

St Paul's in the Park Newsletter February 2024

Repentance/Forgiveness

It is said that when Leonardo da Vinci was working on his painting, 'The Last Supper', he became angry with someone. Losing his temper, he lashed out at the man with bitter words. Returning to his canvas, he attempted to work on the face of Jesus, but was unable to do so. He was so upset he could not compose himself for the painstaking work. Finally, he put down his tools and sought out the man and asked for his forgiveness. The man accepted his apology and Leonardo was able to return to his work and finish painting the face of Jesus.

We are now in the season of Lent. Lent is the 40 days leading up to Easter, so it is essentially a time of preparation for this most important festival in our Christian calendar. It is a time when we should be reflecting on our spiritual journey and our relationship with God.

However, in order to move forward, we always have to deal with the past, in other words to acknowledge and change those things we need to put behind us. There is a word for this – 'repentance.' The whole issue of repentance is central to our Christian religion. The word - 'repentance' occurs 56 times in the New Testament.

In addition, it is a time when we should be focusing on our faith and be attempting to strengthen our faith through increasing our focus on prayer, reading or even charitable outreach. But that's easier said than done. Don't set yourself goals that are likely to be unattainable over the next 5 weeks. Just a little bit extra on a daily basis will make a world of difference.

Build

Excavations are progressing well. At this stage, the projected completion date is April 2024, but there are a variety of factors which could change that.

Casual site visits are not permissible. If you would like a site visit, let me know and I can organise accordingly.

Finances

We finished the year with a deficit of \$5,049. This was a better than expected result but still disappointing that we didn't manage to finish in credit.

As the new year gets under way, I remind you of our bank details: 06 0991 0056055 00. If you require a donor number, please let me know and I will see to it.

Two Services

It was decided at this week's vestry meeting to continue with the one service at 9.30am.

Sunday School

You have probably noticed that our Sunday School numbers are growing. Thanks once again, to Bernie for the wonderful ministry she is carrying out here. Creativity coupled with hard work!

Time for a Smile

The phone rings in the school office one morning. The secretary answers and a voice says, 'I am phoning to let you know that little Jimmy is not well today and won't be coming to school.' 'Oh dear,' says the secretary. 'Who is speaking?' 'This is my father,' says the voice.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday (March 28) – 7.00pm Washing of the Feet

Good Friday (March 29) – 10.00am Celebration of Christ's Passion

Easter Sunday (March 31) – 9.30am Holy Communion



To Ponder

'You can easily judge the character of others by how they treat those who can do nothing for them or to them.' Malcolm Forbes

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