Having very recently commemorated the sacrifice of Christ by crucifixion (and celebrated the resurrection) we come to remember the other sacrifice of ‘those who pad the supreme sacrifice’ defending our freedoms (which we continue to demand often without thanks or acknowledgement).

As Christians we use the cross as a symbol of death conquered in that Christ defeated death and rose victorious so that we who are ‘buried with him by baptism into death...may walk in newness of life (so)...we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his’ (see Romans 6.4-5).

[And the crucifix? A symbol of death? By no means. It represents the saving work of Christ by which ‘I have been crucified with Christ (so) Christ lives in me (Galatians 2.20, see also Galatians 6.14)

The symbol often conjured up when we consider those who paid the supreme sacrifice is the General Service Badge now officially (in its seventh design) the Australian Army Badge. In the main it is the symbol of the Rising Sun (and often referred to as such) and uses symbols of death to represent the rays of the sun that symbol of new life; new beginning; dawn (‘and in the morning’).

And so for the Christian who sees the sun as a symbol of life, of new life and new beginning; the Sun of righteousness and of God’s care for all humanity: ‘for he makes the sun to rise on the evil and the good’.

But evil, the sword and the cross are a stark reality for many of our Christian brothers and sisters and not because of the horrors of war per se but the horrors of fanaticism as we see Christians led to places of execution by those who demand belief in God by a very particular way. There our brethren are put to the sword. What generally is not reported is that these followers of Christ need not die as long as they deny Christ and there relationship with him: renounce Him and they (presumably) will live.

And so as we give thanks for the resurrection and life eternal; as we give thanks for these who ‘paid the supreme sacrifice’ so we give thanks for the martyrs of our time who through bravery and fortitude maintain that Christ reigns. His light shines in an often very dark and evil world and the Easter reality remains sure.

Fr Ron White, Parish Priest
The Vicar was nearly ‘caught out’ this year. Based on previous years he was gently preparing our ‘delicious morning tea’ only to find that due to good teaching and encouragement the crosses were made in record time and in record numbers!! Over much chatter and laughter, the fellowship morphed into a working place that enabled a plentiful supply of crosses made available for the Palm Sunday processions after the Blessing of the Palms.

The church looked resplendent and suitably festive before the engaging shadow of Holy Week progressing to the ‘foot of the cross’. (With thanks to Mary and George for the palms and for Julie and Claire for the display).

**MAKING OF PALM CROSSSES**

**PARISH INFORMATION**

**PARISH REGISTER**

**Baptisms**
19th April – Ethan William Genoe

**Funerals / Memorial Services**
9th March – Adam Thompson
18 March – Kevin Thomas McCormack
20th March – James Ernest Baillie
9th April – Dorothy Honor Wilson
HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Thanks to a number of parishioners we were able to reflect liturgically on the last days of Christ on his journey to the cross. Good Friday was experienced in a number of ways – first by ‘way of the cross’ with stations at the local churches; the midday Devotions service with ‘recognition of the cross’ and later with the ‘Stations of the Cross’ – with very good numbers and so a fine sense of worship.

Of the last point, all was enhanced by Marlene and the Choir who had put in many extra hours of practise which was much appreciated by the congregation amongst which were a number of visitors. I think we now have a ‘tradition’ in the singing of the Reproaches. Much the same can be said for Easter Day when the relative silence of the ‘New Fire’ gives full vent to the Gloria and the joy of Paschal hymns.

EGGS & BUNNIES!

Over a number of weeks we were able to raise a little more ‘always welcome’ cash with our Special Effort, the prizes of which had a particular ‘Easter’ theme (both secular and bordering on the religious) – not good for those who are dieting or at least trying to keep the creep from the hips!

Our Palm Sunday celebrations spilt over to morning tea when the winning tickets were drawn by Mary (our supplier of palms!!). It was wonderful that all winners were present and all were ‘parish family’. As you can see there were some very happy (and surprised people). Well done! Thank you to those who contributed.

The lucky winners of our Easter Special Effort were...!!!

1st prize – Margaret Bond
2nd prize – Alannah Azzi
3rd prize – Pat McAskill

Congratulations we raised $232.10!

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Now that the celebration of Holy Week and Easter Day gives over to the Easter season, let us not forget that in a few weeks we will be celebrating Harvest Festival on Sunday 17th May at both services.

A reminder to start collecting items so that on the day our display (and therefore our offering to God) will be even greater than last year’s excellent effort (see photo!).

As the majority of the items offered are delivered to Dixon House perhaps you could consider goods that will be suitable for this form of outreach.
PARISH FUNCTIONS

We will hold our Parish BBQ / Luncheon every second month.

The dates for our lunches are:
7th June (soup), 2nd August (finger food), 4th October (BBQ) and 6th December (BBQ)

The dates for our Parish Breakfast this year are:
31st May, 30th August, 29th November

Please note these dates and don’t forget these are an opportunity to bring members of the family, friends and neighbours and introduce them to our fellowship.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Sunday Services – Fifth Sunday of Easter 8am BCP &amp; 10am Family Service with Baptism</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Weekday Service 10am Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Sunday Services – Sixth Sunday of Easter 8am &amp; 10am Mass Healing service will follow the 10am Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Weekday Service 10am Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Weekday Service – Ascension Day 10am Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Sunday Services – Harvest Festival 8am &amp; 10am Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th</td>
<td>Weekday Service 10am Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th</td>
<td>Sunday Services – Day of Pentecost / Whitsunday 8am &amp; 10am Mass</td>
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<tr>
<td>27th</td>
<td>Weekday Service 10am Eucharist</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st</td>
<td>Sunday Services – Trinity Sunday 8am &amp; 10am Mass 9am Parish Breakfast</td>
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Morning tea follows the 10am Mass on Sundays

BIBLE QUIZ!

SHIPS AND THE SEA

1. What did King Hiram’s ships bring from Ophir?
2. What floated down Israel’s coast to be used in the building of the temple?
3. Which port did Jonah sail from?
4. What happened when Jesus’ disciples woke him during a storm on the Sea of Galilee?
5. Which disciple walked on water to reach Jesus?

TREES

6. Which tree grew at Mamre where Abraham met three special visitors?
7. Which tree did Jesus condemn for not bearing fruit?
8. Which kind of tree did Zacchaeus climb to see Jesus?
9. What kind of branches did people use to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem?
10. Which trees provided oil for lamps in Bible times?

UPCOMING DATES...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 4th June</td>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 12th July</td>
<td>Sea Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 6th August</td>
<td>The Transfiguration of our Lord</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 20th September</td>
<td>Patronal Festival</td>
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PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!