



uniting
church

Newscope



31st March, 2024

**Wesley Castle Hill
Congregation**

Easter Sunday's Services

6am (Sunrise) and 9.30am

Preacher : Rev. Carmel Ieraci

Bible Readings : John 20:1-18

“A Life Worth Living”



<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: *‘Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Saviour and my God!’ Psalm 43:5 (NLT)*

There are times when we disappoint ourselves because of what we say or do, and feel discouraged. However, recently I read that we need to tune out to other voices, particularly to those voices that might want to drag us down. I quote from an old writer whose words have had a great impact on me, “Never indulge, at the close of any action, in any self-reflective acts of any kind, whether of self-congratulation or of self-despair. Forget the things that are behind, the moment they are past, leaving them with God.”

We need to tune out to those voices that may cause us to feel discouraged so that we can hear what the Lord is saying to us, for today and tomorrow. When we look at Jesus’ life we see that he had to contend with other voices also. It began early in his ministry when he was confronted with the devil in the wilderness, but it happened again and again throughout his earthly ministry, particularly from the religious leaders, and sometimes from his disciples. Nothing, however, prevented him from his mission, even a Cross. Nothing got in the way of hearing his Father’s voice, and being obedient to the will of his Father.

How do we tune out to those other voices - voices that are not of God? Indeed, how do we recognise the voices that are not of God? How did Jesus do it? He took time out and had some very intimate times with his Father on his own, without any distractions.

The psalmist’s answer is simple, *‘I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Saviour and my God!’* Following the example of Jesus and getting away on our own, praising God, and having an intimate time with him is the road that we, too, must surely travel. And guess who travels that road with us – none other than Jesus himself. Easter tells us that.

Grace and peace Bill Rosier



Dates for your diary-April

Sunday	31st March	6am Sunrise Service. All are Welcome 9.30am Morning Worship Service. All are Welcome
Tuesday	2nd April	9.30am Writers Group
Wednesday	3rd April	10am Exercises gentle and low intensity perfect for post surgery
Thursday	4th April	10am Book Club new members welcome 12.30pm AA Meeting in the conference Room 1pm Mahjong all are welcome. 7pm GA Meeting in the conference Room
Friday	5th April	9am Friday Shed volunteers always welcome
Saturday	6th April	9am-3pm Community Market. See Below for details.

Congratulations to **Trudi & Lyn**

and the **Plant Sale Team** who raised \$462.00 last Saturday at the monthly plant sale— a wonderful effort by all. **Thank you**

Congratulations!



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.

Scrap Metal Wanted

Soon we will be doing a scrap metal collection with money raised going to our Roof fund.

If you have any aluminum or brass or copper (pots or pans) **Please No Steel** could you bring them to McPhail Cottage to be put next to the trailer this would be greatly appreciated.

Any enquiries please see Bruce
Many thanks in advance.



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



Minister's Message

1 Peter 1:3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. “

As Easter approaches, may the words in 1 Peter be a reminder of the incredible gift given to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a gift of hope—not just any hope, but a living hope, one that breathes life into our souls and sustains us through every joy and difficulty that life brings our way.

As we celebrate Easter, may we be people of hope holding fast to this living hope. Let it fill our hearts with joy, our spirits with courage, and our minds with peace. No matter what challenges we may face, we can take comfort in the assurance that Christ's victory over death has secured for us an eternal treasure that nothing will take away.

Let this Easter be a time of renewal and transformation. Just as Christ emerged from the tomb triumphant, so too may we emerge from any of our struggles with renewed strength and resilience. Let us embrace the new life that Easter offers, living each day abundantly in the light of Christ's resurrection.

May the hope of Easter inspire us to live boldly, love deeply, and serve faithfully.



Blessings from Rev. Carmel

“HALLELUIAH! OUR KING!”

By Anita Stevens © 25.3.24

Their hopes and dreams were shattered -

They huddled close in fear

Through Sabbath, in mourning, for their Saviour, dear...

But first thing, at daylight, Mary went to His tomb

To embalm her Lord's body - heart-broken, full of
gloom...

There she met a gardener - overwhelmed by her grief -

“Mary!” Jesus gently said ... **It was Him!** ... **JOY!** ...

RELIEF!

Dawn's gloom suddenly lifted, surrounded Him with
light

As He stood in that garden - such a wonderful sight!

The sound of birds was Joyous! “Halleluiah!” they sang

Just like the voice of angels - Through the treetops it
rang...

On hasty feet, heart bursting, Mary raced back to tell

The disciples, the good news: **Jesus had conquered**

Hell!

He is our Living Saviour, as prophets had foretold,

His spirit lives in our hearts - Disciples told us

bold!

We still believe it today - “Halleluiah!” we sing -

“Jesus Christ's risen today! ... Halleluiah! Our

King!”





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>

Contact List

Minister: Rev. Carmel Ieraci
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Day off Thursday

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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