



Reflections

April '21

Seek Growth



Find



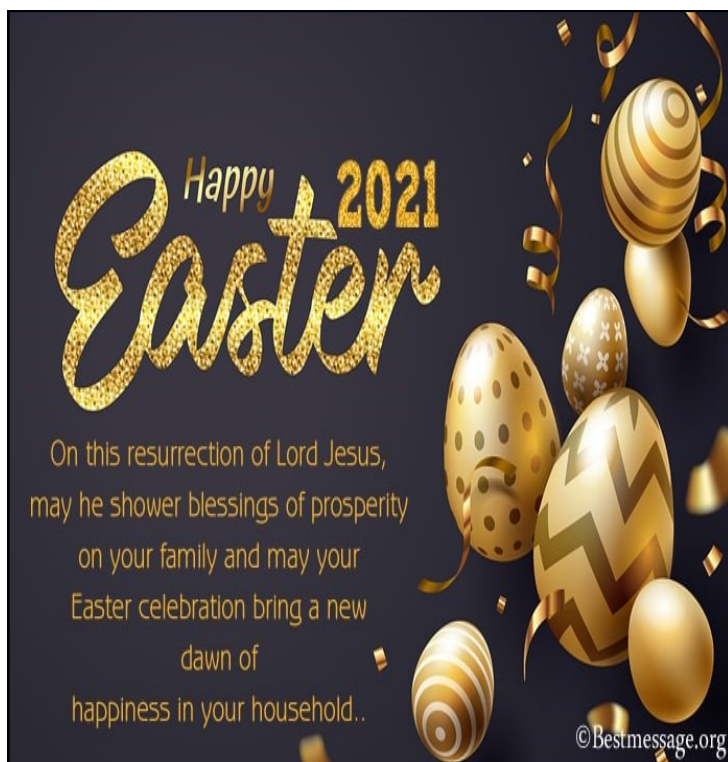
Life



Know love

What's On This Month **April 2021 Page 1**

Morning Service 10am is LIVE
Evening Service 6.30pm is LIVE
Small Groups will recommence at
a time to be announced



Lunch at the RSL returns 3rd week each
month after Morning Tea
April 18

HOPE is being able
to see the light,
despite all the darkness.
-Desmond Tutu



Editor's Corner

The Love Beyond Our Understanding

We are moving through this time of Christ's journey to the Cross and towards the blessed time of Easter when we celebrate together Christ's conquering of death so that we can never die but have life eternal. In Romans 5:8 it says, "But God showed God's great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. (NLT)

The word "love" is thrown around a lot. It can involve anything from munching on a chocolate bar, to sleeping in, to sexual passion, to caring for a sick child. Human love has many dimensions and is not always easy to define.

When it comes to the love God has for us, we also have the same problem. God loves us whether we are good or bad, whether we are useful or not. God's love for us is not based on our performance, our wealth, our attractiveness. It is not a reward. We speak of the grace of God and how we cannot earn God's love. But it is so hard to truly grasp it given that much of human life is not like this. We are brought up recognising that if we are good we have a better chance of being loved. And confronted with a holy and perfect God, we figure God might not love us if we turn our back on the Holy One.

We need to look to Jesus and his acceptance of those who were far from loveable. Jesus is walking, talking proof of God's great love for us. We might question his love and fail to enjoy it, but he still loves us. If we falter in our love for him, he goes on loving us anyway. The fact that God loves us and that Jesus proves it, is the bottom line of our faith and Christian life.

I may not understand it, but I believe it.

Blessings to you all this Easter and beyond.



Lifewords

Putting Up With People

Ephesians 4:1-2

Therefore I, a prisoner for serving God, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. (NLT)

We have all met people in our lives who really annoy or irritate us...someone who gets on our nerves. It was not as if the person is doing anything wrong. They were just being irritating.

When someone deeply hurts us, we need to forgive. When someone just gets on our nerves, we need to forbear. I forgive someone who slanders me. I forbear someone who talks too much. I forgive someone who assaults me. I forbear someone who pushes ahead of me in a queue. We have to forbear a lot more than we have to forgive.

Forbearance, according to this text, is all about making allowances for one another. I put up with someone's imperfections just as they have to put up with mine. I don't jump down someone's throat out of irritation because I don't want them to do the same to me. Living in harmony requires that we make allowances for one another.

People leave churches and marriages break down not always because of serious abuse or disagreement. These things can happen if we initially idealise other people. When they inevitably fail to meet our expectations, we turn on them. Given we are all imperfect and at times irritating, this leads to a precarious existence.

Putting up with people may not sound very inspiring, but it actually makes for better and more realistic relationships. Sometimes, putting up with someone is our most obvious and best way of loving them. And isn't this just what Jesus would have us do?

Blessings David Reay



I believe God wants you to know

... .. that you are okay just the way you are...and so is everybody else.

Sometimes we want the kind of acceptance that we are not willing to give. Yet life is a two-way street, and we do so much better when we send to others what we want them to send to us.

Just a gentle reminder today that you are wonderful, and the person right next to you is, too!

Your Friend, Neale Donald Walsch

A Blessing For You

May the God of Rainbows be with you, blessing you with warmth, encouragement, light, hope, and peace. May God walk with you as your journey from one colour to another. And when you find yourself depleted or empty of colour, may God send rainbow people into your life, beatitude people who will refresh, nourish, and enrich you, filling your emptiness with love and life. May the colours of your life be rich and vibrant. May the tender God of Rainbows gently hold and bless you. Maxine Shonk, OP

Looking for a Someone to Talk With?

MCC Sydney is here for you.

Our BE UPHELD MINISTRY TEAM is waiting to hear from you. Feeling stressed or alone? Suffering with grief from a death or a breakup? Rejected by your friends or family because of who you are? Lacking HOPE in the New Year? Whatever the reason, a Be Upheld Minister may be just what you could do with. Contact the Church at office@mccsydney.org to let us know you wish to talk about the Be Upheld Program.



The Easter Message For Us Doesn't End Here

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in our old ways that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to wrongdoing live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Creator, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old way of doing wrong was crucified with Him, that the body of wrongdoing might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of wrong.” (Romans 6:1-6).

Yes, Christ is risen, but that's only half the story. The other half is that we must rise too.

There it is. In a nutshell, Paul has answered our nagging question. Christ died for us, not so that we could continue in those wrongdoings, but so that we could be free of the wrongs and leave behind the lifestyles that produce them.

Life after repenting and accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ is anything but the end. God's plan didn't end at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On the contrary, that resurrection set the stage for the rest of the plan—and the rest of our lives along with it.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is where we start. It's where we acknowledge our shortcomings, our failures. It's where we recognise the need to hold ourselves accountable to God's standards, and it's where we embark on a lifelong journey to follow in the footsteps of our Saviour. It's not an easy journey. We're going to come up short more often than we'd like and find ourselves in need of the cleansing blood of Christ's sacrifice again and again. But despite all the difficulties, despite all the hurdles and rough terrain standing between us and our goal, this is a journey that ends with **hope**.

A Prayer for Easter



God of the Resurrection, of Hope and Love,
Thank you that you make all things new.

Thank you for the victory and power that is in your name. Thank you that you hold the keys over death and that by your might, Jesus was raised from the grave, paving the way for us to have a new life with you. We praise you for your great strength, and for your lavish love. We praise you that you are Conqueror, Redeemer and Friend. We praise you that you are Deliverer, Worthy One, Everlasting Creator and Awesome God.

We confess our need for you...again. We ask that you renew our hearts, minds, and lives, for the days ahead. Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, help us to keep focused on what is pure and right, give us the power to be obedient to your word. And when the enemy reminds us where we have been, hissing lies and attacks our way, we trust that your voice speaks louder and stronger, reminding us we are safe with you and that your purposes will not fail. We ask that you will be our defence, keeping our way clear, removing the obstacles, and covering the pitfalls. God, lead us on your level ground. Shine your light in us, through us, over us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. To you be glory and honour, now and forever.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Getting to Know our Board Members

Sarah de Rooy



Sarah has been at MCCS for 23 years this year and has been a Member of the MCCS Board of Directors over many years.

After completing her term she left the Board only to return to help out during this time of transition. Sarah took on the role of Secretary when it became vacant and then also became our Lay Delegate, working very diligently in both roles.

Here is what Sarah had to say about her involvement at MCCS.

1. What made you decide to apply for a position on the MCC Sydney Board of Directors?

I reapplied for the Position on the Board of Directors as an Ordinary Member to help make up the numbers but I have since taken on the role as Secretary. Why? Because I love this church and there was a need. If not me, then whom?

2. Is there a position on the Board that you feel most suited to or that interests you more?

I love the Lay Delegate role mostly I think.

3. What do you hope will be your contribution to the Board that will benefit MCC Sydney.

It is my hope and prayer that being on the Board serves to keep the doors of MCC Sydney open to allow those that wish to have a safe place to worship God and be in community with like minded folk.

Thank you Sarah for your church dedication and your dreams for our future. This is a tough time to be on the Board of Directors but your huge commitment is much appreciated.

Next Month we will feature Graeme Bartlett



It's so easy to pay electronically. Or use PAYPAL

Direct Deposit Details:

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Fast Payments:

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BSB: 082-356

Account: 780 749 9652

Name: Metropolitan Community Church Sydney



CONTACTS FOR MCC SYDNEY

9569 5122

96 Crystal Street Petersham 2049

www.mccsydney.org

Office Manager P/T Von Ingram
office@mccsydney.org

Website Administrator Ben Prasodo
bambang.prasodo@gmail.com

Facebook Administrator Duane
carloswebster1962@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Col Eglington Acting Chair

Sarah de Rooy Secretary

secretary@mccsydney.org

Paul Houghton Lay Delegate

Graeme Bartlett Treasurer

Donna Sturgeon Member

Maria Attard Member

Reflections Items to the Editor
newsletter@mccsydney.org

Questions re Events,
office@mccsydney.org

MCC Good Shepherd, Granville
Tuesday @ 7pm

Rev Robert Clark 0431361519

mccgoodshepherd3@gmail.com

CRAVE MCC, Paddington
Sunday @ 3pm

Rev Karl Hand 0425220635

redchiron@gmail.com



Disability access

is via Crystal St
Hearing Loop is
connected.



Parent's Room

is currently closed due to COVID

Morning Tea & Supper will be served
in the Foyer and Community Room

Everyone is welcome IN CHURCH
OR LIVE on Facebook