



# OIKOUMENE

*"Tasmanian Council of Churches for 70 years"*



Tasmanian Council of Churches  
PO Box 166, New Town, Tas. 7008

tcctas@bigpond.net.au

www.tcctas.org.au

0499 016 969

## The 'Lund' Principle

Should not the churches act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act separately?

## Journeying Together

Since the last issue of Oikoumene in December 2015, I have found myself of a number of journeys. After completing all of my Christmas Services, my wife & I sailed from Devonport to Melbourne on the Christmas evening sailing, arriving in Melbourne on Boxing Day. We left with the temperature in Hobart being 35, to arrive in Melbourne to rain and a somewhat cold day. We had arranged to catch up with one of my wife's brothers and his family at the beach, however, because of the weather we ended up at one of his daughter's homes, in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. We then had to journey to the other side of Melbourne to where we were staying. We then journeyed up to Mount Dandenong to see another of my wife's brothers and his family that evening. It was good to catch up with family however. The next day we journeyed over to the western suburbs of Melbourne to catch up with my Daughter & my Son and six of my grand-children. That was a particularly enjoyable journey to see them all, exchange Christmas presents and enjoying their company.

We then journeyed north through Victoria calling in on a female family acquaintance in Alexandra before arriving in Wangaratta, where we were able to meet one of her sisters. The next day we then journeyed to Beechworth and a small town called Wooragee. This was a particularly significant journey for me, as I was able to visit the place where my father was raised by his foster parents, the grand-parents of the two sisters I had met on the journey north. Dad himself had been abandoned at birth by his mother, and then adopted by a Mrs Gray, who had died when he was six years old, and he then became a Ward of the State, being placed with the family in Wooragee. This was a very significant journey for my father. This was also the first time I had ever visited this area, meaning that it was a very significant journey for me as well. My wife & I then continued our journey through parts of the south coast of New South Wales and the Gippsland area of Victoria, before returning home.

Since returning home I have had some 5 trips to Melbourne on church related matters, participated in the Opening of the Legal Year Service at St. David's Cathedral, as the TCC President, attended the Inductions of the Rev Jeff Savage at the Hobart North UCA and the Rev Graham Sturdy at Scots-Memorial UCA and participated in the Service of Ordination and Installation of the Venerable Dr Richard Condie as the 12<sup>th</sup> Anglican Bishop of Tasmania, as the TCC President. In each of these instances I

have been able to 'journey' in a different manner by sharing with other Heads of Churches, fellow clergy and faithful church members as we journey together as God's people within Tasmania. These have been very enriching experiences.

The most significant journey for me, however, has been the journey that the TCC Vice President, the Rev'd Ross Ellwood & I have been on with our involvement in our joint Lenten Studies, involving some 21 people from our two Churches. This year we have been using the Lenten Study Booklet 'Walking Humbly with God', based on the phrase in Micah 6:8, written by the Rev'd Canon Dr Timothy Gaden, Mother Esther CHN Canon Theologian – Anglican Diocese of Ballarat. The sub-title reads: 'A journey of hope, nourishment, forgiveness, self-knowledge and discipleship'. Throughout the six week journey we have discovered that life is a journey, we journey in hope, we need food for the journey, we are forgiven and need to forgive, and we need to know ourselves and what true discipleship means. This has been a particularly enriching journey as we have learnt from each other as we have journeyed together.

Because this 'journey' we have been travelling on has been moving towards the cross and Jesus death, in one sense, you could say that we have now completed that journey; we have arrived and there is nothing left for us to journey towards. The fact is of course, that the journey of Christ to the place of crucifixion, is not the end of the journey but rather a pause in a continuing journey, as through his glorious resurrection, we can now embark on a new journey filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to live our lives as witnesses of God's love to all the people of Tasmania.

In regard the to TCC's journey, the TCC was established on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1946, at a State-wide meeting of denominational representatives at Evandale. As it is now some 70 years since the establishment of the TCC, the TCC Executive is planning to journey to Evandale for our next Executive Meeting on Wednesday April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for us as we plan ways in which all of our members Churches can journey together to bring God's saving love to all of the people of Tasmania.

**President Jeff.**

## Church Leaders

It has been a busy couple of weeks as Tasmania had the honour of welcoming Major John Freind as the new Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army in Tasmania, and Rosemary Epps as the new Clerk of the Religious Society of Friends. And on the 19th of March the Anglicans added to that when they welcomed the Rt. Rev. Richard Condie as the their new bishop. The TCC is very excited to give these people a warm welcome to beautiful Tasmania and to let them know that we will continue to offer them our prayerful support.

Next Month the TCC will also celebrate her 70th Anniversary with a special Executive Meeting to be held in Evandale, where the TCC was founded. Please pray for the new Church leaders and for the TCC as we begin and continue our vocation.

## Two Special Events

at  
All Saints Church 339 Macquarie Street South Hobart

Sunday 20 March 2016 - Palm Sunday

at 5.00pm

### "On the Way to the Cross"

A Meditation on The Passion of Christ in words and music

Music includes

Movements from *Stabat Mater* by Antonio Vivaldi

sung by

Anne-Marie Forbes (Contralto)

Anne Morgan (Organ)

with congregational hymns



Sunday 27 March 2016 - Easter Day

at 7.00pm

### Songs of Praise for Easter Day

with the Choir of All Saints, organ and All Saints Brass

Join us to sing all your favourite Easter hymns



## Spirituality and Social Transformation

An interactive workshop presented by Dr Chris Kavelin



**When:** Thursday 14th April 2016 (9:30am - 4:30pm)

**Where:** Clarence Uniting Church (Cnr York and Cambridge Streets -Bellerive Tas)

**Cost:** SCA members: \$60 (waged) \$45 (unwaged) Non members: \$90

*How do we discover our purpose in life?*

*How do we honour each other's cultural and religious spiritual gifts?*

*What is the value of Indigenous cultures?*

*Is our discernment of spiritual reality a key to solving the environmental crisis?*

Explore these questions and others in this interactive workshop.

Transform your own vision. Create a profound difference in your life work and in the lives of others.



Dr Chris Kavelin has a PhD in law on the protection of Indigenous medical knowledge. He grew up on Native American reservations in the US and works with Indigenous communities in Australia, the Pacific and Africa, and on invitation also works alongside Heads of State to assist with development work. He has taught Law, Indigenous leadership, business communication, cultural studies, theology and religious studies, and spirituality and social transformation at Macquarie University for 10 years. He was a keynote speaker at the National Spiritual Care Australia Conference, April 2015, Hobart

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH, A NOTEBOOK AND WEAR COMFORTABLE CLOTHES**

Morning and Afternoon Tea Provided

Please register by Tuesday 12th April 2016

Carmel Fader : 03 6225 2746 / 043 993 1166 / Email: [carmelfader@gmail.com](mailto:carmelfader@gmail.com)

Sponsored by 'Spiritual Care Australia' (Tas Branch)  
a national professional association for pastoral / spiritual carers and chaplains  
<http://www.spiritualcareaustralia.org.au>



Spiritual Care Australia

## Stations of the Cross

An annual event held on Good Friday. As a "cloud of witnesses" will walk from St. Francis-Xavier, Catholic Church, to All Saints, Anglican Church, with a large wooden cross. They will stop several times on the way to read a part of the passion and to keep a moment of silence, while the cross is handed over to somebody else to carry. This beautiful ecumenical event is an excellent opportunity for personal reflection on Good Friday when we remember the death of Christ. As Arch-Bishop Julian will join them in South Hobart, please feel free to join them in their prayerfull witness. On Good Friday at 11 AM.



# ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER  
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

## Eat the same rations as a Syrian refugee for one week.

The Ration Challenge is about telling refugees we are with them, not against them. During refugee week, June 19th-25th we are challenging you to eat the same rations as a Syrian refugee for one week and get sponsored to do it.

You will experience just one small part of their daily struggle and by raising money and awareness you can make an actionable difference in their lives right now. When you sign up the Ration Challenge team will send you a Ration Kit that contains your food for the week, the same food a Syrian refugee living in a camp in Jordan receives, as well as some handy resources to make the most of your challenge experience.

We'll ask you to set up your fundraising page, make some personal goals for the challenge and we'll be in touch with any advice and support you will need along the way. When you sign up you will be joining a community of compassionate people who standing up for refugees and telling them that we care!

*"So much harder than I thought it would be. But so much more rewarding." - Sue, Albury*

*"I found the ration challenge really satisfying. Participating meant I finally had to put my money where my mouth is. I talk about social issues a lot and work with fairly disadvantaged communities but I don't really do as much to help as I could. The ration challenge allowed me to do something good and gave me the opportunity to engage people on the subject of refugees. I also discovered I can survive without coffee, who knew!" - Kirsty, Seville Grove*

- See more at: <http://www.actforpeace.org.au/Get-Involved/ration-challenge-2016>

### From the Executive Officer

Lent has been a wonderfully busy time for me. I try to say morning and evening prayer every day, but alone at home it is easy to find excuses, or to let time slip by, so I had the idea to say the Daily Office in my parish church rather than doing this at home. I brought this up with the parish priest, and we decided to put this into practice together during Lent – every morning at nine o'clock and every evening at six. Well... except for Monday morning, because that's my weekend and I would like to sleep in. Or on Saturdays, since the Parish priest sleeps in so that he is well rested for Sunday. Or on Fridays as



### Pints of Faith

Pints of Faith continues as a gathering of Young Adults offered by Catholic Youth Ministry Tasmania.

In Hobart, pints of faith will continue at the Hotel SoHo, normally on the first Thursday evening of the month, from 6:30 until 9:00.

In Launceston Pints of Faith will continue, as announced, at the Cock and Bull British Pub.

Please ring Catholic Youth Ministry on 62086274 for more information about **Pints of Faith**, and other CYM programmes.

there is a Mass at the hospital that I am required to attend in order to boost numbers. As for evening prayer, well the church office closes an hour before hand at five, and Thursday is choir practise anyway, so realistically I never get around to it. So the Daily Office has resulted in faithfully saying Morning Prayer on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There is some good Lenten discipline for you.

But it is still important to try. On the days I don't say the daily office, I still try to pray somehow. In the same way I was speaking about Mass at the Hospital, "to boost numbers". Boosting numbers really means that it is me, and the priest, but nobody else. And the reason I was asked to come is because you can't celebrate the Eucharist on your own. But the Mass is still said, every week.

And I believe it is of vital importance to say mass at the hospital, because it is not about how many come, but about our witness of being there. People can come if they want to, we are there, and they can be assured to be prayed for. Our witness is a quiet one in a busy world. People never see me pray, but they can be assured that they are prayed for. Even if I don't manage to ring the church bells for it. It is hard to be a quiet presence when the whole world is rushing and shouting, but praying is not about doing things right, it about trying to do the right thing. We don't have to manage, we only have to try; trying is prayer in itself. During my time in the Taizé community I also did not want to get up and go to church every time those bells rang for prayer, but I did anyway. Because even if I can't really be completely present in the prayer, I know that God will be. And I believe that there are people in the hospital and in the world who do see me and, even though they don't come to church, feel comforted by the knowledge that we are there. And if really nobody sees us then at least we know that our prayer is still received by God: *"Whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you"* (Matt 6:5). Amen.

- Feel free to join Fr. David and me for Morning Prayer on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Lady Chapel of All Saints Anglican Church in South Hobart, usually just before nine o'clock. All are welcome!



## The TCC Facebook page has been re-activated!!!



After a two year sabbatical it has returned two give us news updates interesting facts and many other things. Like our page to receive news updates and Ecumenical info and to support our ministry.

## Date Claimer

The Annual Meeting is the State-wide gathering of Heads of Churches and Member Churches' delegates and Associated Bodies' delegates, delegates of Churches in Associate Membership, and non-member churches' observers. Members of the public are most welcome to attend as observers. Annual Meetings have been held in Hobart and Launceston in alternate years. **In 2016, the Annual Meeting will be in Hobart, on 17 September from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**



The Western Churches celebrates Holy week this Week travelling from Passion or "Palm" Sunday into the Easter Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, finally entering Easter day on Sunday. The Orthodox Churches celebrate Easter on May 1st.

## Easter messages from Church Leaders

With courtesy to the National Council of Churches in Australia

### ANGLICAN CHURCH

Archbishop Philip Freier, Primate

#### The key to Easter – God's love will endure

Easter is preceded by the long preparation period of Lent where Christians follow the example of Jesus' 40 days of prayer and fasting in the wilderness. For the many who take this seriously, and observe disciplines of prayer, fasting and generosity over Lent, it is a freely chosen spiritual commitment.

In much of the world, far more serious deprivation is a constant and lived reality: human evil abounds, we see evidence of it daily. For many in the world, suffering and deprivation are constant realities.

Has Easter anything to say to human evil? And if it has, what does it tell us?

On Good Friday, evil deals its merciless hand. Jesus Christ in the face of this utters the words of the peace-maker and reconciler: "turn to them the other cheek", "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you".

Nonetheless he is unjustly condemned to death by the cruel torture of crucifixion. Why then, 'Good Friday'? Surely in this death we must confront the possibility that evil has triumphed? What, too, do we make of our readiness to concede power and victory to evil?

'Good Friday' is appropriate because in his cruel death, Jesus takes evil into himself and demonstrates his triumph over it by rising from death two days later on Easter Day.

Good Friday can be claimed to be 'good' because the untold tragedy and trauma of evil is shown not to have the final word. Rather, Easter Day, the day of Resurrection, celebrates that Christ overcomes death. Life triumphs, evil does not have the last word. In Christ's Easter drama, justice and mercy are firmly grounded in our human experience.

In the narrative of Holy Week, we see the love that suffers: God's decision to engage human evil, the victory of divine love, evil's inevitable defeat and God's offer of peace.

Can the Easter love that suffers be God's rescue of our humanity and invitation to join in divine peacemaking with the accompanying presence of God?

Easter cries, "Yes!"

The darkness of human evil is all around, as always,

but it is confronted in the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday, and overcome in his resurrection on Easter Day.

This biblical truth, which we celebrate week by week but especially at Easter, invites us not to lose courage in the face of human cruelty or to lose hope on account of the apparent triumph of evil and despair.

What is the resurrection promise of Easter Day? - God's love will endure and continue, no matter what. Christians look to Jesus' rising from the dead as not just an historic action but as the promise of his presence with us today – even in the worst of circumstances.

Believing and understanding this is the key to the peace of God that surpasses all understanding: the key to Easter.

Have a blessed and happy Easter.

### **AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST CHURCHES**

Rev Keith Jobberns, National Ministries Director, Australian Baptist Ministries

#### **EASTER THE SECOND CHANCE**

George Megalogenis released his new book "Australia's Second Chance" late last year. It is subtitled 'what our history tells us about our future'.

In highlighting the current anxiety in society about our future economic development he points to a previous period in Australia's history that saw a rate of economic growth that was the envy of the world at that time.

In a way that shadows the issue of national economic development there also is an observable growing anxiety about how to build a better personal future.

It also is predicated on the question of a second chance. Is there a way to have a fresh start, a new beginning? It is as though our personal questions have coalesced around the communal hope for a way forward out of the mess of our current situation. Our media regularly carries the images of this anxiety on the faces of refugees behind barbed wire, the bruises of relationships breaking down, the tears of earlier childhood abuse, the isolating impact of racial hatred. Our heartfelt response is that there has to be a better way, the possibility of recovery, a second chance.

Easter remains as an integral part of the fabric of our contemporary Australian society because it points to the moment in history when there was a profound demonstration of the possibility for a second chance. Out of the darkness of tragedy, injustice, despair and failure there is a bright light of hope.

The Easter celebration is a reminder that humans have been given a second chance. The Easter narrative records that in Jesus, and through relationship with Him we can find freedom from the shackles of fear, acceptance despite our faults and the opportunity to begin anew with God and our fellow humans.

No matter how broken, how malevolent, how desperate we are, our lives can be liberated through Jesus Christ. Easter is about new beginnings - resurrection - bringing that which is dead back to life, hope in the midst of hopelessness, peace in the midst of conflict and joy in the midst of despair. Easter is about second chances.

The celebration of Easter begins with the surrender of our struggles at the foot of the Good Friday Cross and allowing the message of Sunday's Resurrection to speak into our lives to bring wholeness and new life. Easter is the celebration of the second chance.

### **CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN AUSTRALIA**

Reverend Janet Woodlock, Federal Coordinator

A little over a year ago, my sister passed away after a long journey of living with cancer. She was one of those remarkable people who could find joy in the simplest things, who had an extraordinary number of deep friendships, whose life was characterised by kindness and generosity. We were close. I miss her.

The stark truth is that death is inevitable. The last time I checked the statistics for human mortality, it was running at 100%. Our friends die. Our family members die. We will die.

For those of us with faith in Christ, this stark truth does not lead us to despair. Through the eyes of faith, life is pregnant with resurrection hope. We may mourn in the death of those we love, but we hold on to the promise of a joyful reunion. Our lives matter for now; our service and love stretches out into eternity.

May Paul's words to the Corinthians encourage you this Easter:

"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time....Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep... Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. (I Corinthians 15: 3 – 6, 20, 58)

### **ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Archbishop Denis Hart, President, Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Easter means that the God who came as a tiny babe at Christmas, in the full growth of his humanity on Good Friday, has given himself completely to the Father and on

the third day rose again glorious and ever-living. Easter is the completion of the mystery of God's love.

God loved the world by sending his only Son, inviting us to believe and have eternal life. Rising again from the dead is a great mystery given alone to us by God. To enter into the mystery means the ability to wonder; the ability to listen to the silence and to hear the tiny whisper amid great silence by which God speaks to us. Easter invites us not to be locked into ourselves, but to listen to God and see him speaking and accompanying every man, woman and child with the offer of his love and of eternal life.

We have been so conscious of wars, hatreds, the suffering of refugees and the burdens of many people through drugs and alcohol in our society. Yet God offers us another reality; that our hearts are made for God and they will only be happy when they rest in him as Saint Augustine said.

Today the great feast of Jesus rising from the dead is a new hope for all of us to live by the fact that God is near, to adore the God who comes to each of us, to respond joyfully and with hope to the invitation, which he gives us to live a new life, mindful always that here on earth we are on pilgrimage, on a journey to where Jesus will call us to be with him and with those we love in the destiny of heaven. "Jesus is risen, he is the light of the world, alleluia."

#### THE SALVATION ARMY

Commissioner James Condon, Australia Eastern Territory

#### SUNDAY – what's so special about today?

The days of the week often blur into each other. They are not as distinct as they used to be especially when we are so busy.

So what's special about today – Easter Sunday?

I connect with God through His creation. I love watching the sun rise as the darkness of the night gives way to the morning sun.

A new day to live – to love and to laugh – and to serve.

As the sun rises on Easter Sunday, I am reminded of the One who said "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in darkness."

Jesus the Light of the world offers us hope to dispel the darkness of our lives. Real hope in the darkness of ruptured relationships.

Hope for those with shattered dreams, broken homes

Hope for those who have lost their job

Hope for those who have an empty faith

And most importantly hope for a life beyond death.

Easter Sunday – it really is special – it represents new life, a new day, a new hope, death defeated and victory is mine.

My destiny is secure.

#### UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Stuart McMillan, President

My Yolŋu friends use the expression *liya marritjin* meaning my mind is travelling. My mind as I reflect on the Easter story is travelling back to a garden, sometimes called Gethsemane or the Mount of Olives, across the Kidron Valley outside the city walls. In 2014 I sat down among the one thousand year old olive trees looking across the Kidron Valley to the Judgement Gate in the wall of what today in Jerusalem is called the Old City. This place of all the holy places in that city was for me the place I most strongly connected with the presence of Jesus.

The book of Luke records Jesus going to this garden to pray before his arrest and crucifixion: *"Father if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done...In anguish he prayed more earnestly and his sweat became drops of blood falling down on the ground."*

I'm drawn to the scene time and again, reflecting on the selfless choice of Jesus who was truly human and suffered as do you and I. Medical science has explained how in absolute anguish blood might come forth from our sweat glands. How did he make this choice for the sake of humanity? He did so trusting in God's goodness and love, in God's plan to reconcile and renew the whole of creation. Do you trust in God's goodness, love and reconciling, renewing purpose? I do and so my friends I seek to live selflessly as Jesus did. I fail often but this remembrance of Jesus, now made even more alive because I have sat in the garden, causes me to try again. This Easter may I encourage you to sit in a garden and remember the selfless way of Christ, and so be enabled to try again this way in your life.

Mägayamirri rom.

*Mägayamirri rom means "the way of peace and tranquility, harmony with the whole of creation, be with and within you." in the Yolŋu languages of North East Arnhem Land.*

#### Personal Support Training, Emergencies Ministry Zion's Hill Church, LAUNCESTON

APRIL 14 and 15, 2016

Venue: Zion's Hill Church, 7–21 Warring St,  
Ravenswood

Dates: Thu 14th – Fri 15th April, 2016

Time: 9.30 am - 4 pm(both days)

Cost: Initial Training \$99.00 (GST inclusive)

Refresher Training \$66.00 (GST inclusive)

RSVP 6th April 2016, Gus Yearsley TCC, Emergencies  
Ministry Project Officer.



35 Tower Road, PO Box 166, New Town  
TAS 7008,  
Email: [emprojects@tcctas.org.au](mailto:emprojects@tcctas.org.au)  
Office: (03) 6247 9187.  
Mobile: 0432 620 253  
ABN: 87.607894.108