

Good Friday service; 9:30am-10:30am CBtB

Easter Sunday service; 11am at the Portarlinton Pier Park followed by spit roast lunch.

Church camp; May 25-27th Burnside campsite Anglesea. Cost \$70 singles, \$200 families.

Tim Kings message from yesterday is on the CBtB website now. Someone said to me today, "*I think this is the best message I've ever heard.*"

Today I saw a Footy "prophecy" for Collingwood and its president Eddie McGuire. It said that Eddie is living a "nightmare" because he's seeing the same problems with "No end in sight." In other words, hardly has the whistle been blown (its only round one) and the "prophecy" is that its already all over for Eddie.

Now if you're not a fan of Collingwood this is probably good news, but what happened if this was a prophecy not just for a person's football team but the outcome of their life?

What would it do for a person if someone said they're going to fail completely and in doing so compromise what is most important to them and along the way fail everyone close to them?

Last week I read the Gospel accounts of Jesus' crucifixion. What struck me afresh was Jesus and Peters conversation. Jesus had just told everyone that they would all abandon him but Peter more confident than a jockey on Phar Lap says that even if everyone else failed him, he wouldn't. Jesus' response to this is *extraordinary* and it gives us an *incredible* look at God's heart.

In one sentence, Jesus not only predicts Peter's doom; denial, betrayal and the abandonment of his friends, but he predicts his *restoration*; God's mercy, forgiveness, return and reinstatement as the leader of his church.

*"Peter, my dear friend, listen to what I'm about to tell you. Satan has demanded to come and sift you like wheat and test your faith. But I have prayed for you. **Remember this: after you have turned back to me and have been restored, make it your life mission to strengthen the faith of your brothers.**"*

The mercy and grace of God ARRESTED my heart as I read this. God forgives and restores us EVEN BEFORE we have failed. This is the power behind the contract God offers each person because of what Jesus did. His death and resurrection covers not only the sin we have done but BEFORE we have even sinned! What other belief or philosophy offers this?

EVERY other belief places the door that determines whether you've made it or not at the end of life. IF you done enough, been enough, lived life well enough then maybe you'll have done enough to feel accepted by god, yourself or your non-god as the case might be.

But imagine a world in which people offered forgiveness and restoration before people even have done anything wrong! Imagine if we lived like that! The wonderful thing is that God says the *moment we accepted his forgiveness that he has given us a heart to live like Jesus*. We just need to believe it on faith and then live out of it. Perhaps our first act of living like this is to consider who we're inviting to Easter.

Who has been put in your world that needs this kind of love and mercy? Imagine what would happen if walked in this same kind of mercy and love to each other and beyond.

Easter.

9:30am Good Friday.

11:00am Easter Sunday followed by spit roast lunch.

Church camp, May 25-27th.

This is the first church camp we've had for a long time. We're going to Anglesea, so it's nice and close. This will be a hilarious, enjoyable and super encouraging time together. You can come for the whole time or for the day. Kitty, Catherine and Bron are organising it for us. Cost is incredibly reasonable. \$70 for singles and \$200 per family. Please email [Bron](#) if you'd like to put your name down or inquire about anything.

Late term abortion, the Victorian Parliament and the November state election.

Last week I arranged a meeting with a number of pastors and church leaders from all over Victorian. We meet with Dr-Rachel Carling Jenkins who brought in the "infant viability bill" in 2016. That Bill was defeated, but there was a number of very positive outcomes in the case to see our full-term abortion laws changed.

One of them was the new awareness and growing perspective that as Christians we need to be involved in our parliament. In preparation for the upcoming election in November we're seeking to establish eight teams in each of the upper house electorates. The vision is to see us raise positive grass roots support that will see candidates elected to parliament who will support legislative change to reduce the current full-term abortion law. This will involve visiting MP's and candidates and training people in what to present

so that we see effective support increase for legislative change in the next parliament. If you want to find our more, please email me [here](#).

Blessings for this week we especially remember our incredible saviour.

Dave

Pastoral Care Support

Just as a reminder, I encourage any of you who require pastoral support, or are aware of someone who needs pastoral support, to please contact Annette and Paul

at pastoralcare@churchbythebay.com,

or on mobile at 0490 112 289.