

# COLLINS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

*A CHURCH FOR THE CITY*



'The Parable of the Great Banquet' by Sandro Botticelli

## The Parable of the Great Dinner

# THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday March 1, 2020

**Address:** 174 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

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Friends,

Today marks the first Sunday in the season of Lent – a period of 40 days in which we prepare to hear again the story of Jesus’s death and resurrection.

For some in our community, the practices and traditions of this season are familiar, having spent time worshipping within liturgical traditions or having engaged in personal spiritual disciplines during this time of year. For others, Lent is a mystery, often not part of a Baptist church upbringing, or “free church” practices. For some, it sounds unnecessarily dour or punitive, evoking memories of harsh versions of the faith, or suggesting that sacrifice, rather than flourishing is the stuff of the Christian life.

This season of Lent we invite you simply to a couple of things we hope and pray will deepen your faith. None are designed to be punitive. All are intended as life-giving.

Our teaching series we explore the parables of Jesus. We invite you to read them prior to each service as part of your own spiritual practice. On 4 Sundays there will be an opportunity to engage in bible study and discussion after the morning service on level 4. These studies will invite you to delve more deeply into the reading featured in the worship service. Lastly, you may choose to take up or give up a practice or habit during this time. Some engage in a traditional practice of fasting. Others give up alcohol or facebook or coffee. Some choose to take up a practice of service or an action toward social justice. None of this suggests that we earn favour with God through such actions. Instead, we choose to be especially intentional in our living, recognizing that things that often claim to bring joy, peace or fulfillment are not the ultimate sources of our life. We give them up in order to focus on what is more true, more full of life, more joyful.

Please join us on this solemn but ultimately satisfying journey.

Carolyn

**Pastor for Teaching & Worship:** *Carolyn Francis*

**Pastor for Care & Community:** *Simon Carey Holt*

**Coordinator of Neighbourhood Engagement:** *Sherry Maddock*

## NEWS & EVENTS

**LENT PROGRAMME:** The season of Lent has commenced. During this series we are offering a teaching series on the parables of Jesus during our services. There are 4 opportunities to explore these parables further in **Sunday afternoon bible studies**. Please see the flyer contained in this bulletin for more information and sign up in the narthex.

**FLINDERS QUARTET 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT:** Here at CSBC on **Tuesday March 3, at 1pm** the concert opens with Beethoven's satisfying epic Op.130 and emerging composer Derek Brookes. Come earlier and enjoy a pre-concert from 12.40-12.50pm by a student or amateur ensemble. *Tickets are \$35 Conc \$25 will be available at the door.*

**VICTORIAN BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** the Geoffrey Blackburn Memorial Lecture & AGM will be held on **Saturday March 14** at the Eighth Day Community, 4 Miller Street, West Melbourne commencing with morning tea at **10.30am**.

**CSBC MEMBERS MEETING:** Our first members meeting for 2020 will be held on **Sunday March 15, 12.15pm** on level 4. The agenda will include (i) new applications for membership, (ii) a report on the possible replacement of the external emergency stairs for Central House, and (iii) the challenges and possibilities we face in the future development of the Church Fund.

**SOUP MAKERS:** If you would like to contribute a big pot of soup to one of our monthly Green Room lunches this year please let Simon know today.

**Whitley Israel Tour 2020:** Visiting Israel and Palestine can really bring the Bible to life! With a focus particularly on the New Testament context, join College faculty, students and friends, on a 12 day tour during which you will visit Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Galilee region, Qumran, Masada and the Dead Sea. For further information, please contact the College on 9340 8100 or email [whitley@whitley.edu.au](mailto:whitley@whitley.edu.au)

## FOR OUR PRAYERS

Our prayers are with **Megan Williams** as she takes up a new position of leadership in the community development sector in Myanmar.

We pray for **Robert Iles** and his extended family as they grieve the passing of Robert's dear mother Jean. The funeral was held on Friday in Kew.

It was lovely to have **Ian and Barbara Pawsey** with us again last Sunday. We pray for them and for others who are finding the Sunday journey into the city a challenge.

We pray for **Len Lewis** as he continues his recovery from injuries sustained in a recent car accident. May he and Kathy continue to know our love and support.

We remember all of those returning to study this week at universities and colleges throughout Melbourne. May they know God's presence in their learning.

**Ros Otzen** and her husband Peter are traveling for six weeks, including time in Antarctica. We pray for them both.

# SERVICE ROSTERS

## TODAY

**SERMON:** Simon Holt

**MUSIC:** Christopher Parsons

**BIBLE READING:** Laurie Buchanan

**SECRETARY:** Peter Hearne

**SOUND** Paulo Pereira

**DOOR STEWARDS:** Lesley, Robert,  
Abigail

**MORNING TEA:** Lesley, Setel, Jessie,  
Jun

**COMMUNION STEWARDS:** Stefanie,  
Abigail, Amanda, Paulo

## NEXT SUNDAY

**SERMON:** Carolyn Francis

**MUSIC:** David Cundy

**BIBLE READING:** Derek Mortimer

**SECRETARY:** Neil Wright

**SOUND:** Paul Sundar

**DOOR STEWARDS:** Barbara, Judy,  
Amanda

**MORNING TEA:** Judy, Lavina,  
Katherine, Pearl

## THE JUNCTION

Every first Sunday of the month, we host **The Junction**, a place of support and friendship for everyone regardless of gender, age or sexuality. We meet either on the Verandah or in the beautiful Green Room (level 1) for fun activities and friendship. If you would like more information please see Nigel Smith. All welcome.

## PARKING

The Royal Lane Car Park offers discounted parking to people attending CSBC on Sunday mornings. Parking between 10am and 1pm is \$10. To take advantage of this offer, have your parking ticket stamped in the narthex before you leave. Stays longer than 3 hours attract the maximum weekend rate of \$12.

## GIVING TO CSBC

To assist with your regular giving to the church, you can arrange with your bank an automatic periodic payment at intervals that suit your budget using the details that follow:

**Account name**—Collins Street Baptist Church; **Bank name**—Bendigo Bank;  
**BSB**—633000; **Account number**—123001786.

## CSBC ON FACEBOOK

The church has its own Facebook page. If you are a Facebook user, just 'like' the page and you'll be kept up to date.

## DEACONS

**Robert Iles** (Secretary); **Paulo Pereira** (Treasurer); **Stefanie Pearce** (Partnerships); **Nigel Smith** (Property Development); **Lynne Chapman** (Pastoral Care); **Ros Otzen** (Worship); **Katherine Jones** (Spiritual Nurture and Education); **Neil Wright** (Pastoral Care), **Abi Chenoweth**, **Amanda Mao**.