



SIGNPOST APRIL 2021

Gisborne Presbyterian Parish

www.standrewsgis.org.nz

Minister

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MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER



A message for the Holy Week

The Passion of the Christ is a 2004 American film produced, co-written and directed by Mel Gibson. It depicts the Passion of Jesus primarily based on the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The film mainly covers the final 12 hours before Jesus was crucified, namely the Passion. The film has been controversial and received largely polarized reviews, with some critics calling the film a religious classic. Meanwhile, others found the extreme violence and claimed that the film promoted anti-Semitism. Anyone who watched the film may share the views of either side or both.

It is scandalous for any viewer who watched the film because it is not a movie based on fiction, but gospels that are regarded as sacred scriptures in Christianity. The film may also make many uncomfortable as Jesus' message of love and eternal life had cost him his life.

A New Testament scholar N. T. Wright wrote an article under the title of *Uncomfortable Truth of Easter*.¹

The uncomfortable truth is that “Easter has burst into our world, the world of space, time and matter, the world of real history and real people and real life.” It is still uncomfortable mainly because “our minds and imaginations are too small to contain it, so we do our best to put the sea into a bottle and fit the explosive fact of the resurrection into the possibilities we already know about.”

As the church is living in the Holy Week - Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, it reminds us of what makes Christianity so unique in this pluralistic world is what still keeps us in this faith in Christ.

Jin Sook Kim

¹ <https://ntwrightpage.com/2016/03/30/the-uncomfortable-truth-of-easter/>

WEEKLY PARISH EVENTS TO WHICH ALL ARE WELCOME

WALKING GROUP



meets at the community hall 9 am every Monday to enjoy a leisurely walk around town. Everyone, any age is invited to join the group and to enjoy a cuppa together afterwards in the lounge.

OPEN DOOR

is our Parish weekly get together on Tuesday mornings from 10 am in St Andrew’s Lounge for a cuppa, friendship and chat please come and join us!



PASTORAL CARE

If you have a pastoral need please phone Rev Jin Sook Kim: 021 02952589



MAINLY MUSIC



Wednesday mornings are a time of organised chaos in the church lounge when pre-school children and their parents and grandparents enjoy a musical time together. **Cost is \$4 per family.**

MATAWHERO GARDENERS

Members of GPP and friends are weeding, prayer/discussion **2nd Monday** of each month at 9.30am Matawhero Church. together.



ZOOM KORERO ON FRIDAYS

Join in the fun every Friday at 10.30 am for **ZOOM korero** from your computer. A link and passcode number will be sent out with the Order of Service each week.

KORERO ME KAI (CONVERSATION WITH FOOD)

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm in the community hall at St Andrew’s



KAI & KORERO

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALISON HAISMAN –

Alison was awarded for 40 years service with the Women’s Institute and was given a Good Service Medal, presented by the Mayor. **More details to come. Check out the Herald, this story is yet to be published.**



PLEASE COME AND JOIN OUR CHOIR (and make new friends)
The Choir meets once a week on Friday at 1.00 pm in St Andrew's Church.

'CELEBRATION POT LUCK' SERVICE

is held in the community hall on the 4th



Sunday of the month at 10.30 am.
Please invite friends and family also

bring a plate to share or koha if preferred. We are getting together, sharing stories and a meal.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE will be held at Matawhero Church on Friday April 2nd 10.00am. If you require a lift, please leave your name with the office.



EASTER SUNDAY COMMUNION
APRIL 4th 10.30 am at St Andrew's Church
Please bring a flower to put on the cross.
(end of daylight saving)



BOOK REVIEW
OUR SHADOWED WORLD

Dominic Kirkham



Civilisation is often seen as the opposite of savagery – the living city rising above the threatened wilderness, leaving in its wake a more primitive state.

It is a story that is represented by the monumental concrete face which stands on a hill alongside the Road of Bones (human bones!) overlooking Magadan in Kolyma, Eastern Russia.

Dominic Kirkham describes incidents of colonization by Europeans. When Columbus stepped ashore on the Bahamas in 1492, he was welcomed by the Taino people, who had inhabited many of the Caribbean islands for over a thousand years and had a well-ordered and peaceful society. These he summarily denounced as heretics.

After twelve years of genocidal butchery and disease brought by the Spanish, the islands became depopulated. In such a case we may well ponder just who exactly were the savages?

I like the way the author draws attention to other aspects of civilisation – Religion where the reader can also ponder why the mythical history of Israel legitimises the modern state. Architecture, politics, language and ecological awareness.

The Bibliography is extensive – I recommend Karen Armstrong's *'The Crusades and Their Impact on Today's World'*.

Beverley Smith

DOT'S FAITH JOURNEY



Dorothy Valmai McCulloch. Dot was born in Te Kuiti in the north of the King Country region of the North Island. Dot was one of six children – one brother was older than

her. Before the 2nd World War, three were born, and after her dad came home, the three other siblings were born.

Dot's father worked on the railway, so they frequently moved from one place to another. Her father worked on track maintenance and when he developed work-related eye problems, he was relocated to an office at Huntly for five years. It was the longest time that the family had spent in one place.

When Dot was seven years old, they lived in Te Kawa, there was a polio epidemic, which meant that they couldn't go to school as it was closed.

They moved to Pukekohe and back to Te Kawa when the epidemic was over.

Dot's father was not interested in church, but her Mother was raised as Christian – a type of Brethren of which services used to be held at someone's house. They attended the service on a regular basis. They would attend the church camp every year. Her grandmother also belonged to the same church. Dot was influenced by her grandmother's faith, who was very faithful. She went to the church camp in December with her mother and grandmother. Dot was baptised in a little creek at the age of 18. When she had just graduated from high school, Dot decided to be baptised, although her dad thought it a stupid idea. Even so, at the end of his life, Dot's dad had changed his view on church a little bit. Although he didn't go to church, he had one of the ministers take his funeral service.

Dot had a job after leaving school as a shorthand typist which she enjoyed. By this time her dad became hard to live with, because of his job and other issues. So, Dot left her parents to live in Rotorua, where she had relatives and friends. She had worked at a sports store, making trout flies and then got a job as shorthand typist in the post office. She began to attend an Anglican church from time to time because she wanted to find her feet and try different things. She met her husband at her friend's house. Both found each other good people. At the age of 22 (1963), Dot married Ronald Russell McCulloch (known as Russell) at an Anglican church in Hamilton and then they came to live in Gisborne in 1968.

Dot and Russell had four children. They became Anglicans, and all of them were baptised. Dot worked as an office lady for her husband and did odd jobs as well as being a

mother while Russell was working as a helicopter pilot. He was often away for a few weeks, so Dot had to cope with children and work without her husband. Her jobs were related to the Radio telephone on behalf of Russell, driving, delivering fuel, spraying chemicals, filling monsoon buckets for firefighting, etc.

In 1984, Russell and a young worker were killed in a helicopter crash at age 52. Glen, the oldest child, was 18, and the youngest one was just two weeks away from his 10th birthday. It was devastating. Dot had to work to raise her children alone.

The first contact with a Care & Craft organisation was through Dot's mother, who was severely dyslexic. Dot's mother had joined Care & Craft at a centre in Mt Maunganui. She invited Dot to come with her. Her first impression of Care & Craft was a happy family moment for everyone. Impressed, Dot wanted to be involved in Care & Craft.

She came back to Gisborne and noticed that a lady was doing something similar to Care & Craft. Dot started Care & Craft as the 73rd centre in New Zealand. In 1988, initially, 40 people came with eight helpers. As time went by, the demographic changed and people began to look after their grandchildren instead of volunteering. The attending numbers were gradually dropping nationwide. With initial funding of the Community Organisation Grant Scheme (COGS), Dot's Care & Craft centre was able to serve the community.

Now Care & Craft is funded by a single bequest by a guest who used to belong to this group. Currently, there are only 12 centres left in New Zealand. There are a number of issues to running Care & Craft centres. The first setback

is the decreasing number of guests, lack of volunteers, difficulties hiring a hall, and many others things. Even so, Dot is very hopeful as she is in touch with other organisations. Whatever happens in the future, Dot hopes that she and her team can continue this important work. Apart from Care & Craft, Dot enjoys many hobbies – doing flowers for many other community functions - this is one of her passions as well as spinning. Because of her faith, she thinks that she could continue. It has been a truly blessed life for Dot so far, and there are many more good things still to come.

Dot McCulloch

"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

- Mother Teresa



MY TRAIN

At Birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believed they would always travel on our side.



However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we do not realise that they vacated their seats. This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells.

Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey. Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train.

Unknown Author. Thank you to Lynnor Cooke



Light will triumph...it is the nature of God

Easter marks the resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion.

In New Zealand, we focus on the Easter Weekend (Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday) with Monday being a public holiday.

In another perspective, we focus on the Easter Season. This begins Easter Day and concludes on the Day of Pentecost. It is the Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season, which include eight Sundays. This season celebrates the resurrection and ascension of Christ, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Easter is the main highlight in my Christian perspective. This includes the week prior to Easter, the Holy Week. It is the climax of ministry for me and my church community. Jesus came to the world because of God's love. Jesus died and rose from the tomb, defeating death and sin once and for all. Jesus ascended to heaven saying, "I will come again". Mark 13:26. Jesus had already taught, "My Father will send the Advocate, that is, the Holy Spirit, he

will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you". John 14:26. Easter Season concludes on the Day of Pentecost, the day remembered for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Covid-19 changed all our best laid plans last year; missing Easter 2020 was a major let down for me personally. Hence, Easter 2021 is eagerly anticipated - let's hope we get to celebrate.

Easter reminds us that there is suffering, death, rejection, betrayal, denial, disaster. Through Covid-19, many in the world have experienced these.

I do not forget the suffering caused by this disease or how fortunate our country has been when I suggest that as we journey through the Easter Season we recall and appreciate the unexpected positive experiences that have come out of Covid-19. The opportunities, light, life, hope and love experiences that we encountered and continue to encounter in this time of pandemic.

Some fortunate 'bubbles' experienced wonderful times with family and friends, working together, sharing, caring, looking out for each other. Quality time together, with a different pace of life. We reconnected or connected for the first time with neighbours, helped others, strangers, disadvantaged, poor and needy. We gathered via online devotions, Zoomed nationally and globally. The list goes on. Life goes on. Let's not forget the lessons learnt, including how to be resilient and to adjust. Let us continue to adjust to any situation in life - now and yet to come.

Life, hope, light, peace, love and faith will always triumph. It is the nature of God.

Easter is for you, for your loved ones. God is saying, "I love you, unconditionally, sacrificially, in Jesus, my beloved Son."

Blessings
Fakaofu

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GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH PRESENTS

AN ANZAC DAY
COMMEMORATION



A DISPLAY DEPICTING
PEACE & HARMONY

Anzac Weekend

Sun 25 April 1pm – 4pm

Mon 26 April 1pm – 4pm

Venue: St Andrews Church, 176 Cobden Street



Entry Fee: Adults \$5.00
Children: FREE