

ACLAIM

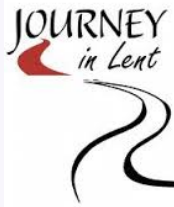
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Alexandra, Clyde, Lauder
Union Parish

"We aim to be a reflection of God to the community"

Bi-monthly Newsletter of The Alexandria, Clyde Lauder Union Parish ~ Feb /March 2024



The Good News of Easter

Lent in the lectionary this year begins on 14th February with Ash Wednesday, which for Christians is the start of the Lenten season, of prayer, sacrifice and penance.

Mathew 6: 1-4 Giving to the Needy

1. "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2. "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 3. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. 4. So that your giving may be in secret. Then you're Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

There are so many people in need these days and it can be quite overwhelming. What are their needs? Most require more of something. You may say, "What is, this something"? It is bound to be something that has to be purchased or paid for with money." Sometimes the needy, in our present day society need time to be listened to, someone to hear what they are truly saying or feeling.

Cont...



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Kathy & Warren Mears at their Wedding Service held in the St Mungo's Grounds, Clyde.
More pictures inside .



During Lent it is a time to evaluate what your Christian values really are. I myself have never wrapped myself in sack cloth nor covered myself in ashes. I know that in the Catholic Church they have a time during the Ash Wednesday service when each person comes forward, to have the priest make the sign of the cross on their forehead with ashes; as a symbol of Jesus' sacrifice for them.



As a young child I was quite afraid of the time of Lent/Easter; as I recall it now. The church, where our family worshiped, was blacked out with dark cloths at the windows. No lights were on in this ancient building. The cross was covered in a purple cloth and there were candles on the Communion table. Most people attending Services during Easter dressed in dark colours. Women wore black hats and the men took their hats off and rested them on their laps. People in the pews showed no emotion. (That was in keeping with the times.)

Of course these days we realise that there is hope from the Christian Easter Story. One of gratefulness, that Jesus made the true sacrifice to cleanse us all from our sins. It is also a time when we have personal reasons for becoming a Christian, and also a time for renewing our own faith. It is not an easy journey and as humans we tend to stray and it sometimes takes a tragedy to bring us back to our belief in God.

I have used Andrew Gammons words from his **Ten Minutes on a Tuesday material for 24th February 2013.** He says that the "Christian life must be embodied in lives not laws." He also says that "most people will only understand what it means to be a Christian by seeing an example of a Christian, rather than by reading the Bible". He says "that it doesn't mean that we have to be perfect examples who will always get it right." He thinks it will be "the way we react when we do make mistakes like admitting to them, asking the persons forgiveness or making amends." He also says "it is one of the most powerful ways we can be an example to others." (Permission granted to publish)

If you read **1 Peter chapter 1:** it is full of praise for the Lord and with life full of expectation. Peter tells us that we have a priceless inheritance to look forward to and, it is through our faith, that God is protecting us. Peter encourages us to believe in Gods power and salvation and to be truly glad. The trials that we go through we do not have to go through alone.



A Prayer from St Dionysius of Alexandria, c. 190-265

"O God of peace, good beyond all that is good, in whom is calmness and harmony, heal the dissensions that divide us from one another, and bring us into unity of love in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**"

Gay Gordon

Our thoughts and prayers to the families and friends of...

- ✠ Klaas Streekstra - funeral held on 28th December 2023
At Central Otago Funeral Chapel - Alexandra
- ✠ Gerry Sawers - funeral held on 20th January 2024
At Affinity Funeral Home - Alexandra
- ✠ Ted Dreckow - funeral held on Friday, 19th January
2024 at St Enoch's Church Alexandra



We also acknowledge the passing of :- Helen Williamsons Aunty (Honor McKellor of Dunedin) who was 103 years old and had only shifted to Ranui Rest home a few weeks ago. Her Funeral was held on 10th February 2024 at Hope & Sons in Dunedin



A Poetic prayer of LUKE 24: 13 to 32 by Anna Johnstone (permission granted to use)

They'd left Jerusalem
were on their way home dejected
disheartened by what they'd seen
disillusioned by death.

They'd hoped your rising star
would make the difference
change their lives.
Set them free.

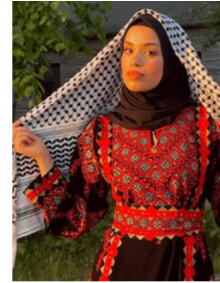
How devastating when all they'd
planned
had come apart
fallen down
turned to custard.

I've never understood this story,
Jesus.
I just can't believe they didn't know
you.
Did you look different?
Had your voice changed?
Why were their eyes so closed?
I've never asked this
but why did you choose these two?

What was so special about them?
You didn't just happen to walk that
road
hoping to see someone you knew.
You could have appeared in great
glory
in the Temple
the Synagogue
where the crowds were
but instead you walked a dusty road
with two mixed-up followers.

You're the God of the unexpected
your commitment is astounding
your love beats all reasoning
so the doubting
the sadness
the pain of our lives
can be touched and changed
by your presence
Jesus, walk lonely roads
with us. AMEN

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024



Artist: Halima Aziz

Halima Aziz (b.1999 in Hagen, Germany) is a passionate Palestinian visual artist and design student based in Germany. Her Mum is from Tulkarm and her Dad is from Gaza. Halima spent her childhood in Palestine. Halima had to experience the war in Gaza in 2008 and survived it. In 2009 she moved back to Germany.

Halima was interested in art from an early age and has always enjoyed painting. She started painting professionally in 2017 while participating in an art school project. Halima often likes to spontaneously let her creativity flow while she paints, trusting the process without planning in advance exactly how and what she wants to paint. But sometimes it takes planning, then she is doing sketches before making her paintings. She enjoys making colourful and eye-catching paintings, most of which express specific feelings or have a specific meaning.

Description of the artwork

This artwork is made in honour of the World Day of Prayer. Through her artwork, the artist represents three Palestinian women praying together in nature in a peaceful place. In her work, the artist has different motives and symbols that indicate the origin of these women and their cohesion. These are the following symbols featured in her artwork:

Olive trees/branches are a sign of everlasting and abundant life because they can live for thousands of years. Some of the olive trees in Palestine today were there during the time of Jesus.

The golden roots are underlining the fact that the Palestinians will always exist and as they exist, they will always resist for their rights and freedom. It is painted in gold because it is something precious, something no one can take away from the Palestinians because they are deeply rooted.

Poppy flowers are abundant and meaningful to Palestinians. They remind Palestinians of loved ones who have given their lives for their country. Traditional Palestinian dresses like the tateez (embroidery) thobe (dress) or the white scarf. It represents the Palestinian people and is full of art and history.

The keys are a symbol of the hope to return back to Palestine. Palestinians always carry their keys of their homes they were driven out of with them, no matter where they are around the world, and they pass it on to their children so they will never lose hope.



CHILDREN'S LENT and Easter Activities.

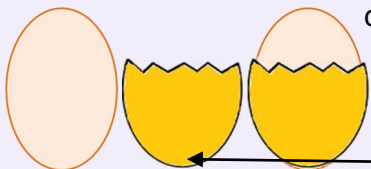
Easter is a time to celebrate Jesus resurrection.

Here are some activities for you to make for this the Easter season.

Easter Eggs

Several ancient cultures viewed eggs as a symbol of life. This connection is what encouraged early Christians to add eggs to their celebrations because Jesus showed them that he was resurrected.

EASTER EGG POCKETS: To make an **egg pocket** you will need cardboard, scissors, some paint or crayons. glue or Cellotape. You could decorate the egg shapes too. Cut out two egg shapes, the same size and cut one in half using a zig zag pattern like the egg shape in the middle. Do not glue the zigzag top to the whole egg shape as this will form your pocket. Join the 2 shapes together & glue or cellotape the edges together. You could write on a tiny card a bible verse or do a drawing and fold it up and put it into the pocket and give it away to someone special to you.



EGG SHELL GARDENS

You may need to ask your parents to help you with this craft. Break an egg in half and leave the shell to dry. Very carefully paint the outside of the shell. When it is dry you can put some soil inside and then with a wooden skewer poke a hole in the soil and plant your herb or succulent into the middle. You will need to keep the plants watered with a little water each day.



EASTER CALVARY SCENE To make this project you will need

1. a plant saucer.
2. Some gravel, some earth to make a Calvary Hill,
3. green sprouts or succulents for the back of the hill.
4. 6 twigs & string to make 3 crosses,
5. a stone to put next to the hill.

Put some dry gravel around half of plant saucer. Make a hill of dirt beside the gravel. Plant some green sprouts/succulents at the outside edge of the dirt hill. Add a little water. Make the crosses with two sticks, one should be shorter than the other & wind string around the middle and tie a knot. Place the 3 crosses in front of the sprouts then add your stone at the front of the hill of dirt.



Past & Upcoming Events

Thank You ❤️

Warren and I would like to thank everyone and especially Rev Andrew for making our wedding day such a success. God gave us the perfect day and so many people helped with the grounds being watered and mowed, seating, setting up, flowers everywhere, music, the love heart shape, Calla Lily, photography and all the people who contributed to the afternoon tea which many people said they really enjoyed. Bells being rung and your friendship to the guests. Everyone was happy. Thank you so much.

Kathy and Warren Mears.



Christmas Day Service at Clyde 2023



ALEXANDRA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY BBQ LUNCH 2023

Thank you to all those who volunteered for this Annual Event. Bringing people together in Community and sharing the food & good times. Great reviews!

Thanks to Andrew & Rosalie and donators of food and the kitchen



staff volunteers. Those who helped to set up tables etc., & helped put everything away again. You are awesome!



Lenten Study is being held each Tuesday from the 13th of February at 10.30am in St Enoch's foyer and each Thursday from the 15th February meeting at Helen Dunn's Home, Clyde at 2pm. Study books available now.

Please note: Rev Andrew Howley will be on annual leave from 5th to the 27th of February 2024

REGULAR MEETINGS AND GROUPS

Weekly

Study Group All Welcome

As from Tues 14th February Lenten Study will be held in St Enoch's foyer on Tuesdays 10.30am and at Clyde 2.00pm Thursdays at Helen Dunn's home 96a Shields Street, Clyde.

Monthly

Afternoon Fellowship	4th Thursday of the month 1.30pm Contact: Various	Various
St Mungo's Fellowship	3rd Wednesday of the month 2.00pm Contact: Sheryll Hanning	Various 449 2703
Parish Council	4th Wednesday of the month Contact: Don Melville	St Enoch's 03 448 9233
Parish Evening Group	4th Wednesday of the month 7.30pm Contact: Linda Armstrong	Various 447 3612

Treasurers Report

Once again, this financial report is not good news!
The figures below are for December 2023 – January 2024.



<u>Income</u>	<u>July - November Expenses</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
15937.00	18879.00	- 2953.00


With the deficit from the previous 5 months, our total deficit is **\$12,600.00**
The interest of \$15,220.00 for the 7 months, from our investment with the Otago Foundation Board, helps keep us afloat but this will not be enough to reduce quite a substantial deficit by the end of the financial year – only 5 months away!

Linda Armstrong -Treasurer

EDITORS NOTE:: The next ACLaim will be April/May 2024 please have any articles to me by **Monday 25th March 2024**. sent to me via email :ggordon@actrix.co.nz or Phone 448 8486 *Gay Gordon*.

Your Pastoral Visitor Message:

Upcoming Worship Services 2024

Feb 11th	Alexandra	10.00am	Transfiguration
Feb 18th	Alexandra	10.00am	Lent 1
Feb 21st	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
Feb 25th	Alexandra	10.00am	Lent 2
March 1st	World Day of Prayer St John the Baptist Catholic Church , 9.00 a.m. 3 Killarney Street, Alexandra.		
March 3rd	Alexandra	10.00am	Communion
Lent 3			
March 10th	Alexandra	10.00am	
Lent 4			
March 17th	Alexandra	10.00am	
Lent 5			
March 20th	Castlewood	10.30am	
	Ranui	11.00am	
March 24th	Alexandra	10.00am	Palm Sunday
Lent 6			
March 29th	St Enoch's Church	Good Friday	
		9.30am	
March 31st	Alexandra	7a.m.?	Easter Dawn
	Alexandra Lookout (to be confirmed)		
Lent 7	Alexandra	10.00am	Easter Day
April 7th	Alexandra	10.00am	Communion
Easter 2			

Contact Us

Minister:

Rev. Andrew Howley

**Phone: 03 448 8511
021 518 053**

Email:
Andrew.howley.nz@gmail.com

Office Hours
Rev Andrew Howley will be keeping regular office hours in the St Enoch's Vestry. They are 9:30am - 12:30pm, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday's.
Phone: 021 518 053

Parish Clerk:
Don Melville

Phone: 03 448 9233
Email:
don.m.melville@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
www.alexchurch.org.nz

Like us on FaceBook
[Facebook.com/alexchurch](https://www.facebook.com/alexchurch)

Worship Times

Sunday:

Alexandra: 10.00am

If you require transportation to church please ask!

**Telephone Jennifer Bowie: 448 7369
Sue & Don Melville 448 9233**