed the generosity of our parishioners in supporting the various programs and ministries within the Church. The Foundation has continued to be an important donor to All Saints' and their financial assistance has always been appreciated throughout the years.

As Wardens, we will continue to keep parishioners updated on current information including changes to protocols and procedures and when we can reopen the Church to full capacity.

We do look forward to that time when we can all gather together as a Parish again and celebrate the valued connections we have as members of All Saints' congregation.

Until then, we wish you and your families all the best during this celebration of Easter.

Respectfully submitted, by Kathi Wilkinson, on behalf of Penny Bourne, Catherine Durant, Jake Johnston and Catherine Raaflaub

All Saints' continues to be....Collingwood's welcoming haven of support, care, outreach and inspiration.



Maundy Thursday April 14th  
7pm



Good Friday April 15th  
10am



Easter Sunday April 17th  
9:30am

