

Rev Maile Molitika - Minister's Message

Bringing Our Culture into New Territory

When I first arrived in this beautiful continent of Australia, I stayed with my uncle in Croydon Park, NSW and for the first time. I was so surprised to see new things, most of them I saw only the pictures in Tonga, but to arrive and see the actual historical buildings like the Opera House, Sydney Tower, it was an eye opener for me. To see the big cruise ships beside the Opera House from the Harbour Bridge it was so amazingly beautiful. Well, in my first month in Australia I had the opportunity to visit some of the historical places in Sydney and still marvel today about the wonderful experiences I had.

I did not know that some of our tropical root crops can grow in Australia until I visited a cousin of mine in Ashfield where I saw some taros, Pele and Plaintain plant (hopa) in his backyard.

My cousin told me that only some root crops can grow in Sydney. In the 90s I heard that some of the Tongans people are moving to Brisbane to live because of the warmer climate, and it is also appropriate to grow yams. Brisbane climate is quite similar to Tonga.

When we were called to come to Brisbane about ten or so years ago, one of the reasons that I considered moving was the warmer climate. We have experienced a cold climate in Sydney and worst in Narrandera. When we arrived in Brisbane, one of the members of Park Church took me to see the yams plantation. This plantation belongs to 10 people, they leased the land and each contributed to pay the yearly payment for the lease. The planting season of the yams in Brisbane started in August/September and it took about 9 to 10 months before harvest. But growing yams is one of the crops that you have to be very careful in looking after it. You cannot hoe and weed it if it's raining, once the soil touch the leaves, fungus started to appear and causes the yam to be infected with disease. You have to make sure that weed killer does not touch the leaves.

You have to make sure to weed at the right time, if the weather is too dry you need to water the yams, you have to spray the leaves many times to prevent the fungus and disease in the crop.

The experienced yam growers said that the month of April and May are very important because this is the time where the yams should not be disturbed because it is the time for the roots to grow bigger and then be ready for harvest. I also planted some of our root crops at the manse so that we will be able to share some of our culture in this new territory.

When I look at yams, it reminds me of the importance of **our journey of faith**, we have to make sure that we aren't contaminated by outside influences. We have to make sure that we seek the right nourishment in order to **grow spiritually**. If the journey is too harsh, we need to **seek support from our ministers/friends**. Let the story of yams be our story too.

There is also a **time of fasting and meditation** where we are not to be disturbed but to **grow deeper in our relationship with God**. Let us **journey together with Christ at all times toward the time of harvest into the eternal life.**

Grace & Peace, Rev Maile

Easter Symbols: Passion and Resurrection



Do you recognise the flower?
Did you know that this common flower was called the
Passion Flower?

The striking flowers of a plant discovered by missionaries to South America in the 18th century (pictured above). The flower was used by colonising Spanish Missionaries to explain the story of the Passion or Crucifixion of Jesus to their converts.

They showed how the five anthers represent the five wounds of Christ on the cross, the triple styles (pistils) represent the three nails, the central receptacle the main pillar of the cross, and the ovary the sponge soaked in vinegar. The fringing corona represents the crown of thorns, while the five sepals and petals together represent the ten Apostles (excluding Judas and Peter). The purple colours remind us of royalty, the green of life, and the white, purity and holiness.

The plant became known as the Passion Flower, and its fruit, the Passion Fruit. It is not surprising that some of the 350 species have travelled the world, and are cultivated in any country with a climate which is warm enough (e.g. Norfolk Island).

However, as we know, the story did not end there! There is another flower known as the **Resurrection Lily** - sometimes called the Peacock Lily because of the striped markings on its leaves.

The flower, however, appears and then dies. There is no flower on the second day, but on the third day another flower appears.
(The actual flower is darker than shown)



Material provided by our own keen gardener,
June Ehrenberg

The ANZAC Dawn Service

It is still often suggested that the Dawn Service observed on Anzac Day has its origins in a military routine by the Australian Army. The half-light of dawn was one of the times favoured for launching an attack as soldiers in defensive positions were woken in the dark before dawn, so by the time first light crept across the battlefield they were awake, alert, and manning their weapons; this is still known as the “**stand-to**”. As dusk is equally favourable for battle, the stand-to was repeated at sunset.

After the First World War, returned soldiers sought the comradeship they had felt in those quiet, peaceful moments before dawn. A dawn vigil became the basis for commemoration in several places after the war. It is difficult to say when the first dawn services were held, as many were instigated by veterans, clergymen, and civilians from all over the country. A dawn requiem mass was held at Albany as early as 1918, and a wreath-laying and commemoration took place at dawn in Toowoomba the following year. In 1927 a group of returned men returning at dawn from an Anzac Day function held the night before came upon an elderly woman laying flowers at the as yet unfinished Sydney Cenotaph. Joining her in this private remembrance, the men later resolved to institute a dawn service the following year. Some 150 people gathered at the Cenotaph in 1928 for a wreath-laying and two minutes silence. This is generally regarded as the beginning of organised dawn services. Over the years the ceremonies have developed into their modern forms and have seen an increased association with the dawn Gallipoli landings on the 25th April 1915. We pray for souls of the fallen.



The **NeXus** between our mission and our spiritual power is the gathered congregation. While God comes to us by His Spirit thus transforming us by his grace, we are drawn into precious fellowship with each other.

As a congregation gathers for worship, it is being strengthened,
then sent out again for a missional purpose.

In times such as these, this copy of **Nambour NeXus** is provided so that you may have resources to assist you in your personal or household worship of God, to assist you in growing your faith, and to encourage your concern and prayers for others.

DAILY PRAYERS

DAILY PRAYERS APRIL 2023

Day 1. MONDAY

Loving Creator, I know in your great love for me, you can see the love in my heart and also the deep sorrow in my heart. Hear my prayers which are offered with such trust in you. Be with me in both mind and heart as I renew my life in your spirit, we pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.



Day 2. TUESDAY

Lord God, allow me to lift up my head, you are at the door, let me be able to open my door to you and for you can come and see me in all my turmoil. I praise your name in Glory and Honour, that I may be taught by your Holy Spirit, to be calmer and wiser in your presence, teach me O Lord, Amen.

Day 3. WEDNESDAY

Dear Lord, we come before You humbly asking You to heal us in all areas of our lives. We give You our hearts through the belief in Jesus, that with faith we can overcome the anxieties of our own making, through prayer we believe in the resurrection, through works we are able to make a positive difference in other people's lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus, Amen.

Day 4. THURSDAY

My loving Lord, it's so hard to love the world sometimes, and to love it the way Jesus did seems impossible. I want to accept that I can't do it alone. I need you, dear God, to give me support in this journey. Show me how to open my heart more, so that I am helpful to everyone in need. Help me to be inspired by His love and guided by His example. Let me be less fearful of the pain and darkness that will be transformed by You into Easter joy, Amen.



Day 5. FRIDAY

O my blessed God, The Lamb has been taken from us. May we be comforted in the words that come from the Bible, Death is Defeated (Isaiah 25:8). Although there is pain and sadness in our lives, we take our prayers to you Lord, as we pray for our loved ones; family, friends, in particular all the children, and those in our communities. Please have our prayers in Your heart to work in Your ways, within our minds and souls, Amen.

Day 6. SATURDAY

Our Maker and redeemer, please hear the words in our hearts, too hard to speak as if our mouths were dry as bones, but having tears of hope in you Lord. Our true thoughts are not hidden from you, knowing our minds even before we act. Please let us be humble and contrite, let us be loving and genuine in our faith as we commune with the Holy Spirit. One with God, Amen.

Day 7. SUNDAY

Dear Lord, the Lamb that was slaughtered has now been raised! Giving hope to everyone that hears the words that issue from the mouth of Jesus, our true Saviour. Blessed be Jesus, the Christ, the one who has carried away our sins, let us be thankful to our Great and Loving Father who has defeated death. We have prayed these prayers each day as a devotion of faith to God, to Jesus and to the Holy Spirit. Lord have mercy, Amen.



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All in the April Evening



Some years ago, I was privileged to be part of a team comprising 2 faculty and 2 students who travelled to New Zealand to lead an Easter Youth Camp. Our location was Bridge Valley Ranch, on the north western corner of the South Island. It was beautifully rural. My accommodation was a room overlooking the stunningly green hills of the island. From my window I could see flocks of sheep grazing in the lush pastures, with their lambs. It was April, and I could not help but think of the words of the sacred song, “All in the April Evening”:

*All in the April evening
April airs are abroad
The sheep with their little lambs
Passed me by on the road....
All in the April evening
I thought on the Lamb of God*

John the Baptist was the first to recognise Jesus as the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Here, at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, John was introducing Jesus as the sacrificial lamb which would be offered on behalf of the sins of the world. As the Scottish theologian Barclay has noted, “No Jew could ever hear of Jesus called the Lamb without thinking of him as the sacrifice... whereby atonement is made for sin”. First and foremost, in any consideration of Jesus' role as “Lamb” is his atoning sacrifice on behalf of us all.

*But for the lamb, the Lamb of God
Up on the hilltop green
Only a cross, a cross of shame
Two stark crosses between*

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The Prophet Isaiah, however, adds a further dimension, focussing on Jesus' humility and submission to the will of God. In a classic description of Christ's role as Lamb of God, Isaiah noted that "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth" (Isaiah 53: 7, 10, 12). In these words, the prophet describes the underlying character of Christ as having the innocence, meekness, and gentleness of a pure lamb.

*The lambs were weary and crying
With a weak human cry
I thought on the Lamb of God
Going meekly to die!*

There is yet one further significance in identifying Jesus with the Paschal Lamb.

In the northern hemisphere (UK and Ireland), the most common time for lambing is Spring (although lambing can occur any time between December and June). In the southern hemisphere (Australia and New Zealand), while lambing is generally timed according to the availability of suitable fodder, Spring is still the traditional time for lambing which can be as early as April (in NZ) or as late as April (in northern Australia). Whatever time lambing may occur, the birth of lambs is generally seen as the symbol of new life, associated particularly in the northern hemisphere with Spring. This also is significant for, as Lamb of God, Jesus becomes for us the symbol of new life, of renewal and regeneration.

*All in the April evening...
I saw the sheep with the lambs
And thought on the Lamb of God!*

***Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us;
Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us;
Jesus, Lamb of God, grant us your peace.
Amen***

Rev Graham Warne

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2023 Sunday Services are available on the Nambour Uniting Church Website and youtube

The website also contains Mission Possible photos, word study, reflections, stained glass windows and more

Thanks to Don Heaton for recording our Services, and Ian Brown for our great website

DAILY BIBLE READINGS APRIL 2023

CLICK on the 2 to 3 underlined readings for each day to access the daily verses on the Bible Gateway website for the Daily Bible readings

- Saturday, April 1, 2023:** [Psalm 31:9-16](#); [Lamentations 3:55-66](#); [Mark 10:32-34](#)
- Sunday, April 2, 2023:** [Liturgy of the Palms](#) [Psalm 118:1-2 & 19-29](#); [Matthew 21:1-11](#)
- Sunday, April 2, 2023:** [Liturgy of the Passion](#) [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#); [Psalm 31:9-16](#); [Philippians 2:5-11](#); [Matthew 26:14 to 27:66](#)
- Monday, April 3, 2023:** [Monday of Holy Week](#) [Isaiah 42:1-9](#); [Psalm 36:5-11](#); [Hebrews 9:11-15](#); [John 12:1-11](#)
- Tuesday, April 4, 2023:** [Tuesday of Holy Week](#) [Isaiah 49:1-7](#); [Psalm 71:1-14](#); [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#); [John 12:20-36](#)
- Wednesday, April 5, 2023:** [Wednesday of Holy Week](#) [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#); [Psalm 70](#); [Hebrews 12:1-3](#); [John 13:21-32](#)
- Thursday, April 6, 2023:** [Maundy Thursday](#) [Exodus 12:1-14](#); [Psalm 116:1-2 & 12-19](#); [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#); [John 13:1-17 & 31b-35](#)
- Friday, April 7, 2023:** [Good Friday](#) [Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12](#); [Psalm 22](#); [Hebrews 10:16-25](#); [Hebrews 4:14-16 & 5:7-9](#); [John 18:1-19:42](#)
- Saturday, April 8, 2023:** [Holy Saturday](#) [Job 14:1-14](#); [Lamentations 3:1-9 & 19-24](#); [Psalm 31:1-4 & 15-16](#); [1 Peter 4:1-8](#); [Matthew 27:57-66](#); [John 19:38-42](#)
- Sunday, April 9, 2023:** [Easter Vigil](#)
[Genesis 1:1-2:4a](#) and [Psalm 136:1-9 & 23-26](#); [Genesis 7:1-5 & 11-18](#); [Genesis 8:6-18 & 9:8-13](#) and [Psalm 46](#);
[Genesis 22:1-18](#) and [Psalm 16](#); [Exodus 14:10-31 & 15:20-21](#) and [Exodus 15:1b-13 & 17-18](#);
[Isaiah 55:1-11](#) and [Isaiah 12:2-6](#); [Baruch 3:9-15 & 3:32 to 4:4](#); [Proverbs 8:1-8 & 19-21](#);
[Proverbs 9:4b-6](#) and [Psalm 19](#); [Ezekiel 36:24-28](#) and [Psalm 42, 43](#); [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#) and [Psalm 143](#);
[Zephaniah 3:14-20](#) and [Psalm 98](#); [Romans 6:3-11](#) and [Psalm 114](#); [Matthew 28:1-10](#)
- Sunday, April 9, 2023:** [Resurrection of the Lord](#) [Acts 10:34-43](#); [Jeremiah 31:1-6](#); [Psalm 118:1-2 & 14-24](#); [Colossians 3:1-4](#); [Acts 10:34-43](#); [John 20:1-18](#); [Matthew 28:1-10](#)
[Easter Evening](#) [Isaiah 25:6-9](#); [Psalm 114](#); [1 Corinthians 5:6b-8](#); [Luke 24:13-49](#)
- Monday, April 10, 2023:** [Psalm 118:1-2 & 14-24](#); [Exodus 14:10-31 & 15:20-21](#); [Colossians 3:5-11](#)
- Tuesday, April 11, 2023:** [Psalm 118:1-2 & 14-24](#); [Exodus 15:1-18](#); [Colossians 3:12-17](#)
- Wednesday, April 12, 2023:** [Psalm 118:1-2 & 14-24](#); [Joshua 3:1-17](#); [Matthew 28:1-10](#)
- Thursday, April 13, 2023:** [Psalm 16](#); [Song of Solomon 2:8-15](#); [Colossians 4:2-5](#)
- Friday, April 14, 2023:** [Psalm 16](#); [Song of Solomon 5:9 to 6:3](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-11](#)
- Saturday, April 15, 2023:** [Psalm 16](#); [Song of Solomon 8:6-7](#); [John 20:11-20](#)
- Sunday, April 16, 2023:** [Second Sunday of Easter](#) [Acts 2:14a & 22-32](#); [Psalm 16](#); [1 Peter 1:3-9](#); [John 20:19-31](#)
- Monday, April 17, 2023:** [Psalm 114](#); [Judges 6:36-40](#); [1 Corinthians 15:12-20](#)
- Tuesday, April 18, 2023:** [Psalm 114](#); [Jonah 1:1-17](#); [1 Corinthians 15:19-28](#)
- Wednesday, April 19, 2023:** [Psalm 114](#); [Jonah 2:1-10](#); [Matthew 12:38-42](#)
- Thursday, April 20, 2023:** [Psalm 116:1-4 & 12-19](#); [Isaiah 25:1-5](#); [1 Peter 1:8b-12](#)
- Friday, April 21, 2023:** [Psalm 116:1-4 & 12-19](#); [Isaiah 26:1-4](#); [1 Peter 1:13-16](#)
- Saturday, April 22, 2023:** [Psalm 116:1-4 & 12-19](#); [Isaiah 25:6-9](#); [Luke 14:12-14](#)
- Sunday, April 23, 2023:** [Third Sunday of Easter](#) [Acts 2:14a & 36-41](#); [Psalm 116:1-4 & 12-19](#); [1 Peter 1:17-23](#); [Luke 24:13-35](#)
- Monday, April 24, 2023:** [Psalm 134](#); [Genesis 18:1-14](#); [1 Peter 1:23-25](#)
- Tuesday, April 25, 2023:** [Psalm 134](#); [Proverbs 8:32-9:6](#); [1 Peter 2:1-3](#)
- Wednesday, April 26, 2023:** [Psalm 134](#); [Exodus 24:1-11](#); [John 21:1-14](#)
- Thursday, April 27, 2023:** [Psalm 23](#); [Exodus 2:15b-25](#); [1 Peter 2:9-12](#)
- Friday, April 28, 2023:** [Psalm 23](#); [Exodus 3:16-22 & 4:18-20](#); [1 Peter 2:13-17](#)
- Saturday, April 29, 2023:** [Psalm 23](#); [Ezekiel 34:1-16](#); [Luke 15:1-7](#)
- Sunday, April 30, 2023:** [Fourth Sunday of Easter](#) [Acts 2:42-47](#); [Psalm 23](#); [1 Peter 2:19-25](#); [John 10:1-10](#)