



uniting
church

Newscope



5th May, 2024

Wesley Castle Hill
Congregation

Today's Service 9.30am (Holy Communion)

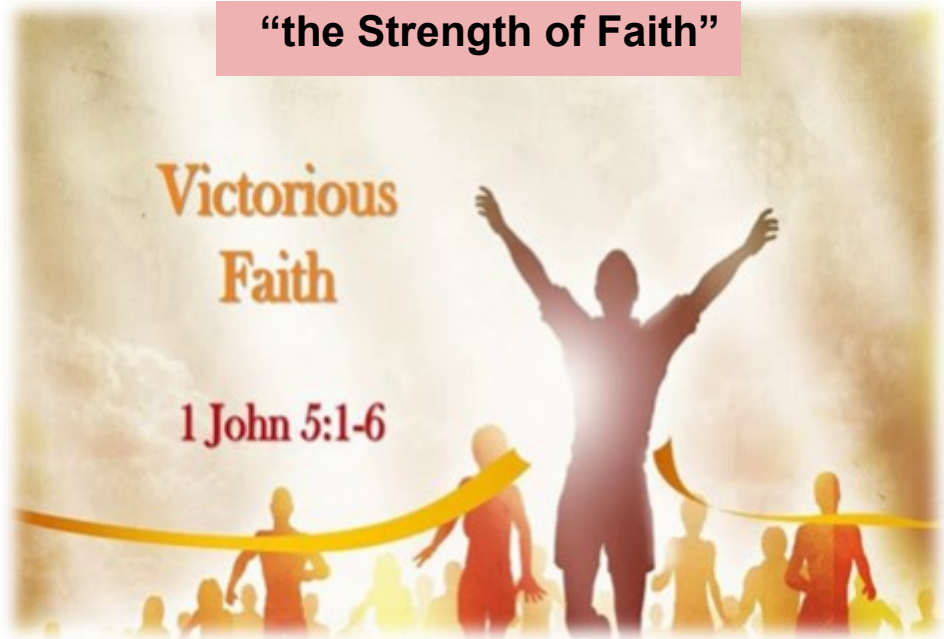
Preacher : Rev. Carmel Ieraci

Bible Readings : 1 John 5:1-6

“the Strength of Faith”

Victorious
Faith

1 John 5:1-6



<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

Email: admin@wesleycastlehill.org.au

www.wesleycastlehill.org.au

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—

Rev. Carmel Ieraci and her family, Bill Rosier, Lesley Martin,
Helen & Alan Smart and Nola Bulkeley.

For those unable to worship with us, including— Beryl & Don Glover,
Freda Haywood, Katherine Van Egeraat, Yuk Wong, Malcolm Squire,
Edie Solomonson .

If you, or anyone you know, would like to be included in our Prayers,
please contact the **Pastoral Care Team** - Heather Searle —
heathersearle44@aussiebb.com.au or 9899 7628 or 0414 897 628
Details are confidential.
Please indicate if you wish to have your name included in Newscope.

Thought of the Week: Near the end of his life the Apostle John recorded a vision, that had been revealed to him by Jesus Christ, for the seven churches in Asia. One of those churches, the Church in Ephesus was commended for much that the Church had done.

“I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance.” Revelation 2:2 (NLT)
But then there came a message that must have been like a virtual bombshell to them, *“You don’t love me or each other as you did at first!” Revelation 2:4 (NLT)*

What had gone wrong? Who or what had become their first love? Many of us do a lot for the Church, but why do we do it? For our own gratification, or to impress others, or.....? From time to time it is a good idea to pause and question our motives for whatever we are doing. Dr. Sangster, one of England’s great preachers some years ago, wrote a number of books, and I recall reading (in essence), “When I get to the office each day I see all the work that I have to do, but I know that I must ignore all that, and spend time with my Lord.” Why did he do that? Our time with God enables the Spirit to move in our lives, and guide us as to what the priorities are, in what may be a busy schedule for that day. And this applies not only to the Dr. Sangsters of our world but to us all whether we work in an office, on a building site, in the home, or even retired. If only we would stop first scrutinising our checklists, and begin by focusing our attention on the presence of Jesus how much more might we get done? Just who or what is our first love?

But notice something else in this word of our Lord to the Church at Ephesus, *“You don’t love me or each other as you did at first.”* When our Lord Jesus Christ is our first love we are enabled to love each other in the best and highest way, without any strings attached, without wanting anything back. When our Lord is not our first love we hurt him, ourselves, and perhaps others. Let’s pause a moment, and hear what the Spirit may be saying to us.

Grace and peace Bill Rosier



Dates for your diary-May

Sunday	5th May	9.30am Morning Worship Service (Holy Communion) All are Welcome After the service a meeting for all welcomers, badge distributors and any one wishing to be on the welcome roster. See below for details.
Tuesday	7th May	9.30am Writers Group 1pm UFO craft group
Wednesday	8th May	10am Exercises gentle and low intensity perfect for post surgery.
Thursday	9th May	12.30pm AA Meeting in the conference Room 7pm GA Meeting in the conference Room
Friday	10th May	9am Friday Shed volunteers always welcome
Sat 18 May -Sun 19 May		Relay for Life see page 6 for details
Wednesday	22nd May	11.15am Rest & Reflect, followed by Seniors' lunch at 12pm
Sunday	26th May	Following the 9.30am service there will be a morning tea to welcome new members to Wesley. Details page 5

Welcome Meeting



This Morning there will be a short meeting after the service for all current welcomers, badge distributors and anyone who would like to be on the welcome roster. We would love you to join us.

Confirmation and Confirmation Classes

On the 28th July there will be a confirmation service as part of the Sunday 9.30am worship. If anyone is interested or would like more information regarding confirmation please contact Rev. Carmel or the office.

There will be 3 confirmation classes beforehand with dates to be confirmed.



Minister's Message

The strength of Faith.

“Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God.” 1 John 5:1-6

The lectionary sets out the epistle of 1 John 5:1-6 as one of this week's readings, and as we immerse ourselves in the words we see very quickly a rich tapestry of faith, love, and triumph woven by the beloved disciple. Jesus had a special relationship with John, a deep bond and love, so much so that while on the cross Jesus entrusted his own Mother Mary to John's care.

So John calls us to encounter Jesus through an invitation — an invitation to plunge deep into the truth that our belief in Jesus as the Christ births us into the family of God.

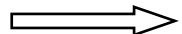
As we travel our individual journey of faith, may these words be a guiding light, shining brightly and with the assurance that through Christ, we are equipped to navigate life's challenges with resilience and hope. Yet our faith goes beyond the solitary to a communal journey, intertwined with the lives of those around us. As we extend love to our neighbours, we mirror the boundless love of our Creator, creating ripples of transformation. Imagine a spring that never runs dry, so too we can allow the love of God to flow freely from our hearts, quenching the thirst of a parched world. Let's walk the talk of faith as we follow the footsteps of Jesus embodying faith through compassionate action.



Yes we all face the complexities of life, and when we do may we draw strength from the promise that our faith empowers us to overcome every

obstacle.

With unwavering trust in God's faithfulness, let's anchor our souls in the unshakeable truth of His Word, knowing that nothing and no-one will ever separate us from God's love.



May the love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit propel us to live courageously, love extravagantly, and walk humbly in the footsteps of our Saviour. For in Him, we find the ultimate victory — the victory that conquers fear, doubt, and despair. To God be the glory great things God has done and is doing.

Blessings from Rev. Carmel

ADVANCE NOTICE SPECIAL MORNING TEA

EVERYONE WELCOME

Special Morning Tea to welcome new members to Wesley.

**Sunday 26th May
following the 9.30 service
in the Church Hall**

Please come and get to know some of the new people who've joined us more recently.



Wesley Uniting Church is having a Garden Sale

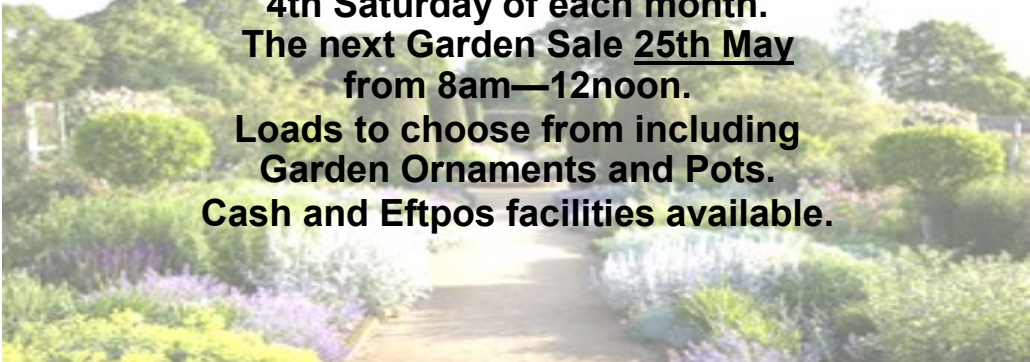
4th Saturday of each month.

The next Garden Sale 25th May

from 8am—12noon.

**Loads to choose from including
Garden Ornaments and Pots.**

Cash and Eftpos facilities available.



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 Lawson
Many thanks in advance.



Sat—Sun 18-19 May 2024



How it works

Register

Register and join an event in your local community.



Spread the word

Invite friends to join you and raise funds to support those impacted by cancer.



Ready, Set... Go

Unite with your community and take strides against cancer.



Wesley Seniors' May Luncheon



On: Wednesday 22nd May, 2024

**Time: 11.15am Communion, Rest & Reflect followed by
Lunch at 12 noon**

Where: Wesley Church Hall

**Topic: Guest Speaker: Susan Butler - who was the
Editor of Australia's Macquarie Dictionary**

RSVP: Sunday 19th May, 2024

Phone: Helen or Heather

Cost: \$15.00



Do you need transport? Ring Helen

Contact List

Minister: Rev. Carmel Ieraci
0426 445 608
minister@wesleycastlehill.org.au
Day off Thursday

Administration Officer
Karen Needs, 9894 8999

Council Secretary
Kate Cunneen, 0403 512 303
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Congregation Chair
Lindsay Smith, 0452 196 485
congregation@wesleycastlehill.org.au

Congregation Secretary
vacant
congregationsec@wesleycastlehill.org.au

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 10:00 – 11:30	Gentle 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