



# Crows Nest Uniting Church

‘A welcoming, spirited community for today’

<http://crowsnestuniting.org.au>

18<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

We are now working our way through the holy season of Lent – the most solemn and serious season of the church’s year. From Ash Wednesday 14 February until Easter Saturday 31 March, the focus is on penitence, prayer and repentance, seeking to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Today’s gospel reading, has Jesus speaking profound Lenten and gospel truth “unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit”.

### **WELCOME TO JOSH DOWTON**

It’s a great pleasure to welcome Josh Dowton from Northside Baptist Church sharing with us this morning. Josh has a passion for churches to be active in their local community.

### **A FAREWELL MORNING TEA FOR JOYCE ON 25 MARCH**

Please join us on Sunday 25 March to farewell our wonderful Administrator, Joyce Lum. Joyce will be leaving us at the end of March, after 9 years sterling service. The time has come for her to enjoy being a grandparent. Over the years that Joyce has been in the office, she has done the most amazing job. We could not possibly list all the admin items that Joyce manages for us. She deals with everything from major building renovation projects, to dealing with our rental groups, to coaxing us into putting our names on rosters. Joyce is always calm and so willing to help, no matter what the issue. We are very sad to see her leave but we wish her much joy in the new things ahead.

Through Joyce we have been able to find a suitable replacement. Gaiklin Teh will start work on 20 March. She will have a couple of weeks with Joyce to ‘learn the ropes’. We welcome Gaiklin and look forward to working with her.

### **LENTEVENT WEEK 5: The Power of Partnership**

Make a difference in the lives of others. Change one small patch. Give generously. Expect no reward in return. [www.lentevent.com/give/](http://www.lentevent.com/give/)

## **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE – HAVE YOUR SAY**

The Church Council is giving thought to our future directions as a congregation. We aim to bring some ideas to the congregational planning meeting on **Sunday 20 May**. (Please note change of date from that shown in 2018 Directory.)

However, not everyone can attend congregational meetings – and meetings can be a bit formal. So, to allow everyone to have their say, we are holding an informal ‘ideas’ evening at the Manse, on **Thursday March 22**, 7.30 pm. It is open to all members of the congregation. Please come along and have your say. We want to hear your ideas, particularly about how you consider Crows Nest Uniting Church might best fulfil its role as a ‘welcoming spirited community for today’.

If you can’t come to that meeting, but want to put forward some ideas for discussion, please see Michael, Bruce, Peter or Lin.

The Church Council will consider all the ideas put forward, and add some ideas of its own, and then formulate proposals to put the congregation at the meeting on Sunday 20 May.

Any questions? Please ask Michael, Bruce, Peter, or Lin.

## **TRADING TABLE**

Proceeds from the trading table will support LentEvent. Any knick-knacks for sale will be gratefully received but please, nothing chipped or cracked. Information from Lorna.

## **LENT STUDY SERIES – Tuesdays until 27 March 7.30pm**

A Lent Study Series will continue in the Manse on Tuesday 20 March and conclude the following Tuesday 27 March. We will continue to use the Lent Event materials and the Lectionary readings for the following Sundays as start off points for (hopefully) stimulating conversations. On 27 March the invitation is to arrive at 7pm for a shared meal. Further details from Michael.

## **PUBLIC READING OF ST MARK’S GOSPEL 25 March 4 pm**

On Palm Sunday, 25 March at 4.00 pm there will be a public reading of St Mark’s gospel in our Church. This public reading was suggested by Rev Clive Pearson during his recent supply ministry. Please indicate to Michael if you want to be one of the readers.

## **MAUNDY THURSDAY 29 MARCH 7 pm - DINNER & TENEBRAE SERVICE**

On the evening of Maundy Thursday we’ll come together to remember Jesus’ Last Supper and His Journey to the Cross. We’ll gather in the upstairs hall at 7pm for a simple fish meal, readings, and Holy Communion.

The food will be pre ordered, so to arrange catering please sign up on the list in the tea room. The cost of the meal is \$15.

## **EASTER SUNDAY 1 APRIL 9 am – BREAKFAST**

Once again, in what is becoming a tradition, on Easter Sunday morning we'll begin our celebration of Christ's Resurrection with breakfast in the upstairs hall. Everyone's invited to come along and share the meal – we'll start promptly at 9am to be finished in time for the service at 10 am.

Once again for catering purposes there is a sign up list on the tea room. Please note there is no charge for the meal.

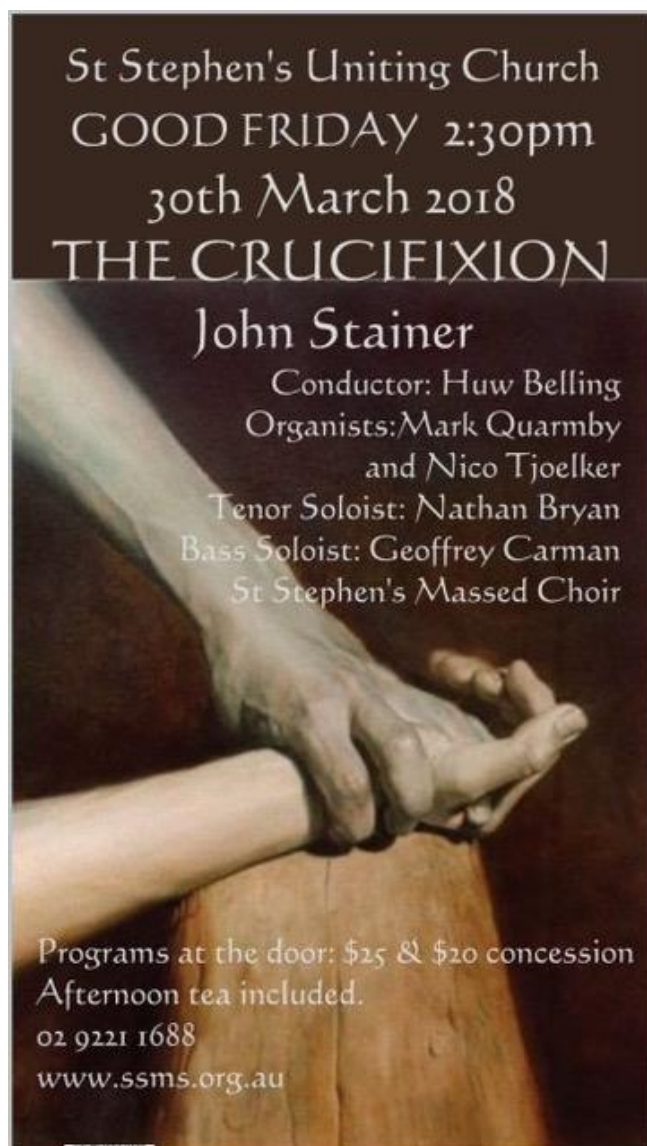
## **ST STEPHEN'S UNITING CHURCH GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT**

Good Friday Concert, 30th March at 2.30 pm St Stephen's Uniting Church (Macquarie St) John Stainer's The Crucifixion will be performed by St Stephen's Massed Choir together with Tenor and Bass Soloists

Afternoon tea will be served after the performance.

Programs at the door: \$25 & \$20 concession (afternoon tea included)

See Lorna for more details



St Stephen's Uniting Church  
GOOD FRIDAY 2:30pm  
30th March 2018  
**THE CRUCIFIXION**  
John Stainer  
Conductor: Huw Belling  
Organists: Mark Quarmby  
and Nico Tjoelker  
Tenor Soloist: Nathan Bryan  
Bass Soloist: Geoffrey Carman  
St Stephen's Massed Choir

Programs at the door: \$25 & \$20 concession  
Afternoon tea included.  
02 9221 1688  
[www.ssms.org.au](http://www.ssms.org.au)

**Thank you** to all who have contributed to our worship this morning **Pastor Josh Downton** (preacher), **Lin** (reader), **Paul** (prayer leader), **Peter** (organist), **Barbara & ?** (welcomers), **Emi & Joy** (morning tea), **?** (counters), **Deb** (Kids Alive) and **Lorna** (flowers)

**For next Sunday – 25 March 2018**

**Readings:**

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalms 118:1-2,19-29

Philippians 2:5-11

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16



**Rosters:**

PREACHER:	Rev Michael Thomas
READER:	Bev C
PRAYER LEADER:	+1
ORGANIST:	Peter B
WELCOMERS:	+2
MORNING TEA:	The Socialistas
COUNTING OFFERING:	+2
KIDS ALIVE:	Deb L
FLOWERS:	+1

Please send items for this news sheet to Michael  
***before*** Thursday

We worship on land that is sacred to, and has been cared for by people of the Cammeraygal and Wallumedegal clans, part of the Kuringgai tribe. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

CHURCH OFFICE: SHIRLEY RD CHURCH,  
122 SHIRLEY ROAD WOLLSTONECRAFT, 2065  
PH: 9439 6033

ADMINISTRATOR: JOYCE LUM  
CRNESTUC@BIGPOND.NET.AU

MINISTER: MICHAEL THOMAS  
PH: 0407 281 486

THOMASMICHAEL310@GMAIL.COM