

YEAR of GATHERING @ TABLES

PARRAMATTERS

SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2017

Parramatta Salvation Army



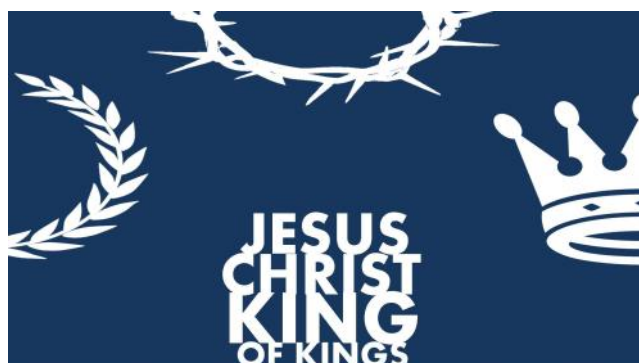
EASTER SUNDAY 10.30AM Worship the King!



GATHERING @ TABLES

WORSHIP & PRAYER 7.30PM THURSDAY EVENING 13 APRIL 2017
THE SALVATION ARMY, PARRAMATTA

34 SMITH STREET, PARRAMATTA | SALVOS.ORG.AU/PARRAMATTA | 9635 6870



GOOD FRIDAY 9.30AM

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP AT THE SALVATION ARMY, PARRAMATTA
34 SMITH STREET, PARRAMATTA | SALVOS.ORG.AU/PARRAMATTA | 9635 6870



EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL

Think Again!

'Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved' (Acts 4:12).

Easter is a time for us to reflect upon the incredible, extravagant and measureless grace of God. Through Christ he provided a way for mere mortal human beings to be both reconciled to him and enabled to enjoy the matchless benefits of a personal relationship with him.

Sadly, for many Easter weekend may not represent anything more than an opportunity to have an extended break from the relentless pursuit of other personal goals and ambitions.

We live in a world resolutely turned towards materialism, to the almost total exclusion of the other elements we require in order to find fulfilment and purpose - to be complete and totally satisfied. Modern society offers us many of the things we need from a material perspective, but these are not enough to ensure happiness and freedom.

If you think material possessions bring happiness, then think again! You only have to take a look at society today to see the negative effects of materialistic consumerism.

Despite all that we have, modern humankind remains unsatisfied, seeking to find the point of our very existence and trying to find assurance that there is something after death.

In the midst of that context, the Christian message is unique because the message is not about a set of doctrines and beliefs but about a person, Jesus Christ.

We recognise the fact that we are not perfect people, but Easter brings the hope of new life - one that has been changed and transformed. The fact that we are imperfect is not, however, an excuse to justify a life of continual sin and rebellion.

Sadly, we recognise that some people in society have turned their backs on the Church because they feel that Christians are lacking in credibility. We preach love, yet the Church can be the most unforgiving place. We preach spiritual values, yet in reality Christians often aspire to material wealth, power and influence. We preach justice for the oppressed, but how many of us actually do anything to make a difference?

The apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 3:23 that 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God'. It is because of sin that man is unable to enjoy a relationship with God, and this explains why so many of our contemporaries are unsatisfied and seeking.

Despite a world that appears to be resolutely materialistic, we do see much evidence of people who search for meaning, who seek spiritual answers to the most preoccupying question of all: is there life after death? Could it be that many in our world today are trying to fill the spiritual void and find ways through their own efforts to reach the eternal paradise?

Jesus came to reconcile the world to God - this is the primary reason for his incarnation. Everything else resulting from the presence of Jesus in the world and in our lives is a direct result of us being reconciled to God.

Jesus came to fill the void that separates us from God. What is absolutely extraordinary - and what we need to remember every day of our lives - is the incredible fact that God in Jesus took the initiative in order that we might be reconciled to him!

It is for this reason that Jesus willingly paid the price so that people like us who were considered to be 'enemies' could be reconciled as a result: 'Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation' (Colossians 1:21-22).

What more do you need? Is Jesus not sufficient for you? If you have discovered the blessing and peace that only Jesus can bring then you will agree with the songwriter* when he says:

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Chorus

*It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.

For me be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper thy peace to my soul.

But Lord, 'tis for thee, for thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
O trump of the angel! O voice of the Lord!
Blessèd hope, blessèd rest of my soul!

André Cox

GENERAL

PEOPLE NEWS

- ◆ Next week June Munro is moving to Warwick, Queensland. She has family who live in this country town. We pray that June will settle in quickly and enjoy her new home.
- ◆ A number of our corps family have been in hospital recently: Philippa Vos, Thomas Kelly.
- ◆ John and Alayne Godkin celebrated 60 years of marriage this week.
- ◆ Sharon and Grant will be on furlough next Sunday. Worship will be lead by Maryanne and Cameron Lovering [cadets].

CORPS NEWS

Please note there will be no ParraMatters newsletter for next Sunday 23rd April 2017. The next ParraMatters will be Sunday 30th April 2017. If you have news to share with the wider church community please forward it to the office by Wednesday 26th April.

FEEDBACK FROM CORPS FORUM

In 5 years time we would like to:

- ◆ Have a vibrant 15 – 30 worshipping community made up of current teens / young adults and with new links to Western Sydney Uni students
- ◆ Continue to provide Community Service via Doorways / Connect
- ◆ Continue to have a range of mid week extended ministries but we would like to provide pathways for those attenders to become part of our worshipping community (integrated ministry)
- ◆ Have musical sections that are more inclusive of musical talents beyond brass (eg concert band)
- ◆ Provide showers / laundry facilities to our homeless friends
- ◆ Have a café that not only enables more casual relationships to be built within our extended ministries and worshipping communities, but enables our youth to be trained, serve and prepare for their working lives in a Christian work environment
- ◆ Be an environmentally conscious Corps, using sustainable energy resources
- ◆ Be young-family friendly with rooftop playground, outdoor areas, parents room with one way glass, children's resources and child / pram friendly building
- ◆ Have a mission presence out of the Hills Family Store
- ◆ Have a street mission team (food van / water / snack station / safe zone)
- ◆ Have weeknight church (e.g. different cultures / youth services)
- ◆ Have multi congregational ministries (e.g. Indian dinner / church / Saturday night church)
- ◆ Have ministries that are not necessarily integrated but incorporated under SA banner
- ◆ Have integrated program that is attended by people from any congregation
- ◆ Have a “sanctuary” vibe for new space
- ◆ Understand how other cultures worship
- ◆ See much younger worshipping communities in much larger numbers

PRAYERPOINTS



Pray for those from our church community who are travelling over the Easter break. We pray for safety on the roads and a restful time away.



Many people will attend worship this Easter who do not regularly attend a church. Let's pray that the gospel message will be proclaimed loud and clear in every setting and that all those hearing the message will have a deep sense of God's great love for them.



Please remember those in our corps family who are still undergoing treatment or recovering from operations. Also for the families who are supporting their progress and facing the challenges that ill-health present.



Please pray for the Christians around the world who are suffering persecution being of their faith. We especially think of the church in Egypt that was bombed this week.



Praying that all the students and teachers [and anyone else in the education field] have a great holiday break.



Urgent prayer needed for working with THQ in regard to the way forward for a new property / location.



*If you would like us to pray for you or your loved ones, contact either **Marty Bust** or **Dot Griffin** for it to be included in the newsletter and Prayer Network.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHINESE DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

9.30AM SATURDAY 6 MAY 2017

All Mandarin speakers are welcome to attend. Please see Bing Bing Tan or Sharon Sandercock-Brown for more information.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

10AM WEDNESDAY 19 APRIL 2017

LEADER: Doreen Salt

10AM WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL 2017

LEADER: Major Ann Lingard

Gathering with Granville Home League



GOLDEN YEARS & LADIES FELLOWSHIP

TUESDAY 9 MAY 2017



18-21 APRIL

Youth
week

28 APRIL

7:30 TO 8:30PM

Life
groups



SATURDAY 13 MAY

BBQ @ FAMILY STORE

30 Old Northern Road, Baulkham Hills



If you would like to give to the kingdom building activities in and through our Corps by transfer please use the following details: **BSB 032078; Account No. 000810288; Account Name - The Salvation Army, Parramatta.** Please include an applicable reference on the transfer so we can accurately record the gift.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please send your details to parramatta.corps@gmail.com



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