



PLAINS PRESBYTERIAN

12TH APRIL 2020



Unfinished Work

This picture inserted on the left is my mother's handy work of a bedspread. She had quite a few bedspreads that she in her creativity crafted beautifully. The Bedspreads are all tropical flowers that she adored.

She had several that were unfinished work. You will note this photo on the left is the last of her work still to be completed. My sister and I upon the passing of our mother decided that we will finish what she started. She passed 16 years ago.

We and our daughters over the last several years have slowly but surely completed five of her work and this one picture inserted here is the last of it and I am the only one working on it. It's been over 5 years since I last touched this work.

Since the lockdown, I have brought this out of its hiding place and have again started to work on it. It requires patience's, eye for detail, good hands and a lot of time. An unfinished work that has been sitting for over 20 years! when my mother first worked on it. I recall finding this gem in a plastic bag amongst my mum's stuff. It looked like a bag of rubbish. But as I investigated further it was one of her work that was unfinished. I am sure like me; you have some unfinished work or projects that has been sitting for some time. Maybe like me, before the lockdown you said, "I will get around to it." Maybe like me, five years later and because something significant abruptly our normality has caused us to look at the work we have forgotten gathering cobwebs.

There have been positives about the lockdown we can take, and that is, finishing things that have been sitting for years. If I keep working on my mum's bedspread, I'm hopeful, I should be able to finish it by July / August. We shall see.

This is '*Holy week*' approaching Good Friday. God is going to complete what he set out to do through Jesus of reconciling the world to himself but wait! The work is unfinished and yet to be completed. God has not put this on the shelf.

I believe God, in the same way, isn't finished with us yet as well. I believe God continues to work on us daily. God has way more patience, eye for detail, good hands and a lot of time. And God is faithful to complete what he has started in each of us and that is such a blessing to be reminded of his steadfast love.



Philippians 1: 6

"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

-Arii Taimataora

Good Friday

Just because we are physically not able to meet, does not mean we can't do anything. There are other ways to express our faith particularly as Good Friday is approaching. We can still do something to remind ourselves and others of what Jesus has done for us and the world.

On Good Friday at 7am I invite you to display something either on your letterbox or tree that reflects our understanding of Jesus death.

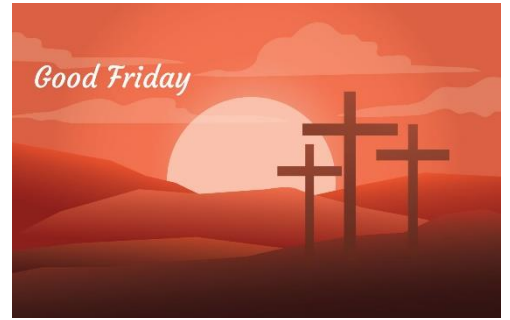


Some suggestions: Be creative. You might like to make a red cross out of wood, paper, cardboard, ribbons or any material. Make it visible. Add a note with it that might say, "Today is Good Friday. We remember Jesus died on the cross for you and me or for the world or to save us." You might like to add your own note of what Jesus has done.

Come Sunday you might want to change the red cross for a white one and the words, "Today! Jesus rose from the dead!".

At 7am we are invited to come together to celebrate and remember these monumental moments of our faith history.

If you are doing the symbol on the letterbox or tree this Friday, please take a photo and send to Miranda at Plainsoffice@gmail.com to be shared in next week's newsletter.

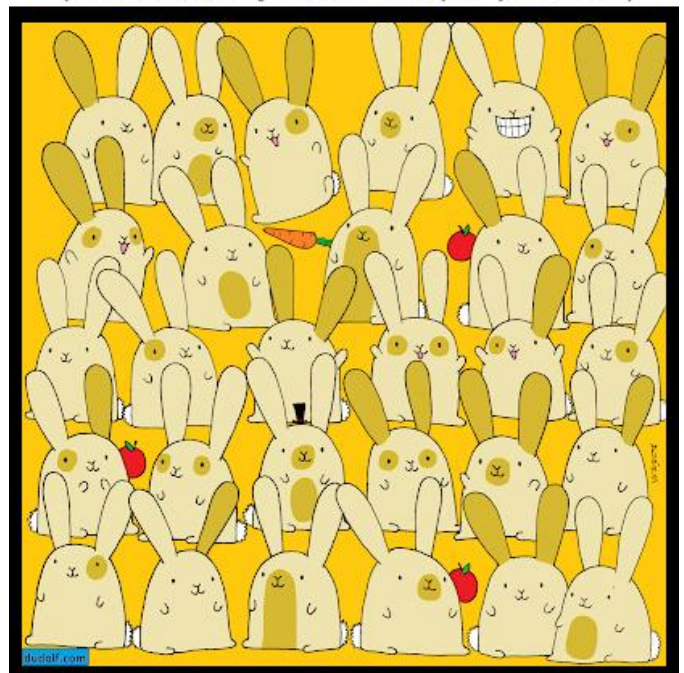


Fun for Easter

Riddles

- What do you get when you pour boiling water in a rabbit hole on Easter day?
- How high would you have to count before you would use the letter A in the English language spelling of a whole number.
- What happened to the Easter egg when it heard a funny joke?
- A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?

Which bunny has no pair?
(Which bunny has a unique pattern?)



A fun activity from The Boys' Brigade

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EASTER GARDEN



GETTING INTO THE ACTIVITY

Using items found in the garden, create an Easter garden to retell the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Fill a tray/plate with layer of soil. On one side on the tray/plate make a small mound with soil. Tie two twigs together to create a cross and stick this into the mound. This represents Jesus' crucifixion.

On the other side place a small flower pot or yoghurt pot to create the tomb. In front of the tomb place a large stone. This represents the stone that sealed Jesus' body in the tomb and was found rolled away on Easter Sunday.

Create a small winding path from the tomb to the edge of the tray and then decorate the rest of the tray with leaves, grass and flowers such as daisies to help make it look colourful.

Ask a grown-up to take a photo of your Easter Garden and share it with your BB group or post on social media using #BBatHOME.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Tray / Plate
- Soil
- Small Flower Pot
- Twigs
- Stone



NOTES FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Please make sure the equipment used is safe and appropriate. Children will need to wash their hands afterwards. An adult should initiate any contact with the BB group and/or share on social media.



Easter Reflections

The Safest response to the surprising God?

Eternal God, we have come together today because the truth and glory of Easter is to be found only in the cross.

It is the crucified Christ that we see you, the one who suffers with and for your people.

It is the cross which shows us that there is nothing you will not face, will not endure at the hands of your own people.

But Jesus on the cross reveals not only you, we also see ourselves for what we really are.

Judas: for whom money is more important than any relationship: perhaps the zealot who hopes to force Jesus' hand and manipulate him into supporting his own ideology

Caiaphas: with his impeccable political and ecclesiastical logic that "it is better for one man to die for his people".

Pilate: the victim of circumstance - on the opposite side of the debate to Caiaphas but playing the same rules: someone's head must roll: if not that of Jesus, it will be his own.

The cynical witnesses: who remembered only the incriminating words and forgot the message.

Peter: with his inappropriate self-confidence.

The crowd: in its mindless thirst for blood.

The soldiers: in their casual brutality.

The centurion: who admired from a distance

The disciples: who ran away.

God of Jesus, we are all there, we are all part of this human drama: there is a part in all of us which still says that the safest response to the surprising God is to kill you while we have a chance.

- To get out of our lives, to make you leave us alone;

to be rid of you so we can have the security of our preferred politics; our cosy religion, our national interests.

God of Christ, help us this Easter not to run away, but to face the truth that our sin is more complicated, more insidious, more devastating than we ever dreamed.

And that your grace reaches out to overcome it:

That our human brokenness makes even our best aspirations potentially disastrous.

But that you will take our every aspiration and transform it, will take us and make us co-workers with you, if we are willing to come to the cross and learn the truth.

Amen

Easter Christ

People long for peace. We search for meaning. Our world is a TV screen, full of pain, anger, suffering and sadness. Was it so very different, Lord Jesus, during your earthly life.

The dance of Easter is the resurrection, all that defies human expectations. You meet us as living Lord, around the table of hospitality- breaking bread, blessing wine.

You meet us in the stranger and visitor who comes into our domestic life. You meet us as we remember dead loved ones- enriching our own memories and healing the scars of separation. You meet us in the dawn of each new day, melting the darkness of fear, and washing creation with the dew of rebirth.

Easter Christ, rise up in our lives and in the busy footpaths of the world.

From The Seasons of the Land. by Bill Bennett.

Easter

He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Matthew 28:6a

Alleluia! You have risen! Alleluia

It is a mystery.

You were nailed on a cross, You died. They put you in a tomb and sealed the door.

It is a mystery.

The tomb is now empty. You are alive. Death is nothing to you.

It is a mystery.

You have opened a door for me.

Continue to show me the way to God. Help me to remember the joy of this day.

Alleluia! You are risen! Alleluia.

From Call On Me, a prayer book for young people.



Looking for Time of Reflection

Devotions by the Right Rev. Fakaofu Kaio The Moderator of PCANZ

Good Friday 10th April at 9:00 am

Easter Sunday 12th April at 9.00 am with communion

<https://www.facebook.com/modpcanz/>

Weekly Podcasts with Rev Aarii and Tai.

Rev Neville Burns and Thelma sends their regards and prayers to the Parish...

Gracious God,

In this lockdown, the dynamics of the home have changed. Doing things differently. Spending more time with one another. In the spending of time with one another, relationships have changed. Relationships strained. Relationships made stronger and relationships mended. You, Lord, continue to work in our lives even in the unknown.

We, who are living on a prayer daily, continue to pray for the world, our nation, our community, our families and friends that you protect and cover us with your healing from this deadly virus.

We continue to pray for our government as they lead and serve the nation. We know it is impossible to meet every need. It is impossible to meet the emotional needs. It is impossible to meet the challenges and demands. Renew the government's strength make available urgent resources and aid, extend your wisdom upon our leaders who are working hard. We know there are people who has lost their jobs overnight. We know the financial strain upon all to make ends meet ie, rent, mortgages, food etc. Although we are restrained by social distancing, help us to extend support and encouragement to others through these difficult times. We ask your goodness and steadfast love upon every person.

Through this 'Holy Week' be with us as we approach Good Friday as Jesus comes to us willing to suffer for our sake. Help us to humble ourselves and to lay our prejudices of what we think and believe and receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

We thank you that you complete your work in us.

We thank you that you began a good work within us.

Amen



Anyone is welcome to send articles or other to be added to the newsletter. These are to be sent to Plainsoffice@gmail.com by Wednesdays at the latest.