

Sacrifice

You may be reasonably familiar with the painting, 'The Praying Hands,' by Albrecht Durer, as pictured below. Legend has it that Hans and Albrecht Durer, two French brothers from a large family whose father worked as a goldsmith, wanted to study painting. The only way they could afford to do so was for one of them to work in the mines while the other completed his studies. They would then change places.

So for four years Albrecht went to Venice to study while his brother sent him money he earned in the mines. At last Albrecht returned, now a renowned artist. It was his turn to help his brother, Hans. However, when the two brothers met, Albrecht discovered the full extent of the sacrifice Hans had made. His hands were calloused and bruised from four years of hard labour. His fingers would never be able to handle a painter's brush.

In gratitude for the sacrifice his brother had made, Albrecht used the work-ridden hands of his brother as models for what became his renowned painting.

Sacrifice lies at the heart of the Easter message. Sacrifice lies at the heart of giving. If there is no sacrifice involved, can we really call it giving? Giving lies at the heart of being a good person and also goes a long way towards being a reasonable Christian. Give, give, give, whether it be time, goods, money, a caring gesture, word or ear. It all amounts to love and compassion, and we need this in spades right now.

'But if anyone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need and refuses to help – how can God's love be in that person' 1 John 3:17.



Easter Services

Maundy Thursday (April 6) – 7.00pm Washing of the Feet

Good Friday (April 7) – 10.00am Celebration of Christ's Passion

Easter Sunday (April 9) – 9.30am Holy Communion

Palm Crosses and Branches

In preparation for our Palm Sunday service, we will be gathering in the hall on Saturday 1st at 9.00am in order to make palm crosses. If you can join us, you would certainly be most welcome.

Also, we are looking to access palm branches. If you can help out, please let me know.

Finances

The end of the financial year is imminent. If you are thinking of making a contribution to our finances, not a bad idea to do it very soon and your tax receipt falls into this financial year! Just as an observation, we are running in the red over the first two months of the year.

Daylight Saving

Don't forget to turn your clocks back Saturday evening next week (1st).

New Sound System

We are having a new sound system being installed next week. It will be up and running just in time for our Palm Sunday service. The speakers, mics and sound desk will all be upgraded and will eventually be used in our new church. For that reason, the cost is being born by our building fund.

The production and installation is being carried out by Mark Patterson, Clarity Av, Dunedin. Mark will be present at the Palm Sunday service just checking that everything is working as it should be. Music plays a very important role in our 10.15am services and this upgrade will certainly enhance that.

Time for a Smile

An old man is celebrating his 111th birthday. A reporter from the local paper interviews him. 'So,' says the reporter, 'to what do you attribute your great age?' 'Well,' says the old man, 'I think it's mainly to do with the fact that I was born a long time ago.'

South Auckland Christian Food Bank

They are most appreciative of the donations of food from St Paul's. Please keep them coming – the demand just keeps rising.

If you would like to volunteer for a few hours each week, your help would be so very welcome. Their depot is at 75A Wiri Station Road, Manukau. Contact is Ian Foster – 027 477 1092.

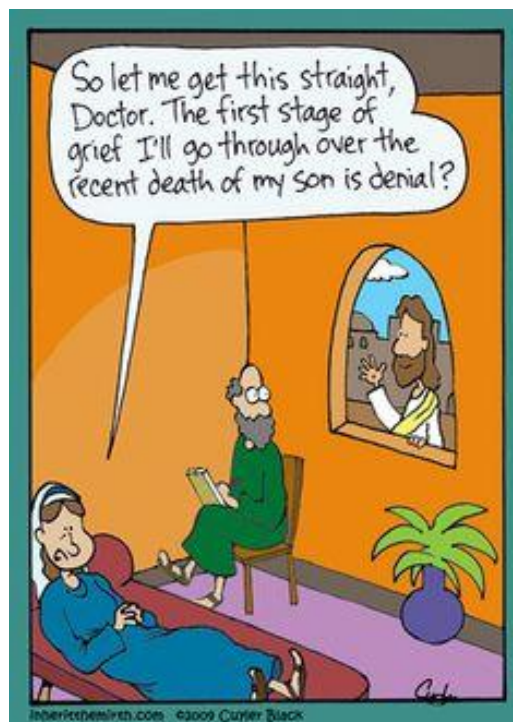
Keyboard

Many thanks to John and Rhys Bean for replacing the keyboard in the church. That keyboard is now being used in the hall.

Pews

A working bee was held recently to give the pews in the church a makeover. They really do look great. A big thank you to those responsible.

You will also notice new curtains in the hall. Many thanks to Brian Perry for providing and hanging these.



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