



uniting
church

Newscope



24th March, 2024

**Wesley Castle Hill
Congregation**

Palm Sunday's Service 9.30am

Preacher: Rev. Carmel Ieraci

Bible Readings : Mark 11: 1-11

“Jesus and the Donkey”



<https://www.youtube.com/@wesleycastlehillunitingchu7825/streams>

Wesley Castle Hill Uniting Church

A congregation of The Uniting Church in Australia. *In partnership with Paama Seaside Church, Port Vila, Vanuatu*

Our Vision: *‘To be a caring church, uniting people in Christ’*

Phone: 9894 8999

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32 Showground Road, Castle Hill NSW 2154 / PO Box 515 Castle Hill 1765

Mission Plan (Our Mission Plan is available on the website)





Please remember in prayer—

[names removed from online version]

For those unable to worship with us

If you, or anyone you know, would like to be included in our Prayers, please contact the **Pastoral Care Team - Heather**

Details are confidential.

Please indicate if you wish to have your name included in Newscope.

Thought of the Week: ‘After we had turned out the light a week or so ago I was quietly giving thanks to God when, in my spirit, I heard the words, “Are you really giving thanks?” After a very thoughtful moment I realised that I was only going through the motions of giving thanks – a kind of nightly ritual.

I had been reading from the prophet Isaiah, *‘The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.’* Isaiah 12:2a-30 (NIV) Isaiah’s words, “with joy”, and “the Lord himself, is..... my song”, suddenly resonated with me, and I realised that there was little joy in my giving thanks. I connected also to the words of Zephaniah, *“He will take great delight in you;(he) will rejoice over you with singing.”* Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

As I lay there, contemplating those Scripture passages, the Lord’s joy for me was fast becoming my companion, and I very briefly continued to give thanks, but with his joy in my heart.....and fell sleep. I learnt a lot from that. So often we learn things off by heart, and therein lies the trap. They can become so familiar that they lose their punch. Just going through the motions of giving thanks sometimes causes us to dwell on what is happening in our lives rather than on God, and that can lead to worry.

The joy of the Lord is my strength and song. Is it yours? So....how do we get in touch with that joy of the Lord?

Contemplating those Scriptures expressing God’s joy for me, helped me. Yes, I felt it that night. What might help you? Quietly breaking out in song perhaps? Saying thanks is so important, but let our thanks give rise to joy, God’s joy in our hearts and lives. Saying thanks will then take on a new dimension.

Grace and peace Bill Rosier



Dates for your diary-March

Today Palm Sunday	24th March	9.30am Morning Worship Service. All are Welcome
Tuesday	26th March	9.30am Writers Group
Wednesday	27th March	10am Exercises gentle and low intensity perfect for post surgery
Thursday	28th March	12.30pm AA Meeting in the conference Room
Thursday	28th March	1pm Mahjong all are welcome
Thursday	28th March	7pm GA Meeting in the conference Room
Thursday	28th March	7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	29th March	9.am Good Friday Service
Sunday	31st March	6am Garden Sunrise Service 9.30am Easter Sunday Celebration



28
MAR

7.30pm Maundy
Thursday
A service of music
and Contemplation.

29
MAR

9am Good Friday
Reflecting on Jesus

31
MAR

6am Garden Sunrise
service at Wesley Church
9.30am Easter Sunday
Celebration

You're always
welcome at
Wesley

More information
www.wesleycastlehill.org.au
02 9894 8999
admin@wesleycastlehill.org.au



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Wesley Castle Hill
Congregation

Minister's Message

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Mark 11:9

Here at Wesley along with Christians around the world, the beginning of Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday. It's a day that commemorates Jesus Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, where crowds waved palm branches and hailed Him as the Messiah.

Beyond its historical and religious significance, Palm Sunday carries profound messages of encouragement and hope that resonate with us today. Just as the crowds welcomed Jesus with excitement and hope, we too are reminded of the power of faith to lift our spirits and help us to persevere. The waving of palm branches symbolizes victory, resilience, and the promise of better days ahead.

In today's world, where global and personal challenges seem insurmountable, the spirit of Palm Sunday encourages us to remain steadfast in our beliefs and to trust in God's divine guidance.

Palm Sunday unfolds against the backdrop of a tumultuous world, much like the one Jesus encountered two millennia ago. Despite facing imminent trials and persecution, Jesus entered Jerusalem with a sense of purpose and hope. His journey reminds us that even in our darkest hours, there is light on the horizon.

Palm Sunday calls us to embrace hope, to look beyond our present circumstances, and to envision a future filled with promise and possibility. It reminds us that just as autumn follows summer, hope springs eternal in the human heart.

As a community of faith, Wesley Uniting Church reflects the strength that comes from standing together in faith. Like the crowds who lined the streets of Jerusalem, we come together to celebrate our shared beliefs, to support one another in times of need, and to draw inspiration from the timeless message of love and redemption.

This week we also welcome the Wesley Preschool Families to celebrate the start of Holy Week and celebrate Easter.

May we carry the spirit of Palm Sunday in our hearts, ever mindful of the enduring message of love, redemption, and hope in Jesus it embodies.

Blessings from Rev. Carmel

The Donkey's Cross

*'Bring me the colt of a donkey,' was
the Master's request.*

*A young donkey was brought to Jesus
to carry Him into Jerusalem.*

*A week later Jesus was ordered
crucified.*

*The little donkey so loved the Lord that
he wanted to help Him carry the cross.*

But alas, he was pushed away.

*The sad little donkey waited to say
goodbye until nearly all had left.*

*As he turned to leave, the shadow of
the cross fell upon his back and
shoulders.*

*And there it has remained, a tribute to
the loyalty and love of the humblest
of God's creatures.*





Evening Prayer for Week of Christian Unity & Annual Ecumenical Gala Dinner

To mark the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christianity Unity, there will be an Evening Service of Vespers, hosted by His Eminence, Archbishop Makarios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in Australia, in the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation of Our Lady, 242 Cleveland St, Surry Hills, NSW 2010, at 5.30 pm on Friday 10th of May.

The Service will be followed by the Annual Ecumenical Fundraising Dinner in the adjacent hall of St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College, at 6.40 pm.

It will be a wonderful occasion to join with the Greek Orthodox community in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia.

The suggested donation for the dinner is \$70 per person. To book your tickets click <https://www.trybooking.com/CPHLM>

Wesley Community Market

Our next community market is on **Saturday, 6 April** from 9.00 to 3.00 p.m. In addition to our garden stall, manchester, books, children's books and toys and bric-a-brac, we will be providing morning and afternoon teas and a sausage sizzle. Our Young Adults group are also joining us with a stall. We will have community stalls including Parramatta Mission and Cancer Council.

There will be private stalls selling a variety of products. There will also be activities for children.

We are looking for **donations of toys, games and puzzles**. We invite you to donate the things you have at home that have been outgrown by your children or grandchildren to support the work of the Wesley Community Market.



Wednesdays@Wesley



Our Wednesdays@Wesley Hymn Singing is on again - Wednesday 3rd April at 10.00 am for an hour singing some of our favourite hymns followed by Morning Tea and a chat.

Garden Stall

We have now had two monthly plant sales with some success. They are held on the fourth Saturday of the month from 8.00 to noon. The success of the sales means we need donations of plants (not cuttings please). We also would love donations of all things related to the garden. Donations can be left on the verandah of McPhail Cottage or on the tables in the garden area.

Every item we sell brings us closer to final payment for the new roof on the church. Your help is greatly appreciated.

The next Garden Sale is on the 27th April from 8am—12noon. Loads to choose from including Garden Ornaments and Pots.

Cash and Eftpos facilities available



Contact List

Minister: Rev. Carmel Ieraci
0426 445 608
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Day off Thursday

Administration Officer
Karen Needs, 9894 8999

Council Secretary
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vacant
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Baptisms
Anne-Maree Kinley, 0417 228 534

Kids@Wesley
Lynette Case 0422 225 852
Fuse (Junior Youth yrs 5-8)
Tom Kelly 0466 244 323
Ben Speechly 0481 573 783

YA MISFITS (Young Adults. Many individuals seeking friendship in this society)
Aidan Armstrong 0401 246 427

Communications Coordinator
Peter Smith/Nicole Van der Stel
0417 443 810/ 0403 851 157

Education Team
Dermot Armstrong, 9686 2862

Community Markets
Bryan Mullan 0468 359 536

Community Connections
Helen McConnell 0408 211 471

Pastoral Care
Heather Searle, 9899 7628

Property Committee
Liz Jayawardene

Safe Church Committee
Bryan Mullan 0468 359 536

Seniors Care Coordinator
Heather Searle 0414 897 628

Stewardship Team
Dennis Hall 0414 541 610

Wesley Preschool
Jane Harvey, 9634 5282

Next Sunday's Service will be live streamed at 9.30am

Regular events	
Sundays 9:30am	Church Service (Communion first Sunday of the month)
Tuesdays 9:30am - 11:30am	Creative Writers
Tuesdays 1pm - 3:30pm	UFO Craft Group (Un-Finished Objects)
Wednesdays 9:30am – 11:30	Ladies' Exercise
Thursdays 1pm -3.30pm	Mahjong
Fridays 7pm—8.30pm	Fuse Years 5-8
Fridays 7:30pm -10pm	YA Misfits (Young Adults)
Monthly events	
1st Wednesday	Wednesdays@Wesley Hymn singing
1st Wednesday	10.30-12.30 watercolours and 1-3pm Animal drawing
3rd Wednesday	10.30-12.30 and 1-3pm Relaxing Art
4th Wednesday	Communion & Relax 11:15 Seniors Lunch 12-1.30pm
1st Thursday	Book Club 10am-12pm
4th Saturday	Garden Sale 8am-12noon
4th Friday	Rummikub 1pm-3pm

Wesley relies entirely on your weekly giving and fundraising.

**For online weekly giving, you can use the details below-Castle Hill Congregation
BSB: 634-634 A/c: 100027297**

Please submit items for Newscope by Monday